

We Will Remember



In preparation for ANZAC day in 2014, I was searching the Internet for some new material for our choir to sing. I kept coming up with songs that we had already performed, or songs that did not suit our range of voices.



ANZAC day is personally significant to me as my father, William Joseph Loch, was a veteran of WWII; one who rarely spoke of his experiences, except for a couple of 'funny' stories of mateship in the Middle East. I remember, as a child, proudly watching my Dad march in the ANZAC day parade each year in my hometown of Emerald, Central Qld. When he moved to Rockhampton, in the 80s, he no longer marched but when I moved to live in Rockhampton in the 90s, I accompanied him to parades and saw him struggle with his emotions and memories.

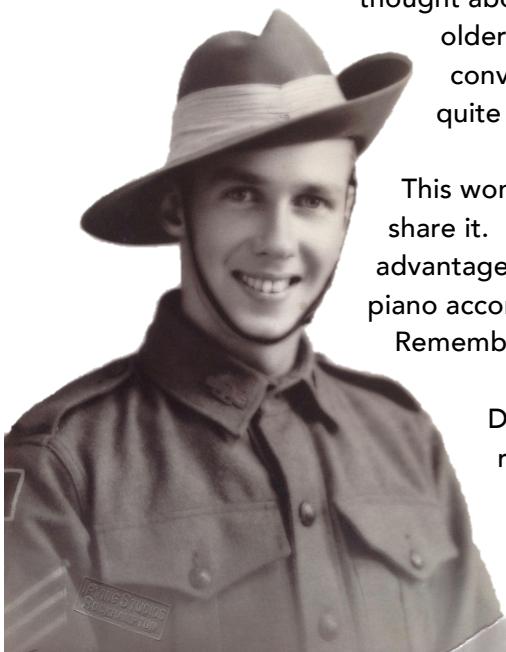
During his final battle, with cancer, we finally talked Dad into applying for a Gold Card – which is given to veterans who have seen overseas duty – and when my brother had difficulty locating Dad's records, we learnt that Dad had served in the Middle East under someone else's papers and name. He had been turned down, but met up with a drover from FNQ who decided not to go and gave Dad his papers. On completion of that tour of duty, Dad signed up for a second time, and was successful under his own name this time. This tour was served in Australia, only flying truck parts to PNG.



Dad was in his 80s at the time of his last illness, and it was impossible to find someone from his Unit who could vouch for him, as having served under the other name. There are many such stories from WWI and WWII. So, a Gold Card was not to be, but Dad had never asked for anything in the way of benefits so he was content with that.

After my Dad died in 2003, each ANZAC Day I felt honour-bound to attend a service in his memory. It was always a day where I felt especially close to him.

So, when I struggled to find a song for the choir, I thought that perhaps I should try to write one. I sat and thought about my Dad a lot. I thought about the significance of honouring the older veterans who could no longer march, and of the importance of conveying to them that we would not forget their service. The words came quite easily after that, and the melody followed.



This wonderful choir embraced the song and sought funding to enable us to share it. My hope is that schools, organisations, or nursing homes etc. will take advantage of our website and use the backing track, the music, the beautiful piano accompaniment, or our choir's recording, to enhance their ANZAC or Remembrance Day services.

Dad, this one is for you. For always. And for everything. We will remember.

William Joseph Loch (1920-2003)

Finella Loch
25 April 2016

<https://achoiredtaste.net/we-will-remember/>