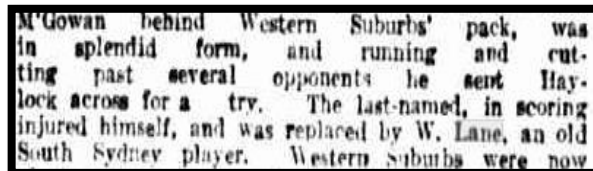


Billy Lane

..... married in 1921, and moved to Campsie in the Western Suburbs District which residentially qualified him to play with Wests in 1922 and 1923. He made his First Grade debut with Wests in 1922 when he replaced Henry Haylock, who was injured when scoring a try for Wests. Billy played one other First Grade game that year. Billy had one more season with Wests in 1923 and played thirteen Reserve Grade games. During his time at Wests he played two First Grade and twenty Reserve Grade games

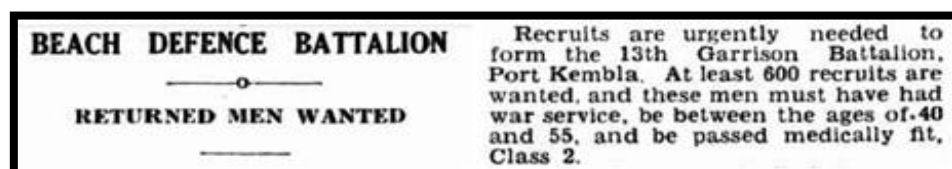


M'Gowan behind Western Suburbs' pack, was in splendid form, and running and cutting past several opponents he sent Haylock across for a try. The last-named, in scoring injured himself, and was replaced by W. Lane, an old South Sydney player. Western suburbs were now

SMH 1 May 1922

Billy Lane enlisted with the AIF for service in the First World War in July 1915 when he was almost 20 years old. He was a Coach Builder (Railways) from Zetland, NSW, and was 5ft 7" tall and weighed 143lbs. Billy was posted to the 6th Reinforcements, 17th Battalion. He arrived in Marseille, France in March 1916 in preparation for the offensive on the Western Front. By November 1916 he had been promoted in the field to Lance Corporal and by January 1917 he had been promoted to Lance Sergeant. Billy served in France until August 1917 with the 17th Battalion, which was involved in most of the major actions on the Western Front. His leadership skills were recognised and he was soon attached to the 5th Training Battalion in England where he remained for the duration of the war. He returned to Australia in May 1919.

Billy Lane was no doubt proud to have served, and so when hostilities broke out in the Second World War he once again put himself forward. He enlisted at Hurstville, NSW in February 1941. He was 45 years old at the time and his occupation was recorded as Bread Carter. He was assigned to the 13th Garrison Battalion. There was thirty three Garrison Battalions formed during the World War 11. They had a range of functions, mostly in relation to home defence. The news article below indicates that the 13th Garrison Battalion served as a coastal protection unit, in this case to protect the Illawarra and Shoalhaven. Billy Lane was initially posted at Port Kembla with this Battalion. However the 13th Garrison Battalion was also in Queensland from Brisbane to Red Island at the tip of Cape York. While at Red Island between January and September 1943, Billy served with the Torres Strait Forces.



BEACH DEFENCE BATTALION
— o —
RETURNED MEN WANTED

Recruits are urgently needed to form the 13th Garrison Battalion, Port Kembla. At least 600 recruits are wanted, and these men must have had war service, be between the ages of 40 and 55, and be passed medically fit, Class 2.

Shoalhaven News 18 December 1940

During the war, Billy attended a training school for NCO's and the notes from that course indicated that he was keen and enthusiastic throughout the course and should make a good Instructor. By the end of the war he had reached the rank of Warrant Officer Second Class. He was discharged in March 1946 at the end of the war.

William "Billy" Lane lived the remainder of his life at Bexley, NSW and died there in April 1974. He was cremated at the Woronora Memorial Park, Sutherland and is memorialised in the Crematorium Area FF, Rose Garden 8, No. 176.