WW1 BASS DRUM

In 2013 the Footscray-Yarraville City Band discovered, in their store room, a WW1 bass drum which had been out of use and stored since the 1960's. On the inside of this drum were found six inscriptions written by WW1 soldiers. The inscriptions indicate the drum was used at the Australian training camps at Fovant and Sutton Veny on Salisbury Plain, UK, during WW1. Research of the soldier's WW1 service records found that, following their training on Salisbury Plain near the towns of Sutton Veny and Fovant, they all served on the Western front. The discovery of the WW1 bass drum inspired the band to develop a special project called "The Silent Anzac" to commemorate the 100th anniversary of WW1 and all Australians who have made the ultimate sacrifice in times of war.

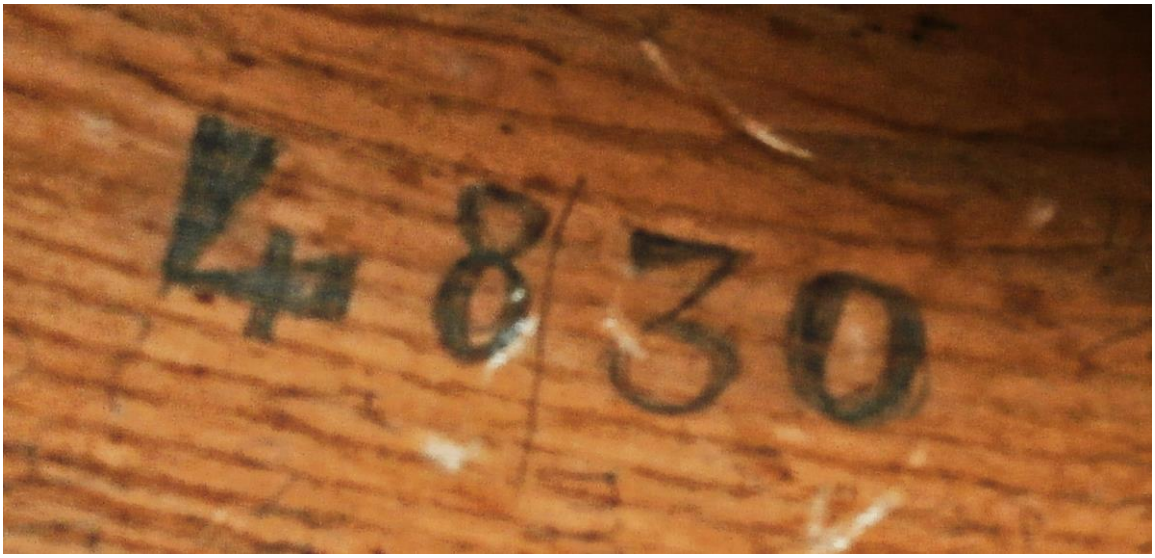
The drum itself is 30"in diameter and 15"deep which is rather larger than is typical for a marching bass drum of today. The drum skins are tensioned with rope tensioners and the skins themselves are animal skins (unlike the steel tensioners and plastic skins that are used on modern drums).

As well as the WW1 inscriptions in the drum there are a couple of other inscriptions, "17th Battalion 1943" and "Ararat City Band 27/10/48" indicating that the drum was probably sold off as military surplus after WW2 and, as was often the case in those days, bought by a civilian band. We believe the drum was acquired by the Footscray-Yarraville City Band during the 1950's or early 1960's. The drum has a broken skin on one side (which enables the inscriptions inside the drum to be viewed). The broken skin is probably the reason the drum was put away in storage as by the 1960's it would not have been worthwhile to repair or replace the animal skin but instead purchase a more modern drum with steel tensioners and plastic skins.

Inscriptions

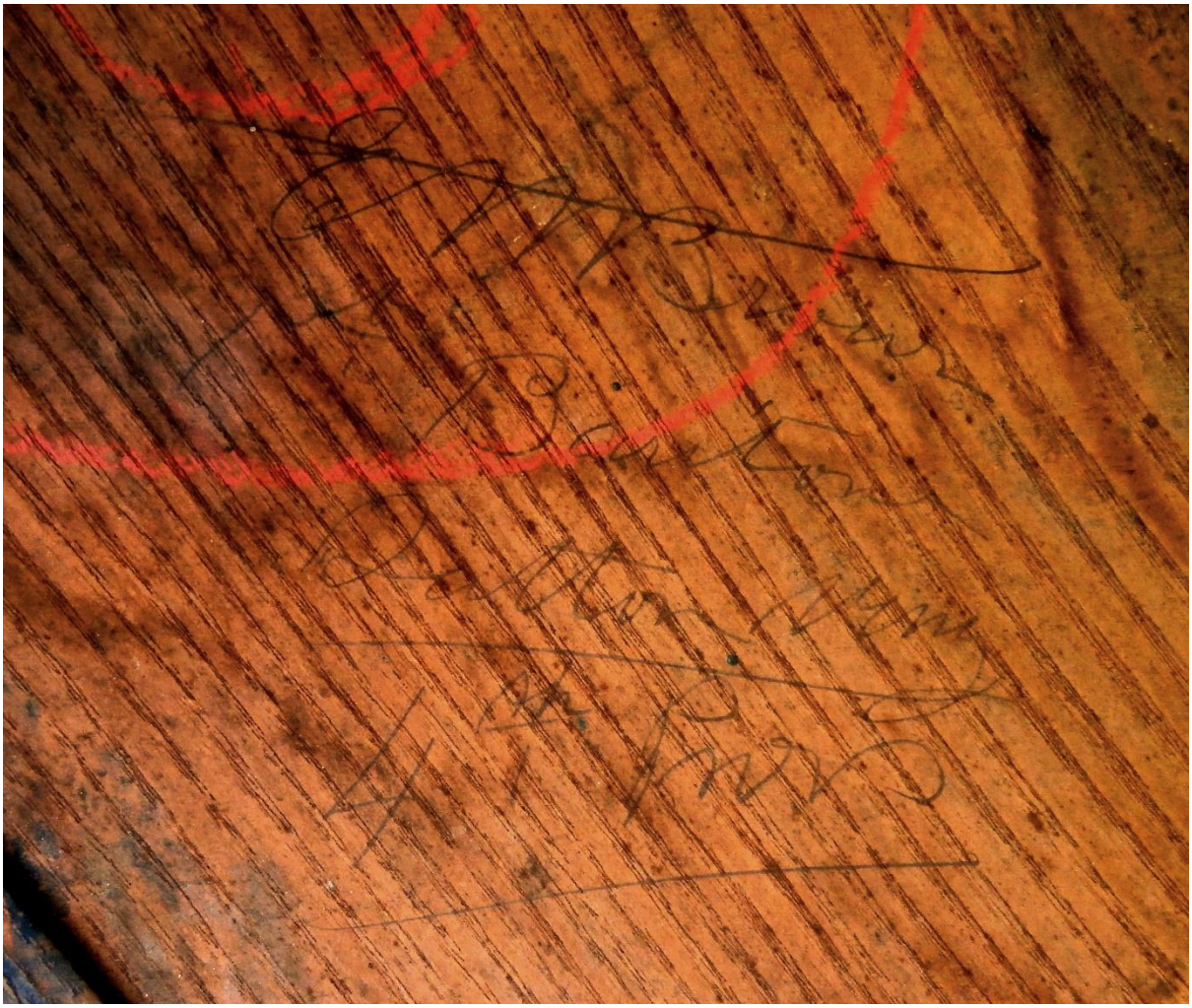
Inscription: *A LAMBERT*

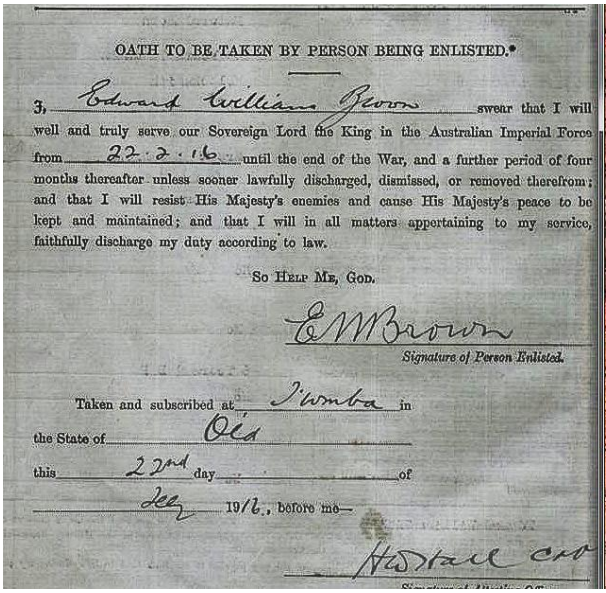
Identified as probably No 4830 Arthur Edgar Lambert, 12th Field Artillery Brigade.



Inscription*: E W Brown 1st Baritone Sutton Veny 4th Pnrs*

Identified as No 3068 Edward William Brown, 4th Pioneer Battalion.





OATH TO BE TAKEN BY PERSON BEING ENLISTED.*

3, Edward William Brown swear that I will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lord the King in the Australian Imperial Force from 22.2.16 until the end of the War, and a further period of four months thereafter unless sooner lawfully discharged, dismissed, or removed therefrom; and that I will resist His Majesty's enemies and cause His Majesty's peace to be kept and maintained; and that I will in all matters appertaining to my service, faithfully discharge my duty according to law.

So Help Me, God.

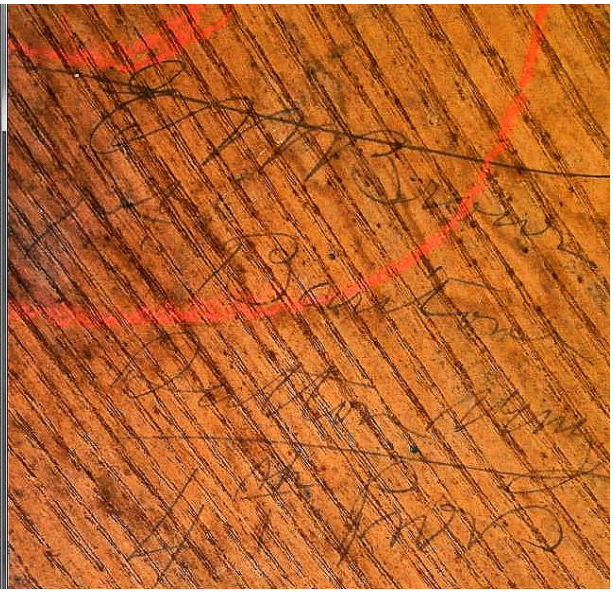
E W Brown

Signature of Person Enlisted.

Taken and subscribed at Toowoomba in the State of Qld this 22nd day of Feby 1916., before me—

H Stacey Capt

Signature of Witnessing Officer.

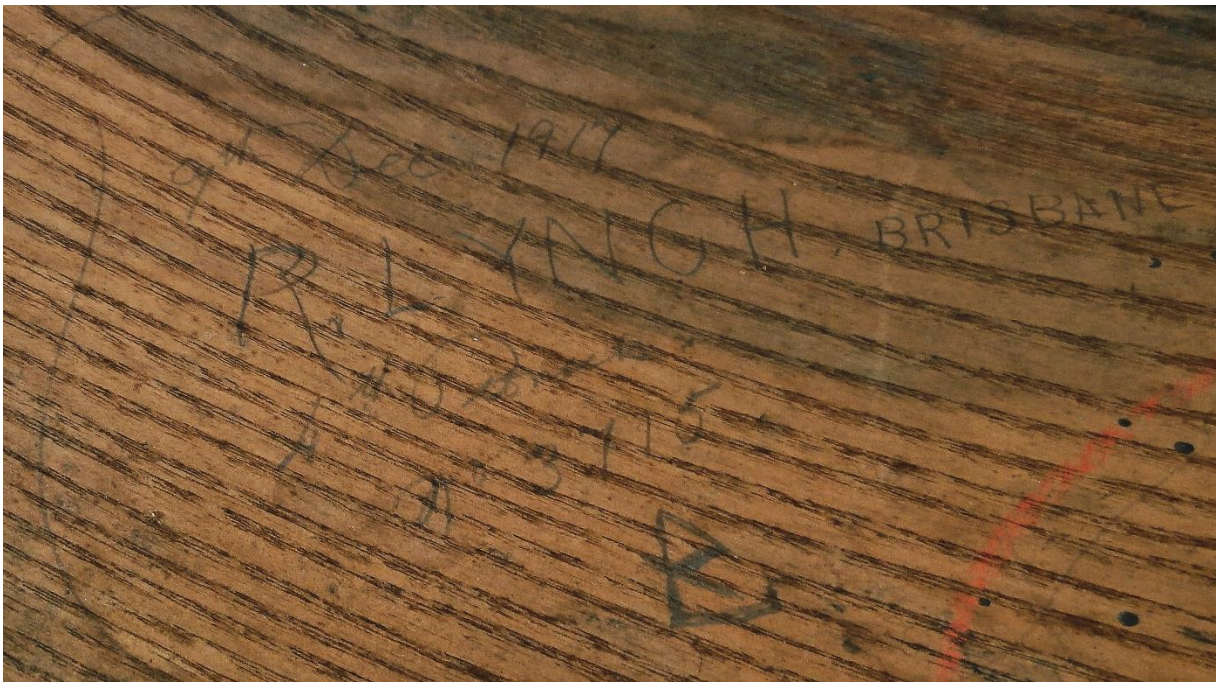


Inscription: *2123 E R Harry 5th Pioneer Batt AIF May 1917 Fovant ENG*

Identified as No 2123 Edward Rees Harry, 5th Pioneer Battalion.

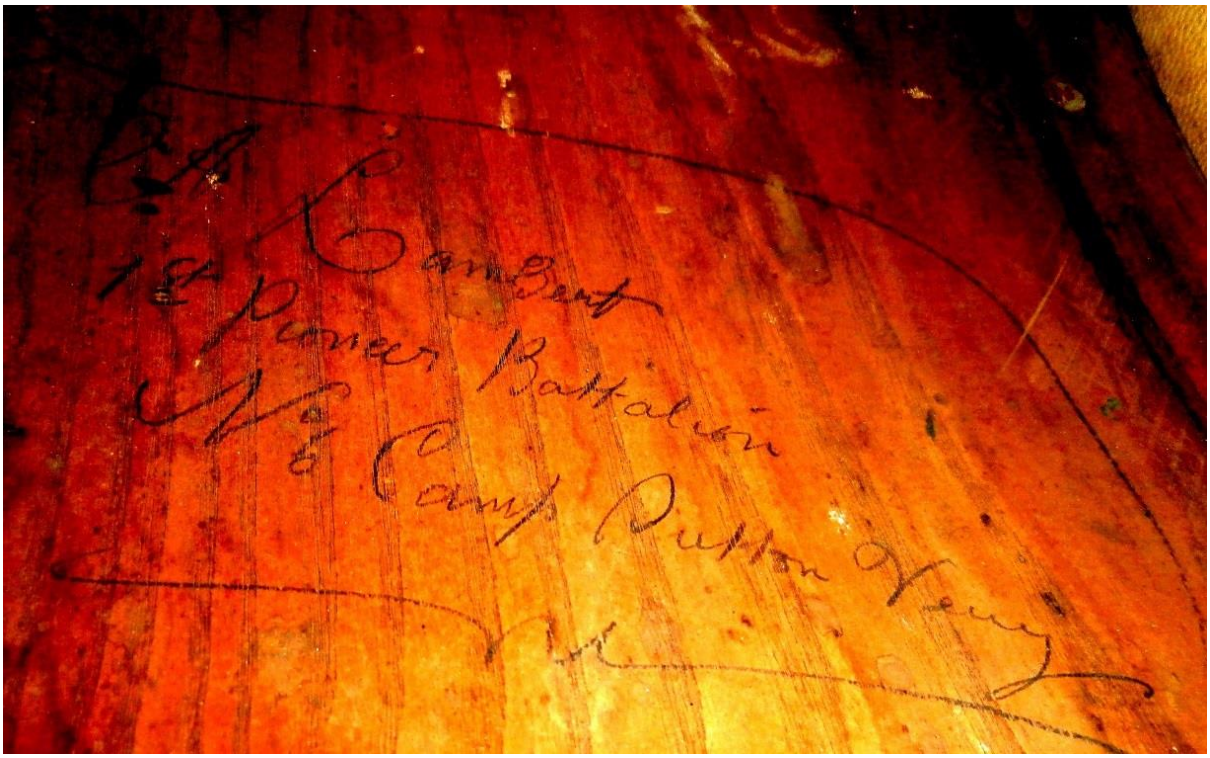
Inscription: *9th Dec 1917 R. Lynch Brisbane 4th Pioneers No 3715*

Identified as No 3715 Robert Lynch, 4th Pioneer Battalion.



Inscription: *C A Lambert 1st Pioneer Battalion No 6 Camp Sutton Veny*

Identified as No 2138 Clarence Albert Lambert, 1st Pioneer Battalion



Inscription: *No 3833 A O Fitzpatrick 1st Pioneer TB Band AIF December 9 17 Campsie NSW*

Identified as No 3833 Arthur Ossory Fitzpatrick, 1st Pioneer Battalion.

Australian bands at Sutton Veny and Fovant

Description

The Overseas Training Brigade Band marching while playing their instruments at Sandhill Camp on the Salisbury Plain.

Place made	United Kingdom: England, Wiltshire, Sutton Veny
Date made	August 1917

Description
Sutton Veny, England. 10 April 1918. Group portrait of No. 1 Command Depot Band, AIF.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL C00600

Description

The band practises outdoors at 3 Australian Command Depot at Hurdcott Camp near Fovant, Wiltshire. AIF Battalions were based at Hurdcott while engaged in training activities on the Salisbury Plain.