Michael Coghlan

Greensborough Historical Society World War I Project

Michael Coghlan

Service No. 10330

Rank: Gunner

Unit: 2nd Field Artillery Brigade

Michael Coghlan was born in Garvoc, Victoria in 1888, the son of John Coghlan and Catherine Patton. At the time of his enlistment he was living at Greensborough. He was 27 years old and working as a Grocer/Driver when he enlisted on 24th July 1915. Michael Coghlan was active in the Greensborough Football Club and served as Captain (Heidelberg News and Diamond Creek Chronicle September 25 1915) and league delegate in 1914 (Heidelberg News and Diamond Creek Chronicle 21 March 1914).

After training he travelled on HMAT Afric A19 and saw active service in France. On the Embarkation Roll, Michael gives his next of kin as his father “T.Coghlan” of “Garvoc” Albion Street Brunswick, but as his father is John Coghlan of Warrnambool, T. Coghlan could be Michael’s brother Thomas Frederick Coghlan, with the house “Garvoc” named after the area from which the family hailed.

Michael Coghlan was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

Michael was returned to Australia in June 1919 and by 1921 (electoral roll) he is back in Warrnambool working as a grocer.

Michael came from a large family of 5 girls and 5 boys. His family operated a ‘cash grocers’ in Warrnambool. In his father’s obituary in the Warrnambool Standard 31 January 1918 it is noted that “one of the sons, Michael, has been on active service for close to three years”.

Michael Coghlan is commemorated in Greensborough on the Greensborough and District Honor Board at the Greensborough RSL.