



The Life of Harry

Harry Duncan

Henry Robert Duncan was born in Northcote on 27th September, 1897 and lived at 218 Albert Rd, South Melbourne. He was recruited by the Albert Park club in 1909 where he was a successful coxswain with his brother Roy, and joined as a rower in 1914.

'Harry' enlisted on 8th January, 1915 as a private in the 5th Battalion. After being wounded at Gallipoli, he was sent to England to recover and spent time assisting his father to fit wounded soldiers with prosthetic limbs. He marched in the first ANZAC Day parade in London in April 1916, was promoted to corporal in July and returned to Australia on duty in December. In January 1917 he went back to Egypt where he joined the 8th Sanitary Section. He was present at the Battle of Beersheba, and returned to Australia on 10th April, 1919.

Harry came back to Albert Park as a rower, winning the club points competition in 1919-20 and 1920-21. He coached his son Bob to the 1956 Olympics and served as club president. Harry enjoyed a long association with Albert Park which lasted over 60 years.