

Letters

your views behind the news

Mushroom mystery

I read with fascination Ricki Ellis's letter on her husband's role in growing mushrooms in the Glenbrook 'mustard gas' tunnel. It is believed Harold Ellis started the NSW Mushroom Company before WWII and resumed the business after the war. The chemical warfare armourers, however, recall with affection Herbert Edward Rowe ('Pop'). An out of work master builder, 'Pop' and his daughter Gwen farmed mushrooms from 1933 until the RAAF used the tunnel for the mustard gas storage. Herbert obtained his spawn from Mr Hearn of Como and later from Dr Noble of the Department of Agriculture. The mushrooms were sold to the greengrocer De Luca, King Street. No longer able to farm the mushrooms he stayed on at the RAAF tunnel camp as their maintenance person.

If someone could enlighten us on the relationship, if any, between Edward and Harold we would love to know. Contact geoff.plunkett@gmail.com.

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