

A Tribute to Rex Hartley by his best pal – Moe Football Club

Lance Corporal Rex Hartley, VX47290, of HQ Coy, died whilst escaping on 20 February 1942.

Rex Hartley was a keen footballer, who played for Moe Football Club in the 1930s, and was the first Central Gippsland footballer to be killed in World War II.

In honour of him, Mr Les Kaepfel of Moe donated a medal named the Rex Hartley Medal, to be awarded to the best and fairest player in the Central Gippsland Wartime League. The first winner was Dick King of Traralgon.

When the Central Gippsland Football League started again in 1946 the medal was awarded to the Reserves Best and Fairest. The Rex Hartley Medal was carried on to the new Latrobe Valley Football League Reserves when this league started in 1954 and is still awarded today.

A TRIBUTE TO REX HARTLEY

By A Watts (his best pal)

Farewell Honest Chosky,
You have run your final race,
Never more in the old 'Room',
Shall we see your smiling face.

Never more to cross the threshold,
With that cheerful grin,
And stride up to the fireplace,
Where the fun would soon begin.

No more tales, each night, we'll tell
Of deeds that we had done
No more yarns of footy games,
That we had lost and won.

Never more will you take an alley
For a game of 'Pions',
With that happy-go-lucky outlook,
Of 'Who cares who wins?'

And over at the pub,
They'll miss your joyful shout.
When *Skipton* hits the front
And starts to flatten out.

No more trips to Cooper's Creek
To seek the elusive trout,
No more trophies will you win,
Never more for the boys you'll shout.

And, each sprint time, at the factory,
Around about November,
The boys will rest a while –
They'll remember!

How we wish, old fellow,
You were with us yet,

But though you've gone –
We'll not forget.

And when the old gang meet again,
We'll quaff the golden brew,
We'll pause, then drink, Chock old pal =
We'll remember you!

(The Moe Angling Club issued a one page publication in which this poem was included in memory of Rex.)