

Interview with Walter Paton 15 July 1991

The History of the Toolong Hut

Before the war Bill Gray was there with 4000 sheep. He and Sugar Daley. And Cecil Willis had his call up notice for the army. Cecil was the young blood, much younger. And so, Bill was the first World War chap. He was in the first World War with my father and he had Willis up in front of the fireplace, they'd swept up. It must have been Friday or the weekend. You know, the polish up day. They did the washing and swept everything into the fireplace and you had Willis up doing a little bit of 'slope arms' and 'present arms' and all of a sudden what old Bill had thought was a bit of a rubbish box he'd thrown in the fireplace turned out to be pea rifle bullets. They started to go off behind Willis so he made one dart for the door and old Bill Grey went 'Stand to you post man! Stand to your post, you've deserted!' That was his training before he was called up.