

THE HISTORY OF THE YALLOURN SOCCER CLUB

INTRODUCTION:

Julie asked me whether I would prepare a history of the Yallourn Soccer Club seeing that I was awarded a Master's Degree (Research) from Victoria University in 2002 on the same subject "Coal, Steel & Leather – The History of Soccer in Gippsland". I agreed. That work centred on three Gippsland soccer clubs, the Wonthaggi Magpies, Yallourn Soccer Club and the Morwell Falcons, each in turn were "Champions of Victoria" during the twentieth century.

I have decided to provide a series of episodes or chapters based roughly on decades, ie 1920-1930, 1930-1940 etc, up until the last game that Yallourn Soccer Club played in September 1994. It would come as no surprise that after I completed my research in 2002, over the intervening 10 years, additional information about Yallourn soccer (and Gippsland soccer in general) has come to light. I will include this information where it is appropriate.

Also, readers of this work may have additional information or photographs concerning soccer tucked away in family archives and this writer would be happy to examine this information for its historical relevance adding to the "soccer story". In addition I am greatly indebted to the encouragement given to me by Don Di Fabrizio to pursue the history of this great game in the Gippsland context.

So let's kick-off.

Episode 1 – Yallourn (and Gippsland's) Soccer Club's Debt to General Sir John Monash, Major E Noel Mulligan and Lieutenant Colonel (Professor) Sir T.W. Edgeworth David - the beginnings 1919

It may be a presumptive thesis to argue there is a debt that soccer in Yallourn, and Gippsland in general, owe to Monash, Mulligan and David. My argument is the continuance of Latrobe Valley power production, centred for many years at Yallourn, on brown coal, was the basis for the maintenance of the game in Gippsland, both through successive migrant waves, dedicated officials, players and the fostering of the next generation of adherents to the game.

Other soccer centres had their Gippsland moment in the sun, Wonthaggi and District Soccer Association kicked-off in 1912 (with a team in the Dockerty Cup) and lasted to the late 30's, when as its black coal petered out and the mines were uneconomical, so did the Association, the North Gippsland League centred around Sale and Maffra was gone by 1930 and Yallourn teams participated in both.

The crucial years for the game's survival were from 1930 to 1947, during the depression and the Second World War and Yallourn was the oasis of hope for the game in this desert of economic and political upheaval. No other Gippsland soccer centre had the longevity and the challenges of that based on the community of Yallourn from 1925 until the town's demolition commencing in the 1970's.

By that time Yallourn Soccer Club had relocated to Newborough and the roots of the game had firmly spread to the surrounding district, commencing in 1951-52 with formation of the Latrobe Valley Soccer Association (and later Federation), and the game goes from strength to strength in 2013 under the aegis of its child, the Gippsland Soccer League, and those aforementioned soccer centres have emerged again.

If Yallourn was to play such a pivotal role in the longevity of soccer, how did the town come to exist? Much has been written¹ about the role Monash played in the establishment of Yallourn but there are some aspects of Yallourn's gestation that are not well known and these are what I would

¹Serle G., *John Monash A Biography*, Melbourne University Press, Carlton, 1982.

Fletcher M., *Digging People Up For Coal-A History of Yallourn*, Melbourne University Press, Carlton, 2002.

McGoldrick P., "Yallourn Was...", Gippsland Printers, Morwell, 1984.

like to highlight, particularly Mulligan's and David's role.

In the turn from the 19th to the 20th century, it was quite apparent that Victoria was in the hands of NSW black coal producers and held to ransom every time miners struck in that state and denied Victoria the fuel for its steam driven industry and economy. The Victorian State Government decided in 1908 to bring out Charles Hesterman Merz of consultants Merz and McLellan to examine and report on the electrification of the Melbourne suburban rail network. His recommendation was to build a power station on the Morwell coalfields, transmit the power to Melbourne and electrify the network. (In 1912 he made a similar report.) The decision on Latrobe Valley Brown Coal was further supported in 1917 by the formation of the Brown Coal Advisory Committee of Dr H Herman (chairman), H R Harper, F W Clements and W Stone. Their work culminated in a recommendation to the State Government on the 25th September 1917 that, "a proposal was to establish, on a site then called Morwell but now known as Yallourn, a powerhouse with an initial capacity of 50,000 kilowatts, to cost \$2,524,000.00 and to operate by 1921, transmission lines (\$522,000) and terminal station (\$326,000), a total of \$3,372,000.00"² Successive changes in government and wartime conditions saw the election of the Lawson government in mid June 1918. The introduction of a Bill to create Electricity Commissioners was passed by 20th December 1918, giving them the responsibility to create an orderly development of electricity supply in Victoria. The Commissioners were faced with the alternatives of replacing NSW black coal with either hydro-electricity or brown coal. As Cecil Edwards records, "The Commissioners' first duty was to report to government on what should be done to solve the State's power problems. Before they did so, they sought information from the country that had the widest experience of brown coal – Germany – a source that had been cut off by the war but was now a defeated and occupied nation. How the Commissioners obtained their information, and in doing so made contact with the man who was to lead them through their first difficult decade, is a story in itself."³

WHO WAS LIEUTENANT COLONEL (PROFESSOR) SIR T. W. EDGEWORTH DAVID?

The Yallourn story is rather muted regarding the role Edgeworth David played in its establishment. Cecil Edwards⁴ was one who did include his, David's, contribution. This Antarctic explorer and geologist had a vital role to play as an advocate of brown coal development at Yallourn as will be seen later.



Illustration 1: Lt Col. (Professor) Sir T.W. Edgeworth David (AWM P01017.001)

David was born in Wales on 28th January 1858 and educated at Oxford graduating with a B.A. in 1881. His interest in geology grew to the extent that his first paper, *Evidences of Glacial Action in the Neighbourhood of Cardiff* was presented to the Cardiff Naturalists' Society in November of 1881. In 1882, he was appointed Assistant Geological Surveyor to the Government of New South Wales.

²Edwards C., *Brown Power- A Jubilee History of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria*, 1969, SECV Melbourne.,pp17-18

³Edwards Op cit., p32

⁴Edwards Op cit., p33.

Two major discoveries and developments attributed to his work were the tin deposits in the New England district and the Greta coal seam in the Hunter Valley, worth millions of dollars to the NSW economy.⁵

David was appointed to the chair of geology and palaeontology at the University of Sydney in May 1891. He was involved in three drilling expeditions to the Pacific atoll of Funafuti (Ellice Islands) between 1896 and 1898 to determine the formation of coral atolls and support Charles Darwin's theory of subsidence.⁶ This activity made his international reputation, as his biographer states, *"David's part in the venture was recognised by the award of the Bigsby medal by the Geological Society, London, in 1899, next year the Royal Society, London, admitted him a fellow"*⁷ However David's interest in glaciation up to 1907 saw him become knowledgeable on past ice ages and whether this expertise influenced Ernest Shackleton to invite David to accompany him back to the Antarctic in 1908 is not sure, but when he arrived there he was soon in the thick of things.

"From the 5 to 11 March 1908, David led the first ascent of Mount Erebus, the only active volcano in Antarctica. David led the summit party consisting of Mawson, Dr Alistair Mackay and himself, and there was a supporting party of three which it was afterwards decided should also attempt to reach the summit. David and four others were successful in reaching the summit"

"On the 5 October 1908, David led Mawson and Mackay on an attempt to reach the Magnetic South Pole (while Shackleton led a party to the Geographic South Pole). For ten weeks, the men followed the coast north supplementing their stores with a diet of seals and penguins. They crossed the Drygalski Ice Tongue and turned inland. They still faced a 700km return journey and established a depot to enable them to transfer their load to one overladen sled and to remove the need to relay. On the 16 January 1909 they finally arrived at the South Magnetic Pole and took possession of the region for the British Crown."

*"Edgeworth David had been appointed leader of the expedition by Shackleton but by the end of January with all three of the party experiencing severe physical deterioration, David was increasingly unable to contribute. On the 31 January with Mawson out of earshot, Mackay exerted his authority as the party's doctor and threatened to declare the Professor insane unless he gave written authority of leadership to Mawson. Mawson reluctantly took command but by 3 February he acknowledged in his diary that 'the Prof was certainly partly demented'. That day the party reached the coastline with perfect timing as within 24 hours they were collected by the Nimrod for the return trip to Cape Royds. The trio had covered a distance of 2100km which stood as the longest unsupported sled journey until the mid-1980's."*⁸

David was feted on his return and his singleness of purpose in the face of extreme hardship was to be replicated in the war years

MINING and TUNNELLING in the 1st AIF

The activities of the ANZACs on Gallipoli in 1915 highlighted the impact of tunnelling and consequential mining, ie the blowing up the enemy's trench and dug-out systems by explosives placed at the appropriate locations in your tunnel and under theirs. This method of warfare had become all the rage in France when the war became static and parallel lines of trenches existed from the English Channel to the Swiss border. During 1914 both the British, French and German armies developed tunnelling companies. Two Australian academics, well versed in mining theory and practice, approached Senator George Pearce, Australian Minister for Defence, with the proposal that Australia, because of its mining heritage, would be well placed to have a Mining Corps in its Order of Battle.⁹

Who should lead this push but Professor T.W. Edgeworth David, then professor of geology from

⁵Branagan D.F. & Vallance T.G., *David, Sir Tannatt William Edgeworth (1858-1934)*, Australian Dictionary of Biography. <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/david-sir-tannatt-william-edgeworth-5894>

⁶Branagan Op cit., p1.

⁷Branagan Op cit., p2.

⁸Edgeworth David, Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org>

⁹Finlayson D., *Crumps and Camouflets Australian Tunnelling Companies on the Western Front*, Big Sky, 2010, Newport NSW, p54.

Sydney University and Professor Ernest Skeats of the same discipline from the University of Melbourne being the proposers? On the 9th September 1915 Senator Pearce cabled British Secretary of State for Colonies, Andrew Bonar Law with the following proposal:-

*"In view of the Commonwealth's exceptional resources in expert miners, mining engineers and machinery this government is prepared to organise at once and dispatch at an early date a Mining Corps numbering up to 1,000 for service in the Dardanelles or elsewhere, such Corps to consist of miners skilled in the handling of mining machinery and plant for rapid tunnelling, whether with or without explosives, experienced mining engineers and geologists and fully equipped with all necessary machinery and appliances."*¹⁰

The offer was accepted and the recruiting in Australia began, the age limit for army recruits was lifted to 50 years ¹¹, miners already in the service could transfer from existing units to the new Corps. The Corps officers would be mining engineers and surveyors. By March 1916 the Corps had assembled and had been in training at Casula Camp outside of Liverpool NSW and was preparing for overseas service¹².

The Officers were:-

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Officer Commanding Corps | Lieutenant Colonel Albert Fewtrell |
| 1st Tunnelling Company | Major John MacTaggart |
| 2 nd Tunnelling Company | Captain Victor West |
| 3 rd Tunnelling Company | Captain Leslie Jack Coulter |

Whilst a shipping incident to their transport *Ulysses* (it hit a rock in the Fremantle channel) meant the Corps was delayed at the Blackboy Camp WA for a number of frustrating weeks, an opportunity was taken to make some leadership changes. On the 30th March 1916, Lieutenant Edric Noel Mulligan was promoted to Captain and given command of 2nd Tunnelling Company. He was the only officer to command one of the original tunnelling companies before leaving Australia to the signing of the Armistice almost 3 years later¹³.

On arriving at their destination at Hazebrouck (northern France) on the 8th May 1916, adjacent to that sector of the front held by the British Expeditionary Force, it was apparent that the Corps structure was not compatible with the British Tunnelling Company organisation, particularly for operational control and changes had to be made¹⁴. The decision was taken to disband the Australian Tunnelling Corps and set-up 4 independent Tunnelling Companies. These were:-

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1 st Australian Tunnelling Company | Major James Henry |
| 2 nd Australian Tunnelling Company | Major Edric Noel Mulligan |
| 3 rd Australian Tunnelling Company | Major Leslie Jack Coulter |

Australian Electrical & Mechanical Mining & Boring Company Major Richard Morse (Oct 1916)
The Australian Electrical & Mechanical Mining & Boring Company was in high demand as it provided a number of unique services to the British army in particular electric generators to allow for lighting, electrically driven pumps and air circulating fans to be installed in these underground complexes. As well, under Professor David, it carried out extensive drilling programs along the front to establish the hydrogeology to determine underground water flows, aquifers and water tables, information so necessary in a conflict based on trenches and underground activity¹⁵.

WHO WAS MAJOR MULLIGAN?

Mulligan was the instrument in the hands of General Sir John Monash, to facilitate the future clandestine gathering of sufficient information from the occupied areas of Germany to enable Monash to advise the Victorian government that the development of the Brown Coal deposits in the Latrobe Valley was feasible.

¹⁰Finlayson ,Op cit, p54

¹¹ Which didn't stop the 57 year old Professor David joining up and he was commissioned as a major with responsibility as Officer in Charge of the Technical HQ Staff.

¹²Finlayson, Op cit, p55.

¹³Finlayson, Op cit, p65.

¹⁴Finlayson, Op cit, pp72-73

¹⁵Finlayson, Op cit, p73

This mission, led by Major Edric Noel Mulligan, was under orders from Monash, at the behest of the Victorian State Government, it's a mission that has been related frugally in public history¹⁶ to date. This work provides some amplification of the story with additional detail.

Mulligan was born 24th December 1885 at Port Macquarie, NSW, the first child of Edric Thetis Mulligan and Eliza Alice Nunn. Edric Thetis Mulligan was a postmaster and subsequent children born to this couple show movement of the family throughout NSW¹⁷.

The occupation of Edric Noel's grandfather, John William Mulligan was a colour sergeant with the 11th Regiment of Foot (North Devonshire)¹⁸ arriving in Sydney in 1848, giving a military heritage for

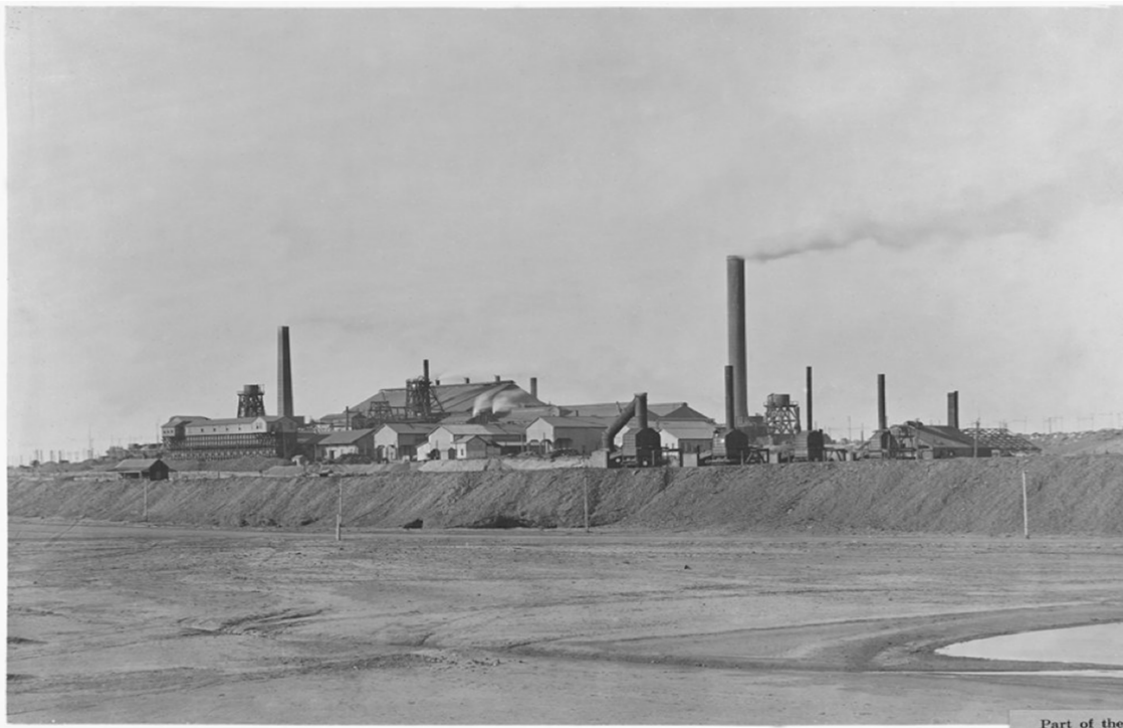


Illustration 2: The Great Cobar Copper Mine

the achievements of his grandson.

Our Mulligan's early life in NSW saw him graduate from the University of Sydney on the 4th April 1911 with a Degree in Mining and Metallurgy. His first employment was with the Great Cobar Copper Mine (NSW) being the manager there in the months preceding the First World War.¹⁹ The outbreak of the war had a disruptive effect on this mine as historian McQueen records, *"The outbreak of war in the latter part of the year (1914) meant that many of the Cobar mines were unable to sell their ore due to an export embargo and market uncertainty. Copper prices had also dropped early in 1914 due to the impending hostilities and the Great Cobar Mine and associated smelters had closed by April throwing many men out of work."* *"The Great Cobar finally went into liquidation in 1915 and remained idle throughout the year with the exception of two or three months pending an application for suspension of labour conditions."*²⁰

¹⁶Once again the exception being Cecil Edwards, *Brown Power- A Jubilee History of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria*, 1969, SECV Melbourne, pp 33-38 – Chapter entitled 'Cloak and Dagger at Fortuna' provides an account of Mulligan's exploits.

¹⁷NSW- BD&M Indexes

¹⁸// prepages.history.rootsweb.com

¹⁹From the notes of Fred (Dee) Shelley of Fremantle (WA)

²⁰McQueen K., *History of the CSA Mine*, University of Canberra

Mulligan obviously saw the opportunity to put his skills to more profitable use and enlisted in the 1st AIF. As detailed above he assumed command of No 2 Australian Tunnelling Company on the 28th March 1916 whilst in Australia. His leadership of the Company covered mining activities at renowned fighting locations in the First World War, places that are prominent in 1st AIF history, such as Armentieres, Nieuport ²¹Ypres, Messines, Amiens, Villers-Bretonneux, Cambrai, the Hindenburg line.



Illustration 3: Mulligan sitting directly behind drum (AWM A05272)

²¹Bean C.E.W., *The AIF in France, The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918 Vol IV*, University of Queensland, 1982, pp960-964. This is Appendix No2. "The 2nd Tunnelling Company in the Affair at Nieuport" and in this account Bean footnotes the protest that Mulligan made to Fourth Army leadership who suggested that his tunnellers be used as carriers for bridging materials to be used to cross the river Yser. Mulligan protested such use of his tunnellers, backed by General Birdwood the venture was not undertaken (p954n)

The duties of tunnelling companies were extensive. As well as mining and counter-mining the enemy, they had responsibilities for:-

- Road repairs
- Rail track repairs
- Trench digging
- Machine gun emplacements
- Dug-outs, including use for command head-quarters, first-aid posts, and galleries large enough to hold up to a battalion of men underground.
- Accompanying infantry on enemy trench raiding parties to determine whether enemy tunnels were being dug towards British trenches
- In retreat, they were tasked to blow-up dumps of artillery shells and ammunition²²
- As the war progressed and the enemy retreated they had a special responsibility to disarm "booby-traps" and mines on roads, bridges, underground facilities and buildings.

As well, Mulligan was given additional troops to meet certain project timetables. For instance, at Nieupoort Baines, Bean describes the Company, *"The Australian miners of the 2nd Company, like those of the 1st and 3rd, were, on average, older than most infantrymen, but were marked by a capacity for very fast work and a willingness to take great risks. The company, 566 strong, had been increased by the attachment of 160 of its reinforcements and working parties of 500 British infantry."*²³



Illustration 4: Mulligan sitting on the right hand side rear with some of his men (No 2 Tunnelling Company) at Nieupoort Baines ,Belgium (AWM E01904)

²²Bean Op cit, Vol V, p245n

²³Bean Op cit, Vol IV, p 961.

During his service Mulligan was gazetted for bravery in the field²⁴ on a number of occasions:-

- Mentioned in Dispatches 13th November 1916
- Mentioned in Dispatches 9th April 1917
- Mentioned in Dispatches 7th November 1917

Invariably, General Sir Douglas Haigh's citation read, "for distinguished and gallant service and devotion to duty".

This service led to the award of the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) on the 28th December 1918.

The Belgian government also recognised his bravery and service by awarding him their Croix de Geurre. That recommendation was,

"During the operations between the 8th August to October 6th (1918) from Villers-Brettoneux to Bellicourt, Major Mulligan has been in command of his Company employed on Forward Roads. He has displayed conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty and has carried out personal reconnaissance of forward roads regardless of heavy machine gun and artillery fire. He has always displayed good organising ability and has not only directed the operations of his Company but has also had Labour Companies attached to him. He has at all times proved himself to be a very gallant and capable officer untiring in his efforts to carry out the work allotted to his Company in a very efficient manner."

Mulligan's character was described as,

*"Confident, shrewd, quick-thinking, self-reliant, adaptable – and pertinacious."*²⁵

In addition to the enemy, he had to fight an internal battle within his Company. His Adjutant Captain Garnett Adcock, a younger man and a graduate of officer training school Duntroon at Canberra, didn't see eye to eye with Mulligan, as well Adcock was extremely critical of British Army High Command, but Adcock left a valuable record of the Company's activities in his "letters from the front"²⁶.

On the 16th November, Mulligan re-joined his unit after leave and by mid-January 1919, he was reassigned to the Demobilization Depot and on the same day, he had special leave to the UK granted. The next day, 12th January 1919, notification of his award of the Belgian Croix de Guerre was received.

At the beginning of March, his professional training was about to be put to good use as he was transferred to the Education Services General List. It wasn't long after this event that he experienced a prolonged bout of illness. Records indicate that he suffered renal colic which required admittance on the 17th March 1919 to the Wandsworth Hospital London for treatment. It wasn't until the 9th April that he was discharged and returned to the Education Services Depot²⁷.

²⁴From Mulligan's service record, National Archive of Australia (NAA)

²⁵Edwards Op cit., p34.

²⁶AWM 2DRL 123, FileL/12/11/2112, Letters from the front by Major Garnett Adcock, 2nd Australian Tunnelling Company

²⁷Details from Mulligan's war record NAA.

THE EFFECT OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL (PROFESSOR) SIR T. W. EDGEWORTH DAVID'S RETURN TO AUSTRALIA IN 1919

What triggered the quickened interest in brown coal development was an interview with Professor David on his return to Australia early in 1919. The report of the interview appeared in the edition of the Sydney Sunday Sun of 4th May 1919. This article was an interview relating to Professor David's personal examination of German brown coal fields and associated power industry practice at Fortuna in the British army occupied zone of Germany. He details German coal-winning practice, almost identical to what is in place in the Latrobe Valley today, and gave a description of briquette production and boiler turbine practice using "wet" brown coal. His conclusion was to have immediate and immense impact,
*"in Australia, we have surplus of brown coal at Morwell 89 miles from Melbourne and at Leigh Creek near Lake Eyre in South Australia. The Victorian deposits have immense thickness, 900ft, and with a fraction of the German enterprise Melbourne and suburbs might be now drawing all the electric power they need from that field."*²⁸

This was a repeat of the Merz McLellan recommendation of 1908 and certainly reinforced the Herman recommendations of the Brown Coal Advisory Committee of 1917 and it came at a time of intense political debate in Victoria as to whether brown coal or hydro-electricity was to be the way forward.

This article was not relayed or available in Melbourne papers and there were no Melbourne Sunday papers either; however SEC Chief Engineer-elect, H.R. Harper, was a reader of the Sydney Sunday Sun and saw the article.

Harper acted immediately. He referred the article to the Electricity Commissioners and suggested that Sir John Monash or the War Office be contacted to obtain information concerning this German technology. The Premier of the day, Lawson, acted quickly, cabling both Sir Peter McBride, Victorian Agent-General (London), and Senator George Pearce, who was in England, to seek the co-operation of the War Office. The Victorian Government agreed to pay all costs. By the 23rd May Monash had accepted the challenge and had informed McBride of his planning to accomplish the Victorian Government's request. As Cecil Edwards recounts,
*"he would send a mission as soon as the War Office permitted. All its members would be members of the AIF. It would be easier if it could be said that they were travelling on Government duty. He proposed to send two in advance, one of whom would be Major E Noel Mulligan, commander of the 2nd Australian Tunnelling Company, Bachelor of Engineering, Bachelor of Mining and Metallurgy, and a certified mine manager. They would return within eight or ten days. If their report justified the expense, he would equip and send a larger party - a mining engineer, an electrical engineer, a commercial man, a German speaking officer, two engineering draftsmen and two or three other helpers. Their work would take five or six weeks. Meanwhile, he would ask Major Mulligan to hold himself ready to go to Germany on short notice"*²⁹

Conditions for the party's insertion in Germany were tenuous to say the least, for at this time a Peace Treaty among the warring parties was being negotiated in Paris and was near finalisation and signature. This would mean that the Occupied Zone which included the Fortuna coalfields and power installations Professor David had visited would revert back to German sovereignty making it extremely difficult to obtain the information.

Monash provided letters of introduction for Mulligan to use, as well as confirming that, he Monash, would be responsible for all costs and transport would be secured.³⁰

²⁸My copy of the full article was from, *The Register*, Adelaide 10th May 1919, p6
<http://trove.nla.au/ndp>

²⁹Edwards Op cit, p34.

³⁰Edwards Op cit., p34

THE INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE MISSION, MONASH and MULLIGAN

The mission got off to a bad start as Mulligan waited for three days in Boulogne (France) for his companion (interpreter) to turn up - he didn't, so Mulligan left for Cologne (Germany) without him. On the 12th June 1919, he reported to the HQ of the occupying Army of the Rhine where he found they had received orders from the War Office to give him every co-operation³¹. However he was warned not to precipitate any incident that could cause an embarrassment to the occupying powers. The Fortuna complex was close to Cologne and the controlling syndicate had their offices in that city. Quickly, Mulligan posing as a tourist, organised with the syndicate to visit the mine. Through an interpreter, he spoke with the chief technical engineer, Otto Ermert, *"Mulligan described the attitude of the mine officials as 'not promising'. On a Sunday, when there were few people in the office, Mulligan tried to 'liberate' some plans. But, he added, a close watch was kept and the only plan he managed to get was one of the boiler furnaces"*³²

After engaging a German photographer to take photographs of the mine and its equipment, mine officials began to be suspicious of this inquisitive "tourist" that had spent four days at the mine. Mulligan felt his mission could obtain better results by him returning to uniform and rank. Seeking authority from the military governor to commandeer and copy all plans from the mine, he eventually had to front General Sir Alexander Godley Officer Commanding the 4th Corps in Germany armed with Monash's letter-of-introduction³³. Godley gave instruction for the military governor to assist Mulligan. The governor, in any case, was restricted in what he could do, as he received his instructions from the British Foreign Office. Eventually, after two days delay, he received permission to take possession of "certain places", *"he was told he could do so on condition that nothing be removed, that all information obtained be available to the British Government - and that Mulligan provide the troops required"*³⁴

As for troops, Mulligan had none, but General Godley came to the rescue, making available two officers and thirty-two men placed under Mulligan's command and by this time, Monash had despatched the technical reinforcement party and they had arrived as well. *"Mulligan gave them sealed instructions, to be opened only when action was ordered. These were designed to enable the little force to take possession of the offices of the syndicate that controlled the coal, of the company that supplied the machinery used to mine it, and of the Fortuna works. Mulligan also wanted to seize the works that supplied boilers and furnaces but, as these were in unoccupied Germany, this would have been rather difficult."*³⁵

This activity was augmented by specific unauthorised removal (smuggling as Mulligan termed it) of plans from offices, particularly at weekends, and overnight these plans were traced and returned before the offices were occupied next morning and the removal of the plans discovered³⁶.

Mulligan could sense his time was running out and if the Peace Treaty was signed then the control of the occupied zone of Germany by the British army would end, and the zone would revert back to German control including those offices and sites that he had seized. This is indeed what happened and the syndicate officers became very restrictive in what they allowed Mulligan and his party to do.

³¹Edwards Op cit., p34

³²Edwards Op cit., p35

³³Edwards Op cit., p35

³⁴Edwards Op cit., p35

³⁵Edwards Op cit., p35

³⁶Edwards Op cit., pp35-36

Reverting now to the tactic of diplomacy, earlier he had begun to cultivate a friendship with Otto Ermert, firstly with tobacco and cigarettes that German civilians could not obtain and then dangled the carrot of,

"he told Ermert that there would be big developments in Victorian brown coal and rather hinted that Ermert might find a place in them. Ermert gave 'valuable assistance in technical explanations' and later helped Mulligan to get entry into other and more modern plants."³⁷

Not stopping here, Mulligan went to the top of the tree with his carrots, particularly with companies that made mining and briquetting plant,

"On the principle that gratitude is a lively sense of favours to come, he told a Dr Schultz that he was representing the Australian Government and was seeking details with a view of placing an order with Germany. Schultz got him quotations for a plant that would turn out 1,000 tons of briquettes a day, handed over a good deal of literature and arranged an appointment with his chairman of directors, who gave Mulligan some figures on costs which checked with what Mulligan had already obtained. Mulligan's report added: 'They were very anxious to do business, and the fact that I proposed to recommend the purchase of plant in Germany....induced them to be quite friendly'"³⁸

The time for the end of the mission was approaching, the information the mission had amassed under Mulligan's leadership and methods was formidable, including:-

- Samples of brown coal, as mined and at various stages of treatment.
- Plans for the Fortuna mines and works.
- Boiler furnace design.
- Plans of the most modern briquetting plant in the Rhineland.
- A working model of a modern briquette press (in the Museum of Victoria)
- Photographs of the Fortuna complex, including detailed photographs of plant and equipment.
- Photographs of mining operational methods.
- Detailed technical information from Berlin.
- Reports on boiler experiments on brown coal and briquettes.
- Complete data on briquetting processes and on using brown coal to generate power.
- General data on costs and electrical equipment.

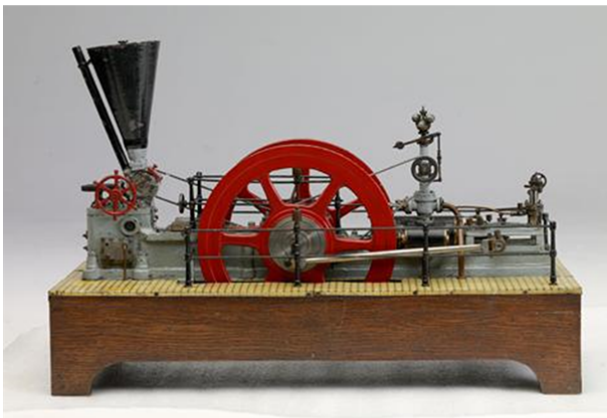


Illustration 5: Briquette press model obtained in Germany by the Mulligan mission (Museum of Victoria)

³⁷Edwards Op cit., p35

³⁸Edwards Op cit., p36

On the mission's return to England and after inspecting the material, Monash said,
*"Our men were treated as trespassers and considerable obstacles were placed in their way in getting at the secret information, but by the exercise of a great deal of tact and ingenuity, no portion of the enquiry remained unfulfilled....
In fact, the information at my disposal now is such that with a staff of competent draughtsmen, a complete design for a coal mining and power enterprise on a large scale at Morwell could be worked out in its entirety."*³⁹

Monash and his team completed a comprehensive report for the Victorian government and it was given to the Premier Lawson on the 21st October 1919. Monash biographer Geoffrey Serle summarised the result,
*"In November 1919, the Commissioners recommended strongly in favour of exploiting Morwell brown coal and appended to their report much of the data gathered about the Fortuna workings. By voting considerable funds, Parliament committed itself primarily to brown coal development."*⁴⁰

The die was cast and it would be left to Monash to establish the Yallourn undertaking and its accompanying township. Monash recommended that the Victorian State Government pay Mulligan 500 pounds for his work – this they did. On the 18th October 1919, Mulligan embarked on the "Morea" at Tilbury for his voyage back to Australia.

WHAT HAPPENED TO MULLIGAN AFTER THE WW1 ?

On his return to Australia his new-found expertise was a commercial commodity that was in demand. During 1920, he was engaged by Murray and Tailm Bend Coal and Oil companies to examine their prospects for brown coal development. In a report of the South Australian publication "The Register" of the 8th November 1920 in an article headlined,

"MOORLANDS BROWN COAL EXPERT'S REPORT

*Major E N Mulligan, who was engaged by the directors of the Murray and Tailm Bend Coal and Oil Companies to examine and report on their properties, has completed his work. Major Mulligan was deputed by the Victorian Government as soon as the armistice was signed to go to Germany and report on the brown coal mines there. There are probably few people in Australia who have so much up to-date knowledge of the subject as he."*⁴¹

Permanent employment found its way to him in the form of Acting Shire Engineer with the Macintyre Shire. The Inverell Argus championed his appointment,

"MAJOR MULLIGAN DSO Fine Soldier's Record ACTING SHIRE ENGINEER

Engineer Major E.N. Mulligan, B.E., D.S.O., who entered upon his duties as Acting Engineer for the Macintyre Shire Tuesday last, is only a young man, but has a brilliant record as a soldier. Australian born, Major Mulligan has some three years' war experience on the Western front. A Bachelor of Mining and Metallurgy Science, Sydney University, he was manager of the Great Cobar Copper mine when war broke out. He was with that company for about four and a half years and manager for fourteen months. A single man, he resigned his position early in 1915, and enlisted for active service. He left early in 1916 and was on the Western front till January 1919, in command of the Second Australian Tunnelling Company. The Company went through stirring days, as everyone knows, for they tunnelled along the front from Amientieres salient, Ypres salient, Cambrai salient, and so on. They were in the Messines battle and the first and second Cambrai

³⁹Edwards Op cit., p37

⁴⁰Serle G., *John Monash A Biography*, Melbourne University Press, Carlton, 1982, p436

⁴¹*The Register*, Adelaide, Monday 8th November 1920, p4. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article63029020>

battles, and alongside the famous Hill 60. The Major was in the big retreat of 1918 at the time of the great German push and assisted in the defence of Amiens. More happily, he was in the big push from Villers Brettoneux and joined up with Second Australian Corps in the breaking of the Hindenburg line.

After the Armistice, the engineers were engaged in removing hundreds of tons of delayed action mines, left by the Germans at Charleroi, Maubeuge etc. In January 1919, Major Mulligan went on to Sir John Monash's staff in London, and was sent on special service into Germany for three months, returning to Australia later in the year. He was lucky enough to go through all this service without being wounded, but gained the DSO and Croix de Guerre, and was mentioned three times in despatches. He returned to meet the slump in metals, which means little call for mining engineers and so is now at Inverell. These facts, it may be mentioned, were literally dragged out of the Major, but they are well worth knowing. We want as many of his type of Australians as we can get in the town and district."⁴²

Mulligan left this position to take up tin mining in Burma during the period 1925 – 1929 with his bride Frances Marion Illingworth, who he married 16th February 1925 at Kuala Lumpur⁴³.

The first Company that he was associated with was the Thabawleik Tin Dredging Ltd based at Mergui Lower Burma. In 1926, this company was in a bit of trouble as reported in the 18th February 1926 Sydney Morning Herald,

"It is regretted that there has been considerable delay in the erection of the dredge. It was found in assembling the pontoon that a far greater amount of work than is usual had to be performed, resulting in delay, and in consequence it was only partially completed when the severe monsoonal rains commenced.

*Work thereon ceased for four months, and was recommenced on October 28 and the pontoon was successfully floated on February 7 (1926). During the rains the super structure was assembled on the bank of the erection excavation, so that the work of erection should proceed with expedition and it is now expected that the dredge will commence digging about the end of August. The expenditure upon the equipment and development of the mine has considerably exceeded the estimate, and in consequence the cash resources of the company are exhausted, but the directors have made satisfactory financial arrangements to meet this contingency"*⁴⁴

Six months later it was reported that the company had external debts of 22,016 pounds and that further cash outlays over and above budget would be required to finish the job before the dredge would be operating, however once the dredge began operating the directors stated, " *it will not take long to retire all liabilities.*"⁴⁵

In June of 1929 Mulligan was cited as the Chairman of Directors of Burma-Malay Tin Ltd to journey to London, "where he will deal with matters of great importance to the company."⁴⁶

⁴²Inverell Argus

⁴³From the notes of Fred (Dee) Shelley of Fremantle (WA)

⁴⁴Sydney Morning Herald, 18th February 1926, p13.

⁴⁵Sydney Morning Herald, 25th June 1926, p13. (<http://trove.nla.gov.au>)

⁴⁶Sydney Morning Herald, Saturday 22nd June 1929, p17. (<http://trove.nla.gov.au>)

Damien Finlayson in his excellent work (cited in this monogram) records that Mulligan took his own life in 1931⁴⁷, this is not so, yet from what happened to him, death could have been kinder. He and his wife and son having visited England in 1929 and on their return to Burma, Mulligan suffered a mental breakdown. They immediately returned to England where he was admitted to the Moorcroft Hospital, Hillington Middlesex with shell shock⁴⁸, paranoia and delusional insanity. He was transferred in November 1942 to St Andrew's Hospital, Northampton⁴⁹, where he remained until his death on 26th November 1965 at age of 80 years⁵⁰.

WHAT HAPPENED TO PROFESSOR DAVID AFTER WW1?

In September 1920, David was created a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire. On returning to Australia, he commenced writing, *The Geology of the Commonwealth of Australia*. The Australian National Research Council was set up with his assistance and he became its first President.

Retiring from the University of Sydney as Professor of Geology in 1924, but he was still active - and controversial - in the field, declaring that he had discovered Precambrian fossils. He continued to publish with the *Geological Map of the Commonwealth with Explanatory Notes*, however on his death in 1934, *The Geology of the Commonwealth of Australia* was not finished. Wikipedia summarises his legacy as follows,

"David's The Geology of the Commonwealth of Australia was finally completed by his chosen collaborator, Associate Professor William R. Browne in 1950. Of his many papers, over 100 will be found listed in the Geological Magazine for January 1922. A travelling scholarship in his memory was founded at the University of Sydney in 1936.

The Edgeworth David Medal is named in his honour. It is awarded by the Royal Society of New South Wales for distinguished contributions by a young scientist under the age of thirty-five for work done mainly in Australia or its territories. The mineral davidite is named after him, as was the Edgeworth David Building (demolished 2006) at the University of Sydney and Edgeworth David Avenue in Hornsby, New South Wales where he spent his later years. He has been depicted on two Australian postage stamps (so was Monash).

Edgeworth David Base is the name of a summer station in the Bungee Hills area of Antarctica. It has been maintained by Australia since 1986.

The suburb of Edgeworth in the Hunter Valley, New South Wales, is named after David.

The Edgeworth David quarry in Seaham, New South Wales is named after David, who discovered varve shale there in 1914.

The boreholes on Funafuti, Tuvalu are known as David's Drill.

In 1968, he was honoured on a postage stamp issued by Australia Post

Edgeworth David's daughter, Margaret McIntyre, was the first woman elected to the Parliament of Tasmania and was awarded the Order of the British Empire."

On his death he was given a State funeral.

⁴⁷Finlayson, Op cit, pp 414-415

⁴⁸That "Shell shock" or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) was part of his diagnosis should come as no surprise as in this day an age where we know the effects of wartime experience are long felt.

In what this author found as an incredible statistic, that in the year 2010 in the United States, it was estimated that 105 people were taking their own lives per day, of that 105, 22 were American military veterans.

Dao J., *As Suicides Rise in the U.S., Veterans Are Less of the Total*, The New York Times, 1st February 2013

⁴⁹Both these institutions were at the forefront of the treatment of psychotic illnesses in England

⁵⁰From the notes of Fred (Dee) Shelley of Fremantle (WA)

WHY DR. HYMAN F. HERMAN SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE LIST?

On reflection, as well as those already mentioned, Dr Herman should be included for.

- (a) His leadership of the Brown Coal Advisory Committee and its 1917 recommendations
- (b) His contribution to the solution of the “wet coal” crisis of 1921-22 that could have terminated the Yallourn project and ruined Monash.⁵¹
- (c) His ongoing promotion of the briquette industry – he was considered a world expert of brown coal briquetting.
- (d) The fact that his influence on the continuance of the brown coal industry, and consequently the continued viability of Yallourn, lasted longer than either Monash, David or Mulligan.

On his retirement in 1940, the 22nd Annual report of the SEC placed on official record the following,

*“Dr. H. Herman, B.C.E., M.M.E., D.Sc., retired on the 16th August, 1940, after twenty years’ service with the Commission. The vigorous policy of brown coal development which, as State Director of Geological Survey, Dr Herman initiated in 1912, and his subsequent advocacy of the use of brown coal for the generation of electricity and the production of briquettes on a national basis were the prime factors which led to the appointment in 1917 of the Brown Coal Advisory Committee, of which he was Chairman. The adoption of this Committee’s report by the Government and by Parliament was the basis of the original legislation constituting the Electricity Commissioners.”*⁵²

SOCCER’S EMERGENCE AT YALLOURN

Throughout Yallourn’s history, one could point out other men and women that have loomed large in both service to the community and to the nation⁵³. I have singled Monash, Mulligan and David out for special consideration for it was their engineering and scientific contribution, supporting the SEC Commissioner’s (and adding to Herman’s Brown Coal Advisory Committee report) recommendations to the Victorian government of the day, that tipped the scales in favour of brown coal and consequently Yallourn. Dr Herman’s legacy was to fight the battles after the establishment of Yallourn to be the advocate for the brown coal industry, and not let it descend into the oblivion which happened to Wonthaggi’s coal industry.

⁵¹Herman H., *Brown Coal*, SECV, 1952, Melbourne, p489.

Serle, Op cit, pp440-441

Edwards, Op cit, pp65-66

⁵²Herman, Op cit, pviii.

⁵³Particularly in the military sphere.(see Fletcher Op cit pp55-56.) Other prominent military men who come to mind, Captain R D Dixon in June 1918 "capturing 4 machine guns and 30 prisoners" being awarded a DSO, R A Hunt ,DSO, repairing bridges across the Somme under fire on the 8th August 1918, Brigadier John Field using his expertise during the crucial battle at Milne Bay, Commissioner Sir Bernard Callinan guerilla leader on Timor, Graham Black on 'Z' Special operations and in later years, Bill Crossman, John Hutchinson, Geoff Hall and Alan Cameron giving leadership in the Army Reserve Unit closely allied to Yallourn and the SEC.

COULD SOCCER HAVE SURVIVED IN GIPPSLAND WITHOUT YALLOURN?

The two centres other than Yallourn where the game was played at this gustative period were Wonthaggi and Maffra. The game was very strong in Wonthaggi between 1912 and 1939. Its peak years were from 1927 to 1935. After the ravages of the depression and the second world war, a declining black coal resource and ageing soccer population, coupled with no migrant influx to speak of, interest in soccer declined and no organisation took place.

Also into this mix must be added the work and influence of Dr Herman. During the great Wonthaggi miner's strike of 1934 and occasions when Wonthaggi coal was not readily available, and the poor quality⁵⁴ of the coal that was being sold to industry generally (quality black coal was sent to the railways), the brown coal briquette was taking up more market share. Dr Herman was a reinforcing advocate of the use of brown coal.

Phillip Harper⁵⁵ describes the reduction in the mining workforce during the 1930's a consequence of unprofitable mining operations. The North Gippsland League, with teams from Yallourn, Glenmaggie, Sale and Maffra, had as its basis, the construction of the Glenmaggie Weir and the post-world war 1 agricultural development in the area; once again this industry expansion was assisted by migration. The completion of the construction phase of the Glenmaggie Weir and the great depression of the 30's saw this league disappear from the scene by 1930.

It is hard to imagine that soccer could have germinated in the central Latrobe Valley without Yallourn. Morwell and Moe were basically serving rural communities and the seeds of the game carried by migrant waves wouldn't have washed over them.

I continue to maintain that Yallourn was the generational link that gave rise to a continued presence of the game to this point of time.

The next episode will examine the beginnings of the game at Yallourn and its inter-action with teams from these other Gippsland centres, as well as discovering the most expensive player ever to play for a Gippsland club.

Written by Murray Lobley for Virtual Yallourn ~ May 2013

⁵⁴This coal was known as "slack" coal.

⁵⁵Harper P., *The Wonthaggi Coalfields, A Story of the Men and the Mines*, EIA, Oak Park, 1987