

No 1 Labourers' Camp (c1922-1928) FCT
(Also known as Daniel's No 1 after Herbert Daniel, Mess Caterer)
&
**The Ex-Servicemen Brought to Canberra to
Work as Labourers 1922 - Men of No 1
Labourers Camp**

Labourers worked in the FCT from the time construction work began from around 1910/11. However, the name No 1 Labourers Camp and Daniel's No 1 came into being in the post World War era and it is probable that the ex-servicemen brought to the territory were the first men in this camp. Later other labourers joined No 1. This camp moved from Eastlake & Mt Pleasant to Westlake (now Stirling Park, Yarralumla) and then to Red Hill. The move to Westlake came when work commenced on the Provisional Parliament House and surrounds. Prior to that the men carried out general construction work such as road making and the foundation digging for Hotel Canberra.

BACKGROUND.

Following the end of World War 1 in 1918 and into the 1920s there was a period of high unemployment in Australia. Finding work presented a major problem for many of the unskilled. Some ex-servicemen experienced problems in returning to old jobs because the women who replaced them during the war were kept on - women were paid less than men. Other men during the years when they normally would have taken up an apprenticeship were fighting in the trenches and thus missed valuable years of training - they were amongst the unskilled. Others could not settle after the war and took to wandering in search of work.

The war that began in August 1914 also affected the construction of Canberra. By September 1916 work on the Sewer had ceased and towards the end of the year the Brickworks closed their doors. Caretakers were employed to mind empty buildings and work sites. For a time after the war there was strong doubt of whether work on Canberra should recommence. Money in particular was short supply and the relative few skilled tradesmen were employed in the post war building booms in Sydney and Melbourne. Many Australians also doubted the wisdom of continuing with Canberra - it was spoken of in terms of being a white elephant. Even after the decision was made to continue with the construction buildings and other facilities were limited to the basics necessary to move the Federal Parliament from Melbourne to Canberra. Plans for grand buildings were scrapped and in their stead a number of temporary buildings erected. This included a Provisional Parliament House. Following its opening on 9th May, 1927 the sackings began in Canberra that included not only the working classes but also architects. From 1929 when the Great Depression hit Australia the construction of Canberra was blamed for the downturn in the economy. [This tendency to blame Canberra for the ills of the country continues today. The media and others tend to say Canberra did this and Canberra did that when they really mean the National Government did this or that.]

Thus in 1920 construction work in Canberra faced several major problems - whether or not to continue building - if the answer was yes then where to get the money to complete the city and thirdly - finding the workforce of skilled men and labourers to build it.

Unemployed who perhaps were thinking of trying to find work in the territory faced a major problem - how to get there and once there - where to live.

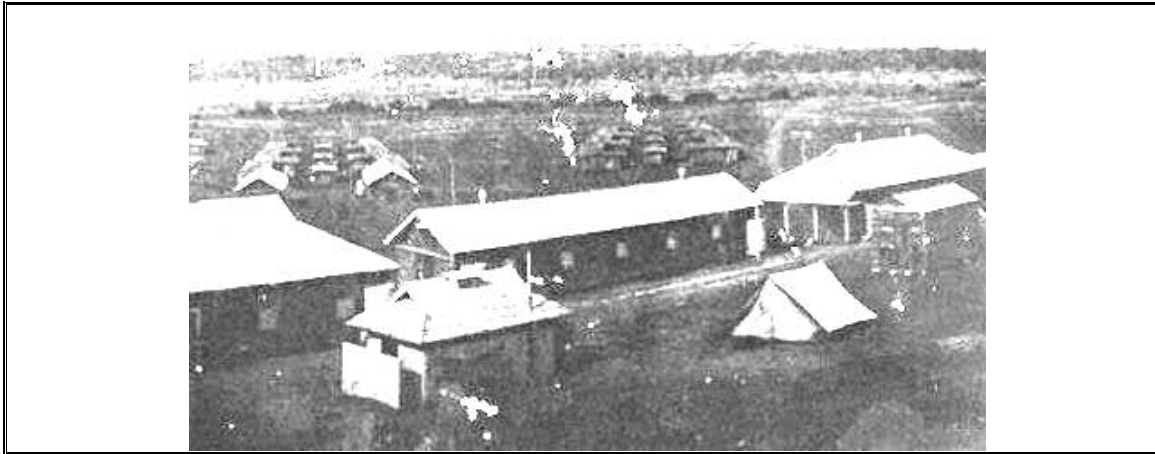
ACCOMMODATION FOR WORKMEN.

The lack of good housing for construction workers was recognised by the Federal Capital Advisory Committee (FCAC) put in charge of construction work from 1920/21. One obvious solution was to convert

the empty internment camp built at Molonglo (now Fyshwick) in 1918. By 1921 over half the buildings had been sold, however the remaining barracks constructed from timber and galvanized iron were soon converted into three to six room cottages (120) and single accommodation for 150 tradesmen.

The conversion of this camp did little to alleviate the overall housing problems of the territory. Single men (that is without families) continued to be housed in tents in camps segregated from married quarters and in the post war era these too were organised into camps for labourers, horse & dray men (pug camps), tradesmen, engineers, surveyors etc. Camps were usually established close to work sites to save paying zone allowances to the men. Molonglo was followed by Westlake (Stirling Park), Causeway, Russell Hill and so on. A number of Molonglo buildings were moved to sites around the FCT including Civic Centre, Westridge and Eastlake.

Below: Detail of a panoramic view of Molonglo Internment Camp taken in 1919 and loaned by Lorna Marriott (nee Francis). Her father was Controller of Stores. This mid section shows the Military Section looking towards the Barracks. The building on the left in the foreground would be the ablution's block for the military.



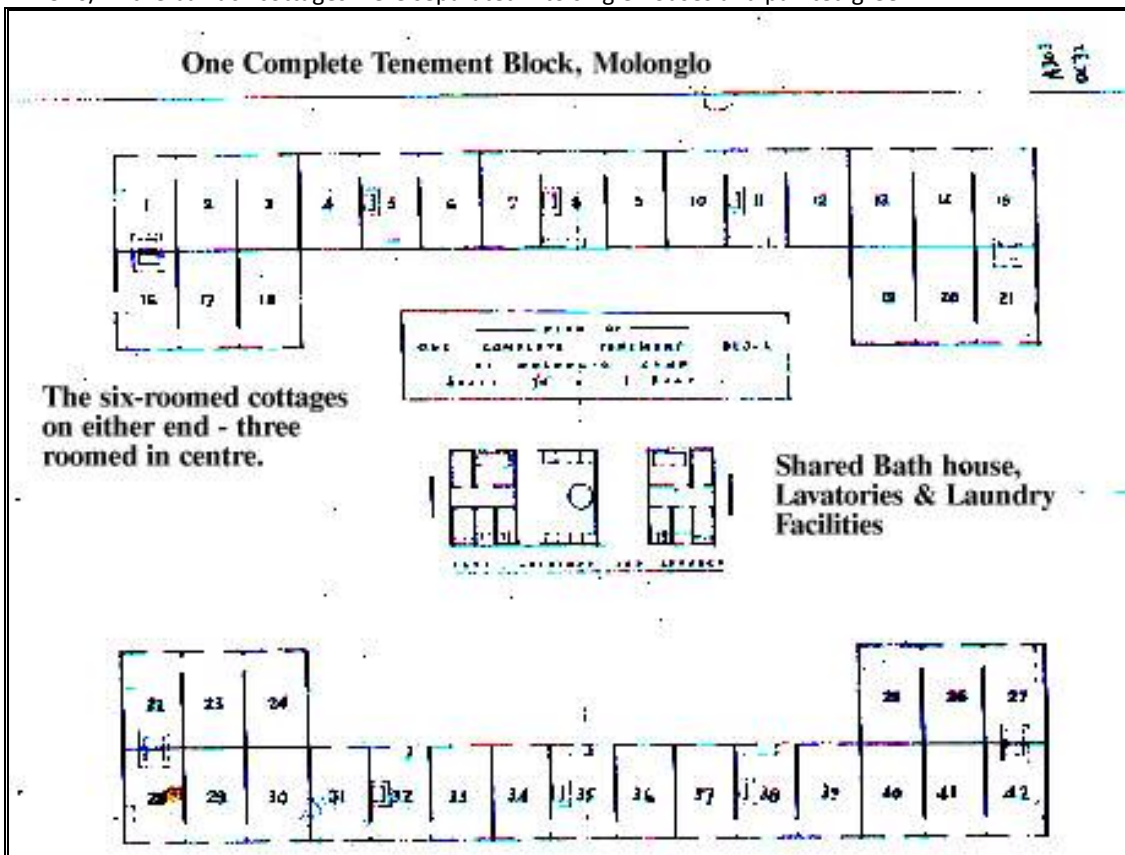
Molonglo buildings were moved to a number of sites including The Brickworks, Eastlake (below Rottenbury Hill), and Civic etc. They were used as ready-made buildings and moved to the sites with traction engines. Below: Photograph taken from the reverse view to that of the plan. In the background of this photograph is the old Military area including the gaol (First in FCT). This photograph was taken circa 1924/25. The Molonglo Gaol was in the Military Section. It was the first in the FCT and the Police Officer, Sergeant Cook (2nd in Territory) also lived at Molonglo before the Police transferred to the Administrative Section at Acton.

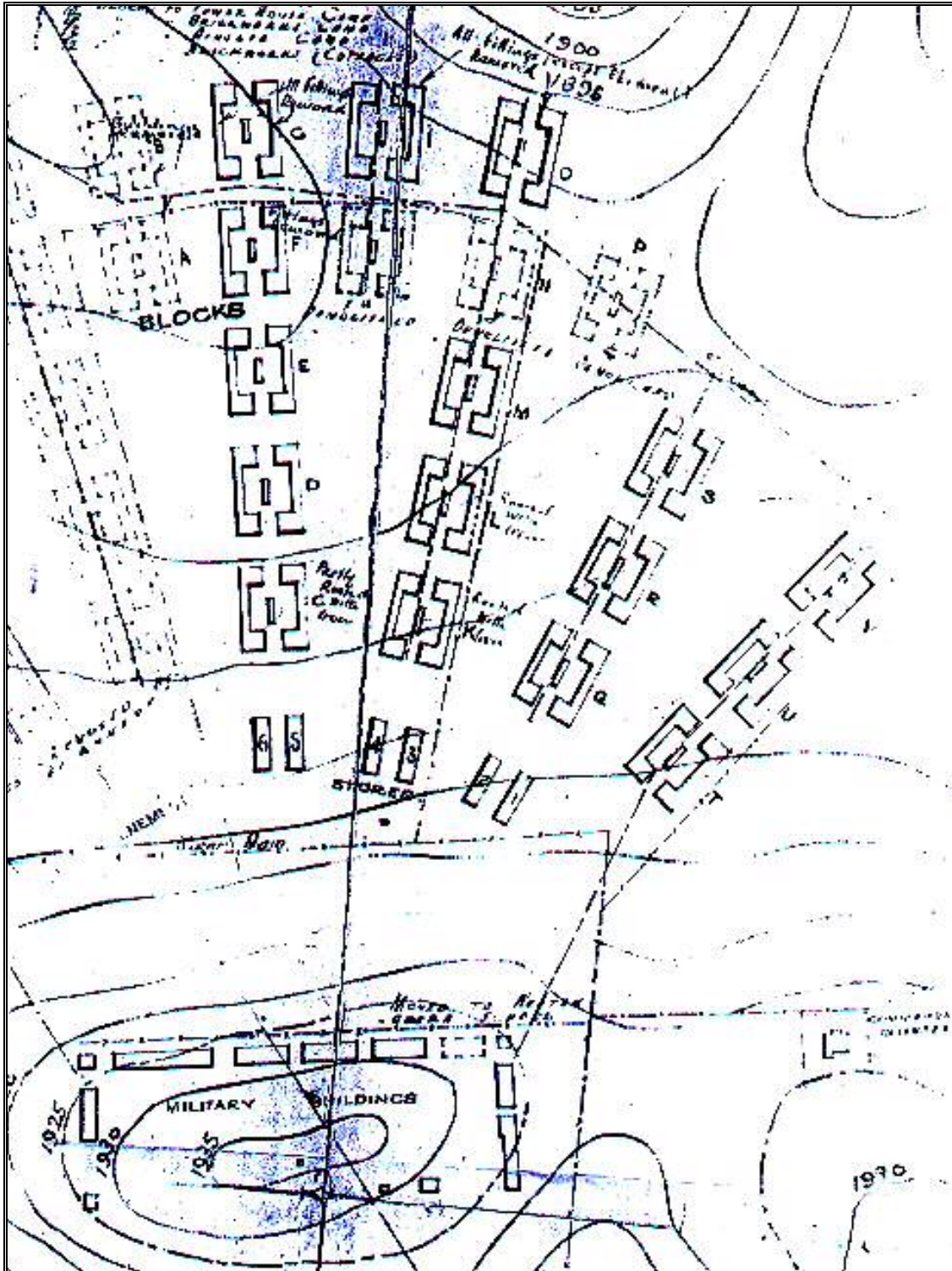


To date no plans of camp sites have been found. The 1927 map marks the sites of a number of camps but not those established at Westlake. Camps perhaps were not considered important enough to warrant their noting on maps. At the time people would have known the sites. Fortunately people who lived in the Westlake Cottages in the Gap had seen the camps and passed on the information.

Sites such as the ex-internment camp at Molonglo are relatively well documented. Molonglo provided a ready made settlement that consisted of 120 cottages and rooms for 150 single tradesmen. The remaining buildings not sold by 1920 were converted to into the cottages and barracks.

In 1926/27 the barrack cottages were separated into single houses and painted green.





Above : Detail of a plan of the Molonglo Internment Camp found in Australian Archives A3032/1 DC339. The site is north of the railway line in modern Fyshwick. The line of buildings noted as "Military Buildings" are now covered by the Molonglo Mall Fyshwick. This is on a small hill overlooking the sites of the tenements.

UNEMPLOYED EX-SERVICEMEN & THE RS&SILA

The labour problem in the FCT and how to solve it was discussed with the RS&SILA (Returned Soldiers & Sailors Imperial League of Australia) with a view to asking unemployed ex-servicemen to come to the Territory. The decision was made to find 200 ex-servicemen to work in Canberra. They were to be recruited from Tasmania, Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria. Their train fares were to be paid by the Commonwealth and repaid over the period of a few pays. The men were to be housed in two tent camps - the first No 1 Labourers' Camps in the post war period. It was also intended that four men should share each tent that in fact was overcrowded with two. Details of the arrangements etc are found in Australian Archives in Canberra in File A199/1 FC1923/689. A series of documents in this file inform us that on 7th April 1922 a letter was sent to the Department of Defense in Melbourne requesting floored tentage for 50 men to be delivered at Canberra on or about Monday 17th April, 1922. The Department was also to supply Mess Buildings, Mess Tables, benches, kitchen, and firewood and caterers were to be appointed. Details of the ex-servicemen's arrivals and camps are discussed later in this document.

Below: Detail of a photograph of workmen on their way home. They were labourers and the car according to the story told by Harry Trevilian had *reverse* steering. When the wheel was turned to the right the car turned left and vice versa. The dog on the running board was the father of *Peter* Trevillian. The man on the left was Louis Lewis.



On the next page is a copy of a letter written in 1919 by a man working at the Molonglo Internment Camp. He applied for work in the FCT.

Molongo Concentration Camp
August 12th 1918

To the Resident Engineer
The Arsenal
Federal Territory

Sir

I beg to make application for appointment in the position of Foreman on the proposed works in the erection of the Arsenal. I have had over 19 years experience in construction work and, prior to my enlistment in 1915 in the U. S. F. for Active Service Abroad, I held the position of Foreman of Bricklayers for 2 1/2 years in the Public Works Dept. N. S. W. I have a thorough knowledge of construction work in concrete and Brickwork and controlling of men, in such works. I returned from Active Service last March and at the present, I am in Home Service at the concentration camp. I am prepared to undertake any work in the meantime that will not be of too laborious a nature until the works are in that stage that I could be appointed to the position of a Foreman. I would be very grateful for a personal interview at your convenience. Trusting you will give this my application your earliest consideration.

I am yours obediently
Sgt. F. S. Daffern

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The ex-servicemen labourers brought to the Territory in 1922 were established in two camps - one on the north side on the slopes of Mt Pleasant just above the drain and the other at Eastlake (modern Kingston). Herbert Daniel was employed as Mess Caterer first in the Civic area (at No 1?) and later at Eastlake.

The Eastlake No 1 Labourers Mess was vacated on 13th May, 1924 (Australian Archives CP464/3/1 Bundle 1/B968) and moved to Capitol Hill, Westlake. Herbert Daniel moved with No 1 Labourers Camp to Westlake and moved into 25 Westlake in *The Gap*. These cottages, designed by HM Rolland were small two bedroom unlined timber cottages that were referred to as temporary portable timber cottages. They were initially known as *the Gap Cottages* and following the removal of Howie's Settlement and single men's tent camps between 1927 and 1930 were known as just plain WESTLAKE.

Westlake, named by Walter Burley Griffin in the early 1920s was developed as a major accommodation centre for men working on the construction of Hotel Canberra (Contractor Howie), the Sewer and Provisional Parliament House, Administrative Buildings and surrounds. In 1925 the population of Westlake (now Stirling Park Yarralumla) was 700. It consisted of three government camps including No 1 Labourers, Contractor John Howie's cottages and single men's Hostel Camp and 52 timber cottages in The Gap at Westlake. The numbers in the single men's camps fluctuated according to work requirements.

Following the opening of the Provisional Parliament House 9th May 1927 No 1 Labourers Camp moved to a site at Red Hill (which was at that time still part of the larger area known as Westlake). The 27th July, 1927 Sanitation Report notes the following about No 1 Labourers Camp at Westlake - *To be demolished in a month - occupants then to wooden cubicles at Red Hill site. About 100 12 foot x 10 foot tents of hessian and canvas. No surface collection of water with exception of water tap drainage to earth channels extending to creek, (nearly dry). Sanitary blocks sewerred; garbage bins covered...*

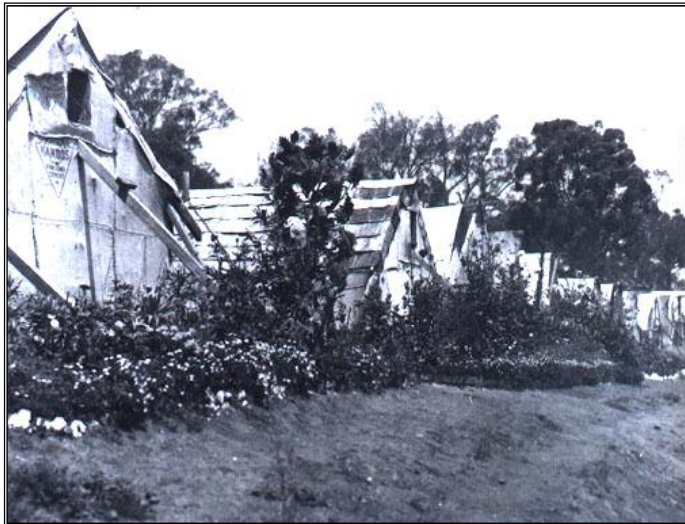
Bill Mitchell was the Mess Caterer at the time of the move and he went with the men to the Red Hill site. The exact date when this camp was disbanded is not certain but it would be around 1928. Bill Mitchell moved to White City Mess. Following the closure of this camp, Bill Mitchell moved into a Causeway Cottage where he later died in September 1935 aged 60 years.



Above: The Bachelors Quarters at Acton 1912. This accommodation was in marked contrast to the tent camps that were home to the majority of construction workers. On the next page is a photograph of Westlake cottages under construction 1924. A few of the married men from the Tradesmen and No 1 Labourers Camps at Westlake were able to move into Westlake cottages. The bottom right cottage is 27 or 28 Westlake - now in Stirling Park, Yarralumla near the corner of Empire Circuit and Forster Crescent. This settlement was on the western side of Haines Creek that cuts Stirling Park into two. No 1 Labourers and Tradesmen's Camps along with Howies cottages and Hostel Camp were on the Eastern side of the creek.



One of the dumps used by Contractor Howie was at Attunga Point in the old quarry. Below: teapot from the dump. Below are some of the objects found in this dump. Fine china of this type was also found in dumps and camps sites used by the men of No 1 and Old Tradesmen's Camps at Westlake.



Left: The Cook's Tent No Labourers Camp at Westlake in 1924. The site of this camp was on the hillside now opposite Lotus Bay on the southern side of Lake Burley Griffin. Note the *Kandos* cement sign on the left hand side. The roofing on the next tent is probably tin. The camp was removed in late 1927, and the men moved to Red Hill. The photograph comes from the Australian Archives collection Series No CRS A 3560, Item No 870.

The modern site of this camp is on the hillside opposite Lotus Bay, Yarralumla. The old road shown in the bottom section of the photograph is

still in situ. A number of rock lined garden areas are also still on the hillside and near the old road.

In this camp there were a number of deaths including one in which two men died as a result of their tent catching fire. Because there was no telephone in the camp the fire brigade was not called immediately. However because of the fierceness of the fire it was unlikely that the men could have been saved.

The numbers in this camp varied according to the construction work being carried out but it usually ranged between around 100 men to 150. Below: Photograph taken in 1924 showing some of the men at No 1 Labourers Camp at Westlake. It is a detail from one donated to the Canberra and District Historical



Society. The full photograph shows as well as the men, tents, landscape etc an *Arnott* biscuit tin and a few beer bottles. The latter perhaps was a statement as beer could not be bought in the Territory between 1913 and the end of 1928 when a vote was taken *For* or *Against*. This vote was the reason for the 1928 Electoral Roll – the first in the Territory. Note also the boots the men are wearing. Many have been dug up from the numerous dumps at Westlake and many have more nails than leather on the bottom. Metal cleats were also used to extend the life of the boots.

Below: The Police Camp set up on the flat land opposite Lotus Bay, Yarralumla. In the background are the tents of the Old Tradesmen's Camp. The tents of No 1 Labourers were to the left of the tents in this photograph. The photograph is part of the Mildenhall collection in the Australian Archives Canberra.



Conditions in Camps:

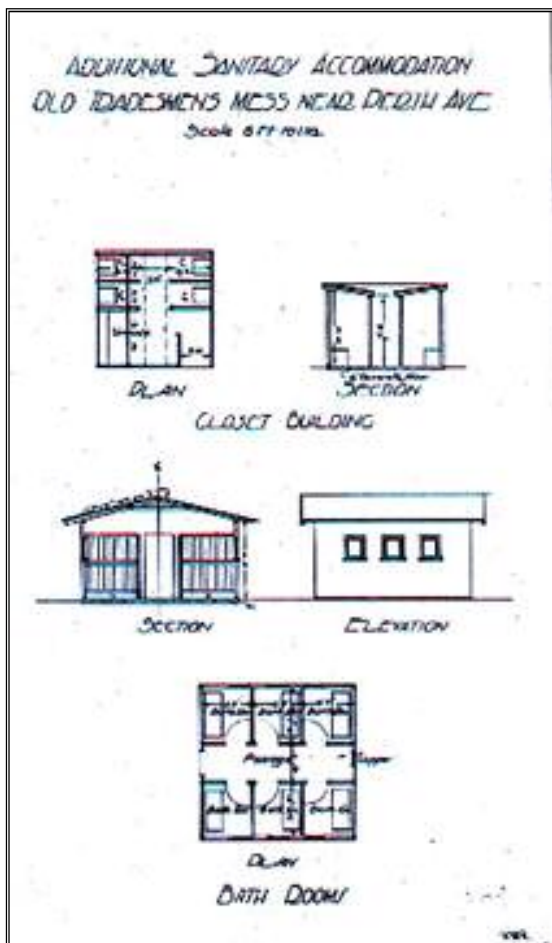
Life for all construction workers was difficult and made even more so because the nearest shopping centre and hotels were at Queanbeyan. From 1913 until the end of 1928 Canberra was officially dry. There was also a shortage of eligible young ladies for the single men in camps to meet. And life could not be normal whilst the policy of segregation was in place.

Married and Single Men's camps were separated and single men's camps were organised according to occupations - the lowest on the scale was labourers - next pug (horse & dray), tradesmen, engineers and officials and never the twain should meet. Two-up, drinking, and sports were favourite occupations in the single men's camps.

Living under canvas was cold in winter and hot in summer. Some added fireplaces constructed from tin. Candles were used by many for lighting and one falling over in the night or a spark from the fire caused one tent in No 1 Labourers Camp at Westlake to catch fire resulting in the death of the man whose home it was. A drunken brawl led to the death of another man in the same camp.

Until mid 1925 the men worked a five and half day week leaving little time for men who wanted to visit families. Following the vote for a five day working week with the same number of worked hours men - particularly married men - had a chance to catch the train home at the weekends to visit families. There are many stories about travelling and one often quoted by old timers tells the tale of one well known character who lived in the Tradesmen's Camp at Westlake - Frank (Francis) Clowry. He was a tall gentleman and Foreman Carpenter on the Parliament House job. Following the introduction of the five

day working week every second Friday evening he road his push bike back to a small township near Braidwood to visit his family. He returned on the Sunday. By car this trip now takes around one and half hours. Frank Clowry was lucky to be allocated a house at Westlake and along with his wife and children moved into number 16 on the 3rd March, 1924.



Left: Plan for the new bath/shower and lavatory areas for the Tradesmen's Camp. The baths and showers were connected to cold water taps. Anyone requiring hot water for a bath had to heat the water in one of the two wood fired coppers provided and then carry it with a bucket to the bath. These facilities had to serve up to 150 men. The men of No 1 had similar arrangements for bathing.

The Ex-servicemen Who Were Sent to the FCT to Work

Files in Australian Archives in Canberra (A199/2/95) note some of the arrangements made in 1922 to send 200 ex-servicemen to Canberra. The men chosen by the RSS&ILA from NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania. These men were to become the occupants of No 1 Labourers Camp. The first appears to have been established on the north side of the river on the slopes of Mt Pleasant and the second at Eastlake. On 7th April, 1922 arrangements were made for fifty men to be delivered to Canberra on or about Monday 17th April, 1922. The selection of the first fifty men by the RSS&ILA was made by 11th April, 1922. The Department of Supply was to make arrangements for Mess Buildings, Mess tables and benches, kitchen and firewood. Caterers were to be appointed. The rail fares were paid for the men, however they were expected to repay the money from their first two weeks' wages.

A document dated 11th April, 1922 stated that 50 men were due to arrive in Canberra the following week and were to work with pick and shovel on road construction. 50 were to arrive in about ten days time and work in the Weetangera area; 50 to work on excavations for the Hostel [Hotel Canberra] and another 50 to be absorbed on work on the sewer – a total of 200 ex-service men.

PT Owen was in charge of the work in Canberra and arrangements were made for four men to be assigned to each 12 foot x 14 foot tent. As there were not sufficient tents for the expected men Sydney was telegraphed to supply an additional 14. Rental of 9 pence per man was charged each week. When the men arrived they found no blankets supplied and each tent was big enough for three men not four.

The arrival of the ex-servicemen also heralded the first strike in the Territory. A document in Australian Archives (A1/1 22/7034) and dated 20th April 1922 mentions the proposal of the authorities intention to increase working hours and reduce wages. *The Argus* dated 21st April, 1922 reported the incident. The article in part reads:

A message from Queanbeyan tonight states that the sewer and roads workmen are on strike, although the brickyards and power houses are working there is a likelihood of cessation at any moment, it is reported that 50 men who have just arrived will not work. A meeting of the builders' labourers union who are employed at Canberra will be held at Sydney tomorrow, to decide what action shall be taken on the proposal to reduce wages and lengthen working hours...about 250 men affected.

The list for the first 25 men selected by RSS&ILA 12.4.1922 follows:

Name	Address	S/M Remarks	Work
JJ Shepherd	144 Ballair St Kensington	S remounts	lab
J Lee	32 Charles St Prahan	M 7th Btn	lab
ET Kinninmont	189 A'Beckett St, City	M 60th	pick & shovel
ET Wallace	Vict St Altona	M 5th Btn	pick & shovel
A Moles	4185 Canterbury Rd	Middle Ph M 6th	pick & shovel
H Quinn	Booths Home, Londsdale St City	S	miner
S McMillan	14 Edward St Elsternwick	M 59th	labourer
JP Kelt	19 Nimmo St Middle Park	S 58th	miner
LJ Coverdale	40 Caroline St Clifton Hill	S 5th	hand & drill
LJ Cleverdale (crossed out)			
E Powers	36 David St East Brunswick	S 1st tunneling Co	miner
JH Flood	126 Napier St, S Melbourne	14th Btn	labourer
A Waters	255 Victoria Parade EM	M 1st Pioneers	labourer

WH Haviell	Gordon House, Little Bourke St City	Widower, reinforcements	labourer
AJ Wylie	Arondale Rd, Chelsie	M 7th Btn	labourer
J Drayton	35 Milton St W Melb	M 8th Btn	labourer
J Drayton (crossed out)			
C Bishop	Gordon House, Little Bourke St City	M 2nd Tunnel Co	miner
W West	125 Queensberry Street N Melbourne	M 5th Pioneer	labourer
J O'Rourke	33 Stead St S Melbourne	S 3rd Pioneer	labourer
AJ Bannister	Royal Standard House, Little Bourke St Melbourne	M 60 th	labourer
HN Podger	147 Johnstone St Fitzroy	M Navy	pick & shovel
GL Podger	217 Young St Nth Fitzroy	S 24th Btn	labourer
J Armstrong	27 Creswick St Hawthorn	M 21st Btn	labourer
John Morley	71 Palmerston St Carlton	M 24th Btn	labourer

A further batch of 25 was to arrive on the 21st inst. This group due to leave on 18th April, 1922. The first lot were due to arrive in Queanbeyan at 4.15 am on Wednesday the 19th April, 1922.

Sir Austin Chapman MP in the House of Representatives, Canberra wrote a letter on 1st May, 1922 stating that the men had not been supplied with blankets and that the tents supplied were too small for four men and suggested that only three be accommodated and the rent be reduced to 6 pence per week. The RSS&ILA wanted to know where the men were to camp. PT Owen asked about Hope's gang at Russell Reservoir and Ainslie Channel (storm water).

6th May, 1922 a further 50 tents were to be supplied. 16th May, 1922 the tents for the ex-servicemen had arrived and the supplies on the 29th. This camp was on the north side – Mt Ainslie and or Mt Pleasant area.

29th May, 1922 25 ex-soldiers arrived from NSW. At that time the camp for the men was nearly complete. The men were expected to provide their own cook. They did not.

A telegram to the Director at Melbourne said that 50 men could be used at Ainslie. Following is the list of the first men to arrive and commence work in FCT on 30th May, 1922. (The actual number was 47 – and some were the 25 mentioned as coming from NSW?).

J Lee, E J Waller, A Moles, J Wilson, LJ Coverdale, JH Flood, A Waters, WH Haviell, J Drayton, HN Podgers, G L Podgers, J Armstrong, H Emerson, M Marks, WH Loveland, BA Henessy, H Hines, JF Carroll, T Farrell, E Smith, W Flanagan, WE Hill, R Chisholm, J Grove, GA Bull, A Harris, JS Gibbons, LG Laurie, McGrath, H Rigby, L Crook, J Goddard, H Thornton, NA Beattie, J Rooney, D Kelly, J Clancy, C Andre, RJ Andre, R Reynolds, JP Kelt, P Paull, E Pike, W West, J Copeland, JJ Ryan, C Roberts.

On 9th May, 1922 HM Rolland, Works Director and architect had a list of men who arrived– ten did not report for duty.

Another note mentions that men who arrived on the 29th May, 1922 were anxious to obtain the services of Daniels, the Caterer for the Eastlake Soldiers' Camp. Herbert Daniels did work for a time for No 1 Labourers Camp at Civic (Ainslie) and then in 1922 moved to No 1 Labourers' Camp at Eastlake. When No 1 Labourers Camp moved to Westlake in 1924 Herbert Daniel moved with them and obtained accommodation in one of the newly erected temporary portable timber cottages at Westlake. The men of No 1 worked on the erection of the Provisional Parliament House and surrounds. They probably dug the foundations for Hostel No 1 (Hotel Canberra). This work was completed by Contractor John Howie who built a timber settlement for his men – 25 cottages and 18 huts for married and single men. The latter was known as The Hostel Camp.

The project of moving ex-servicemen to Canberra to work was not a complete success. On 4th July, 1922 one of the ex-servicemen from NSW was found to be suffering from a contagious disease which was a menace to the general health of the district. Another report dated 14th July, 1922 stated that the men were not up to the standard expected and so on. Following is a list of the men who left by 12th August, 1922

Name	From	Date/reason
C Andre	Melbourne	10.8.22 voluntary
RJ Andre	Melbourne	5.8.22 voluntary
G Bull	Melbourne	Cleared out
J Armstrong	Melbourne	7.8.1922 voluntary
RF Brown	Queensland	7.7.1922 discharged
J Copeland	Melbourne	Cleared out
J Carroll	Melbourne	28.6.1922 voluntary
L Crook	Melbourne	30.5.1922 voluntary
J Clancy	Melbourne	5.6.1922 voluntary
W Flanagan	Melbourne	11.7.1922 L7S
FJ Daveron	Sydney	29.6.1922 voluntary
F Farrell	Melbourne	22.5.1922 voluntary
Ferguson	Sydney	8.6.1922 voluntary
J Groves	Melbourne	24.7.1922 voluntary
WH Haviell	Melbourne	22.5.1922 cleared out
EH Hennessy	Melbourne	10.8.1922 voluntary
H Hines	Melbourne	5.7.1922 incurable illness
H Jones	Sydney	5.7.1922 voluntary
F Johnson	Sydney	29.6.1922 voluntary
D Kelly	Melbourne	25.7.1922 voluntary
J Lee	Melbourne	5.8.1922 discharged
L McGrath	Melbourne	25.7.1922 discharged
JC McGrogan	Queanbeyan	7.11.1922 voluntary
R McCauley	Queanbeyan	11.7.1922 voluntary
F North	Bungendore	8.7.1922 voluntary
JP Paull	Melbourne	5.8.1922 discharged
M O'Rourke	Queanbeyan	29.6.1922 voluntary
FN Pickering	Sydney	29.6.1922 voluntary
C Roberts	Melbourne	5.8.1922 discharged
J Rooney	Melbourne	11.5.1922 voluntary
RB Stowe	Queanbeyan	25.7.1922 voluntary
EJ Wallis	Melbourne	6.6.1922 voluntary
A Waters	Melbourne	7.6.1922 voluntary
W West	Melbourne	1.6.1922 voluntary
F Wilson	Queanbeyan	10.7.1922 voluntary
F White	Sydney	8.7.1922 discharged
JP Woods	Bungendore	29.6.1922 voluntary
W Woods	Bungendore	21.9.1922 voluntary
R Chisholm	Melbourne	7.8.1922 voluntary

The total number who departed were: 40

29 left voluntarily, 3 cleared out, 6 discharged and 1 had an incurable disease.

On 12th August 1922 R Chisholm was given a rail ticket to enable him to return to Canberra.

14th August, 1922 L McGrath (from Melbourne) was granted leave and he along with others were told to draw their time following returning under the influence of liquor.

Other notes in the file state that blankets were sold to the ex-servicemen for 5/3d each and one of the sellers kept the money. He was sentenced to time in Goulburn Gaol.



Some reminders of the men of No 1 are found on the hillside opposite Lotus Bay Yarralumla. Three urinal trenches and trenches dug around tents remain along with tracks and rubbish thrown into small fires and pits. A *silver* teaspoon with Commonwealth of Australia imprinted on it, fragments of beer bottles and pottery, the odd coin, buttons etc are still to be found. Amongst them are some reminders of home that came with the men. Items include fragments of tea cups of fine china. Near the tent sites are rock lined garden beds some of which still have growing strongly briar roses and other shrubs - and white iris flowers still bloom. Left is a photograph showing some of the broken objects dug up from a dump on the hill opposite Lotus Bay near the camps. The large ceramic container may have been used for ginger beer which was delivered twice weekly to camps.

The following men's names are on the 1928 Electoral Roll - No 1 Labourers Camp at Red Hill. Some men still added *Westlake*. In 1927 there were between 100 and 200 men in No 1 Labourers Camp.

ALLAN, Francis labourer
BARNES, Joseph labourer
BISSET, Ronald labourer
BLAKSTON, James lorry driver
BLAY, Thomas labourer
BRENNAN, John labourer
BROWN, William labourer
BULL, John labourer (Westlake)
BURGE, George electrician
BYRNE, Dennis labourer (Westlake)
BYRNE, Harold labourer
CHRISTIE, John labourer
CRAN, Peter labourer
DALEY, John labourer (Westlake)
FEBEY, John ---
FITZPATRICK, John labourer
GALLIE, James pipe inspector (Westlake)
HASTINGS, William labourer
HENRY, George labourer (Westlake)
IRVING, Harold labourer (Westlake)
JAMES, Wilton labourer (Westridge PO)
JOHNSTONE, John labourer (Westlake)
LANE, Leslie labourer (Westlake)

LAVELL, William labourer
LOWE, Alan labourer
McINNES, Ronald labourer
MARSHALL, Thomas cook (Westlake)
MATHIESON, George labourer
MEARNS, John labourer
MUIR, Harry labourer
MURFET, Reginald labourer
NOWLAND, Reginald gardener
O'CONNOR, John labourer (Westlake)
O'SHEA, John labourer
PARKER, Robert labourer
POLA, John labourer (Eastlake)
PRESTON, Joseph labourer
ROBERTSON, William labourer (Westlake)
ROBINSON, George labourer
ROSS, Charles labourer
SMITH, George labourer
SMITH, John labourer
THORNTON, John labourer
THOROGOOD, Joseph camp caretaker
WATSON, George gardener

Following the opening of Parliament in 1927 and slow down in construction activities work became hard to obtain in Canberra. Competition for the few jobs available became strong and a selection criteria eligibility for employed was brought into force in the FCT. It remained well into post World War 2 period. It ensured that locals were top of the list and in that category married ex-servicemen were the first to be employed. Following is an example copied from a contract dated 6th April 1938. This same statement continued into the 1940s and later :

In the engagement of workmen under this contract the contractor shall give preference, firstly to Returned Soldier and Sailors who are domiciled and registered in Canberra and who are capable of effectively performing the duties required and secondly to other competent workmen domiciled and registered in Canberra. Provided that all workmen required in connection with the contract shall be selected from the Registrar of Persons available for employment kept at the office of the Works & Services Branch of the Department of the Interior. If the contractor considers any of the workmen available for selection to be unsuitable for his requirements, he shall state his objections at the time...