

SATURDAY

Barney's sprint from



As Stawell hosts its 124th Easter Gift, **NEIL WILSON** retraces the steps of the fleet-footed Barney Cashmore, who won the race after surviving Gallipoli and Palestine

TROOPER A. G. Cashmore looked to have run his race well before the hospital ship *Dongola* carried the stricken 4th Light Horseman home from Egypt.

In August 1915 he was shot in the hand at the Lone Pine battle on Gallipoli and was evacuated to Malta suffering septicemia.

Having survived the conflict, he caught typhus in Egypt in 1919. Trooper Cashmore was so gravely ill that his parents were telegraphed to expect the worst.

Yet barely nine months later, Archibald "Barney" Cashmore earned sporting glory to match battle honours he won in the legendary 1917 cavalry charge at Beersheba.

He breached the tape first to win Australia's most famous foot race — the Stawell Gift.

It was the first major race he entered at home, discovering a natural gift for speed under the eye of a Gallipoli mate during four years at war in the Middle East.

He became the first returned serviceman and local son to triumph at the Easter Gift, and took out the 75m dash for good measure that same day, April 5, 1920.

The win was a boon to his cash-strapped father after the family farm had lapsed into insolvency.

Army mates and Barney's brother Jack also did well from the bookies. They were aware that a special medal had been struck for him in Egypt after he won the Egyptian sprint championship in May 1917, one of a series of athletic successes in uniform.

"Now my success is mainly due to one man — Hughie Wales, my trainer," Barney, 24, told *The Herald* after his Stawell victory.

"We were battalion mates at the war, and he took me in hand. He was confident that I would win and I am glad the confidence he placed in me has been justified."

After his £100 winner's prize at Stawell, then extra from the punt, Barney got to like the bookmaking game. In later years he and his wife "Fasho" were part-time SP bookies at Gunbower, near Echuca, running a tote at the back of his butcher's shop for 23 years.

His grandson, Paul Cashmore, remembers Barney as "a large bloke and an old-style man's man, as tough as they came, loved a beer and a joke — a real knock-about Australian".

Above left: winner and place-getters in the 1920 Stawell Gift, from left, B. Goonan (third), A. Peterson, who was later found to be NZ ex-amateur champ Jack Lindsay (second), A. G. Cashmore (first) and Lowden (fourth).

Left: Light Horseman Barney Cashmore, and grandson Paul Cashmore.
Picture: DARRYL GREGORY

