

DANIEL MCCARTHY

Last man standing.

The last surviving Enrolled Pensioner Guard (EPG) died in 1923 - Irishman and Crimean War Veteran Daniel McCarthy (sometimes Carty). By the EPG Group's reckoning only a handful of EPGs lived to see the 1920s and at 93, Daniel was the last.

As WA's last surviving Crimean War Veteran, he had a large Military Funeral with a final "bugle call" and the firing of three gun volleys.

Visiting his Karakatta grave I expected a memorial only to see a vacant site (attached). It brought back my family memories ... "make sure I get a bloody good send off, don't waste money on a grave!" How true, memorials were and are very expensive. I reckon they had a good Irish "knees up" wake - after all Daniel was a member of the Irish National Forresters who attended his funeral. They were a Friendly Society, supporting Irish nationalism, in the day it had 250,000 members world-wide.

Daniel was from Bandon in the south of Cork, now part of the Republic of Ireland – one in twenty EPGs were from County Cork.

Discharged from the 21st regiment in 1872 at his own request after 21 years' service he and his family came to WA soon after in 1874 on the Naval Brigade. Daniel served in the EPG and later the Enrolled Guard until its disbandment in 1887

After this he became a familiar and popular figure at the Perth Railway Station, where he worked as a janitor in its offices into the early 1900s, where he was known for sharing many reminiscences of his varied life.

His proudest possessions were his medals, see the 1902 newspaper image of Daniel attached, his medal for Crimea is on the left showing four clasps for the battles of Alma, Balaclava, Inkerman and siege of Sevastapol in 1854/55. Daniel kept up a keen interest in Veterans Affairs and attended most veterans celebrations and events during his life.

For nearly fifty years, he received a war pension of just over a shilling a day – just reward for a fine Irishman and Western Australian.

<https://enrolledpensionerforcewa.org.au/epf-profiles/c/carty-mccarty-mccarthy-daniel-63rd-and-21st-regiment-2nd-battalion/>



DANIEL'S GRAVE

