History of the First Australians 99

Lest Veforget William Charles Westbury

Ken Jones

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After the war, William found work on the railway. He also spent time on farms, digging potatoes, and trapping rabbits. He started feeling healthy again and went back to playing football and cricket.

In the hot summer of 1919, William tested his speed on the running track by entering a 5.5km race. Even with his old battlefield injuries and 3 missing toes, he won this and many other races. Here are some of his gold medals.







For many years, William continued to enjoy life and the outdoors. He was well-liked and respected by the whole Pinnaroo community. Finally, on 20 February 1936, an old leg injury caught up with him and William died of tetanus. He was only 58.

Today, you can visit my grandfather's grave at Pinnaroo Cemetery and give thanks for his war efforts. William Charles Westbury was one of many Aboriginal soldiers to serve his country. However, he was the only one to serve in both the Boer War and World War 1. We will never forget his efforts to help keep our country safe.



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WILLIAM CHARLES WESTBURY LANCE CORPORAL 632 LANCE CORPORAL 632 67# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL BUSHMEN BOER WAR (SOUTH AFRICA) 901 - 902 LANCE SERGEANT 421 10## & 50## EATTALIONS ALF. WORDD WAR ONE 1914 - 1917

Word bank

Boandik community grandfather interested talented athlete recruited imperial battalion kilometres welcomed labourer Pinnaroo continue enlisted soldier Egypt

mascot battleground Gallipoli comrades Anzac fierce injured recovered evacuated infantry Mouquet **Pozieres** discharged conduct respected tetanus cemetery

