

PRESS RELEASES

14 May 2009

Press release Story 1

Begins

Gideon Grieve – Boer War Hero Rededication of Memorial

The NSW Boer War Memorial Committee in collaboration with the Woollahra Municipal Council is conducting a ceremony to rededicate the Lieutenant Gideon Grieve memorial in Gap Park on 31 May 2009 at 3pm. Lt Grieve was killed in action on 18 February 1900, just three months after arriving in South Africa.

The date for the ceremony was chosen because it was on that day in 1902 that the Peace Treaty between Great Britain and the Boer leaders was signed.

Gideon Grieve's small memorial is on the last curve of Old South Head Road as it winds down to Watsons Bay, giving it a background across the sea to North Head. First dedicated in December 1900, it is about 150 metres north of the Signal Station.

Killed at the age of 36 leading T Company, the 2nd Battalion Black Watch in an attack at Paardeberg on the Modder River, Gideon Grieve left a widow and three children at home. Many descendants of the Grieve family have indicated that they will attend the public ceremony.

This rare personal memorial is showing the effects of time. It would be a sad loss to the cultural heritage of the Woollahra area if it were to fall into disrepair. Gideon Grieve's bravery deserves to be remembered.

There are also wider implications for similar Boer War memorials scattered in towns around the state, all about the same age and most needing attention, all commemorating the sacrifice of soldiers and nurses who put their lives on the line.

NSW Boer War Memorial Chairman, Lt Col (Retd) Tony Lanarch-Jones observed somewhat wryly "This memorial to Lt Grieve was planned, designed, constructed and erected less than twelve months after his death. Yet 107 years after the Boer War ended there is still no national memorial on the Anzac Parade site in Canberra to the 23,000 Australians who fought in it."

More information from the Boer War Memorial website www.bwm.org.au or the NSW BWM Committee's Public Relations Officer, Keith Smith, at krasmith@bwm.org.au

Tax deductible donations to the National Boer War Memorial, Victoria Barracks, Oxford Street, Paddington NSW 2021.

End

Photos:

Captions:

1. Gideon Grieve's grandson Hamish with NSW BWM Chairman Lt Col Tony Larnach-Jones
2. Anzac Parade, Canberra, reserved site for Boer War Monument

