

Military Activities

The first public display of empire loyalty in the Brisbane Valley and commitment of men to military activity overseas occurred in the Boer War. At that time Britain and Germany were strong military and economic allies so the Valley was confidently united. The Kaiser's Coronation Day was celebrated with a banquet and ball at Lowood with over four hundred 'loyal German colonists and their families' attending. They unanimously resolved that 'any anti-imperialist pro-Boer expressions should be regarded as treason to the Empire and condemned by all loyal subjects as such'. There were also a campaign, organized by W.J. McGhie and T.C. Pryde in 1900 in the Esk area to give practical assistance to the despatch of a bushmen's contingent to the Boer War. A town procession and tea and ball in February 1900 were held and both Esk and Lowood committees raised money for the contingents. Sergeant H. Paton left Fairneyview for service in South Africa in late February 1900 and Privates F. and H. Hermann in April 1900. Then in June 1900 news of the death of a Brisbane Valley man in the South African war reached home. Private Edward Cronan, son of a Fernvale farmer, died of fever on the front on 2 April 1900.¹

Previously the Brisbane Valley local military activities had centred on the Volunteer Corps founded on British army traditions. The corps was established first in 1888 in Esk, followed by Lowood. The movement was widely supported, though the local Parliamentarian, Patrick O'Sullivan, MLA for Stanley, was opposed to the movement in 1882, simply because country men were already trained in the use of rifles. A mounted corps was established at Esk.

Lowood's Military Corp was under the control of Captain J.F. Flewell-Smith, and by March 1892 a Rifle Range was complete. The seventy-strong group comprised mainly ex-members of the German army who did not speak English very well. Work on the first buildings on the Lowood drill ground commenced in January 1895. In August 1897 K Company, Second Battalion of First Moreton Regiment held a concert in Lowood Hall. Orderly Room Sergeant E.C. Nunn was the Treasurer, Private Bandit Secretary, and Colour Sergeant Denning was Chairman of the Concert Committee.²

The experience of the Boer War and service as troopers to quell the 1912 General Strike in Brisbane stimulated expansion of local volunteer groups which were administered by the Federal government after 1904. There was a half squadron of mounted infantry in Esk from 1907 to augment the Ipswich squadron and Senior Cadets were formed in Lowood. On 2 October 1912 the first drill of the Biarra patrol of the Stanley Legion of Frontiersmen was held at Biarra. Chief Patrol Leader, E.F. Lord, put the men through their facings. They personally raised funds for their uniforms. A dozen troopers formed the Esk Legion of Frontiersmen under the control of Captain E.F. Lord in January 1914. They planned to put on a Flag Race, Gretna Green and Mounting for Action at the St Patrick's Day Sports and also visited Toowoomba to perform in the Carnival and parade at the Moore picnic. These groups were part of an Empire Movement with headquarters in London.³

The declaration of World War 1 brought immediate expressions of local patriotism. Those responses had to be diplomatically explored and decided for each district and German settlers faced a difficult dilemma. The Esk Gordon Rifle Club was drilling under Captain J.F. Barr near the Presbyterian Church on Wednesday evenings in 1915. Many Brisbane Valley men joined the Fifth Light Horse and took their own horses overseas.

Lowood town formed a Patriotic Committee in September 1914 and the Lowood Shire Council passed a resolution donating £10 to it, although a third of the Council was opposed to the motion. The Council had divided loyalties and certain members were labelled and misunderstood by the general public because of their surnames and perceived heritage. However by June 1915 they were willing to display a Recruiting Poster on the verandah of the Council Chambers, and also decided to assist the Red Cross Society and the Lowood Patriotic Committee in holding fetes in the Shire on Queensland Patriotic Day, 28 August 1915 to aid wounded soldiers, Belgians and the Red Cross Society funds. Cr Nunn was appointed Deputy Chairman to deliver the Patriotic Address on behalf of the Council. The Council also decided to purchase Honour Cards for local recruits.⁴

All manner of fundraising activities were held by the Patriotic Committees formed in each town.

T.C. Pryde held a huge auction of fruit at his rooms in Esk. Toogoolawah Sports Club held a monster sports day on 17 April 1915. Esk committee held a patriotic carnival at the recreation grounds on St George's Day with entertainment at night. On the Patriotic Fund day at Esk six hundred people attended raising £500. After a parade they gathered at the Show Grounds and held sports and an auction sale of stock and produce. A 'Cinderella' Dance was held in the Lyceum Hall in the evening. The Committee also held a 'Paddy's Market'.

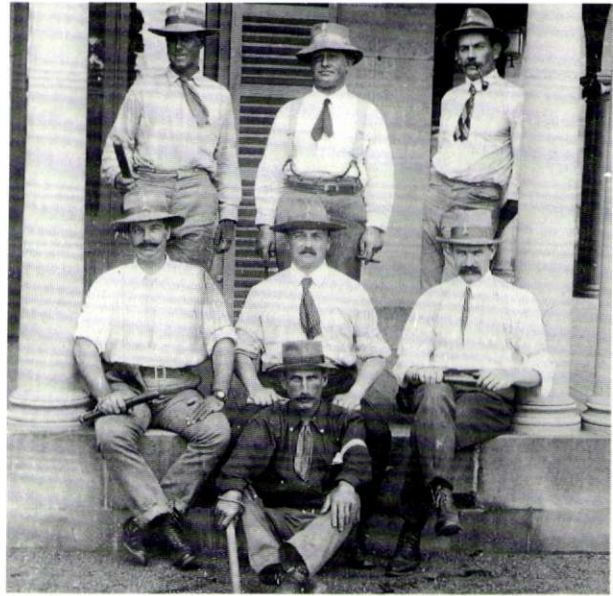
Toogoolawah's Patriotic Day raised £350 from a combined, procession, sports programme and dance. Linville residents collected seventy billy cans for their soldiers at the front.

The committees worked solidly holding entertainments annually. The Girls' Anzac Club of Esk held a dance at the Lyceum Hall on 10 June 1916 and raised £16 for returned wounded soldiers. On 21 September 1916 a special train ran from Ascot in Brisbane to Esk for horses and passengers for a Patriotic Race Meeting organized by the Esk Jockey Club. The Crossdale Race Club held a Patriotic race meeting on 30 December 1916.⁵

The next dilemma was the Conscription debate in 1916. There were strong pressures from the Churches to vote in favour. The Esk Shire Council appointed Crs Alexander Smith, T.C. Pryde, E.Lord, and W. Aitchison as the Conscription Referendum Committee. It was also difficult for Councillors to take a public stance on the issue. Some Councillors, such as Cr Nunn, did so in the tense atmosphere of the Lowood Shire Council in the 1918 debate.⁶

Naturally Lowood town and Council endured enormous animosity and suspicion during the war. Some Council meetings were disrupted by disgruntled Patriotic Committee members. Five Councillors were accused of not supporting recruiting in January 1916. However, the Council immediately donated £10 to the Queensland Recruiting Committee.

Another local issue was freehold land ownership by naturalized Germans. The Queensland government assured the Lowood Council that they were not required to check whether the *Commonwealth War Precautions (Land Transfer) Regulations 1916* had been complied with before recording the transfers of local land in the Rate Book. Crs Nunn and Fox moved that the Lowood Recruiting Committee be informed fully on this matter. These issues had to be resolved at the end of the war. Germans, such as C.F.W. Beutel of Brightview were interned. Cr E.C. Nunn advocated



Strikebreakers who went to Brisbane to quell the 1912 General Strike. Edgar McConnel is at the rear left and Ernest Lord seated in front, with volunteers from Beaudesert.

Stan Lord, Toogoolawah

the immediate return to normal business relations to heal the community.⁷

Meanwhile the war brought local trauma in the deaths of so many young men. Gloom was cast over Esk in July 1918 with the deaths of Major W.J. Handley and Sergeant W.M. Chaille, killed on the Palestine front on 16 and 14 July 1918 respectively. Major Handley was the eldest son of Mrs Handley and the late J.D. Handley of 'Sunnyside'. Aged thirty-six he had been a prominent worker for the local Church of England and he had been a Lieutenant in the Esk Light Horse. Sergeant Wilfred Mapon Chaille, youngest son of Mr and Mrs J.M. Chaille of Esk was twenty-six; he enlisted in October 1914, left Australia with the Fifth Light Horse and had been wounded at Gallipoli.⁸

Fundraising was exceptional in 1918. Investors were generous in the War Loan effort, with £28,280 being raised in the Toogoolawah district alone through the organization of C.S. Bauer, manager of the Queensland National Bank. Patriotism stemming from Anzac Day even removed horse-racing and trotting events from Patriotic Day programmes. The first Brisbane River district campdrafting competition was held at Esk in August 1918 in honour of the district soldiers. The Governor and his wife, Sir Hamilton and Lady Gould Adams were invited; this function, originally organized by the Lord family has developed into the Stanley River Campdraft now held annually.

Children brought jellies to school at Esk for Brisbane soldiers' Christmas Dinners. Patriotism



Major W.J. Handley of "Sunnyside" via Esk. R.C. McKee

also guided the decision of Council in April 1919 to pay the expenses of public meetings in Esk and Toogoolawah for returned soldiers to oppose Bolshevism (which ultimately led to Russian Communism).⁹

Esk Returned Soldiers' and Citizens' Political Federation was formed at a public meeting on 10 January 1919. E.F. Lord was elected Patron, J.D. Millar, President, and R. Neale, Hon. Secretary. Toogoolawah held their meeting to form a similar group on 28 February 1919 in Alexandra Hall with R.W. Fox as President, J.P. Moroney, Secretary, and E.C. McConnel, patron. There were enormous processions through the towns to celebrate peace. An aeroplane visited Esk in the interests of the Peace Loan and a holiday was proclaimed in September 1919. Toogoolawah had already erected a War Memorial in 1916, and Esk erected their's in 1920 at a cost of £800. Mr Jim Brough was one of the most energetic campaigners for benefits for returned servicemen, especially after the failure of the Coominya Soldier Settlement scheme. The RSL advocated that returned servicemen have preference in local employment and membership of the local RSL Branch blossomed in the late 1930s as war clouds gathered again.¹⁰

During the 1920s the military activities in the Valley were reorganized on a regional basis. The Machine Gun Squadron, as it was known, consisted of the first and second troops at Toogoolawah, third troop at Esk, fourth troop at Lowood. Major A.H. Powell, DSO, Toogoolawah, was Commander and Captain D. Patrick was second-in-charge. Respective Officers-in-charge Esk and Lowood were Lieutenant A.V. Smith and Lieutenant E.C. Nunn. Tent pegging, Gretna Green, and parades continued as military men contributed at the shows.

Annual Camps were held. On 31 October 1929 the Fourteenth Light Horse Regiment, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel W. Patrick of Clarendon, marched to Coominya for the annual camps. Other troops arrived by special train and others marched from Lowood and Esk. It was the first time that a camp had been held at the old soldier's settlement. Group leaders were Lieutenants W.J. Lyons, E.C. Nunn, A.V. Smith, C.V. Boyd, P.F. McCarthy, J.W. Logan, D.R. Armstrong, R.H. Marson, Captain H.W. Anderson RMO, J.H. Pollard (Australian Engineers), J.S. Young (Artillery) and Chaplain Rev. Harris. Warrant Officer W. Cleland was catering and cooking instructor, Warrant Officer J.H. Murray, instructor in the Hotchkiss Gun and Warrant Officer Serisier instructor of the Australian Engineers. On 3 November 1929 many Lowood residents went to Coominya to visit the Light Horseman in camp for sports, afternoon tea in the Mess Tents, and a Camp Fire Concert. Brisbane Valley troops often took part in Brisbane Anzac Day marches, combining it with a weekend bivouac. The Lowood troop even went to Chermside encampment via Banks Creek and Samford in 1938. Parades of the Toogoolawah Third Sabre Troop A Squadron and Second Machine Gun Troop of Lowood were regularly held at Esk Showgrounds under the command of Colonel Patrick.¹¹

Military Balls were an annual highlight. Halls were gaily decorated with flags and the men wore military uniforms. At Lowood Lieutenant E.C. Nunn was often Master of Ceremonies. The Red Star Jazz Band provided music and the Corner House Cafe at Coominya even supplied the suppers.¹²

The activities of Rifle Clubs also fostered a military presence in the Brisbane Valley. The first one formed was at Esk in 1888 with P. Clifford and E. McDonald and J. Lackey providing the range in the hills on the western side of town. The Tarampa club, composed entirely of Germans, was formed in 1891 and eventually amalgamated with rifle

shooters from the Lowood area. The Lowood club was formed in 1906 with members, E.C. Nunn (aged 39), Thomas Patrick (18), William Farrell (35), Fred Gutzke (24), Charles Gutzke (21), August Feldhahn (36), Jacob Goos (33), Arthur Jensen (20), Samuel Marquis (50), Edward P. Lawler (20), Patrick Kennedy (33), Philip Smith (35), David Anderson (20), Gustav Klatt (27), Walter Kemp (18), Paul Klatt (22), John Smith (26), William Patrick (18), Roland Jensen (18), Emil Klatt (25), Eberhardt Reinbett (21), Richard Kamp (40), Fred Luppke (19), Carl Dimro (39), Ernst Devantier (20), James Hansen (18), Johan Jensen (22), Charles Bauman (34) and William Denning (22). Fred Gutzke was the first member to score the possible. They used second-hand M.L.E. rifles. E.C. Nunn was one of the most enthusiastic members organizing competitions with Esk Gordon club and Moore, Fernvale, Engelsburg (Kalbar), Goodna, Biarra, and Toogoolawah clubs. He also was caretaker of the fenced rifle range. The condition of the mantlet on the range was a constant problem for the club and Army headquarters and had to be periodically renewed. In 1977 one hundred acres of the range were sold to the Esk Shire Council and the club continues to operate.¹³

The Fernvale Rifle Club used land granted by John Poole in 1915. The Esk Gordon club obtained a new range on Cormack's land on the Hampton Road in 1920. The clubs in the Stanley electorate competed for the shield presented by C.F. Lord from 1917. Toogoolawah rifle club had a strong membership roll of 56 in 1928, led by President, George Launder, Vice presidents, H.W. Searl, D.C. Pryce and Captain P.F. McNamara; they had their own Hayes Trophy for competition. Toogoolawah had a Clay Pigeon Shooting Club in the 1950s as well. The Somerset Dam club was formed by Captain A. Lumsdaine, engineer, G. Sheil, A. Beutel, J. Keane, J. Neilson, R. Allard, McCaskar and C. Milliner in May 1939. The range was surrounded by sheer mountains on three sides.¹⁴

All these clubs provided excellent training for volunteers enlisting for overseas war service and the response to the outbreak of the second World War was a new wave of patriotic commitment. Council held a special meeting on 4 September 1939 to plan the formation of Central Accommodation Committees in Lowood, Toogoolawah, Esk, Fernvale and Moore, capable of housing one thousand displaced persons from Brisbane. An enthusiastic meeting at Mt Beppo formed a strong committee of E. Melville (Chairman), O.C. Granzien, F. Ofstrofski, A. Grienke, R. Watt, F. Hahn, W. Breschke, and M. Kenman, to investigate accommodation available



Jim Brough on enlistment in World War I.

Jim Brough

for elderly men and women and children being evacuated from coastal areas, indicating how keen German residents were keen to participate publicly in the war effort. Collections for patriotic purposes were taken up at Toogoolawah and Mt Beppo Apostolic Churches in August 1941, sufficient to buy six War Savings Certificates and donate 10s. to the Red Cross Society. On 31 August 1940 transport was provided to a Garden Party at 'Bellevue' Home with proceeds to the Red Cross. New Patriotic and Comforts Committees were formed. Fred Rutkin organized a petition in Esk and Mr Jim Brough and Wilf Hawkin steered a motion through Council in October 1940 that all dormant balances of old local committees be transferred for patriotic purposes. After the Local Government Conference of 1940 advocated local collections for the war effort, all branches of the Country Women's Association (CWA) opened depots to collect sheep skins, brass, copper and aluminium. Thompson and Francis in Toogoolawah, Hawkins' store and the Shire Office in Esk were collection points. In 1941 classes for making camouflage net making classes were formed in Esk by the CWA with the headmaster, L. Bailey, and his wife as teachers. Local Greek residents were particularly grateful for the Esk Shire Council's role in raising funds for their country.¹⁵

History of the Shire of Esk

Comforts Funds Committees organized dances to farewell soldiers. Louisavale schoolteacher, Miss Joy Watt, Hon Secretary of the Louisavale Soldiers Farewell Committee, organized a farewell party featuring dancing and community singing on 22 July 1940 for Noel Watt of Bradfield Park RAAF who was on leave for a few days. These functions proved a popular part of the recruitment programme. The Esk Shire Council also organized the presentation of certificates to all persons enlisting after August 1941.¹⁶

The effects of the Rationing Commission and the War Agricultural Committee pervaded the community. Rationing of food, petrol, clothes, meat, tea, and dairy products was nation-wide and lasted until after the 1949 federal election. Local swapping was popular and unused coupons have survived as museum pieces. Local Petrol Control and Liquid Fuel Committees were formed, comprising the policeman, railway station master, a councillor, grazier, dairy factory manager, and representatives of the dairy farmers and timbergetters. Honorary 'potato crop correspondents' were appointed throughout the region to keep the Department of Agriculture and Stock informed regarding acreages planted and progress of crops. They also maintained a list of seasonal workers available.¹⁷

An Emergency Camp Demonstration was held on F. Gregory's farm, Scrub Creek, in September 1941 to train the local community. Esk Shire Council supplied the tent equipment, transport, and other services. Mr Masters, Organizing Commissioner of Scouts, gave demonstrations of campcraft and Lady Cilento attended on behalf of the Mothercraft Association. Air Raid Precautions lectures were commenced in September 1941, with wardens appointed and black-outs practised. The Shire Council workers built an air raid shelter of slit trenches at the Esk hospital and in the Esk Presbyterian Church grounds, and in Lowood, Toogoolawah, Moore, and Linville. St Agnes's Church bell was loaned to Esk Air-Raid Precaution (ARP) organization in March 1942 for the duration of the war and was erected at the entrance to the police station. Council distributed stirrup pumps throughout the district for the ARP organization. The Esk Volunteer Defence Force held its initial rally in March 1942 with twenty-six members and A.V. Smith as leader. In April 1942 the newly formed Linville Guerilla Warfare Corp sent two of its forty-seven members to Melbourne for special training. All direction signs including mile posts and place names had to be removed in March 1942, by order of Hon. J.J. Dedman, MHR, Minister of State for Defence Co-ordination, who was also

nick-named 'Santa Claus' throughout the nation for his suggestion that Christmas be abolished during the war.¹⁸

There were numerous army camps throughout the Esk and Toogoolawah districts. The Somerset Dam Entertainment Committee provided tea for military personnel each Sunday from May 1942 and up to March 1943, when tea rationing was introduced, nine thousand personnel were entertained free of charge. Then it had to be cut down to fortnightly. The Lowood Comforts Fund Committee opened an all-services hut in July 1942 and supplied refreshments free to 44,947 service men and women. In May 1943 a cafeteria was established at Lowood RAAF station to operate on picture nights.¹⁹

The RAAF had a strong presence in the Brisbane Valley with the aerodromes at Lowood and Toogoolawah. Under the Empire Air Training Scheme Lowood was selected for the establishment of No.12 Elementary Flying Training School in July 1941. Estimated costs for buildings and services was £130,550. Relief landing grounds at Wivenhoe and Coominya at a cost of £8,700 were planned, as well as a site of 640 acres near Lowood to be acquired for £4,000. The aerodrome was constructed at the foot of Mt Tarampa not far from Lockyer Creek, six miles from Lowood on the Mt Tarampa road. The complex comprised 138 individual installations of buildings and sports fields, including guard house, armoury, petrol tanks, workshops, photographic unit, Post Office, garage, boiler house and laundry, rifle range hut, living quarters, mess huts, instructional buildings, theatre, radio beacon shed, radar hut, visual beacon, fumigation unit, tennis courts, oval and chaplain's hut.

The airbase was a vital communications intelligence centre for allied troops in Asia. The 23 'City of Brisbane' Squadron was the main unit serving there. Other Australian squadrons came from Archerfield after they were displaced by American troops. The Lowood bunker was set into the mountain and has concrete walls 30 cms thick, resembling a huge tunnel 35 metres long and seven metres wide; it was also used as a bomb shelter. During the 1950s the airstrip was used as the Lowood car and motorbike race track and later to grow mushrooms. All that remains today to show where the buildings were is a deserted bunker, an old airstrip and concrete slabs. The land has been subdivided into twelve hectare lots.²⁰

The entry of Japan to the war changed the purpose of the Lowood installation. The training units stayed at Lowood from 12 January to 18 April

1942 and then Lowood became an operational base. The operations carried out were shipping convoy duties, anti-submarine patrols and general seaward reconnaissance. The units which were based at Lowood were:

	<i>ARRIVED</i>	<i>DEPARTED</i>
No.23 Squadron (P39 then Vengeance)	6 June 1942	30 Apr 1942
No.75 Squadron (In transit)(P40 Kittyhawk)	3 July 1942	31 July 1942
No.10 Repair and Salvage Unit (In transit)	1 Sep 1942	26 Nov 1942
No.14 Operational Base Unit	10 Nov 1942	17 Feb 1947
No.71 Squadron (Avro Anson)	10 Dec 1942	28 Dec 1943
A Flight Detachment Survey Flight	30 Mar 1943	14 June 1944 25 Jan 1946
No.21 Squadron (Vengeance)	30 Nov 1943	15 Feb 1944
No. 47 Operational Base Unit (In transit)	9 Dec 1943	16 Jan 1944
No.24 Squadron (Detachment) (Vengeance)	15 Mar 1944	27 June 1944
No.32 Squadron (Beaufort)	10 May 1944	30 Nov 1945
No.3 Aircraft Depot (Detachment)		
<i>U.S. Air Corps Units 8th Pursuit Group:</i>		
80th Pursuit Squadron (P39 Aeracobra)	6 May 1942	
683rd Ordnance Co (Aviation) (First Platoon).		

By contrast, Toogoolawah had a semi-official landing ground from 1931. Located one mile east of the town it had a windsock and had been registered with the Department of Civil Aviation. In December 1940 the Director General of Aviation requested that an emergency landing ground be made available there. The manager of Aircrafts Proprietary Limited in Brisbane, McManus, had suggested that it might be used on the Brisbane — Kingaroy commercial route and could also be used by the Empire Air Training Scheme (EATS) recruits. Toogoolawah was considered superior to Toowoomba in 1942 when the Army Co-operation Squadron commandeered airstrips. So on Monday, 15 June 1942 a group comprising Pilot Officer J.J. Keays (RAAF), Main Roads Commission officers, Calder and Lowe, P. Hill, Esk Shire Council Engineer, Home Security officer, Wyeth, and Lt. Chester of First Australian Army inspected sites around Toogoolawah. They condemned one site just outside of Toogoolawah town because it flooded in the wet season. P. Hill selected a new site, four miles east, located between the Brisbane and Mt Beppo Roads. The Army requisitioned 650 acres of farming land under the National Security (General) Regulations from farmers, A.J. Bryant, Frank Isaac Cannell and E.F. Henderson at an annual rental of £372. The construction of two strips suitable for aircraft up to P-40 Kittyhawk size was done by the Allied Works Council at a cost of £4,000. Its advantages were proximity to

Remains of military installations at Lowood Aerodrome. 1987.

Terry Conway





Colinton War Memorial. 1987.

John D. Kerr

permanent Brisbane River water, five miles from the railway station, electricity, and camouflage from the air. The use of Lowood and Cecil Plains as RAAF camps meant that Toogoolawah was not developed further. The strips were gravelled and drained. After £29,000 had been spent by 1944 the strip was virtually abandoned, except for occasional visits of No. 14 Operational Base Unit at Lowood, and the site was leased until March 1947 by the Department of Civil Aviation.²¹

There were spontaneous demonstrations in the streets of Esk and Toogoolawah after the news of Japanese surrender was received on 16 August 1945. People descended en masse on the hotels and then formed an impromptu procession through the town. In the evening a Thanksgiving service conducted by Cr. J. Barbour, the Shire Chairman, was held in the Lyceum Hall and short addresses were given by Rev. Foote, the Church of England Minister, and Rev. Gray of the Esk Presbyterian Church. Fr. Henry, Cr. W. Hawken, and Mr Jim Brough also addressed the citizens' service. Another procession was held and a bonfire lit near the hall.

Next day the children were entertained in the Memorial Park and provided with sweets and fruit.

The main street of Toogoolawah was decorated with green bushes, flags, and streamers. The procession commenced in Cressbrook Street where the Mt Beppo band played. A special choir sang hymns, with Mrs Fairchild conducting and Mrs H.F.W. Marson playing piano. Young people danced in the streets. Children were entertained at McConnel Park with lemonade, cakes and sweets and a sports programme. At night a social and dance was held in the Alexandra Hall with a bonfire in the park. Special church services were held next day and several picnic parties went to Marson's crossing in the afternoon.²²

RSL Clubs had been established at Esk, Toogoolawah, Lowood, Moore and Linville-Colinton. When W. Patrick retired as President of the Lowood RSL in 1949 there were fifty members. Esk RSL bought land to construct a Memorial Hall in 1949. The Moore and Linville-Colinton branch was formed in 1947 and closed in 1973, with Cr. Keith McPherson serving as Secretary for the last ten years. Toogoolawah branch has always had about three dozen members and some of its largest attendances were in the 1960s, when W. Williams was President.²³

Brisbane Valley residents were quick to establish memorials to their war dead. Joseph H. Frisby, Colinton farmer, applied in August 1916 to the Esk Shire Council for permission to erect an Honour Board opposite the Colinton School of Arts. Frank Williams of Ipswich erected a ten foot high structure on a fourteen foot square concrete base with pillars and a crown of sandstone with a centre of white marble inscribed with the names of the forty-three servicemen who enlisted from the Colinton area. It was unveiled by H.P. Somerset, MLA, on 18 January 1917 and was believed to be the first of its kind in Queensland. When the Brisbane Valley Highway was deviated in 1973 a public meeting decided to leave the memorial on its present site.²⁴

The Esk Patriotic Committee took over the subscriptions for the Esk memorial in 1916. The foundation stone was laid on St Andrews Day 1920 by Dr Graham Butler DSO. The memorial carried the names of 542 men, of whom eighty-one were killed in action.²⁵

The Toogoolawah residents erected a granite obelisk war memorial in McConnel Park and surrounded it with roses. It was not until 1955 that a memorial was erected to the fifteen men from Toogoolawah killed in the second World War; it was donated by the Women's Auxiliary and unveiled by RSL State President, Sir Raymond Huish. The Honour Board, stained oak, was

designed as a memorial tablet, supported by two carved columns of Corinthian design surmounted by carved crossed flags with the names of the servicemen inscribed in gold leaf lettering.²⁶

Machine guns were allotted to Esk, Toogoolawah, Harlin, Moore, Mt Beppo, Lowood, and Coominya by the War Trophies Committee in July 1920 and Fernvale, Colinton, Linville, and Biarra in November 1920. The Esk Shire Council gradually assumed responsibility for maintenance of war memorials and land donated for that purpose. It is now difficult to locate many of these trophies because of rust and souveniring. Some of them like Fernvale's were placed in special parks.²⁷

The Linville Committee obtained a site in the main street for their war trophy and memorial in 1921 and Somerset Dam community erected a memorial which was unveiled by Brigadier General L.C. Wilson in February 1936.²⁸

Through recruitment and conscription referendum campaigns and the local internments, the Brisbane Valley experienced the same social conflicts that infused Queensland society until the 1950s. While the Lowood airbase no doubt brought

economic prosperity during the 1940s, the scarcity of materials and labour after the second War definitely changed the rural outlook in the region from the 1950s. The wars changed social values, making an uneven balance between consensus and conflict that has been symbolized and commemorated throughout Queensland in its war memorials.

ENDNOTES

1. ESKM 1 February 1900; QT 8, 15 and 27 February 1900, 17 April 1900, 2 June 1900.
2. QPD Vol38 pp1,083-4; Q. 29 September 1888; QT 10 May 1892, 7 February 1895 and 2 September 1897.
3. QT 31 August 1907, 26 April 1912, 6 November 1912 p6, 7 November 1912 p6 and 4 February 1914 p5.
4. LWDM 31 August 1914, 28 September 1914, 26 July 1915 p21, 28 June 1915 pp9-10 and 24 November 1915 p64; ESKM 28 July 1915 p117; *Somerset Biography* (Esk Shire Library Local History Collection).
5. QT 26 January 1915 p6, 12 March 1915 p7, 22 April 1915 p4, 3 August 1915 p6, 30 August 1915 p7, 2 September 1915 p6, 6 October 1915 p6, 13 June 1916 p6, 5 September 1916 p7 and 10 January 1917 p3.
6. QT 18 September 1916 p2; Letter from E.C. Nunn to Harold, 19 August 1918 (Letter in possession of Cr R. Nunn); ESKM 20 September 1916 pp241-242.
7. QT 18 January 1916; LWDM 17 January 1916 pp.80-82 and 86-88, 7 August 1916 p163 and 8 January 1917 p192; Letter

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- from E.C. Nunn to A.Weinholt, 19 March 1921 (Cr E.R. Nunn).
8. QT 1 August 1918 pp2 and 9. QT 5 August 1918 p7, 1 and 7 October 1918 p3 and 20 December 1918; ESKM 30 April 1919 p596.
 10. ESKM 16 January 1919 p6, 10 March 1919 p2, 17 September 1919 p645, 26 February 1920 p2.
 11. QT August 1928, 26 October 1929 and 29 April 1932; DM 8 November 1929; ER 7 November 1931 and 21 May 1938.
 12. QT 9 April 1930; BVA 29 June 1932 and 13 July 1938.
 13. QT 17 May 1888, 12 April 1912, 6 April 1915 p2, 6 June 1916 p3; Commonwealth *Government Gazette* 11 August 1906; Membership Book of Lowood Rifle Club (Cr E.R. Nunn); ESKM 24 March 1977 p108,087; BP 190/1 (210/119/7) (Australian Archives).
 14. QT 27 August 1927 p3, 20 October 1920 p7, 25 July 1928 p5 and 18 October 1955 p5; ER 6 May 1939 and 29 July 1939.
 15. ESKM 4 September 1939 p162, 8 November 1939 p172, 8 May 1940 p 202, 9 October 1940 p225; ER 23 September 1939, 9 and 23 August 1940, 5 September 1941 and 2 January 1942; BVA 26 February 1941, 13 August 1941.
 16. ESKM 9 July 1941 p278 and 20 August 1941 p283; ER 13 January 1940; BVA 31 July 1940.
 17. ER 17 October 1941 and 14 November 1941; QT 5 February 1945 p6.
 18. ER 12, 19 and 26 September 1941, 6, 13 and 20 March 1942 and 2 April 1942; ESKM 11 March 1942 p317 and 9 December 1942 p357.
 19. ESKM 26 August 1942 p338; QT 19 March 1943 p4; CM 8 April 1946.
 20. File AF192/8/217; RAAF Camp, Lowood, DWG. No. 46/47/358 (Director of Works and Buildings, 5 February 1947). (RAAF Historical Section, Department of Defence, Canberra); Commonwealth *Government Gazette* No 54 15 March 1945; QT 5 October 1985 pp6-7.
 21. Australian Archives Files 171/93/327, 7/1/902, 171/106/398 and 7/1/1664 (Accession A-705).
 22. QT 17 August 1945 p3 and 20 August 1945 p6.
 23. QT 8 March 1949, 2 December 1949 p2; *Esk Shire Directory* Vol1 No1 July 1985 p5; BVS 1 March 1957 p1.
 24. ESKM 23 August 1916 pp.233-234; QT 25 and 27 January 1917, 18 June 1973 p15; For general details about war memorials in Queensland see Judith McKay and Richard Allom, comp., *Lest We Forget: A Guide to the Conservation of War Memorials* (Brisbane, Returned Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) and Queensland Anzac Day Commemoration Committee, 1984).
 25. ESKM 23 August 1916 p239 and 10 November 1920 p25; QT 9 December 1920 p3 and 26. Q, 26 April 1924 p11; QT 31 August 1955 p3.
 27. ESKM 14 July 1920, 10 November 1920 p25 and 23 March 1921 p6128. QT 23 February 1921 p53; ER 22 February 1936.

Site of Lowood Aerodrome. 1987.

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