



Mystery of First World War medals

David Kemp, in Adelaide, South Australia, found The Archer online at www.the-archer.co.uk and got in touch with us:

Among my late father's possessions were First World War medals awarded to a Private Frederick Reid and I'd like to find out more about him.

Pte. Reid was born in or near East Finchley in 1891. His parents were William and Kate Reid of 10 Hamilton Road, East Finchley. Frederick had several siblings, including brothers Edward, Ernest, Bertram, Arthur and William; and sisters, Nellie, Mary and Kate.

My grandfather served with the Australian Imperial Forces in France and was killed in action at the Battle of Mont St. Quentin in 1918. Pte. Reid also served in France on the Western Front, firstly with the Lincolnshire Regiment and then with the Royal Field Artillery. He survived the war and returned home to England in March 1918.

The mystery is how his medals came to be in my family's pos-

session (in Australia). Frederick's descendants may be interested in having them returned but I would first like to solve the mystery of his medals and the Australian connection.

Names to ring bells?

Frederick may have married a woman by the name of Winifred E. Smith around 1925 in the District of Staines. His younger sister, Kate, may have married a John Bartlett and lived at 44 Boyne Road, London.

The 1964 London Electoral Register lists the following people at No. 10 Hamilton Road: Ernest A Reid, Nellie Reid, Kate Bartlett (possibly known as Kitty and possibly nee Reid) and Mary A. Ball (possibly nee Mary Reid).

If you can help with any information about Frederick Reid and his family, please email me at d-kemp@bigpond.com



Unknown soldier: The 1914 medal inscribed to Private Frederick Reid.



On the catwalk: A model takes the limelight at the RSPCA fashion show.

The height of fashion

A live fashion show held by staff at the RSPCA charity shop in the High Road in December was such a success that they are already planning another. Managers Gabriella and Julie thanked the models who prowled the catwalk, along with the shop's volunteers and customers for all their support. There was a live commentary and a raffle on the night too. Gabriella said: "It went down really well and we hope to do another one very soon. We are currently on the scout for models!"

Food for thought

What does it take to provide about 14,500 meals a year for homeless people? Martin Stone, leader of the Muswell Churches Soup Kitchen, estimates about 2,500 cans of soup, 1,000 cans of tinned tomatoes, 1,000 cans of vegetables, 200 cans of fish, 600 packs of pasta, 300 packs of rice, 500 bags of sugar, 2,500 pints of milk, 1,000 loaves of bread and 1,200lbs of meat.

Martin told the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association that local churches, schools and synagogues provide lots of food, especially at harvest time. The Soup Kitchen, which is a registered charity, is entirely voluntary and supported by the community.

They serve about 50 people a night, from 7.45pm to 8.45pm, Sunday to Thursday, in Muswell

Hill Baptist Church. That adds up to about 10,500 served meals and 4,000 takeaways each year.

Because many of their guests have complex needs, including alcohol and drug problems, dementia, phobias, physical illness, learning disabilities and schizophrenia, Martin runs a Reflective Practice School for the volunteer workers.

He said: "We also offer supportive services, linked to statutory and voluntary organisations that can empower the guests to start new lives away from the street homeless culture." If you are interested in volunteering or donating, please contact Martin on martinstone18@gmail.com

Quick Tips To Speed Up Your Computer

If your computer is a few years old you might be thinking it is already past its sell-by date.

- 1) Reload the operating system from scratch**
Some computers have a recovery partition - CAUTION Make sure you have great backups.
- 2) Increase the RAM.**
This is the usable memory and if you are running with less than 4GB on Windows 7, it will make a big difference for a small cost.
- 3) Upgrade to Solid State Hard Drive (SSD).**
This will make your machine purr and breathe fresh life as a SSD can be 10 times faster to access.

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