LANCE-CORPORAL GEORGE RISING PURDEY
and
CORPORAL JOSEPH ERNEST PURDEY MM



The caretaker's lodge, Friendly Society Gardens, 1874. SLV-PIC-aab36881



Friendly Society Gardens from tower of Government House, with Punt Road and Richmond in the distance, c.1875. SLV H96.160/2731

Brothers born at the caretaker's cottage, Friendly Society Gardens, Yarra Park (now AAMI Stadium site)

Working on the family farm, 'Rosslyn Grange' at Tongala, at time of enlistment

Enlisted together on 14 February 1916

Embarked together with the 10th Field Company Engineers aboard HMAT *Runic* 20 June 1916

Left England for the Western Front on 23 November 1916

Led teams of pack mules loaded with munitions and other supplies

Wounded side by side at the Battle of Broodseinde Ridge on the same day, 4 October 1917

Joseph died of his extensive gunshot wounds on 13 October 1917



Group portrait of four soldiers, George Rising Purdey at centre, and Joseph Ernest Purdey at right. AWM P07916.001

Joseph posthumously awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty

George was shot in the arm on the same day, but sent to the 2nd Canadian General Hospital 100 kilometres away

After convalescence, leave in England, further illness and training, returned to France 15 September 1918

Returned to Australia on 2 March 1919, and was discharged 6 June 1919

Resumed farming at Tongala

Married on 2 December 1926 to Beatrice Mary Rolfe, sister in charge of the Tongala hospital, built in memory of his brother Joseph and 30 other local men killed in the Boer War and the Great War

Died on 2 April 1957 at Moorabbin.



Pack mules carry supplies through the ruins of Ypres, Belgium, October 1917. AWM E04652

The report sent to Joseph's family read:

> ***The above NCO was wounded by a High Explosive Shell which hit him in the left foot, ankle, leg, throat and right leg while in charge of the mule transport (packs) of this unit at the attack on 4-10-17, (Ypres). He was carried to the Advanced Dressing Station by his brother, L/Cpl. G.R. Purdey. 2nd Cpl. J.E. Purdey died of these wounds at No. 55 General Hospital, Boulogne, on 13-10-17 and is buried in grave No. 2132, Wimmereux Military Cemetery, Boulogne. It is his brother's intention to place a cross over the grave at the first opportunity.***



Pack mules carry supplies to the front near Ypres, Belgium, October 1917. AWM E01215