

Joseph Sylvester Vinson THOMPSON

27/07/2016

Joseph Sylvester Vinson THOMPSON

Queensland Police Force

Regd. # ?

Rank: Constable

Stations: ?, Bell – ENLISTMENT

Service: From ? ? ? to ? ? ? = ?
years Service

[blockquote]

World War I

Australian Imperial Force Army /
Flying Corps

Regiment:

25th Australian Infantry Battalion,
7th Brigade

Enlisted: ?

Service

#

2883A

Rank:

Private / Corporal

Embarkation:

**Brisbane HMAT A48 Seang Bee on Thu. 21
October 1915**

Disembarked:

Suez, Egypt on Sunday 28 November 1915

Embarked:

**on HMT Saxonia at Alexandria to join
BEF in Marseilles**

**Monday 27 March – Monday
3 April 1916**

**Next of
kin:**

**Margaret Elizabeth THOMPSON of
Sandringham, Barraba, NSW – Mother**

Religion:

Presbyterian

Single / Married: ?

Returned to Australia: ?

War Awards:

Victory Medal

[/blockquote]

Civillian Awards: ?

Born: ? ? 1884 in Manilla, NSW

Died on: Saturday 25 July 1916

Cause: K.I.A., France during WWI

Age: ?

Funeral date: ?

Funeral location: ?

Buried at: ?

Memorial at: ?



**FURTHER INFORMATION IS NEEDED ABOUT THIS PERSON, THEIR LIFE,
THEIR CAREER AND THEIR DEATH.**

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO Cal

Age at enlistment Boer War

Age at enlistment World War 1

Service occupation

Corporal

Civil occupation

Police Const

Name of Horse

Cause of death

Killed in Acti

Medals, Honours, Awards

- Victory Medal

Gender

Male

Height (approx)

5 ft 9 in

Weight (approx)

161 lbs / 11.

Chest measurement (max)

39

Complexion

Fresh

Eye colour

Brown

Hair colour

Light Brown

Religion

Presbyterian

-
- Joseph Thompson – Queensland Police Constable

- Posted by Keith McPhee, Saturday, 4 October 2014

Joseph Sylvester Vinson Thompson was born at Manilla, NSW in 1884, the third and youngest son of four children born to Henry John and Margaret Elizabeth (nee Hagan) Thompson. At the age of 31 years he enlisted in the AIF (Regimental Number 2883A) on the 9th of July 1915 at

Brisbane, stating that his occupation was as a Police Constable at Bell, Queensland. He listed his mother, Margaret Elizabeth Thompson of Sandringham, Barraba, New South Wales, as his next of kin.

Initially he was posted at the rank of Private to the 25th Battalion/6th Reinforcements at Enoggera near Brisbane. On the 21st of October 1915 at Pinkenba, Brisbane he embarked on the HMAT A48 Seang Bee bound for active service, arriving at Suez on the 28th of November 1915. Upon arrival it appears that he was assigned to the 7th Training Battalion at Zeitoun.

On the 27th of February 1916 he was allotted to and proceeded to join the 9th Battalion. The next day he joined the 9th Battalion "D" Company at Gebel Habieta, about 12 miles (20 km) east of the Suez Canal. There is no record of when he received his promotion however when he transferred to the 9th Battalion he reverted to the ranks but was immediately afterwards promoted to the rank of Corporal in his new unit.

On the 27th of March 1916 he was with troops who embarked at Alexandria on the HMT Saxonia and sailed to join the British Expeditionary Force, disembarking in Marseille, France on the 3rd of April. He'd have gone by train to northern France and from there he would have been posted to active duty on the western front in the Somme.

Corporal Joseph Thompson was killed in action while fighting near Pozieres in the Somme, France on the 22nd of July 1916. He has no known grave and is commemorated at the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux, France.

<http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/person/15153>

George Joss DUNCAN

27/07/2016

George Joss DUNCAN

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # 'Q' 9575

(*For the purposes of this website 'Q' represents those Police joining between 1 March 1862 (commencement of NSWPF) – 23 February 1915 (Commencement of NSWPF current numbering system)*)

Rank: Probationary Constable – appointed Saturday 4 January 1913 – Mounted Constable

Stations: Forbes, Bogan Gate, Grenfell, Tottenham (by 3 days)

Service: From 4 January 1913 to 26 September 1916 = 3+ years Service

Awards: No find on It's An Honour

Born: 1891 in Scotland

Died on: Tuesday 26 September 1916 a few minutes after 9pm.
The eve before his marriage.

Cause: Shot – Murdered at Tottenham

RESULT: Offender Frank FRANZ & Ronald Nicholas KENNEDY were
hanged at Bathurst Gaol at 9am on Wednesday 20 December 1916

Age: 25 – 27

Funeral date: Sunday 1 October 1916

Funeral location: ?

Buried at: Parkes Cemetery, Want St, NSW

Plot Presbyterian, Row M

Memorial location: Parkes Cemetery, Want St, Parkes, NSW

Lat: -33.137193

Long: 148.192287

Note: GPS Coordinates are approximate.

George IS mentioned on the Police Wall of Remembrance

THE LATE **CONSTABLE DUNCAN**



" This monument has been erected at Parkes by the Government of New South Wales to the memory of Constable Duncan, who was murdered at Tottenham while in the execution of his duty on September 26, 1916 "







Inscription: " This monument was erected by the Government of New South Wales to Constable George Joss Duncan, of Tottenham, who was treacherously shot dead in the execution of his duty on 26th September, 1916. "



Touch Plate in Canberra

The constable was shot at the **Tottenham Police Station** by offenders **Roland Kennedy** (20) and **Frank Franz** (28). The offenders were members of the "**Industrial Workers of the World**" organisation during **World War 1** and were incensed at the constable's arrest of one of their members the previous day. While the constable was sitting typing at his desk in the station the offenders crept up to a small window behind him,

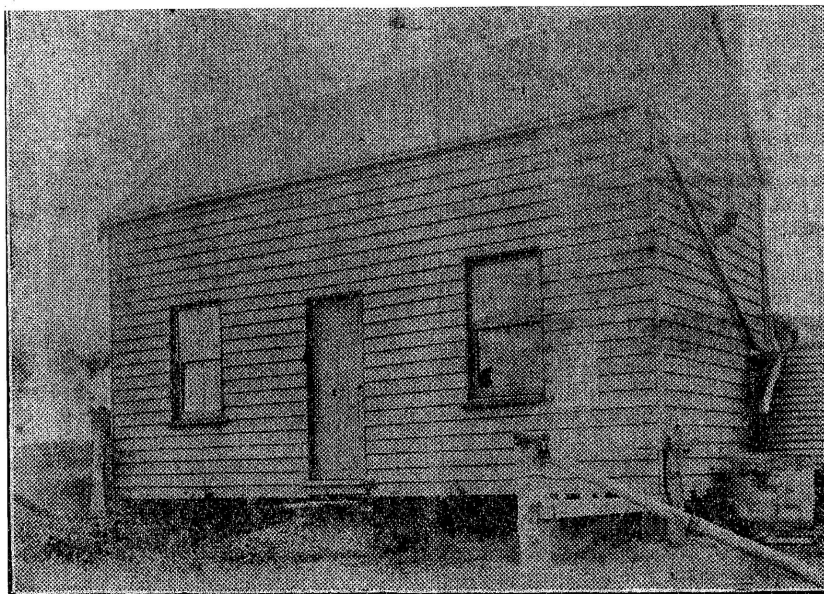
aimed their rifles and shot him from close range. He died a few minutes later. Both offenders were arrested and hanged at **Bathurst Gaol**. A third accused, **Michael Kennedy**, was acquitted.

The *Kalgoorlie Western Argus* of 3 October, 1916 printed the following brief account.

*A CONSTABLE MURDERED – Sydney, **Sept. 27.***

Confirmation has been received by the Inspector-General of Police, that Constable George Joseph Duncan, stationed at Tottenham about fifty miles from Trangie, was shot dead last night. Yesterday afternoon, Duncan was at Dandaloo and there arrested a German whom he lodged in the lockup there. After his return last evening, two shots were heard by the neighbours and Duncan was found lying dead in his office. He had apparently been working at a typewriter when the shots were fired. Detectives have been sent from Sydney to make investigations. Duncan was 25 years of age.

The constable was born in 1891 and joined the New South Wales Police Force on 4 April, 1913. At the time of his death he was stationed at Tottenham.



A front view of the police building, showing the window through which Mount
Constable Duncan was shot. 26-9-1916.

Tottenham Police Station 26 September 1916

Tottenham Township was proclaimed a village in 1907, and the nearest police officer was stationed 36km away at Dandaloo, near the township of Albert. Employment at that time was readily available in jobs such as wood cutters, 'navvies' (railway cutters) on the Tullamore to Tottenham railway line and also mining at the nearby Mt Royal mine.

World War One had commenced in 1914 and by 1916, union bullying saw strikes in the nearby mine and threats by navvies sabotage the last section of the railway line to Tottenham. One local, Arthur Graham, who was a shopkeeper in Tottenham and one of the leaders of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), also known as the 'Wobblies', would constantly put stickers over windows and doors on all businesses in town. He also circulated propaganda pamphlets and the IWW newspaper – 'Direct Action' the IWW were against the war and despised capitalism and generally stirred up the locals. The Prime Minister at the time, Billy Hughes hated the IWW and once said *'they must be attacked with the vengeance of a'*

In September 1916, Tottenham got its first police officer, Mounted Constable George Duncan, Registered Number 9575. Constable Duncan was born in Scotland 1891 and joined NSW Police Force in 1913. Constable Duncan was posthumously promoted to the rank of Constable 1st Class on 4th of October 1916.

On the 25th of September 1916, one of Constable Duncan's first tasks was to arrest two 'Wobblies', Charlie Martin for possessing firearms and George Wann for bad language. At the time of his arrest, George Wann resisted the Constable which attracted a large crowd in the main street who booed and abused the officer. After Wann was taken to the lockup, the officer returned to the crowd outside the hotel and was seen to have heated words with Roland (Rolly) Kennedy, one of the leaders of the 'Wobblies' and a local agitator in town.

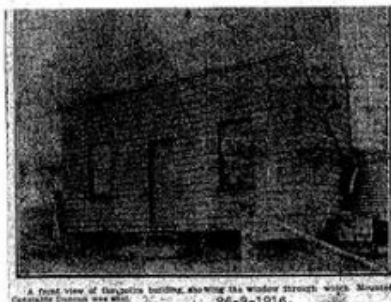
The following day Constable Duncan transported Wann to the Dandaloo lockup. The word in town was that Constable Duncan was looking for Rolly Kennedy and that he would be charged for their exchange during the commotion the previous day. Unfortunately, on his return the officer was unable to locate Kennedy.

On the evening of the 26th of September 1916, Rolly Kennedy, his brother Herbert Kennedy and Frank Franz, crept up to the police station and could see the officer sitting at his typewriter behind the desk. Two shots were fired at Constable Duncan, striking him twice in the back. The officer got up and staggered to out the front of the police station and cried "murder" before collapsing and dying.

Two detectives were dispatched from Sydney as well as officers from Dubbo, Narramine, Warren, Nevertire, Trangie and Dandaloo. It was not long before 5 suspects were rounded up.

Tottenham Police Station was a very small building and unfortunately for those police, they had to share the office with the corpse of Constable Duncan.

In an attempt to save himself Frank Franz became a crown witness against the Kennedy brothers. In his confession, Frank Franz stated that he pulled the trigger and shot the officer because the Kennedy's had threatened to shoot him. Rolly Kennedy and Frank Franz were found guilty of the murder of Constable George Duncan and ultimately executed.



A front view of the police building, showing the window through which
Catalina Cusumano was shot. 26-2-1016

Acknowledgements to Rowan Day and the Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate Friday, 13/10/1916

TOTTENHAM MURDER
—+—
EXECUTIONS ORDERED

At a meeting of the Executive Council held yesterday it was decided that the law should take its course in the case of the two men recently sentenced to death for the murder of Countess Lammie, at Tonkham, on September 14 last. The execution of the condemned men has been fixed to take place on December 10, and will probably be carried out at

[illegible]

The last execution in this State was in 1912, when a man named Ball was hanged at Armistead for the murder of his wife.

Information sheet which was on display for the
NSWPF 150th anniversary in 2014

THE TOTTENHAM MURDER.

KENNEDY AND FRANZ EXECUTED.

Sydney, Wednesday.

Roland Kennedy and Frank Franz, the murderers of Constable Duncan, at Tottenham, were executed together at the Bathurst Gaol this morning.

Kennedy shuffled on to the scaffold and broke into a hysterical laugh, calling out "Good-bye, boys." Franz showed signs of nervousness, and almost collapsed.

Death in each case was instantaneous.





The Sydney Morning Herald

Thursday 28 September 1916 page 8 of 12

CONSTABLE SHOT.

TRAGEDY AT TOTTENHAM.

The Inspector-General of Police M.G. Mitchell, received a telegram yesterday evening stating that Constable George Joseph Duncan was found dead in the office of the Tottenham Police station at about 9 o'clock on Tuesday night. The information was communicated to headquarters by Constable McIntosh, who is stationed at Trangie, about 45 miles from Tottenham.

According to the telegram, two neighbours made the discovery. They heard a couple of shots fired, and on entering the lockup found Duncan dead. The position of the body made it apparent he had been using a typewriter when the shots were fired.

On Tuesday afternoon Duncan arrested a man whom he took to the Dandaloo Police Station, a distance of about 1 1/2 miles. After lodging the prisoner in the cell he returned to Tottenham.

Up to the present no clue has been found ; and yesterday morning two detectives were sent from Sydney to make investigations.

Duncan, who was 25 years of age joined the Service in 1913. He had previously been stationed at Forbes, Bogan Gate, and Grenfell.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/15688139>

National Advocate (Bathurst)

Monday 2 October 1916 page 1 of 6

TOTTENHAM MURDER

REWARD OF £200 SYDNEY, Sunday.

The Inspector-General of Police (Mr. Mitchell) has authorised

the issue of a reward of £200 for information leading to the discovery of the murderer of Mounted-constable George Joseph Duncan, whose dead body was found in his office at Tottenham on Tuesday.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/158525265>

Dubbo Dispatch and Wellington Independent (NSW : 1887 – 1932),

Tuesday 10 October 1916, page 1

TOTTENHAM MURDER

FULL STORY OF A FOUL CRIME.

BY SERGEANT MEAGHER.

Sergeant Meagher, after nearly a fortnight spent at Tottenham in investigating the murder of **Constable Duncan**, attending the inquest, etc., has returned to Dubbo.

Interviewed at his residence on Sunday, **Sergt. Meagher** supplied particulars of the crime, as learnt by him and his fellow officers, and elicited at the inquest.

Sergt. Meagher states that on the night of the murder he received instructions from **Inspector Peterswald (John Peterswald # Q5489)** to go to Tottenham.

He proceeded to Trangie by the midnight goods train, which was late in arriving at Dubbo. He waited at Trangie till daylight, and got into communication with Tottenham, learning that **Sergeant Scott**, of Narromine, had just arrived after an awful night in the rain and mud. The night was pitch dark.

He rang up **Dr. Bertram**, of Trundle, who set out for Tottenham, but his car became bogged six miles from his destination.

The doctor then set out on foot and walked three miles, when he had the good fortune to get a lift in a sulky.

Without X-rays the doctor was unable to locate the bullet that had entered the body on the right side of the back.

Arrived at Tottenham after much tedious travelling owing to the soft state of the country, **Sergt. Meagher**, with **Sergt. Sawtell** (Warren), **Sergt. Scott** (Narromine), **Constables Sykes** (Nevertire), **McIntosh** (Trangie), **McLean** (Narromine), and **Lewis** (Dandaloo), made every possible inquiry and search of the police station and surroundings.

They located the suspects, measured up the building for the purpose of making a plan.

Subsequently **Inspector Whitfield** arrived from Forbes, and two detectives (**Messrs. Davelin** and **Downey**) from Sydney, and the suspects were brought to the station.

Constable McLean, having been stationed at Tottenham previous to the deceased, was of great assistance in the investigations.

The three accused and two others were brought to the station in strict silence without causing the slightest excitement in the village. "That, I am pleased to know," said **Sergt. Meagher**, "gave general satisfaction to the public, and it was pleasing to hear the appreciative reference to the sound judgment and discretion of the police. It was a difficult task on account of the wet and cold weather, and the inadequacy of the arrangements for the housing of the suspects.

Two of those were kept in a wooden cell in the yard, and two others, were guarded day and night in the office.

The station is only a small structure— two rooms — and it was difficult for the police to converse without the prisoners hearing them.

The residents, however did everything possible to help the police, and," said **Sergt. Meagher** with much earnestness, "we are all very thankful to the hotel keeper, **Mr. Veech**, and his good wife and staff, who did everything possible for our comfort and convenience. The meals and beds were excellent, and we were attended to in a way that warrants every gratitude, especially on account of the bad weather Mr. and Mrs. Veech had also to contend with." Continuing, **Sergt. Meagher** stated that the late **Constable Duncan** had his life assured with the A.M.P. for £250. He was **27 years of age**, a native of Scotland, and had only taken over Tottenham from **Constable McLean** (now of Narromine) on the **23rd ultimo**— three days before he was foully murdered.

An attempt was made to dig a grave for his body at Tottenham, but it filled with water as fast as it was dug out.

"**Sergeant Sawtell**," says **Sergeant Meagher**, "is deserving of all praise for the way he attended to the guarding of the prisoners in relays— and keenly alert to seize any little word or look, or piece of evidence to sheet home the guilt.

Sergt. Sawtell's good services will no doubt be a matter the inspector will not miss. The police worked together in a way that reflects the highest credit on themselves and the department. It was also very pleasing to observe that there was a total absence of any ill-feeling amongst the police towards the accused men, notwithstanding the strain in full view of a murdered comrade in a small room with them from **Wednesday to Friday morning**, it was a great relief when the body passed out of our sight, seeing that we were not able to attend the **funeral**, which took place at **Parkes**, and we hope, and request, that **Inspector Whitfield** will be good enough to put the inward feeling of us all in the service with a view of a small coin being asked from all to mark the last resting place of poor **Constable Duncan**.

THE ACCUSED.

The three men detained in custody and subsequently committed for trial at Bathurst were Michael Herbert Kennedy, Roland Kennedy (brothers), and Frank Franz.

Preliminary to the crime certain events happened which are worth mentioning.

Deceased has only been three days in Tottenham.

Charles Martin, a German, was charged with having firearms in his possession, and at Dandaloo was fined £3 and costs by Mr. Gates, relieving P.M. of Dubbo.

George Wann, a German, the man arrested by deceased on the night before the tragedy, for obscene language and resistance to arrest, was taken by deceased to Dandaloo the next morning and lodged in the lockup – he pleaded guilty before Mr. Gates, P.M., and was fined £1 and £2 with costs.

Deceased was hooted by a number of men when he arrested Wann and he spoke to Roland Kennedy when he returned from the lockup, and was heard to say to Kennedy that it was no laughing matter.

A summons was found in the police office, but not declared or signed—no doubt it was prepared at Dandaloo. There was also an entry of the matter in deceased's pocket book.

On returning from Dandaloo that evening deceased asked after Roland Kennedy, and Kennedy, hearing of this, went from the residence of his father into the street and inquired for deceased, but didn't see him.

After returning from Dandaloo deceased went to Mr. Travers' place— where he had his meals—for tea.

To Mrs. Travers he said: "I am sopping wet; I will put my horse in the stable and come back for tea."

He said he was tired, and the roads were in a dreadful state.

He asked about Roland Kennedy, but did not see him. After going to the station, subsequent to his having his tea, deceased took off his wet uniform, and put on an old singlet, blue police jumper, socks, and dry shoes, and sat at the typewriter with his back to the office window.

He was making out a monthly return of diseased cattle, and was shot before he had completed it, as three letters, the last on the paper, were struck together.

The window is a two sash, with two panes of glass in each. There was a hole one could put the tip of a finger into in the left-hand corner, and there was a large piece broken out of the other pane. There was another bullet hole in the bottom frame, six inches below the line of the other two shots, and six inches to the right. That bullet passed through and out of the weatherboard wall on the opposite side of the room and could not be traced, except that it struck the ground ten yards from the hole in the wall.

The bullet was a 32 calibre, and that is the bore of the rifle owned by Frank Franz, who, at the inquest, said he fired that shot only. It didn't hit deceased.

Roland Kennedy said he fired the shot that left the small hole in the window at the constable. That would have hit the constable on the right side. He fired a 32. That shot, if the one that entered the right side of deceased's back, fractured two ribs, passed upwards through the lung, and came out about his neck, just above the breastbone. The bullet could not be found.

Roland Kennedy said that Franz fired the other shot at the constable, the shot that broke the pane, and then stepped to the right in front of him (Roland Kennedy) and fired the shot that passed through the bottom of the frame.

Roland Kennedy pulled the trigger a second time, but the cartridge missed fire.

It was afterwards discovered that Roland Kennedy had a cartridge in his vest at the residence of his parents, the cap of which was dented, and the bullet still in it.

Franz said that the two Kennedys stood side by side, and one counted three as a signal for all three– the two Kennedys and himself– to fire together through the window at the back of deceased.

Franz also said that after the word three both the Kennedy fired a volley, but he (Franz) didn't fire.

The Kennedy then turned to him and ordered him to fire, and he, being frightened that they would shoot him, fired the shot that hit the bottom of the frame.

Franz then pointed to a spot at the boundary post of the fence and said, "I stood there when I fired" – that was 11 feet from the window.

The spot where Kennedy said Franz stood was about half that distance.

Both spots were in a line of the bullet's course, but there were no powder marks on the window, as there were in the case of the other two shots, the showing that this shot was fired at a distance.

Michael Kennedy said he was not at the shooting, nor was he a party to the arrangement to shoot the constable.

Roland Kennedy said that his brother was not at the shooting, but he was at the verandah of their father's residence when it was arranged to shoot deceased.

Roland Kennedy further stated that he said to his brother "Come on," and Michael Kennedy said, "It is no good to me; I am a married man, with a wife and two children."

Roland Kennedy also said that his brother advised them to let

it alone.

According to Roland Kennedy's statement, when Franz was told that deceased was home from Dandaloo, he (Franz) said, "The — is back; we will stone the b— — and he picked tip stones and put them in his pocket. Roland Kennedy then said to Franz: "It's no good stoning him; let us shoot him." Franz then said — according to Roland Kennedy, "I will go and get my rifle." Franz did so, and he and Kennedy shot the constable.

Against this, Franz said the two Kennedy and he were on the verandah at old Mr. Kennedy's residence, and the two Kennedy's said, "We will shoot the policeman; get your rifle."

He, being afraid of them went home and had his tea, but his wife objected to him going out again, and cried.

He stopped three-quarters of an hour, put his rifle out through the window when she was not looking, and at last got her consent to go out.

He had been served with a small debt summons and a summons by Const. McLean for riotous behaviour.

Franz said he wanted to see Herb Kennedy, who was regarded as a bush lawyer, to get advice about the summonses.

He went out and met the two Kennedys on the verandah of their father's residence, and the three of them then went to the police station, sneaked up, and the deceased was shot as described.

They ran away — R. Kennedy and Franz in one direction and Herb Kennedy in another — in the grass so as to make no tracks.

There was no tracker to be got, and a half caste, who was in Tottenham, refused to try to track.

Another, seven miles away, was sent for, but he would not come.

The weather was wet, and the roads in a dreadful state, and the indistinct tracks at the window in the grass could not be followed.

Mr. Kennedy, senior, 80 years of age, passed away during the trouble.

His unhappy son saw him before he died, but he didn't know of their trouble.

He and his wife were drawing the old age pension, and lived 50 yards away from the hotel, facing a street.

The old man had been a stock dealer and master butcher at Parkes and Peak Hill ; also a storekeeper.

The accused said they were I.W.W. men, but they didn't believe in taking life.

They were committed for trial by the coroner, Mr. James Patterson, the owner of the local paper, on a charge of wilful murder.

10 Oct 1916 – TOTTENHAM MURDER – Trove

National Advocate (Bathurst)

Thursday **19 October 1916** page 1 of 4

Tottenham Murder

KENNEDY AND FRANZ ON TRIAL.

**PLEA OF GUILTY WITHDRAWN. ACCUSED FOUND GUILTY DEATH SENTENCE
PASSED**

Roland Nicholas Kennedy and **Frank Franz** were arraigned before the Chief Justice (Sir William Cullen) and a jury at the

Bathurst Circuit Court yesterday charged with having at Tottenham on September 26 last murdered **Constable George Joss Duncan**. Both accused are comparatively young men. Kennedy is sturdily built, dark complexioned (he had about a week's growth of beard), and intelligent looking. As he entered the dock his eyes wandered around the court room and there was indications that he realised the gravity of the situation. In fact there was a trace of a smile as he stood up preparatory to answering the charge. The other accused, Franz, is fair complexioned, and the usual bush worker type. He is about 5ft in height, of medium build, and a demeanor that by no means indicated the strong will power of the alleged partner in crime.

The court room throughout the day was thronged with interested spectators, whilst during the morning two young women occupied seats in the body of the court, both of whom appeared to be little concerned about the fact that perhaps on the issue of the proceedings depended the lives of two – perhaps three – men.

Mr. Wilfrid Blackett, K.C. and Mr. D. S. Edwards, instructed by Mr. E. A. Withey, of the Crown Law Office, appeared for the Crown. Kennedy was defended by Mr. N. Pilcher, of Sydney, whilst Mr. E. R. Abigail appeared in the interests of the accused Franz.

The first to be called upon to plead was Franz, who replied "Not guilty" in a firm voice. Then Kennedy created somewhat of a sensation by pleading guilty in a firm voice and with a broad smile. Immediately Mr. Pilcher asked his Honor not to accept the plea of guilty, and Sir William Cullen then explained to the accused that the charge was a serious one and that the only way in which it could be properly investigated was by a plea of not guilty. Then all the circumstances would be brought out.

Kennedy: I can hardly hear what your Honor is saying.

The Chief Justice repeated his advice, whereupon Kennedy said: And if I plead guilty all the circumstances will not be brought out.

The Chief Justice: That is so.

Kennedy: Then I'll withdraw my plea and plead not guilty.

The jury were then empanelled, the first to be called being Mr. W. Boyd. Franz freely exercised his right to challenge, and ordered six jurors to stand aside. Kennedy, on the other hand, accepted all the jurymen as they were called without demur.

THE CASE OUTLINED.

Mr. Blackett outlined the case for the Crown. He said that Tottenham was situated about 52 miles from Trangie. On September 25 last Constable Duncan arrested a man, a member of the I. W.W., for having used abusive language. A crowd collected and there was some hooting and general disorder. However, he arrested the man and took him to Dandaloo, about 13 miles. On his return he interviewed accused Kennedy and told him that he would take proceedings , against him for having used abusive language on the next night, September 26, Constable Duncan's dead body was found near a wire fence just outside the police station door with two bullets in the back. A third bullet was found in a panel of the wall of the room. **The Crown theory** was that the two accused and another, man, Herbert Kennedy, agreed to shoot the constable at a given signal. Two were to fire, whilst a third was to reserve his shot in the event of the shots not having the desired effect. The three stood outside the window of the police station, where Constable Duncan was sitting with his back towards them engaged at the typewriter. When the shots were fired the constable rose and staggered towards the door. This was when the third shot was fired, and the Crown contended that the third shot was fired as arranged, but missed Duncan and

entered the wall just above his head. The chief evidence against the accused was statements made by each. Franz said that he was terrorised into participating in the shooting by the Kennedys, who threatened to shoot him. **Kennedy**, in his statement, stated that Franz planned the murder and threatened to shoot him if he did not go with him. He made no reference at all to his brother being present. However, the Crown would contend that all were equally guilty of the crime.

'The Crown does not suggest, added Mr. Blackett, " that this foul murder was committed out of revenge for the arrest or threatened arrest. Such would be too trivial. It does suggest, however, that these men were members of the I.W.W. and had their minds inflamed and saturated by the pernicious literature of that body and which was found at their residences. Boys, after reading Deadwood Dick stories, commit crime, and in the same manner this murder was committed by men after reading the pernicious literature regarding the objects and methods of an organisation to which no law abiding citizen would attach himself. "

Mr. Blackett also pointed out that the two bullets found in Duncan's body were **32 calibre**, similar to those from the rifle found at Kennedy's, whilst the bullet in the panel was of **38 caliber**, and used in rifles similar to that owned by Franz.

THE EVIDENCE.

Detective Patrick Joseph Downey, of Sydney, stated that he went to Tottenham shortly after the murder. During his investigations he interrogated Ronald Kennedy, who denied any connection with the murder. He admitted he had a 32 caliber Winchester rifle and that he and his brother were members of the I.W.W. He stated, however, that they did not advocate the destruction of life and property. He took Kennedy to the inspector of police and had Franz's statement read to him. Kennedy laughed during, the first part of the statement, but became white and broke out into a perspiration when the

circumstances of the actual shooting were being read. In reply to witness, Kennedy said it was. " all a lie. " Franz, at his (witness's) request, then recognised Ronald Kennedy as the man mentioned in his statement. When he formally charged Kennedy with the present charge the latter said, " Well, fix me up : I wish you would take me out and shoot me. " He put Kennedy in the cell and afterwards heard him crying. Later he heard a man named Martin, who also occupied the cell, say to Kennedy, " I always knew that you were a headstrong young man, but I did not think you would take up a rifle and shoot a man down like this. " Afterwards, in company with Inspector Whitfield, he took the accused to the window of the lockup and asked him to mark the positions where he considered that the three men stood. He then took Franz to the lockup and asked him to do likewise. While Franz was present Kennedy pointed out the hole in the window which, he said, had been caused by his bullet. He (witness) then examined the window and performed experiments (in company with Inspector Whitfield) which went to show that Franz's statement, that three men were present when the murder took place, was correct.

Inspector Whitfield stated that he saw Franz at the police station on September 28, when the accused said that he was born in Wellington ; that his mother was a Scotch woman and his father of German descent. In regard to the arrest of **Wann**, accused said that he had not become excited when Wann was arrested. On the day after the murder Franz approached him, telling him that he had something to tell him and that he could not refrain from doing so any longer. Continuing, Franz said; " The Kennedys shot the constable ; I was there also and fired a shot. " He took the accused to the lockup, where he made a statement.

Constable Stewart. L. McIntosh, stationed at Trangie, stated that he examined the police station at Tottenham on September the 28th and described the condition in which he found the room in which the Constable was murdered.

William Henry, a tinsmith residing about 15yds from the police station at Tottenham stated that at about 7 o'clock on the evening of September 26th. he was lying in bed when he heard two shots, as if from a double barreled gun. The first shot was much the louder. Only a second lapsed between the reports of the two shots. It was impossible to reload the rifle during the interval between the shots.

Thomas Johnson, dentist of Peak Hill, said that on the evening of September 26th. he was sitting at his table in Tottenham when he heard two shots. He walked outside and thought he heard moanings, which he thought was caused by cows. The first of the two shots was much louder than the second.

To **Mr. Abigail** : He was engaged in mechanical work when he heard the shots. There were two distinct shots.

Augustus Loftus Travers Smelter, residing at Tottenham also heard the report of the two shots when he was occupied at his home. It would have been absolutely impossible for anyone to reload a rifle during the interval between the two shots.

Annie Woods, who resides with her parents in Tottenham, corroborated the evidence of the previous witnesses regarding the quick succession of the two shots.

Herbert Oswald Rudd, a laborer, of Tottenham, stated that on the night of the murder he met Franz, who told him that the policeman had been shot and added, " We shot him. " Franz also told him that there had been three shots, to which he (witness) only replied, " Did you? " Franz replied, " Yes ; but don't you tell the Kennedys. "

Mr. Abigail : Although you had heard from Franz that the Kennedys and he had shot the constable you did not inform the authorities ? – No. When did you tell them ?– When they asked me. You robbed a drunken man, didn't you? – He wasn't drunk; I just picked the money up from the ground. And divided it amongst your friends ?- Yes.

You used to live in the same house as one of mates at Tottenham, didn't you? – Yes. And in a lapse of forgetfulness you walked off with his clothes?– Yes. What did that cost you?– £3 at the Police Court.

Stephen Horton, laborer; and photographer residing at Tottenham gave formal evidence in connection with photographs taken at the Tottenham Police Station.

George Fishpool, mining manager of Tottenham, stated he saw Constable Duncan arresting a man in front of Beach's hotel on the evening of September 25. A crowd assembled on the occasion and hooted. The constable returned, spoke to the Kennedy's and Roland Kennedy laughed. He did not hear the conversation between the constable and the Kennedys.

Margaret Eva Traters, married woman, residing at Tottenham gave evidence of having last seen, the deceased early on the evening of September 26.

Dr. Thomas D. Betram of Tottenham stated that on September 27 he made a post mortem examination of the body of the deceased and found two bullet wounds in the back and one on the front of the body. The organs were in a healthy condition. He found in one of the lungs fragments of glass and ribs.

To Mr. Abigail : He believed that the two bullets that entered the body were of **32 calibre** and the one that struck the sash of the window, of **38 calibre**. He knew a 32 calibre bullet, at sight.

Dr. William Boazmam of Parkes also gave formal evidence.

Constable James Sykes, stationed at Nevertire, stated that he arrived at the Tottenham Police Station on September 27 and saw the body of constable Duncan lying there and he removed garments from the body of the deceased and obtained pieces of glass and bone from Dr. Bertram.

To Mr. Abigail: He was of opinion that the hole in the sash was made by a **38 calibre bullet**.

Frank Franz, 23 years old said that he had been employed in the Tottenham district for some considerable time. He was born in Wellington his father was of German descent and his mother was a Scotch woman, he last saw his father about 10 years ago. He had never been taught the German language. About a month ago he was asked to join the I. W. W. by the Kennedys. They told him that any man who did not belong to the organisation was no good, but a rotter and a —.

He had had no transactions with any one in connection with joining the I. W. W. , but had given his subscriptions to the Kennedys, in the stated. He had received literature, but did not understand the rules of the organisation. He had received a book of membership tickets, but had not used them. He did not believe in the destruction of life. At the time constable McLean was leaving Tottenham he had a conversation with the Kennedys who, referring to McLeans successor, Duncan stated that he was a — and would have to be stopped. He did not reply to this remark. He had never fallen out with Duncan. He had never spoken to him with the exception of one occasion when he bade him good-day. The first conversation he had had, in regard to shooting the policeman, was with the Kennedys, on the day of the murder. He had met the Kennedys on Hudson's verandah when Roland Kennedy said " ain't this constable a — ; we'll shoot him." He the (accused) had had a few drinks that day, but did not reply. In the evening he again saw Roland Kennedy at the Kennedys house. He had gone there to get some comic papers but he did not have them. Roland Kennedy on this occasion said " you ought to bring your rifle up ; me and Herb is going to shoot the policeman. "

As he was going they told him not to forget to bring his rifle up or they would blow his — head off. He went home and sneaked the rifle through the window, not allowing his wife to see him. The rifle was of **38 calibre**. He subsequently left

home and went to the Kennedys. Both **Roland** and **Herb Kennedy** told him to fire at the constable or they would shoot him. They then left for the police station. When within 20 yards of the station, they stopped, Accused became frightened and lagged behind. The Kennedys whispered something that was, to him, unaudable and they walked on. The Kennedys walked up to the window of the police station and he stood against a post, that was not quite in front of the window. He could see the policeman, who was using his type writer. The Kennedys took aim, and as soon as the constable sat erect they fired simultaneously. The deceased, when shot, fell to his right and disappeared. The accused then fired while the policeman was still out of sight.

He then went home. He put the rifle in the back room and went to bed. He could not sleep that night. He got up next morning and put the rifle under some bags. He next saw Roland Kennedy at a hotel. Kennedy told him not to get drunk and not to "split," or he would blow his brains out.

On Thursday he stayed at home, and on Friday he saw the Inspector of Police and made the statement. The first statement he made was untrue, and he was frightened, at first, to alter it. That was why he had to see the Inspector alone. He had never intended to shoot the policeman, and only accompanied the Kennedys because he was frightened that they would shoot him. They had told him they would do so. He did not say to Rudd that they had stopped the policeman.

Mr. Blackett, in his cross-examination of the accused, endeavoured to connect the murder with his association with the I. W. W. but in answer to Mr. Blackett, the accused said that his connection with the I. W. W. had no bearing on the murder, at all. He had known the Kennedys before he joined the I. W. W. and although he subscribed to the I. W. W. paper, he did not read it. He had not paid his subscriptions for three or four months.

He did not believe in the destruction of life. He could not explain why he said the I. W. W. had led him astray, but supposed it was on account of his association to the Kennedys. After a short retirement the jury returned a verdict of "**guilty**" in both cases.

When asked if he had anything to say why sentence should not be passed upon him, Kennedy replied in the negative, and added, " I must thank the jury for their verdict. "

Franz asked why Herbert Kennedy had not been tried with Roland Kennedy and himself? His Honor explained that this was not the time to answer such questions as this.

Franz further stated that the jury had not returned a proper verdict.

The sentence of death was passed by his Honor without comment.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/158525214#pstart170993>

02

Forbes Advocate (NSW : 1911 – 1954),

Friday 22 December 1916, page 4

PAID THE PENALTY

CONSTABLE DUNCAN'S MURDERERS

Executed at Bathurst..

The **Tottenham** murderers; **Frank Franz** and **Ronald Nicholas Kennedy**, were **executed** in **Bathurst Gaol** at 9 o'clock on **Wednesday morning**. Mr **? . M. Wilshire**, of Sydney, represented the **sheriff**. No one but the **gaol officials** and **press representatives** was present.

In tragic irony for such an occasion, the day was a beautifully fine and peaceful one. The sun shone in all the splendour of mid-summer, and the birds sang and chirped in the trees in pure joy of the life around them.

There was nothing outside the grim-looking walls of the gaol to indicate that on the inside the tragedy of, two misguided, misspent lives was about to come to a sharp and awful conclusion.

A period of only 35 seconds elapsed from the time the men left the condemned cell till the bolts were drawn, death in each case being instantaneous.

Kennedy hobbled, or it would; be more correct to say that he danced, on to the scaffold, and, as he turned and faced those present, he laughed somewhat hysterically, though his voice was firm enough when he exclaimed: "**Good-bye, boys.**"

Franz showed unmistakable traces of fear. His legs trembled, and his face twitched nervously. As the hangman adjusted the caps over the eyes of the men, his lips moved as if he was about to say something, but the bolt was withdrawn, and both men died instantly.

At the conclusion of the trial, and after sentence of death had been pronounced, the condemned man Kennedy turned to **Franz** and said, "**I'm satisfied so long as you get the same length of rope as I do.**" Since then there had been a strong feeling of antagonism between the pair, but prior to the execution the men were brought together, and shook hands.

Franz was a married man, with a wife and two small children. He was a native **Wellington**, N.S.W.. and 25 years of age.

He was a first offender.

Kennedy was a single man, a native of **Peak Hill**, and only 20 years of age. He has a mother and several brothers living. The

murder was his first offence also.

Since their conviction both men gave little trouble. **Kennedy**, though, at times, would show signs of breaking down, but succeeded in maintaining his expressed determination to die gamely. However, he, as well as his confederate in crime, clung to the hope of a reprieve up till Tuesday, but the hope was shattered by the decision of the **State Cabinet** that day.

Franz always protested his innocence, and complained that he had not received a fair trial. He felt his position keenly, and at times would completely break down, and weep bitterly. Both men passed their time reading and writing, and eagerly accepted the spiritual ministrations offered them.

Both men saw their relatives and friends for the last time on Tuesday night. Each passed a fair night, awoke early, and partook of a light breakfast. Just prior to execution, they expressed themselves as perfectly resigned, and fully prepared to die.

Franz's last words before he left the cell were in regard to his wife and children. He also expressed thanks for the manner in which he had been treated by the gaol authorities.

Kennedy also expressed his thanks to the latter, and said he was prepared to accept the punishment for his crime.

The murder for which the men paid the extreme penalty of the law was described by **Sir William Cullen, Chief Justice**, who presided at the trial, as the most *callous and cruel in the annals, of Australian crime*.

On **September 25**, **Constable George Duncan**, who had only arrived at **Tottenham on the day previous**, arrested a friend of Kennedy's on a charge of having used indecent language.

According to a statement made by **Franz**, the murder was planned at the residence of the two **Kennedys**, and it was agreed that

the two **Kennedys** and **Franz** should visit the lockup that night, and shoot **Duncan**. This was done, and, an **Duncan** was engaged at a typewriter, he was **shot twice** in the body from the rifles of the men, who stood at the window, and aimed at a distance of only about 8ft. The third bullet struck a partition just above where the constable was sitting. **Duncan** staggered outside to the wire fence, where his dead body was found a few minutes later by residents, who were attracted by the rifle reports.

Franz was **responsible for the arrest** of the two **Kennedys**, under whose threats he alleged he was forced to participate in the deed. **Franz** and **Roland Kennedy** were **tried together**, and convicted, whilst **Michael Joseph Kennedy**, an elder brother, was tried the following day, and **acquitted**, the case being withdrawn from the jury by the **Chief Justice**, on the ground that the **Crown** had **failed** to corroborate the evidence of the accomplice, **Franz**.

It is a noteworthy fact that **Franz** was the **first Informer** in New South Wales to suffer the **death penalty**.

Both bodies were **buried** in the **Bathurst cemetery**. It is understood that the relatives of **Kennedy** applied for the body to be taken to **Sydney** for burial, but the **request** was **refused** by the authorities for certain reasons.

Previous hangings at **Bathurst gaol** were:- **Bertie Glasson**, in 1893, for murdering Mr **J. W. Phillips**, bank manager, Carcoar, and **Miss L. Cavanafh**. In 1804, **Frederick Dennis**, alias **Paton**, was hanged for shooting **J. W. Hall**, at Fifield.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/100282062>

Thursday 10 May 1917, page 17

CONSTABLE DUNCAN'S MONUMENT.

The monument to the late **Constable Duncan**, which has recently been completed, forms a striking object in the **local cemetery**. It consists of an obelisk of granite, resting on a concrete base, inset with tiles, and rises to a height of about 12 feet.

On the face of the obelisk an inscription sets forth that "***This monument was erected by the Government of New South Wales to Constable George Joss Duncan, of Tottenham, who was treacherously shot dead in the execution of his duty on the 26th September, 1916.*** "

It may, however, be mentioned that the total cost of the monument was not borne by the Government. The proceeds of the concert organised by Mrs. J. F. Allen in **October last**, and totalling some £13 were expended on the base and tiling on which the obelisk rests, although the monument bears on its face **no reference** to this **contribution from the people of Parkes**.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/113525231>

Dubbo Dispatch and Wellington Independent (NSW : 1887 – 1932),

Friday 18 May 1917, page 2

LATE CONSTABLE DUNCAN.

A Parkes correspondent says: " The monument to the late Constable Duncan, which has recently been completed, forms a striking object in the Parkes cemetery. It consists of an

obelisk of granite, resting on a concrete base, inset with tiles, and rises to a height of about 12 feet.

On the face of the obelisk an inscription sets forth that "***This monument was erected by the Government of New South Wales to Constable George Joss Duncan, of Tottenham, who was treacherously shot dead in the execution of his duty on 26th September, 1916. "***

The correspondent, however, goes on to say that £13 of the cost was contributed by the Parkes people.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/228640365>

Leader (Orange, NSW : 1912 – 1922),

Monday 11 June 1917, page 3

THE LATE CONSTABLE DUNCAN.

Messrs McMurtrie and Co., .monumental masons, of Summer street; have received the following letter, from the "Inspector General of Police :

" I beg to convey to you.an expression of the appreciation of this department, with regard to me manner in which you have carried out the work entrusted to you, of erecting a monument over the grave of the late Constable George Joss Duncan, at Parkes, and to thank you for the generous treatment you have given the matter in carrying out certain details beyond those originally specified,at your own expense.

Your obedient servant.

JAMES MITCHELL,

Inspector General of Police."

Sun (Sydney, NSW : 1910 – 1954),

Wednesday 19 March 1919, page 8

I.S. MEDALLISTS

Police and Prisons Officials DISTINGUISHED SERVICES

The Governor (Sir Walter Davidson) presented Imperial Service Medals to retired members of the police force and prisons department at the police depot this afternoon. Below are summaries of the official records of the services and deeds of the recipients.

SERGT. ROGER MEAGHER. – Served in the Police Force of New South Wales for over 34 years. He took a prominent part in the investigation and arrest of the offenders for the murder of **Constable Duncan at Tottenham.**

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/222639309>

The Braidwood Review & District Advocate

Tuesday 3 January 1928 page 4 of 8

STRANGE COINCIDENCE

When **Constable Ford** murdered **Mrs. Laws** and then **shot himself** at **Leichhardt** recently, he completed a tragic **triangle of death**. He was the **third constable** who has served at Grenfell to die by violence.

Constables Claude Bovard and George J. Duncan were the other two. Over ten years ago **Ford and Bovard** served together at **Grenfell**, and **Duncan** was stationed there soon after they left.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/119404489>

Forbes Advocate (NSW : 1911 – 1954),

Tuesday 26 May 1914, page 3

FALL FROM A HORSE.

CONSTABLE DUNCAN INJURED.

A rather serious accident happened to **Constable George Joss Duncan**, at **Bogan Gate**, on **Friday**.

The trooper was riding a **rather vicious horse**, and taking fright somewhere close to **Bogan Gate**, the animal bolted. After a long run, the **mounted trooper** and horse both came to grief, and the **horse**, in falling, **rolled over the rider**.

The constable was picked up, and as he was suffering from concussion of the brain and other injuries, he was taken to **Parkes Hospital**, where he regained consciousness on **Sunday**.

Two of the first men to come to the **constable's assistance**, were a pair **he had locked up the previous evening** for imbibing too freely.

On inquiries being made at **Parkes Hospital** to-day, it was gleaned that **Constable Duncan** is making good progress.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/100299415>

Hello,

My name is Rob Duncan.

My Great Uncle is **Constable George Joss Duncan**, Tottenham.
Police Honour Role 1916.

I request the support of Australian Police web site to re-examine with modern forensic science the 32 calibre bullets taken from George's back to determine if both Roland & Michael Herbert Kennedy were actually responsible for the assassination of Mounted Constable Duncan.

This would involve a simple examination of the 1916 Trial exhibits to compare both bullets taken from Constable George Duncan's back on either side of his spine.

If the bullets don't match this will clearly historically prove the older brother Michael Herbert Kennedy was also responsible for my Great Uncle's death.

Michael Herbert Kennedy was tried separately and found not guilty because his younger 20 year old brother took the wrap for him.

Frank Franz the other convicted killer was the only crown witness to ever be executed. He pleaded his innocence claiming the IWW Kennedy Brother's threatened his life. Frank Franz fired a 38 calibre rifle whose bullet went through the window sash then embedded into far wall, not striking the Constable who was seated with his back to the closed window writing a report at 9pm.

Inspector Joseph Develin maintained till his retirement "declares the confession written by Franz was one of the most complete and honest he has ever read.", which clearly implicates Michael Herbert Kennedy as one of the shooters.

(Please reference "Two Murders, How Inspector Develin Solved Them He retired Yesterday" , Sunday Times, 20/11/1927) for further details.

The trial exhibits were displayed in the Police Museum in 1920-1930s and are stored in there archive including window with bullet holes, winchester repeating rifles , bullets and bullet in bone fragment of my Great Uncle.

Thank-you for your comprehensive research on George's brutal Assassination.

My family always referred to it as an Assassination not murder.

It is now considered Australia's first Political Assassination and Australia's first Terrorism Act Against a Police Officer.

Currently these brutal cowardly IWW union killers are being romanticised as the next Ned Kellys.

George Duncan is blamed for his own death by these IWW fantasists and his honour and sacrifice disrespected.

It is a tragic Grim's fairytale for the Duncan family who have remained silent for 103 years.

We have never being contacted by the NSW Police for any Blue Ribbon event, memorial dedications or anniversaries.

In the early 1930's, my Father Gordon Stewart Duncan was fostered by Sergeant Walter R. Follent , later Inspector Follent in the early 1930's because he was George Duncan's nephew in a Glebe Orphanage. Gordon would later serve his country as a Military Policeman in Occupational Japan at the end of WWII.

We have never been approached by any Professional Historian for the Duncan's family viewpoint or perspective.

Current book publication of this topic " Murder in Tottenham First Political Assassination" does not even include a picture of a uniformed Constable Duncan or his Memorial, instead the three Murderers are featured on the front cover and within the covers again and again. It should be re-titled "Murderers in Tottenham" if ever reprinted.

This is deplorable for the Duncan family.

The NSW Police Museum website section affectionally titled "The Wobblies" referring to violent IWW is questionable. The "Murder In Tottenham" chapter fails to include a photograph of my Great Uncle, Tottenham Police Hut with bullet holed window or George's memorial instead shows one of the Winchester Rifles used in the Assassination. Why?

This completely de-humanises this fallen Police Officer and is disrespectful to his memory.

This is disgraceful as it is offensive to the Duncan family.

A photograph of Constable George Duncan in his Mounted Constable Uniform is readily available through the National Library's TROVE newspaper search engine. Its not rocket science.

George lasted three days at Tottenham in September 1916. He was ordered to single handedly restore law and order to this isolated copper mining town and arrest control from the IWW Union thugs during WWI.

George deserves to be awarded a posthumous Bravery Award in my opinion.

He was a well respected 25 year old Constable with three years of service before his horrific death.

The Tottenham Outrage is now often referred to as "Ned Kelly's Ghost."

This is BULLSHIT !

I wish to stop the Romanticism of these Tottenham Cop Killers.

Looking forward to your support in my mission

Yours Sincerely

Robert Stewart Duncan

29 July 2019

William BOWEN

27/07/2016

William BOWEN

(late of Dungog)

New South Wales Police Force

Regd. # 'Q' 5316

For the purposes of this website 'Q' represents those Police joining between 1 March 1862 (commencement of NSWPF) – 23 February 1915 (Commencement of NSWPF current numbering system)

Rank: Probationary Constable – appointed 14 January 1887

Sergeant 1st Class – appointed ? ? ?

Stations: Gloucester, Paterson, Minmi, and other places & Dungog (9 years to death) (Port Stephens LAC)

Service: From 14 January, 1887 to 4 March 1916 = 29+ years
Service

Awards: ?

Born: ? ? 1859 at Uralla, NSW

Died on: Saturday 4 March 1916

Cause: Assault – Murder?

Event location: Dungog, NSW

Event date: ? January 1916

Age: 55



Funeral date: Sunday 5 March, 1916

Funeral location: Church of England cemetery, Dungog, NSW

Buried at: Church of England cemetery with his only son & youngest daughter, Alma

Dungog Cemetery,

Tabbil Creek, NSW,

3 references for the grave

Latitude: -32.419403

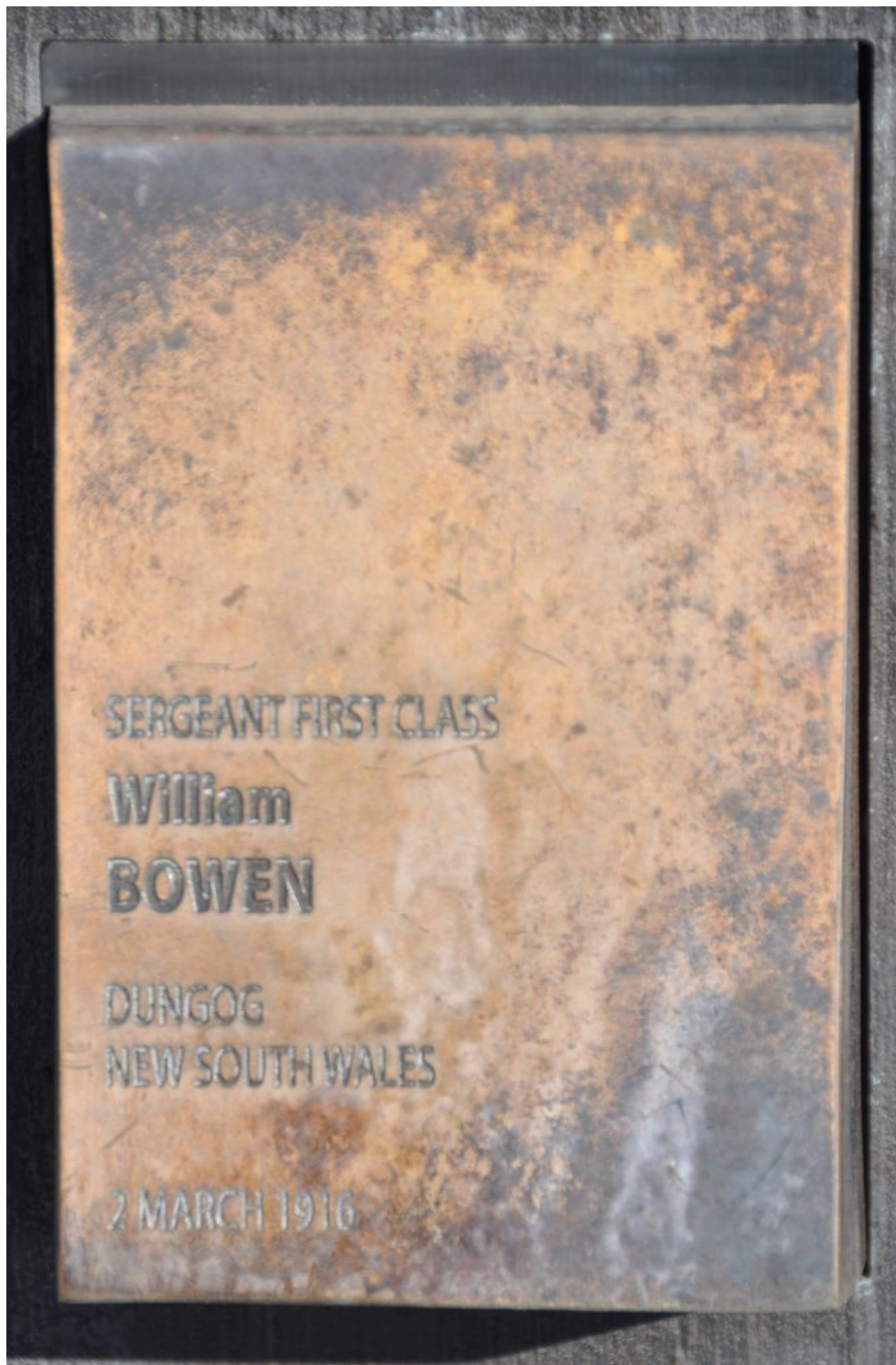
Longitude: 151.738657

GPS: -32 25.16418, 151 44.31976

-32.418649, 151.738825

Memorial: Memorial & Plaque unveiling at Dungog Police Station on 4 March 2016

WILLIAM **IS mentioned** on the National Police Wall of Remembrance



Touch plate at the National Police Wall of

Remembrance, Canberra Incorrect date of death
is displayed on plate.

The sergeant suffered serious internal injuries at Dungog when he was assaulted after detaining a mentally ill man in **January, 1916**. The sergeant had been called to the **Dungog Hospital** in relation to a **violent and disturbed man**. He arrested the man and took him to the local police station. Shortly after their arrival at the station the man again went berserk, **kicking the sergeant and attacking him with a chair**. The sergeant was taken to hospital for treatment and was eventually admitted to Sydney's St Vincent's Hospital where he died.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* of **7 March, 1916** reported news from Dungog to the effect that "*The funeral of Senior Sergeant Bowen, of Dungog, who died at St. Vincent's Hospital. Sydney, on Saturday, took place here yesterday, being one of the largest that have taken place at Dungog.*"

The sergeant was born in 1859 and joined the New South Wales Police Force on 14 January, 1887. At the time of his death he was stationed at Dungog.

**** officially recorded as Thursday 2 March 1916 but correct death date appears to be Saturday 4 March 1916. Date of Death on the grave stone also is 4 March 1916.**

Dungog Chronicle

Tuesday 7 March 1916 p 2 of 6

Death.

Senior Sergeant Bowen

It is with deep regret that we record the death of **Senior-Sergeant William Bowen**, of Dungog. It will be remembered that deceased, who had been ill a short time, was taken to Sydney on Friday last (*3 March 1916*) to consult a specialist. He was accompanied by Mrs Bowen, and was conveyed to St. Vincent's Hospital, and several specialists, including Sir Alex. McCormack, were called in consultation, but these were unable to diagnose the cause of the trouble, and an operation was recommended, as soon as he was strong enough to bear it, but the patient did not rally, and he passed away early on Saturday morning (*4 March 1916*). Such a sudden ending was totally unexpected, although it was noticed that the Sergeant had been failing for some time past. He thought he was a victim to acute dispepsia, but there was evidently something more seriously wrong.

Deceased was born at **Uralla**, 56 years ago, and had been 30 years in the service, the past nine years he had been stationed at Dungog. Previously he had been at Gloucester, Paterson, Minmi, and other places.

He was a very painstaking, conscientious officer, who discharged his duties with the utmost impartiality. He was very considerate to the men under him, and only those who were acquainted with him intimately knew what a very kind and thoughtful man he was, ever cheerful under the most adverse circumstances, and apparently never harboring an ill-thought about anybody. He will be hard to replace.

He leaves a sorrowing **widow** and **three daughters** (**Mrs J. Hunt**, **Mrs O. E. Carter**, and **Miss Myra Bowen**) to mourn their loss,

to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

His remains were brought from Sydney on Saturday ([4 March 1916](#)) and interred beside those of his **only son** (who was killed at **Minmi** a few years ago) and his youngest daughter **Alma**, in the Church of England cemetery.

The funeral took place on **Sunday afternoon** ([5 March 1916](#)) and was one of the largest ever seen in Dungog. The pall bearers were **Sergt. Haynes (Paterson)**, **Constable Capp (Gresford)**, **Constable Vaughan (Clarence Town)**, and **Constables Parker and Bates (Dungog)**.

The chief mourners were his two brothers, Tim (Uralla), and John (Newcastle), his brother-in-law Mr Reece (Homebush), and Mr O. E. Carter (son-in-law). Local justices and townspeople followed the chief mourners, walking, and then came a long cavalcade of vehicles and horsemen. The burial service was conducted by the **Ven. Archdeacon Luscombe**, who paid a fitting tribute to the memory of deceased at the graveside. Amongst the numerous wreaths sent was a beautiful one from the bench of magistrates and one from the local police.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/136015191?searchTerm=william%20bowen&searchLimits=l-decade=191||||l-year=1916||||l-month=3#pstart15595996>

I have been unable to find any reference to the assault upon William Bowen within Trove as of 15 Jan. 2016.

Cal

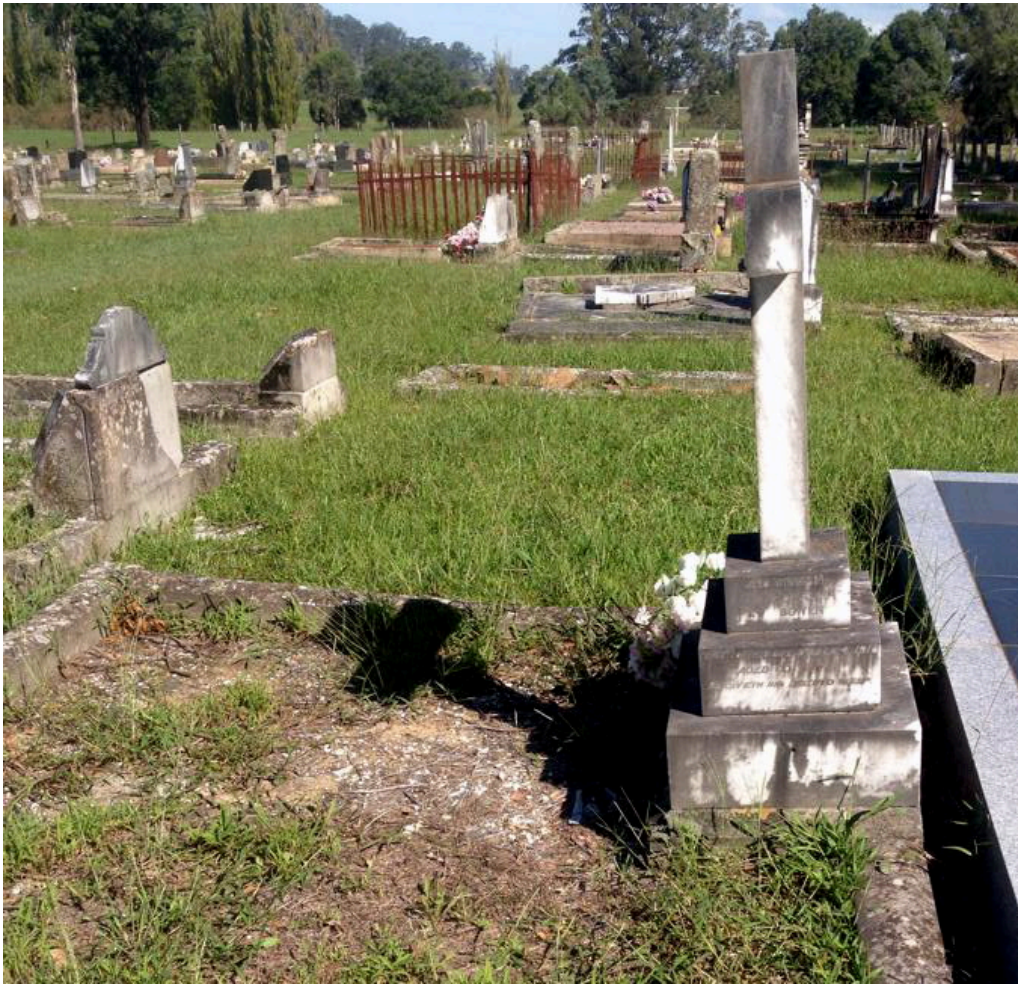
NSW Registry of BDM

Birth = 6811/1858 (possibly)

Death = 359/1916









Senior Sergeant William Bowen's grave site at
Dungog cemetery

**** The person responsible for the assault upon the Sgt was Mentally Ill and sent to the asylum in Newcastle several days after the assault / death.**

*A Commemoration Day and Plaque Unveiling at Dungog Police Station will happen at 11am on **Friday 4 March 2016** for Senior Sergeant William BOWEN.*

Senior Constable Mitchell PARKER at Dungog is the person to

contact in relation to attending this event.

Dungong Chronicle (Durham & Gloucester Advertiser (NSW)

Tues 16 March 1915 p 2 of 6

Police Court On Monday last, before **Mr McDougall, S.M., John Dwyer**, of Dungog, was charged with stealing about 40 pairs of *naves (**possibly the central part of a wheel; hub*), valued at £10, the property of Mrs K. B. Walker. **Sgt. Bowen** represented, the police prosecution ; Mr Borthwick appearing for the accused. Dwyer pleaded guilty and was fined £10, with a fortnight to pay. in default two months in Maitland goal. The fine would be reduced to £5 if the naves were returned to the owner within a week.

[http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/138008263?searchTerm=s
gt%20bowen%20-%20dungog&searchLimits=#reloadOnBack](http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/138008263?searchTerm=s&searchLimits=#reloadOnBack)

Dungong Chronicle (Durham & Gloucester Advertiser (NSW)

Friday 24 January 1919 p 2 of 8

Two Men Shot

BULLAHDELAH SENSATION.

Superintendent Childs, of the **West Maitland police**, received a message from the police at Bullahdelah on Tuesday, giving brief particulars of a sensational shooting incident at the **Crawford River**.

The message, which came from **Constable Sturgiss**, stated that **Walter John Edwards**, 35 years of age, had **shot Frederick Soorley**, wounding him in the back. He also shot his **father, Henry Edwards**.

Edwards, who was stated to be **apparently insane**, is at large, armed with a **shot gun**. He is described as being 5ft 7in. high,

of medium build and having a fair moustache.

Upon receipt of the message, the Superintendent immediately despatched information to all police stations in the locality.

Later.

Superintendent Childs received a telegraphic message from the police at **Bullahdelah**, stating that the man **Walter John Edwards**, who was wanted in connection with the shooting sensation at **Crawford River**, had been arrested between **Bullahdelah** and **Bungwahl**. After the shooting, **Edwards** cleared off, armed with a shot gun. He was charged with **shooting with intent to murder**, and with **maliciously wounding**. Arrangements were also made to prefer a charge of **lunacy** against him. He is stated to have previously been under mental treatment.

Another message from **Bullahdelah** states that **Mr Edwards, sen.**, was **not shot**, but was attacked with a **tomahawk**. The insane man was found hiding in **blackberry bushes** and they were **set alight**. He then came out and was **captured**. **Edwards** had put his gun down and could not find it again, otherwise there might have been a casualty amongst the captors. The news of the shooting spread rapidly and upset the whole district. People from the **Crawford River** and other parts left their homes and went to **Bullahdelah for safety**. The news of the capture of **Edwards** was a great relief all round.

It will be remembered that **Edwards** was in **Dungog Hospital** some years ago and caused a sensation. He went partially insane and smashed up things generally. When the police were securing him **at the Hospital** he savagely assaulted the late Sgt. Bowen, breaking his hand with a chair.

[http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/134142751?searchTerm=s
gt%20bowen%20-%20dungog&searchLimits=#pstart15499332](http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/134142751?searchTerm=s%20gt%20bowen%20-%20dungog&searchLimits=#pstart15499332)

Dungong Chronicle (Durham & Gloucester Advertiser (NSW)

Saturday 19 June 1954 p 8 of 8

REMINISCENCES BY WALLY IRWIN

'DODGER' EDWARDS

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May I refer to another **Edwards**, an old schoolmate, **'Dodger' Edwards (Walter John EDWARDS)**. He was a super lad also. There were 50 odd pupils at school at **Bendolba** and some of them up to 18 years of age. Not one of them ever brought down **Dodger** in a game of football. When the ball went to **Dodger** it was a 'try.' Most times the football was made of rags. Our coach then was **Mr. Gardiner**, our **schoolteacher**. I think he replaced **Mr. Lord**, father of **Mr. Dick Lord**, of **Dungog**.

In later years, **Dodger** left our district and went to **Gloucester** to live. One evening he left **Gloucester River** to come over to **Salisbury** on horse back. He got bushed between **Whispering Gully** and **Flag Staff**. He unsaddled his horse and to this day the horse was never found. But **'Dodger'** came through. **I think the trials experienced slightly derainged his mind.**

The late **Sgt. Bowen** was called to the **hospital** and **nearly met his death** from a blow that **Dodger** gave him by hitting him **over the head with a chair.**

Some two years later, the late **Anthony Hudson**, his son **Tony**, and the late **Les Middlebrook** and I were out beyond **Flag Staff** and a horse neighed. **Old Tony** said: 'Did you hear that,' We all did, and we were sure there was a horse somewhere. It was over three weeks before we got that horse to mate up with ours. Eventually we succeeded in bringing that horse back. He

was a real outlaw, but it was **Les Magennis** who mastered him. I think this horse was sold later to a circus. I have never solved the problem; was the horse **Dodger's**, or whose was It?

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<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/140534498>

Dungog Senior Sergeant William Bowen

By BELINDA-JANE DAVIS

March 1, 2016, 12:30 p.m.



An old photograph of policeman near Dungog. Senior Sergeant William Bowen is among the officers shown.

BELINDA-JANE DAVIS

A Dungog policeman who suffered serious injuries on the job and died a century ago will be remembered in a special ceremony.

Senior Sergeant William Bowen suffered serious internal injuries when a mentally ill man kicked him and attacked him with a chair at Dungog Police Station in **December 1915**.

He had arrested the man at Dungog Hospital a short time earlier, after reports the man was being violent and disturbing staff and patients.

Sergeant Bowen, 56, was taken to hospital for treatment, but never fully recovered from the incident.

His failing health led him and his wife to travel to St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney on **March 3** to see a specialist.

Several specialists, including Sir Alex McCormack, assessed him but were unable to diagnose his condition.

They suggested an operation when he was feeling stronger but Sergeant Bowen continued to deteriorate that day and died in hospital unexpectedly the **next morning**.

NSW Police Force Commissioner Andrew Scipione and deputy commissioner Catherine Burn are expected to attend a ceremony at Dungog Police Station on **March 4 at 11am**, which will **mark 100 years** since Sergeant Bowen's death.

NSW Deputy Premier Troy Grant and Dungog community groups will also attend and witness a plaque being unveiled, which will commemorate his service.

The Dungog Chronicle recorded Sergeant Bowen's death on **March 7, 1916**, saying he would be "hard to replace".

"He was a very painstaking, conscientious officer, who discharged his duties with the utmost impartiality," the article said.

"He was very considerate to the men under him, and only those who were acquainted with him intimately knew what a very kind and thoughtful man he was, ever cheerful under the most

adverse circumstances, and apparently never harboring an ill-thought about anybody.”

Sergeant Bowen's body returned to Dungog on **March 4** and he was **buried** in the town's **Church of England Cemetery** on **March 5** alongside his **only son**, who was killed in an accident at Minmi a few years earlier, and his youngest daughter Alma, who died of an illness.

It was one of the largest funerals the town had ever seen.

He was survived by his wife, three daughters, Mrs J Hunt, Mrs O.E Carter and Miss Myra Bowen, his two brothers John and Tim, and his brother-in-law Mr Reece and son-in-law Mr O.E. Carter.

Dungog police **Senior Constable Mitch Parker** said Sergeant Bowen, who was born in **Uralla in 1859**, joined the police force on **January 14, 1887** and spent 29 years serving the region at Gloucester, Paterson, Minmi, Dungog and other stations.

He spent nine years in Dungog before his death.

Senior Constable Parker urged anyone who wanted to pay tribute to Sergeant Bowen's service to attend the ceremony.

The story Policeman who died a century ago to be remembered first appeared on The Maitland Mercury.

<http://www.dungogchronicle.com.au/story/3758911/policeman-who-died-a-century-ago-to-be-remembered/?cs=171>

DUNGOG MARKS POLICEMAN'S

DEATH 100 YEARS ON

Amanda Douglas

March 4, 2016

His name adorns the National Police Memorial, but until recently, the death of Dungog policeman William Bowen a century ago went unrecognised in the town he called home.

Today that changed, thanks to years of research and a lot of hard work.



<http://www.nbnnews.com.au/2016/03/04/dungog-marks-policemans-death-100-years-on/>

The restored headstone at Sgt William Bowen's grave site

Posted Fri at 6:51am 6 March 2016

Restoration work has been completed on the grave site of Sgt William Bowen, who died on March 4, 1916 after being attacked on duty at Dungog in the NSW Hunter Valley.

anniversary of officer's death in the Hunter

The New South Wales Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione will be in the Hunter Valley today to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the death of a Dungog police officer.

Sergeant William Bowen died on March the 4, 1916, three months after he was attacked by a mentally ill man who had barricaded himself inside Dungog hospital.

Today the commissioner will attend the unveiling of a plaque in his honour.

The man had barricaded himself in the committee room, ordered that all patients be killed in the hospital, and then armed himself with surgical instruments.

Snr Constable Mitch Parker, Dungog Police

Dungog police officer, senior constable Mitch Parker, said sergeant Bowen suffered serious injuries as he bravely tried to protect the Dungog community in December 1915.

"There was a patient of the Dungog hospital who had smashed a number of windows and items within the nurses quarters and a wardsman attempted to restrain him and he got viscously assaulted," he said.

"Police were sent for and the sergeant, who was living in the police lock-up which we still have today, went up the hill to the hospital.

"By this stage the man had barricaded himself in the committee room and he ordered that all patients be killed in the hospital, and then armed himself with surgical instruments of the day – mostly steel and glass.

"Sergeant Bowen, who was 55 years of age at the time, had been in the police for 30 years, forced his way into the room.

"He successfully arrested and apprehended the male, notwithstanding some injuries himself," he said.

"They brought him back down to the police lock-up and his health just deteriorated from there.

"Several months later he was sent to St Vincent's Hospital and was seen by a world-renowned surgeon. Unfortunately he passed away in St Vincent's Hospital before they could ascertain what was wrong with him."

Senior constable Parker said as part of today's commemoration, restoration work had also been carried out on sergeant Bowen's grave.

"With assistance from the Commissioner's office, the NSW Police Force and Police Association of NSW, we've had the original stone-makers who created the gravesite back in the day have restored it.

"It's quite a long story, but the sergeant's been put to rest beside his 15-year-old daughter and 20-year-old son who died five years prior, in pretty horrific circumstances themselves.

"So his grave has been redone and we've got the plaque unveiling here at the station," he said.

"There'll be the police commissioner coming up, and other important people from different agencies, community groups, schools.

"There'll also be a lot of retired police from the area, who've worked here, finished their service and remained in the area."

Posted on March 3, 2016

<http://subvers.com/commemorating-100yr-anniversary-of-officers>

-death-in-the-hunter/
