



Parliament Remembers

The Armistice Centenary

11 November 1918 - 11 November 2018

A tale of two Premiers

Two young Queensland men who enlisted in the war effort were later regarded as outstanding public leaders in Queensland.

Edward Michael (Ned) Hanlon was the first to enlist at the age of 28 years on 11 August 1915. Brisbane born and a grocer by trade he joined the 25th Battalion, 6th Reinforcement, Australian Imperial Force, with the rank of Private. He served in Egypt and on the Western Front in France and was promoted to Corporal in March 1918. In 1919 he was promoted to Sergeant.

Returning to civilian life Hanlon married in 1922, successfully won the electorate of Ithaca for the Labor Party in 1926, serving as the member until 1952.

Hanlon was Queensland Premier and Chief Secretary from 7 March 1946 to 15 January 1952, when he died in office.

George Francis Reuben (Frank) Nicklin enlisted in May 1916, aged 20 years. He was a banana grower, originally from northern New South Wales and joined the 49th Battalion, 8th Regiment, Australian Imperial Force, with the rank of Private.

Nicklin served in France, was promoted to Corporal and awarded the Military Medal in April 1918, having led his men bravely after his platoon leader was killed. He was promoted to Lieutenant in April 1919.

Nicklin's service record states 'he was just the right type for an officer, he will in my opinion, make a first rate Platoon Commander'.

Nicklin, as a Country Party candidate, won the electorate of Murrumba in 1932, serving that electorate until 1950. He went on to represent the Landsborough electorate from 1950 to 1968. He served as Queensland Premier and Chief Secretary from 12 August 1957 to 17 January 1968.

As premiers, Hanlon and Nicklin represented two different political parties and came from very different backgrounds. However they served their communities as both outstanding military and political leaders.

Lest we forget...



Mr Ned Hanlon, Queensland Premier, in his office, Brisbane, 1947 (Image SLQ ID 28118-0001-1312), at the Armistice in Belgium, 1918 (Image SLQ ID 72448) and with his mates in Egypt (Image SLQ ID 72449).



Sir Frank Nicklin in 1959 as then Premier and Chief Secretary of the State of Queensland (Image NAA 7801900), as a young soldier ready for war (Image SLQ 90954), and sitting in the middle row 7th from the right in this group portrait of the non-commissioned officers in the 49th Australian Infantry Battalion 7 March 1918 (Image AWM E01738).

