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Keith Chapman

Keith Chapman was born in 1897 at Tallygaroopna, and was the second son of Margaret (nee Crawford) and Robert Chapman later of "Keeyuga", Glenaroua. He attended the local school at Glenaroua and was reputed to be high spirited and mischievous. Certainly he did not attend to learn and left school to help on the farm in 1911.

His cousins David Crawford and William Merritt enlisted in the 8th Light Horse and when Keith enlisted at Royal Park, Melbourne, on February 19, 1917 he was bitterly disappointed to be denied a mounted unit. He required the consent of his parents. Keith and Jim Smith were farewelled at a Glenaroua Hall function on 20 March and both were presented with a wrist watch.

Keith was assigned to the 19th Reinforcements, 22 Battalion as a Private, 6772. He sailed to England on the *Ascanius* in May, and while at sea was sick with the mumps before disembarking at Devonport, Devon, in July 1917. On arrival he was sent for training to Rollestone on Salisbury Plains, where he joined up with Jim Smith who urged Keith to volunteer for a signallers course.

As a result of Keith spending all his time studying he gained a First Class Signallers Certificate, although he was thrilled to see Charlie Chaplin perform in the Camp. Then Keith was off to France in March 1918 for more training before going forward with the 22nd Battalion. He undertook days of guard duty in perpetual mud and water prior to taking part in the Battle of Amiens in August 1918. Then armistice and Keith was transferred back to England for a time, only to return to Belgium to assist with reconstruction work while billeted with a local family.

Keith returned to Australia on the *Argyllshire* in August 1919 and was discharged on October 20, 1919. He received the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Keith's service was recognised by being listed on the Pyalong Shire Honour Roll and the Glenaroua Public Hall Roll.

Keith attended a welcome home function at Glenaroua Hall on September 29, 1919 and a record attended returned soldiers' reunion at the Hall on February 4, 1920.

After discharge he returned to farming at Glenaroua and later elsewhere, then took up work as a stock and station agent then as a real estate valuer. He was held in the highest esteem. Keith always had a smile, a firm handshake, and a ready wicked wit. He was a great family favourite. Keith married Clara Selina Buchanan in 1922 and they had three children. He died in 1979 and was buried in Springvale Cemetery.

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