

## ANZAC DAY 2021

### Caleb James Shang

Caleb James Shang was one of the 200 Chinese ANZACs that fought in WW1. He served as a runner who delivered ammunition, water and messages to the front line under intense enemy fire. A job of this nature was extremely dangerous and due to his contributions Caleb received the Distinguished Conduct Medal with Bar and the Military Medal.

Nearing the end of the war, Caleb returned home due to injury and was given a hero's greeting, thousands coming to welcome him and acknowledge his efforts. While Caleb received respect after his period of service, one cannot say the same for Chinese Australians at the commencement of war. To enlist in the army, one was required to be of European descent. This implied that if one was not European, one was not Australian, and was therefore unfit to serve the country. Caleb, along with other Chinese ANZACs faced this discrimination and fought for their country. Today we remember their contributions as Australian soldiers who made significant sacrifices. Though they were not recognised at their time, it is important to remember the stories of ANZACs similar to Caleb in order to better both the present and the future alike.



*Caleb James Shang*



*Distinguished Conduct Medal with Bar*

**Salome Obeyesekere, Year 10**

### **Nancy Grace Augusta Wake**

Nancy Grace Augusta Wake was born on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August 1912 in Wellington, New Zealand, however, grew up in Sydney. She served as a resistance leader and spy in World War 2. At the age of 16 she ran away from home and found work as a Nurse.

In 1932 she travelled to Europe and decided to stay in Paris to pursue her dream of being a Journalist. She later spent some time in Berlin and Vienna where she saw the effects of the Nazis and began forming a desire to oppose them. When Germany invaded France in 1940 and France surrendered, Nancy Wake and her husband, Henri Fiocca, joined France's fledgling resistance. Her main contribution was organising and operating escape routes through France, saving the lives of many allied soldiers and refugees. She became one of the Gestapos most wanted resistance leaders and was nicknamed 'the white mouse'. She was soon forced to escape France due to fear of being captured and joined the Special Operations Executive in England where she received proper training and continued helping in the war effort.

Her bravery and dedication to helping others proves that whilst Nancy didn't fight alongside ANZAC soldiers, she still acted with the same values. Her story is a testament to the fact that the contributions Australians and New Zealanders made during times of war weren't just in the form of soldiers and nurses but a variety of people who took it upon themselves to protect those in need. It also combats the illusion that women's greatest contributions were those they made from the safety of their homes. Nancy Wake may not have been able to enlist as a soldier, but she showed the same courage, determination, and leadership as any ANZAC.

**Siena Yap, Year 10**



*Nancy Wake*

### Marion Smith

Marion Smith was the only known Aboriginal woman to serve in WW1. She was born in Liverpool, NSW in 1891, however her family moved to Canada when she was only 2 years. She served as a nurse in No.41 Ambulance Train from March 1917 to September 1918. These ambulance trains were operating in Belgium and France and were used to transport injured troops from the clearing stations in the fronts to base hospitals. Working in these hospitals was difficult as it was dangerous, dirty and overcrowded.

After her contract ended, Marion served in Italy with Britain's Italian Expeditionary Force. Later when WW2 broke out she was in charge of bringing the Red Cross to Trinidad and stood as their commandant. For her service in WW2 she was awarded the Distinguished War Service Medal. In Australia women were only able to serve in war as Nurses or medical staff, who were properly trained. At that time many 'official and unspoken barriers' prevented Aboriginal women from such nursing training and her upbringing in Canada helped her become the only identified Indigenous Australian nurse during WW1. Marion's experience helps us to understand those who have been discriminated and acknowledge their important contributions during the war.

### Salwa Saiba, Year 10



*Marion Smith*