

Where is Mrs Sing?
The search for the 'missing' wife of Private
Billy Sing.

Ian Loftus

Published by the Author, Applecross, Western Australia

www.ianloftus.com

ianloftus@gmail.com

+61 417 674 974

ISBN: 9780648256014 (PDF)

Extract from *Gallipoli Sniper* by John Hamilton reprinted by permission of Pan Macmillan Australia Pty Ltd. Copyright © John Hamilton 2008.

© Ian Loftus 2018. All Rights Reserved. This publication may only be reproduced in accordance with the *Copyright Act 1968*.

Contents

Background.....	1
Aberdeen and Edinburgh	1
Elizabeth Stewart meets the ‘Gallipoli sniper’	2
Meanwhile in Edinburgh	5
Mark Malmborg.....	6
Elizabeth makes it to Australia	7
The Second World War	8
After the War	9
Postscript.....	10
Bibliography and Sources.....	11

Background

Private William Edward ('Billy') Sing was one of Australia's most successful (and notorious) snipers of the First World War. Awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) and the Belgian Croix De Guerre, and Mentioned in Dispatches twice, he is reputed to have shot more than 200 enemy soldiers. He is also noted for his ethnicity; his father was Chinese and his mother was British.

I read John Hamilton's biography of Billy Sing, *Gallipoli Sniper*, several years ago and became fascinated by the life the young Chinese-Australian who served with the 5th Light Horse Regiment in Egypt and at Gallipoli, and with the 31st Infantry Battalion on the Western Front. I became particularly interested in Hamilton's last chapters, in which he describes Billy Sing's marriage to Elizabeth Stewart in Edinburgh in June 1917, and the unknown fate of the new Mrs Sing. Hamilton writes 'Despite exhaustive efforts by researchers, no evidence has yet been found that Elizabeth Sing ever made the voyage to Australia or ever arrived in Clermont.'

Feeling up to the challenge, I decided to see if I could track down Mrs Sing, and discover her eventual fate. Several years of on-and-off research shows that Billy Sing's wife never made it to Australia to be with Billy Sing after the war. She did, however, make her way to Australia in the mid-1920s to start a new life with another man, Theodore Mark Malmborg, and her two young children. Mark Malmborg was the father of one of the children (a son, also Theodore Mark Malmborg), whilst the father of the other child, a daughter, remains unknown (but it was not Billy Sing). Taking his surname, Elizabeth Sing lived with Mark Malmborg in New South Wales until her passing in the late 1970s.

It is important for the reader to note that this is not an attempt at a comprehensive biography of Mrs Sing, and certainly not an attempt to replicate the good work of other authors in describing Billy Sing's life. This small work is simply to describe where Mrs Sing ended up after marrying Billy Sing, with some context to provide depth and render it more interesting. And, finally, the reader is made aware that this short work is based entirely on information that can be found in the public domain, although not always easily. I have not, however, named any of Mrs Sing's living descendants.

* * *

Aberdeen and Edinburgh

It is well known that Private Billy Sing, Australia's 'Gallipoli sniper', married Elizabeth Addison Stewart on 23 June 1917 when he was on leave in Edinburgh, Scotland. The story is told by John Hamilton and others.

But who was Elizabeth Addison Stewart? Elizabeth Addison Stewart was born on 9 June 1896 in the city of Aberdeen. According to her birth certificate, her father was George Hill Stewart, a restaurant barman, and her mother was Clementina Smith Stewart. Her birth was registered at Aberdeen on 30 June 1896 by Elizabeth Lumsden, Clementina's mother.

George Hill Stewart and Clementina Lumsden had married on 25 August 1893 at 121 John Street, also in Aberdeen. Their marriage certificate records that this was where Clementina Lumsden, a

domestic servant, lived. George Stewart was living at 83 Union Street, Aberdeen, and was a hotel waiter. George Stewart and Clementina Lumsden had quite unremarkable backgrounds. He had been born on 27 May 1873 at Whitestone Hill, Dudwick, Aberdeenshire, and was the son of Alexander Stewart (at the time, a crofter) and Isabella Forrest Hill. She had been born on 28 May 1873 (the day after her future husband had been born) at Rosehearty, Aberdeenshire, the daughter of William Lumsden (a journeyman joiner) and Elizabeth Addison.

* * *

At some point between mid-1896 and 1898 the Stewart family moved from Aberdeen to Scotland's capital, Edinburgh. They seem to have quickly settled in the Stockbridge area just north of the city centre. On 31 August 1898 Elizabeth's sister, Isabella Forrest Hill Stewart, was born in Dean Bank Lane, Stockbridge, when George Hill Stewart was recorded on the birth certificate as a barman. Another sister, Eva Stewart, was born at 2 Glenorchy Place, Edinburgh, on 12 February 1901, and by now George Hill Stewart was an electric wireman.

The census taken on the night of 31 March 1901 listed Elizabeth Addison Stewart as living at Dean Bank Lane, Edinburgh, with her mother Clementina Smith Stewart and her sisters Isabella Forrest Hill Stewart and Eva Stewart. They were living at the residence of William Lumsden, Elizabeth's uncle. Her father, George Hill Stewart, was not listed at this address; he appears on the census at his parents' residence at 12 Queen Street, Edinburgh, and is recorded as being an electrician's assistant.

On 7 September 1901 Elizabeth's sister Eva Stewart died of marasmus, a form of malnutrition, at 144 Dumbiedykes Road, Edinburgh. According to her death certificate, George Hill Stewart was an electrical winchman.

The Stewart family seems to have changed residence several times during the first years of the twentieth century, and sometime between 1901 and 1907 the family moved to 9 Leith Street Terrace, Edinburgh. On 18 July 1907 Elizabeth's brother George Hill Stewart was born at 9 Leith Street Terrace, Edinburgh. According to his birth certificate, Elizabeth's father George Stewart was a ship's steward at this time. The census taken on the night of 2 April 1911 records that George and Clementina Stewart, and their son George Hill Stewart Jr., were living at 16 High Street, Queensferry, west of Edinburgh. George Hill Stewart Sr. was an underground electric motorman, suggesting that he worked on a mine. The census also records that Clementina Stewart had four living children from six children in total, but I have not been able to track them all down. It seems likely that the Stewart family was still in Queensferry in 1915, as the 1915 Valuation Roll records that George Stewart, a miner, is recorded as occupying 15A High Street, Queensferry.

* * *

Elizabeth Stewart meets the 'Gallipoli sniper'

The early life of Private Billy Sing, the 'Gallipoli sniper', is well documented by John Hamilton and others and does not need to be retold here. For context, I have picked up from 1914 when he enlists in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF).

Billy Sing enlisted at Bowen in central Queensland in October 1914 and served with the 5th Light Horse Regiment in Egypt, and at Gallipoli between May and November 1915 when he was

evacuated due to sickness. Serving as a sniper, accounts credit him with more than 200 successful 'kills'. He was Mentioned in Dispatches and awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for his services as a sniper at Gallipoli.

Billy Sing arrived in England in July 1916 and transferred to the infantry, serving with the 31st Infantry Battalion on the Western Front from January 1917 onwards. He was wounded in action (for the second time) on 14 March 1917 near Flers on the Somme, France, and was subsequently evacuated to England on 21 March 1917 where he was admitted to the 1st Southern General Hospital at Birmingham.

On 22 May 1917 he was discharged to the 1st Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park at Middlesex, near London, and then discharged on leave from 28 May 1917 until 12 June 1917. It is possible that he travelled to Edinburgh on leave during this time and met Elizabeth Stewart, possibly at a restaurant in the Leith area just to the north of Edinburgh. Billy Sing returned from leave and reported to the No. 3 Australian Command Depot at Hurdcott Camp, near Salisbury in Wiltshire on 12 or 13 June 1917. He had several medical assessments there between 13 June 1917 and 17 July 1917. On 17 June 1917 he was assessed at Hurdcott Camp as being B1A2 (unfit for service for two or three weeks).

In late June 1917 Billy Sing definitely travelled to Edinburgh and married Elizabeth Stewart. According to their marriage certificate, Elizabeth Addison Stewart was living at 30 Buchanan Street, Leith. Valuation Rolls indicate that the tenant at 30 Buchanan Street in 1915 and 1920 was David Millar, a pattern fitter at an iron works. David Millar had lived at 30 Buchanan Street in 1911 with his wife Mary and daughters Bessie (born around 1907), Margaret (born around 1908) and son James (born around 1910-11).

They married on 29 June 1917 at 68 Pilrig Street, Edinburgh, the home of the Reverend James Rouse, a United Free Church minister. According to their marriage certificate, she was aged 21 and was a restaurant waitress. The witnesses to the wedding were Walter Learmonth (whose identity is unknown) and Elizabeth's sister Isabella Forrest Hay Stewart.

The Reverend James Rouse was minister at the United Free Church located on the corner of Dalmeny Street and Buchanan Street, Leith, a few hundred metres from where Elizabeth Stewart had lived in 1915.

* * *

Billy Sing seems to have quickly returned to Hurdcott Camp after the wedding and had a medical examination there on 11 July 1917. He was given an assessment of B1A3, meaning that he was unfit for service for one or two weeks. After returning to Hurdcott Camp he advised the AIF Headquarters in London that his wife Elizabeth was his new next of kin, and that her address was care of her mother, at 6 Spring Gardens, Stockbridge, Edinburgh. Known since 1965 as Northwest Circus Place, this street retains the handsome four- and five-storey buildings that existed in 1917. The street is located close to Dean Bank Place where the Stewart family had lived previously. This next of kin update was recorded in his file on 13 July 1917. On 15 July 1917 he was, again, assessed at Hurdcott Camp as being B1A3, and on 17 July 1917 he was given an assessment of A3 ('medically and dentally fit'), allowing him to return to his unit on the Western Front.

On 3 August 1917 Billy Sing reported to the Overseas Training Depot at the Perham Downs Camp, Wiltshire, and on 4 August 1917 he sailed from Folkestone to France and returned to the 31st

Infantry Battalion. He remained with the 31st Infantry Battalion until early November 1917. This period included fighting at Polygon Wood in Belgium on 26-28 September 1917, where he was recommended for the award of the Military Medal for taking a fighting patrol out to 'mop up some snipers', contributing to the securing and consolidation of the Australian positions. He did not receive the Military Medal, instead being Mentioned in Dispatches (for the second time) and being awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre. He remained with the 31st Infantry Battalion until 10 November 1917 when he was admitted to the 8th Field Ambulance with a keloid (a growth) of an old wound scar on his left leg. He was subsequently evacuated to the 7th Canadian General Hospital at Étapes. On 17 November 1917, he was transferred to the 5th Australian Division Base Depot at Le Havre and on 29 November 1917 he re-joined the 31st Infantry Battalion.

On 3 December 1917 Billy Sing was admitted to the 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station with syphilis, and on 5 December 1917 he was transferred to the No. 5 Convalescent Depot at Boulogne. He was transferred to the No. 39 General Hospital at Le Havre on 8 December 1917 for treatment, and on 31 January 1918 was discharged at Le Havre. It seems likely that Billy Sing picked up syphilis sometime between July and November 1917, and it would seem possible that he either picked it up from his wife Elizabeth in Edinburgh, or from a prostitute or other female acquaintance, either in the United Kingdom, Belgium or France.

He re-joined the 31st Infantry Battalion on 9 February 1918 and was wounded in action for the third time, with a gunshot wound to his back on 18 February 1918 near Wytshaete in Belgium. He was evacuated to the 14th Australian Field Ambulance and then to the 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station that day. He was evacuated to the 18th British General Hospital at Camiers on 19 February 1918.

On 10 May 1918 he re-joined the 31st Infantry Battalion, remaining with his unit in France until 11 July 1918 when he sailed from France to Folkestone. He was on leave in Britain from 12 July 1918 to 19 July 1918 and it seems likely that he travelled to Edinburgh to visit Elizabeth Sing during this period. On 19 July 1918 he returned from leave and reported to the AIF Headquarters in London, and then travelled to Weymouth, Dorset, ahead of his return to Australia.

On 21 July 1918 he departed England on the transport ship *Boonah*. The *Boonah* arrived at Melbourne on 20 September 1918, and Billy Sing disembarked and travelled onwards to Brisbane. He was discharged from the Australian Imperial Force on medical grounds in Brisbane on 23 November 1918.

Whilst in Brisbane, on 25 November 1918, Billy Sing made an *Application for Free Passage to the Commonwealth* for Elizabeth Sing to travel to Australia. On the form, he provided her address as 6 Spring Gardens Place, Stockbridge, Edinburgh. On 28 November 1918, still in Brisbane, he made a further application for her. The application was endorsed by the Queensland State Board of the Department of Repatriation and, on 6 December 1918, a recommendation was sent to the Comptroller of the Department of Repatriation in Melbourne. The application was subsequently approved and, on 16 December 1918, a cable was sent to the Australian High Commission in London noting that 'Free passage to Brisbane approved for Mrs Eliz. Addeson [sic] Sing, 6 Springs Gardens, Stockbridge, Edinburgh. Please make necessary enquiries and arrangements.'

* * *

Meanwhile in Edinburgh

Things in Edinburgh, however, did not seem to be going according to Billy Sing's plans. His wife seems to have become involved in a relationship with another man during late 1918, and around Christmas 1918 she found herself pregnant. We do not know who the other man was, or the circumstances of their relationship.

It seems that Elizabeth Sing wrote to her husband on 28 May 1919, but no evidence exists to suggest that she told him of her pregnancy. On 4 August 1919 Billy Sing wrote, care of the Central Hotel in Clermont, Queensland, to the Department of Repatriation in Brisbane:

Dear Sir, I made application in November last [1918] for a free passage for my wife, whose address is Mrs W.E. Sing, 6 Spring Gardens Stockbridge Edinburgh and I received advice from you on the 19th December [1918] that headquarters had received instructions to make the passage. My wife, in the last letter dated 28th May [1919] had not received any instructions about coming out. Will you kindly inform me as soon as possible what the delay is. I shall be much obliged.

His letter was then forwarded on 7 August 1919 to the Department of Repatriation in Melbourne 'for any action you may deem desirable' and, on 15 August 1919, the Department of Repatriation asked the Prime Minister's Department to cable Lieutenant General Sir John Monash (then Chairman of the Repatriation Board in London) to 'Please expedite passage Mrs. Eliz. Addeson [sic] Sing, 6 Spring Gardens, Stockbridge, Edinburgh.' The cable was sent on 18 August 1919.

It is likely that Elizabeth Sing moved from 6 Spring Gardens Place to a flat (or room) on the second floor of 2 Leith Street Terrace, also in Edinburgh, sometime in 1918 or 1919. It is not known whether this was before or after her pregnancy became known.

On 5 September 1919, Elizabeth Sing gave birth to a daughter, Mary Millar Stewart, at the Edinburgh Royal Maternity Hospital. Interestingly, Mary Stewart's birth certificate does not record the name of her father and the child has Elizabeth's maiden surname, Stewart, rather than Elizabeth's married surname, Sing. Given that Billy Sing had left Britain in July 1918, it is impossible that he was the father of this child. The child's middle name, Millar, is interesting as Elizabeth had given the address of the Millar family in Leith, near Edinburgh, as her place of residence when she married Billy Sing in 1917. It is possible that a man with the surname Millar was the father of Mary Millar Stewart. Probably to avoid embarrassment, Elizabeth advised the Royal Maternity Hospital that the child's father was William Edward Sing, a farmer. She gave her last residential address as 2 Leith Street Terrace, Edinburgh, and this information was subsequently included in her hospital records.

According to the Valuation Rolls for 1920, Elizabeth Sing was still living at 2 Leith Street Terrace, as a tenant on the second floor paying a yearly rental of £6 16s 0d, at that time. She seems to have left 2 Leith Street Terrace and was living with her parents at 45 St Stephen Street, Edinburgh, sometime before 1923. The Valuation Rolls show that a second-floor tenement at 45 St Stephen Street, Edinburgh, was rented by her father, George Stewart in both 1920 and 1925.

* * *

Mark Malmborg

It seems that Elizabeth Sing met an Australian merchant seaman, Theodore Mark Malmborg, sometime prior to August 1922 and formed a relationship with him whilst she was in Edinburgh.

Theodore Mark Malmborg, often known as Mark rather than Theodore, had been born at Maryborough, Queensland, on 3 February 1891, the son of a Swedish immigrant, Fritz Malmborg, and his wife Sarah Malmborg (formerly Stephenson). He had left home at a relatively early age, sometime prior to 1911, and had gone to sea. He seems to have ended up in Britain, as the 1911 British census records a Theodore Mallenberg, from Queensland, boarding at the German Sailors' Home in Coronation Drive, South Shields, Durham in the north of England. It is likely that this was Theodore Mark Malmborg.

He served as an able seaman on several British ships during 1915 and 1916, including the *Juliet*, the *Oberon*, the *Bankdale* and the *Lizzie*, and appears to have returned to Australia in 1916. He was an able seaman on the *Cooma* during 1916, sailing between Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne, and subsequently served on the Adelaide-registered *Dilkeria* in 1917. New South Wales shipping records show that he arrived at Sydney (from Melbourne) on the *Dilkeria* on 10 July 1917.

Sometime in 1917 or 1918 he made his way to the United States. On 5 August 1918 he arrived at Port Arthur, Texas, on the *Thermidor*. He made his way to New Orleans, Louisiana where, on 8 August 1917, he gave notice of intention to renounce his British nationality and to become an American Citizen. On 9 August 1918, still in New Orleans, he completed his United States military draft registration papers, in which he claimed an exemption from service on the basis of being blind in his right eye.

On 21 May 1919, he signed onto the barge *Colonel Moore* at Port Aransas, Texas, and sailed several times between there and Mexico during 1919. He left the United States and travelled to Britain during 1919 or 1920, returning to New York on 2 May 1920 as a stowaway aboard the *Irishman* from Liverpool. During 1920 and 1921 he seems to have served on several United States and British ships.

* * *

On 24 February 1922 Theodore Mark Malmborg was engaged at Tilbury, London, to serve on the *Hobson's Bay* as an able seaman, and presumably sailed with her on her maiden voyage from London to Australia via the Suez Canal. The *Hobson's Bay* was owned and operated by the Australian Government-owned Commonwealth Government Line of Steamers, after 1923 known as the Australian Commonwealth Line of Steamers. On her initial voyage, the *Hobsons' Bay* left London on 1 March 1922 and arrived at Fremantle on 31 May 1922, reaching her final destination, Brisbane, on 15 April 1922. The *Hobson's Bay* then sailed back to London soon after arriving, leaving Brisbane on 19 April 1922 and arriving in London on 19 June 1922.

As a result of this relationship between Elizabeth Sing and Mark Malmborg, a son, Theodore Mark Malmborg Jr., was born on 21 May 1923 at the Royal Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh. Hospital records show that Elizabeth Stewart was admitted to the Edinburgh Royal Maternity Hospital on 21 May 1923 and was discharged in good health on 30 May 1923. Her last place of residence was recorded as care of her father, George Stewart, of 45 St Stephen Street, Edinburgh. Those records, probably based on information provided by Elizabeth Sing, record that the father was William Sing

and that the birth was legitimate, although this could obviously not have been the case as Billy Sing had remained in Australia since returning in September 1918.

The child's birth was registered in Edinburgh on 7 July 1923 by Theodore Mark Malmberg and Elizabeth Sing, and the birth certificate records them as father and mother. Interestingly, Elizabeth is described on the birth certificate as 'Elizabeth Addison Stewart or Sing', suggesting that she was known by both surnames.

Mark Malmberg Sr. sailed from London on the *Hobson's Bay* on 27 July 1923. The *Hobson's Bay* arrived at Brisbane on 10 September 1923, and he was seriously injured when he fell some ten metres into the ship's hold as it sailed into Brisbane. Newspaper coverage the next day reported that his 'wife resides in England'. This was presumably a reference to Elizabeth Sing, and it is possible that she had moved from Scotland to London by this time. If she had moved it could have occurred between 7 July 1923 (when Theodore Mark Malmberg was in Edinburgh) and 27 July 1923 when he sailed from London. In April 1925 she gave her address as 53 Albert Park Road, North Woolwich, which is in the London docklands area close to the current London City Airport.

* * *

Elizabeth makes it to Australia

It seems likely that Theodore Mark Malmberg Sr. sponsored Elizabeth Sing and her children to travel to New South Wales as migrants in 1925.

Theodore Mark Malmberg Sr. was still a member of the crew of the *Hobson's Bay* in January 1925, The *Hobson's Bay* (with Theodore Mark Malmberg Sr. on board) had sailed from London on 2 December 1924 and arrived at Fremantle on 2 January 1925, before sailing on to Sydney where it arrived on 15 January 1925. It sailed from Sydney for Brisbane on 20 January 1921 and returned to Sydney on 26 January 1925 before sailing from Sydney for London on 31 January 1925.

It seems that, during the *Hobson's Bay's* short stay in Sydney, Theodore Mark Malmberg Sr. had arranged for Elizabeth and the children to come to Australia. On 28 January 1925, a Mark Stephenson of 19 Cecil Street, Paddington, sponsored Elizabeth Gladys Stephenson, aged 28, Mary Stephenson, aged five, and Theodore Stephenson, aged two. Although the surname is different, Stephenson happens to be Theodore Mark Malmberg Sr.'s mother's maiden name, and the ages of this woman and the children (and the children's names and ages) make it almost certain that this was Elizabeth Sing and her children.

Elizabeth Sing travelled to Australia on the *Largs Bay*, another Australian Commonwealth Line steamer. British outward passenger records for the Port of London show that a Gladys A. Stephenson (aged 29) accompanied by two children, Mary (aged five) and Theodore (aged one), sailed from London for Sydney on the *Largs Bay* on 21 April 1925. Australian shipping records show that the *Largs Bay* arrived at Sydney on 1 June 1925, berthing at the Dawes Point wharves. Gladys Stephenson and her children were amongst the 61 passengers who left the ship in Sydney.

Elizabeth Sing, now known as Gladys Stephenson, settled in Sydney and assumed the name of her now de facto husband, Mark Malmberg Sr., becoming Gladys Elizabeth Addison Malmberg. Her daughter, Mary Millar Stewart, also assumed the surname Malmberg, whilst Theodore (of course)

had his father's surname. It seems likely that the Malmborgs settled in Paddington, in the same general area that Theodore Mark Malmborg Sr. had lived. As the family does not appear in the *Sands' Directories* until 1931, it is possible that they boarded with others rather than being tenants in the own right. We do know that Theodore Mark Malmborg Sr. was living in Paddington in February 1928, when he wrote a letter to the editor of the *Evening News* advocating for the immigration to Australia of the 'Anglo Saxon, Nordic, and Teutonic races'.

According to the electoral rolls, in 1930 she was living as Gladys Addison Malmborg at 7 Victoria Place, Paddington, with Theodore Mark Malmborg Sr. (described as a seaman), and the 1931 *Sands' Directory* lists Theodore Malmborg as living at 7 Victoria Place, Paddington. The Malmborgs are not recorded at 7 Victoria Place, Paddington, in the 1932-33 *Sands' Directory of New South Wales*.

It seems that Theodore Mark Malmborg Sr. gave up his work as a merchant seaman after Elizabeth and her children arrived in Sydney, and became a painter, and sometime during the 1930s moved from Victoria Place, Paddington, to 15 Davies Street, Leichardt, in Sydney's inner west. They were living there on 5 August 1939 when Elizabeth's daughter Mary Malmborg married Wilfred 'Bill' Nuttall at St Stephen's Presbyterian Church in Macquarie Street, Sydney. Mark Malmborg Sr. was described as a general contractor on the marriage certificate, whilst Wilfred Nuttall was an engineer and Mary Malmborg was a clerk. The marriage certificate records her parents as Theodore Malmborg Sr. and Elizabeth Addison Malmborg (formerly Stewart, with no reference to the name Gladys), and gave her middle name as Stewart (not Millar).

* * *

The Second World War

Australia entered the Second World War on 3 September 1939 following the British Government's declaration of war on Germany, following the German invasion of Poland on 1 September 1939. With the existing Australian Military Forces (AMF), which consisted of the small Permanent Military Forces (full time) and Militia (part time), unable to be deployed overseas, the Australian Government formed the Second Australian Imperial Force (AIF) from mid-September 1939 onwards. On 15 November 1939, Prime Minister Robert Menzies announced that reintroduction of conscription for home defence service would be reintroduced from 1 January 1940, with single men turning 21 in the year ending 30 June 1940 being conscripted into the Militia.

In June 1940 Theodore Mark Malmborg Sr. again registered as a seaman, claiming that he had a 'slight touch of lead poisoning' from painting. He served on the *Kowarra* for one voyage and then on 13 June 1940 he joined the *Lady Isobel*. The *Kowarra* and the *Lady Isobel* were owned by Howard Smith and Sons Ltd and were involved in the Australian coastal trade. The Malmborgs were still at 15 Davies Street, Leichardt, in September 1940 when Theodore Mark Malmborg Sr. was interviewed by the New South Wales Police Military Police Intelligence (MPI) Section in connection with the disappearance of a morse code lamp from the ship *Kowarra*. Sometime between September 1940 and June 1941 the Malmborgs left 15 Davies Street, Leichardt, and moved to a flat at 133 Macleay Street, Potts Point, a three-storey apartment building with a row of shops at street level.

Theodore Mark Malmberg Jr. was conscripted into the AMF on 24 June 1941. His enlistment documentation gave his occupation as a 'presser' and he was living with his parents at 133 Macleay Street, Potts Point. He subsequently served as a Gunner with No. 5 Heavy Brigade, Royal Australian Artillery, on coastal artillery duties at North Head, New South Wales. On 25 February 1942 he was injured, but not seriously, in a collision between two trams at Moore Park, New South Wales. An article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 25 February 1942 reporting the accident described him as a 'soldier, of MacLeay Street, Potts Point'.

At some point in early 1942 Theodore Mark Malmberg Jr. decided to enlist in the AIF so he could serve overseas, and deserted from the AMF. He later advised the military authorities that 'I left Signal Hill Bty on leave on the 18/3/42 and enlisted the following morning at Sydney Showground.' He enlisted at Paddington, New South Wales, on 19 March 1942 under the fictional name of Carl Thomas Malberg, claiming to have been born on 21 May 1920 in Brisbane, Queensland, and claiming to be living at Flat 15, Stanford Hall, Pott's Point. He gave his next of kin as his mother, Gladys Malberg, of 22 Windsor Street, Brisbane, Queensland, and of 1 Meek Street, Kingsford, New South Wales. He subsequently served as a clerk in Australia, and in New Guinea between July 1943 and June 1944.

On 23 December 1940 Theodore Mark Malmberg Sr. signed up as an able seaman on the *Waiotapu*, operated by the Union Steamship Co. of New Zealand Ltd. The *Waiotapu* sailed from Sydney on 25 December 1940, sailing to Burnie, Melbourne, Auckland, Suva, San Francisco, Vancouver, Powell River, Ocean Falls, Union Bay, Comox, Los Angeles, Auckland and back to Sydney on 6 May 1941.

Sometime between his return to Sydney in May 1941 and September 1942, Theodore Mark Malmberg Sr. and Gladys Malmberg moved to Houston Road, Kensington. On 7 September 1942 Theodore Mark Malmberg Sr. applied to serve as an able seaman with the United States Army Services of Supply Southwest Pacific Area Small Ships Section, a United States military service providing supply and shipping services in the Pacific area. It was crewed largely by Australian civilians. He was subsequently interviewed to assess his suitability, with the interviewer noting that he had 'Experience in ketches and schooners. Could be A.B. or bosun.' It is not certain whether he actually served at sea and, if he did serve, where he served. Theodore Mark Malmberg Sr. seems to have stopped being a seaman again around 1942 or 1943 as the 1943 electoral roll records he and his wife were living at 10 Houston Road, Kensington, and that his occupation was 'rigger'.

On 19 May 1943 Gladys Malmberg's legal husband, Billy Sing, died at a boarding house at 304 Montague Street, West End, in Brisbane, Queensland. He was subsequently buried at Brisbane's Lutwyche Cemetery. Although Gladys Malmberg was now a technically a widow, no evidence exists to indicate whether she had any knowledge of his death. News of his death was published in several Queensland newspapers but not in Sydney newspapers.

* * *

After the War

The Malmbergs left Houston Road, Kensington, sometime between 1943 and 1948. The 1949 electoral roll records that Gladys Addison Malmberg and Theodore Mark Malmberg Sr. were now living at Warragamba Dam, west of Sydney, where he was working as a rigger. The construction

of Warragamba Dam, one of Sydney's most important sources of water, had commenced in 1948, and took until 1960 to complete.

In the early 1950s the Malmborgs moved to the Wollongong area, south of Sydney, closer to where their son Theodore Malmborg Jr. was living. The 1954 electoral roll records them living in Park Crescent, Oak Flats, some 17 kilometres southwest of central Wollongong, and remaining there until sometime between 1963 and 1968 when they are recorded on the electoral roll at 2/1A Kembla Street, North Wollongong. They moved to Towadji, a northern beachside suburb of Wollongong, sometime between 1968 and 1971.

Theodore Mark Malmborg Sr. died on 16 December 1971 at Wollongong, New South Wales. His death certificate records that he lived with his son Theodore Malmborg Jr. at 4 Murrarar Road, Towadji. His occupation was recorded as builder. The certificate also recorded that he had married Gladys Stuart at the age of 28 (which was incorrect). He was cremated on 20 December 1972 at the Wollongong Crematorium.

Gladys Malmborg moved from Wollongong to the Sydney area sometime between her husband's death in 1971 and 1977. She died on 20 July 1977 at the Whitecourt Nursing Home, Cremorne, and was cremated at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium on 25 July 1977. Her death certificate records her name as Gladys Elizabeth Addison Malmborg and that she had been married to Theodore Mark Malmborg Sr. at the age of 23 in Scotland (which was incorrect) and that she had been in Australia for 50 years (that is, since around 1927, which was also incorrect). A notice placed in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 22 July 1977 noted that she was the 'dearly loved mother and mother-in-law of Mary and Bill, Theodore and Pat, fond grandmother and great-grandmother of their children.'

* * *

Postscript

Theodore Mark Malmborg Jr. was discharged from the AIF on 8 October 1945 as a Lance-Corporal on compassionate grounds. His AIF records record that he lived south of Nowra, New South Wales, after his discharge and into 1946. He married a war widow, Patricia Madge Sly (formerly Evans), at Wollongong on 1 April 1947. Their marriage certificate records his occupation as dry cleaner and his birthplace as Sydney (which was incorrect) and his mother as Gladys Malmborg (formerly Stuart).

Theodore Mark Malmborg Jr. and his wife spent rest of their lives living on the south coast of New South Wales, apart from a brief period living in north Queensland in the 1970s. He died in April 2013, Patricia Malmborg having died in 2004.

Bill and Mary Nuttall remained in the Sydney area, living in Randwick during the 1940s, Gladesville, during the 1950s, and then at Killara during the 1960s. During the 1970s and early 1980s they lived at Darling Point, Pittwater, and Castle Cove. Mary Nuttall died in April 2005 and was buried at French's Forest Bushland Cemetery. Her husband, Bill Nuttall, died in January 2006 and was also buried at French's Forest Bushland Cemetery.

* * *

Bibliography and Sources

This article has been put together using a variety of published and unpublished material, all of which is in the public domain.

The primary publication was John Hamilton's biography of Billy Sing, *Gallipoli Sniper: The Life of Billy Sing*, published by Pan Macmillan Australia in 2009. Other published material included the *Sands' Directory of New South Wales*, published by John Sands Ltd, and various newspapers, including the *Evening News* (Sydney NSW), the *Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser* (Maryborough QLD), the *Sunday Times* (Sydney NSW), the *Sydney Morning Herald* (Sydney NSW) the *Telegraph* (Brisbane QLD), and the *Daily Commercial News and Shipping List* (Sydney NSW).

Some of the unpublished archival sources were easily located using a range of official and commercial finding aids, and some required a bit more effort. Some of the actual material is available in digital form via a range of official and commercial websites, which made research relatively easy.

Australian archival material comes from the Australian War Memorial, the National Archives of Australia, and the State Records Authority of NSW.

From the **Australian War Memorial** (AWM) came the AIF First World War unit war diaries for the AIF units mentioned (AWM4), and recommendations for honours and awards for the 5th Australian Division (AWM28, 1/281 Part 1).

From the **National Archives of Australia** (NAA) came Billy Sing's personal AIF service records (NAA: B2455, William Edward Sing) and Second World War personal service records for Theodore Mark Malmberg Jr. (NAA: B883, NX93070 and NAA: B884, N272580), as well as records relating to Billy Sing's attempt to bring his wife to Australia after the First World War (NAA: A2487, 1919/8199, Application for free passage United Kingdom to Australia for wife - W E Sing.), Billy Sing's Repatriation Department file (NAA: J26, M9974 Part 1, SING, William Edward - Service Number - 355), and shipping records relating to the *Largs Bay* (NAA: B4094, *Largs Bay* 10, SS *Largs Bay* No 10 Sailed 21/4/1925, and NAA: PP444/4, 260, Nominal rolls of passengers into Western Australia, *Largs Bay* departed England 21 April 1925 arrived Fremantle 21 May 1925.). I also used the Second World War security investigation dossier compiled for Theodore Mark Malmberg Sr. (NAA: C123, 9769, Malmberg Theodore Mark).

The **State Records Authority of NSW** (SROWA) provided material relating to Elizabeth's Sing's travel to Australia in 1925 (SRONSW: Series 5542, Card Index to Immigrants. 1919-26, and SRONSW: Series 13278, Inward passenger lists (01 January 1854 to 31 December 1922).)

Overseas archival material came from range of sources, including Scotland's Lothian Health Board, the British National Archives, the United States National Archives and Records Administration, the National Records of Scotland and the Royal Museum Greenwich in England.

The **Lothian Health Board** (LHB) in Scotland provided birth entries (LHB: LHB3/14/8, Birth Register entry, Edinburgh Royal Maternity Hospital, and LHB: LHB3/14/9, Birth Register entry, Edinburgh Royal Maternity Hospital) and indoor casebook entries (LHB: LHB3/16/4, Indoor Casebook entry, Edinburgh Royal Maternity Hospital, and LHB: LHB3/16/5, Indoor Casebook entry, Edinburgh Royal Maternity Hospital) for the births of Elizabeth Sing's children.

From the **British National Archives** (TNA) came a range of outgoing passenger lists (TNA: BT27/1090, Board of Trade: Commercial and Statistical Department and successors: Outwards Passengers Lists) for the port of London, and registers of shipping and seamen (TNA: BT389, Registry of Shipping and Seamen: War of 1939-1945; Merchant Shipping Movement Cards, TNA: BT348, Registry of Shipping and Seamen: Register of Seamen, Central Index, Numerical Series (CR 2), and TNA: BT350, Registry of Shipping and Seamen: Register of Seamen, Special Index, Alphabetical Series (CR 10)).

The United States **National Archives and Records Administration** (NARA) provided a range of material related to the period that Theodore Mark Malmborg Sr. spent in the United States. This included material related to his service as a seaman (NARA: Application for Seaman's Protection Certificates; NAI: 2788575; Record Group Title: Records of the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation, NARA: T715, Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1897-1957, and NARA: A3398, Aransas, Texas. Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at Aransas Pass and Port Aransas, Texas, 1912-1921 and 1959-1965) as well as paperwork associated with conscription for the First World War (NARA: M1509, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918).

The **National Records of Scotland** (NRS) Valuation Rolls for various addresses in Scotland, which are available online, were invaluable in identifying the residence of various people referred to in this article.

Information from the **Royal Museum Greenwich** (RMG) related to the crew lists for the ships *Lizzie* (RMG: RSS/CL/1915/4226/18 & 19, Crew List: Agreements and Official Logs for Ship *Lizzie*, Official Number 93762), *Bankdale* (RMG: RSS/CL/1915/3797/1A, Crew List: Agreements and Official Logs for Ship *Bankdale*, Official Number 124045) and *Oberon* (RMG: RSS/CL/1915/3802/1C, Crew List: Agreements and Official Logs for Ship *Oberon*, Official Number 124105).

And, finally, I made extensive use of birth, death and marriage records from Scotland and New South Wales.

* * *

ISBN 9780648256014