

ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAMILTON

OUR VISION

a bridge to the city
- where love and
friendship meet



OUR MISSION

to worship and
work with God
in the world.

The Bridge

Supplement



Anzac Day
Lest we Forget

25 April 2026

LEST WE FORGET

In 2022, my cousin, Ann Moody and I, collaborated to produce a book on our Uncle Andrew, who won a Military Medal for bravery but died of Spanish 'flu, four weeks from the end of WW1. Fortunately he knew he'd been awarded the Medal, but sadly, never lived to see it. Ann researched and wrote the book while I edited and produced it. I also added a few bits and pieces, including the poem below. With ANZAC Day this weekend, I thought now might be an appropriate time to publish these excerpts from our book, "BOMBARDIER ANDREW CADMAN MM – 1894-1918", in The Bridge Newsletter. – Betty Peck

THE IRONY OF WAR

– Betty Cadman Peck

We never knew our Uncle Andrew.
We weren't born when he enlisted
To fight a war in which he died;
So he never knew that we existed.

But from the words of others,
We have followed Andrew's path,
Throughout the ravages of war,
And its bloody aftermath.

He retrieved a cannon under fire;
His heroics were rewarded,
With a Military Citation,
Which he knew he'd been awarded.

He survived the war and all its rigors;
His thoughts were turned to home,
And the lovely girl he'd met in France,
He'd hoped to make his own.

But far more deadly than the war,
Though Andrew never knew it,
A greater danger roamed the world –
The Spanish 'flu pandemic.

Sadly, Andrew caught the 'flu,
Whilst on his final leave.
They buried him in far-off France,
Leaving loved ones home to grieve.

And isn't it ironic,
That he saw the battle through,
Was rewarded for his bravery,
But died of Spanish 'flu.

Fast forward to our present time,
And ironically again,
We have another 'flu pandemic,
And war raging in Ukraine.

CITATION FOR MILITARY MEDAL

"London Gazette., 24 January 1919, p1254, Rec No 2288:

On 26th August near Bapaume. Whilst the Battery was taking part in a barrage it was subjected to exceptionally heavy shelling by the enemy. This N.C.O. showed great coolness and bravery throughout, and when a direct hit on an ammunition dump set it burning, he, at great risk to himself, succeeded in extinguishing the fire, and getting the gun into action." AWMM

A New Zealand Field Artillery Battery in action just after taking up a new position at Grévillers on 26 August 1918. Andrew would probably have been part of this action.

