

STANDING IN THE FACE OF BATTLE

John G. Ridley was born in Sydney in 1896 and became a Christian when he was 18 years old. Though still only a teenager when World War I broke out, John served in the French battlefields. At Fromelles, he was shot through his neck and tongue. Grave doubts were held for his very survival, and no one believed he would ever speak again. But God had other plans for this brave soldier.

John lived, returned from the war, and was awarded the Military Cross. He felt challenged to fight the spiritual battle of rescuing souls from Satan. After pastoring for 18 months, John suffered a nervous breakdown. God restored him and he started doing mission work in the bush, using a horse-drawn wagon to get around, and covering 1000 miles in 3 months.

He held open-air meetings, stayed at lonely outback homesteads, handed out gospel tracts, and saw many new believers come to Christ. He had a great passion for Christ, and used his gift of preaching to bring many to Jesus Christ, from all walks of life.

When World War II broke out, he served as chaplain. His passion for souls never ceased. He longed to see people saved, and never took any of the glory for himself. He continued to preach Jesus for over 60 years.

John G. Ridley kept standing up for God, even after repeated tragedies and some major health issues that tried to knock him out of the battle. Now, years down the track, we can find encouragement from John's story for our own lives. We can find encouragement to keep standing for God, and to refuse to stay down when life tries to knock us over. When the battles come, we can stand firm on the solid rock of Jesus Christ. He will see us through.