

Images of Bhurtpore Barracks, Tidworth

taken by Corporal Gordon Binns



Images of Bhurtpore Barracks, Tidworth. The home of the Australian Provost Corps in England.

Images taken by Corporal Gordon Binns.



Bluey Stewart



Byrne, Fullalove and Gillam



Gomer Martin



Pizzey and Marshall



Mason



Byrne and Gillam



Daddy Gowlands



Watson



Munro and Stewart



Scott, Morley and Ford



Trumps Archer



Froud



Wilson



Fullalove



Williamson on Black Prince



Daddy Gowlands



Shafer and Bodimeade



Snowy Poole



Swales and Currie



Hamblyn



Ogden, Martin and Smethurst



Pizzey and cat



Cowles and Gray



Bartlett and Scott



Drew



Within the barracks



Laurie Snell, Mess Barman



Although not a good image, this photo shows men of the Australian Provost Corps on parade in front of their barracks.



This image shows the letters APC on the ground in front of the barracks, presumably it is some form of garden.





Cowles (rear)
Ford, Bice, Rowan



Pizze, Ford, Smethurst

Hamblyn, Watson (?), Bice and Bennett



Outside one of the messes.



Bhurtpore Barracks from only a few years ago, little appears to have altered over the years. Apparently some changes have been made since. Courtesy Greg Westhead.

The British War Department had purchased the Tedworth (Tidworth) Estate in 1897, this included a large mansion and 6,618 acres. Construction on an Army Barracks had begun in 1902, most of the military complex was ready for occupation in 1904.

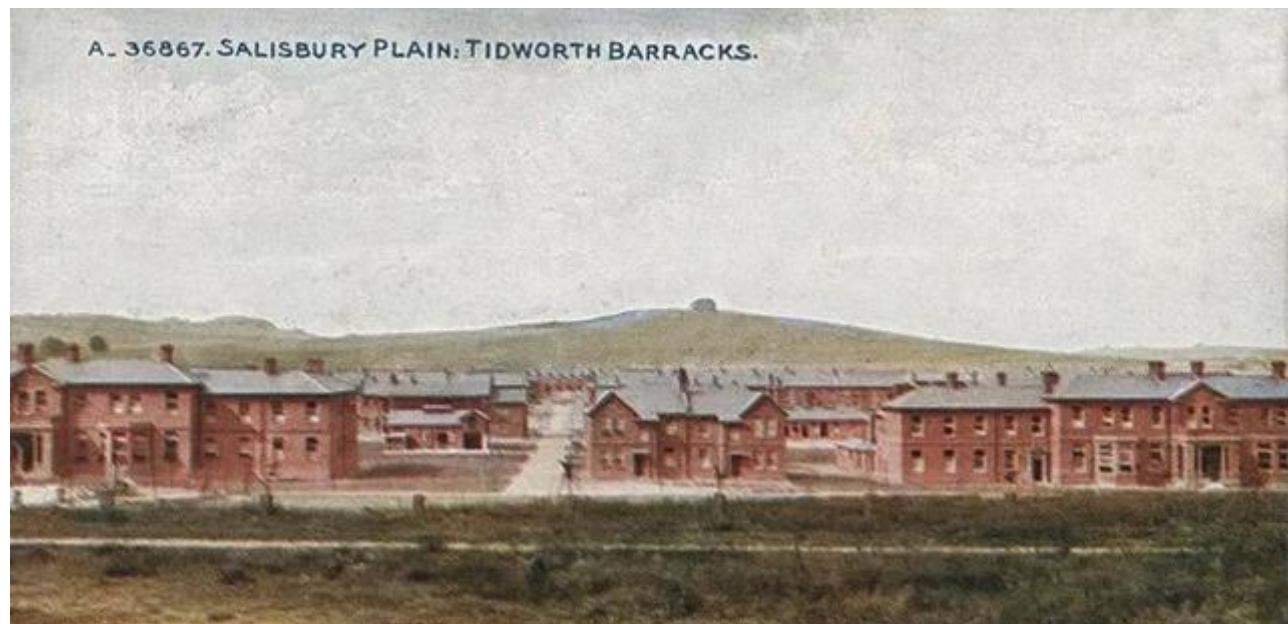
Tidworth was to be divided into eight barracks, which were named after the British Army's Indian and Afghan successes; Aliwel, Assaye, Bhurtpore, Candahar, Delhi, Jellalab, Lucknow and Mooltan. Further work was carried out over the next few years to make the quarters more comfortable and liveable. In 1906 work was commenced to establish Tidworth as a 'cavalry station' rather than infantry barracks, this work was completed by 1908.

As a major Garrison, Tidworth was well served with facilities, including a theatre, next door was a 'Tin Market', built of corrugated iron and containing twenty stalls offering goods and provisions. The Wesleyan Church opened a



Soldier's Home in 1908. The Royal Army Temperance Association had a refreshments room as an alternative to the barracks canteens. The Ram Inn was the closest civilian pub and more often than not was 'out of bounds' following brawls.

Tidworth became the AIF's Headquarters in mid-1916, it was a logical choice with so many local camps occupied by Aussie troops nearby. The Anzac Provost Corps detachment had initially taken up residence at Parkhouse upon its arrival from Egypt, prior to taking up permanent residence in Bhurtpore Barracks.



The original Tidworth House was also utilised as a Divisional Headquarters. No doubt Australian troops serving in Tidworth felt quite comfortable, with heating and electric lights within their rooms.

Those military policemen that married overseas were able to take up married quarters within the Garrison Town. The AIF's Headquarters was also at Tidworth, not far from Bhurpore Barracks.



Tidworth House, Headquarters, Salisbury Plain,

The following men from the Australian Provost Corps have been identified from the photos;

5329 ARCHER Frederick Albert	Trooper (Died in England)
557 BICE Robert Johnson	Sergeant
2940 BODIMEADE Gavin George	Corporal
1918 BYRNE John Joseph	Corporal
2433 COWLES Lincoln	Corporal
2250 CURRIE Ernest Edward	Trooper
2605 DREW Ernest Henry	Trooper
1775 FULLALOVE Bertram	Corporal ?
3338 FULLALOVE E_____	2nd/Corporal (brothers, both were at Tidworth)
2471 FROUD Harold	2nd/Corporal
5786 GILLAM John	Trooper
261 GOWLANDS Richard Henry	WO2
1960 GRAY Arthur	Sergeant
392 HAMBLYN George Samuel	S/SM, MM
6329 KIVELL John Henry	2nd/Corporal
2451 MARTIN Gomer Clarence Lewis	S/SM
51551 MORLEY William	2nd/Corporal
3656 PIZZEY Frank Ferguson	Trooper
10078 POOLE Russell Satchell	Lance/Corporal (probably)
3614 SCHAFER Jacob	Private
6443 SWALES William Headfield	Corporal
441 SMETHURST Herbert Claude	2nd/Corporal
871 WAUGH Ralph Wilson	Sergeant

The mess Barman was;

465 SNELL Lawrence (22nd Battalion) **Corporal** (not formally verified)

Many of the other soldiers are believed to be known, but at this stage I am still verifying their service at Tidworth while Gordon Binns was there.

The ranks shown are not necessarily accurate, and are those shown on the AIF nominal roll from the end of the war. In some cases the soldier's ranks are visible in the photos.



Returning to Australia aboard the Ceramic in 1920



Corporal Gordon Binns.



(Left) Corporal Gordon Binns back in Ararat, Victoria in 1920 with a friend.

Gordon Binns hailed from Victoria, where he had enlisted as soon as he had turned 18 years of age in February 1917. Like most young men of his vintage he had spent several years as a school cadet.

After several months at various depots in Victoria, Gordon sailed in June 1917, aboard the troopship *Suevic*. While onboard Gordon held the rank of corporal, as part of the 13th re-enforcements for the 2nd Machine Gun Company. Upon his arrival in England on 26 August 1917, Gordon reverted to the rank of private, further machine gun training followed.

It was not until early March 1918 that Gordon was sent to France; however in a late move he was re-assigned to the newly re-designated 6th Machine Gun Battalion. On 20 April Gordon was transferred to a machine gun unit, joining the 1st Machine Gun Battalion. /??

Private Binns served on the Western Front up until 18 August 1918, when he received shrapnel wounds to his right shoulder. Evacuated to England for treatment, Gordon would not return to France. Gordon received treatment firstly at Birmingham and then at Dartford.

Gordon's wounds were relatively minor and by mid-September 1918 he was fit enough to be sent to the No 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott to await a return to a unit. Rather than returning to France, Gordon opted to transfer to the Australian Provost Corps. Marching into Bhurtpore Barracks at Tidworth on 19 October, Gordon would remain at Tidworth for the remainder of the war, it appears that Gordon became part of the Orderly Room, he soon got to know all of the men there as he would be in charge of calling the roll daily.

During his time at Tidworth, Gordon took numerous photos on a box brownie camera, which he later pasted into a large album. Luckily he clearly labelled the photos, although some images are a little blurry they show the men of the Australian Provost Corps in a mostly relaxed state, at their largest depot in the U.K.

Gordon, like many provosts remained overseas throughout 1919, not returning to Australia until March 1920, when he began his return aboard the *Ceramic*. Much of Gordon's time at Tidworth was probably spent in clerical duties (his pre-war trade), by war's end he (like many military policemen) held the rank of Extra Regimental Corporal.

Images courtesy of Gregory Binns (deceased), Gordon's son.

5329 TROOPER Frederick Albert ARCHER

Fred Archer was born at Wagga Wagga, the son of Frederick and Evelyn May Archer, and he and his family spent most of their lives in the Narrandera district. Fred was 22 years of age and working as a labourer at Narrandera prior to joining the AIF. Fred fronted at the tiny enlisting office at Narrandera to enlist on 28 December 1915, and he was sent to the Cootamundra Army Camp to begin his army life.

It was not until 13 April 1916 that Private Archer sailed for Egypt aboard the *Ceramic*, as part of the 17th Reinforcements for the 2nd Battalion. Also aboard the *Ceramic* were the 2nd Reinforcements for the newly forming 54th Battalion. While onboard a 'friendly' rivalry would have ensured the two drafts would not have mixed much. Little did they know that once in Egypt, Fred's draft would also be allotted to the 54th Battalion, and that the men would fight side by side.

The *Ceramic* docked at Suez on 16 May 1916. A little over a week later most of Fred's draft (approximately 150 men) were formally transferred to be reinforcements for the 54th Battalion. Initially sent to the 1st Training Battalion in Egypt, the men were then sent to the 14th Training Battalion, the training unit for the 14th Brigade, to which the 54th Battalion belonged.



Fred's draft sailed from Alexandria on the *Arcadian* on 29 July 1916. Its first destination was Marseilles in France, where many troops were offloaded. However the 54th reinforcements still had more training to do and continued on to England, where they arrived on 9 August. They were then sent to the 14th Training Battalion's new location at the Larkhill camp. The men received a further month's training before being sent to France.

After two weeks at the Etaples Depot, Fred's draft finally reached the 54th Battalion on 26 August; Fred became a member of B Company. Fred remained with his battalion on the Western Front until mid-March 1917.

On 13 March he attended the 15th Field Ambulance and was diagnosed as suffering from laryngitis. Upon being sent back to the 5th General Hospital at Rouen, Fred's condition was re-diagnosed as being pleurisy. From Rouen, Fred was quickly evacuated to England for treatment.



Admitted to the 1st London General Hospital at Camberwell, it was not until 7 June that Fred was transferred to the 1st Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield; his condition now recorded as parotitis. By the time Fred arrived at Harefield it had expanded significantly from its humble beginnings in 1915. The hospital was generally a soldier's second admission in the UK, and the staff were pressured to prepare the soldiers for their next step, either to a convalescence depot, or a hospital ship home to Australia.

Fred spent a further two months at Harefield before he was fit enough to be released from hospital. Fred was granted 'Furlo' from 11 June for two weeks, before he was to march into the No 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs.

At Perham Downs Fred was medically re-classified as A3. This was still sufficient to allow his return to his battalion in France. However whilst stationed at the depot, Fred contracted a venereal affliction that saw him admitted to a hospital in Bulford on 16 November 1917; this would further delay his return to France.

On 26 November Fred returned to duty at the No1 Command Depot. Three weeks later he was once again back at the 1st ADH at Bulford, apparently not having fully recovered from his venereal problems. After further treatment, on 5 February 1918 Fred again returned to the Command depot; however he was medically downgraded to B1A3.

This would prevent him rejoining his battalion, but did allow Fred to transfer to the Australian Provost Corps (APC), which accepted men with the slighter lower medical grade. Fred was sent to Bhurtpore Barracks at Tidworth to be trained for his role as a military policeman.

Fred was apparently a reasonable bugler, and within the provo's ranks had the nickname "*Trumps Archer*". He is pictured to the left near the APC barracks at Tidworth, with his bugle.

(Photo taken by Gordon Binns, APC)



At the completion of his training, Fred remained posted to the Dorset area. Fred was still serving with a Dorset Detachment when he was admitted to the County Hospital at Dorchester on 1 November 1918, suffering from pneumonia; no doubt a complication from the flu. Five days later, Fred Archer died as a result of his illness. It was a further three days before he was laid to rest in the Melcombe Regis Cemetery at Weymouth.

Chaplain T.J. Halpin, from the No. 2 Command Depot, Weymouth, conducted the service. Fred was given a funeral with full military honours, the details of which were recorded on the appropriate military paperwork:

"Deceased was buried with full Military honors. The funeral was preceded by a Firing Party from No 2 Australian Command Depot

and the band of the Dorset Regiment. Six of deceased's comrades acted as Pall bearers. Three Officers and about 150 N.C.O's and Men from No 2 Command depot followed the remains and were present at the graveside. Floral wreaths from "His comrades" (2), Captain Long A.P.C., and Mrs Smith on behalf of deceased's Mother were placed on the grave. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral."



Fred Archer's grave at Weymouth, his is the grave in the centre rear next to the path.

3467 TROOPER Alfred Richard ROWAN

Alfred Richard Rowan was born at Bathurst; he enlisted on 13 July 1915. Prior to joining up he was working as an Engine Cleaner with the railways, he still single and 20 years of age when fronted at Liverpool.

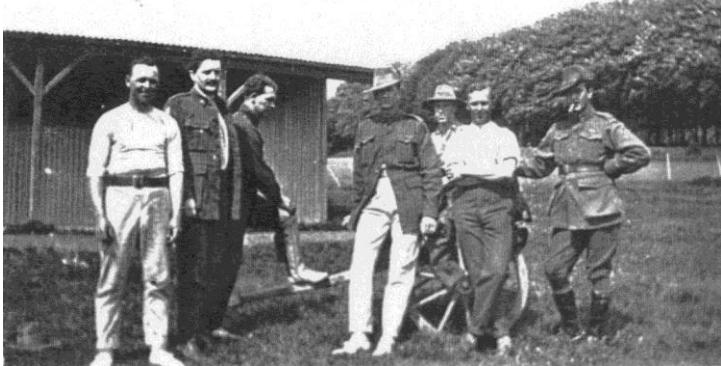
Private Rowan became part of the 11th re-enforcements for the 1st Battalion, his draft sailed aboard the troopship *Themistocles* on 5 October 1915. Arriving in Egypt about a month later Alfred was not sent to the Gallipoli peninsula to join up with his battalion, instead he remained at a depot in Egypt until early in 1916.

On 31 January 1916 Alfred was admitted to a hospital at Abbassia and it was not until early April that he was discharged to return to duty. Alfred marched almost straight away in a military police training camp at **Abbassia**; here he joined several hundred other men as they were assessed for their suitability to be part of the newly formed Anzac Provost Corps. At the completion of his training Alfred was sent with the bulk of the men to England aboard the Tunisian on 3 August 1916.

On 14 October 1916 Alfred was sent to France, after a short time at a depot he was attached to the 4th Divisional MMP. Alfred had several stints in hospital over the next few months. In late February 1917 he was detached for duty under the APM at Albert, Alfred spent two weeks at Albert and at the completion of that duty was attached to the 1st Anzac Headquarters detachment.



On 14 March 1917 Alfred was attached for duty at the 1st Anzac Field Punishment Compound, he remained in this role for the remainder of 1917 and most of 1918. In late 1918 Alfred was briefly detached to the Safe Custody Compound (still in France). In December 1918 Alfred was himself in trouble, being charged with being '*'absent without leave whilst on guard duties.'* Alfred received 7 days FP (field punishment).



It was not until late February 1919 that Alfred was sent back to England to prepare for a return to Australia. Like many of his 4th Division MMP comrades Trooper Rowan would in fact be utilised in duties in the U.K. throughout much of 1919. In Alfred's case he remained in England well into 1920.

The photo to the left shows a group of military policemen in relaxed poses at Tidworth most probably in early 1919 (not verified). The figure with his hands

on his knee, (which is raised), is known to be a soldier named Rowan, it is most probably Alfred as the only other two Rowans within the Australian Provost Corps were part of the Egyptian section of the corps. (Brothers Joseph and John Rowan)

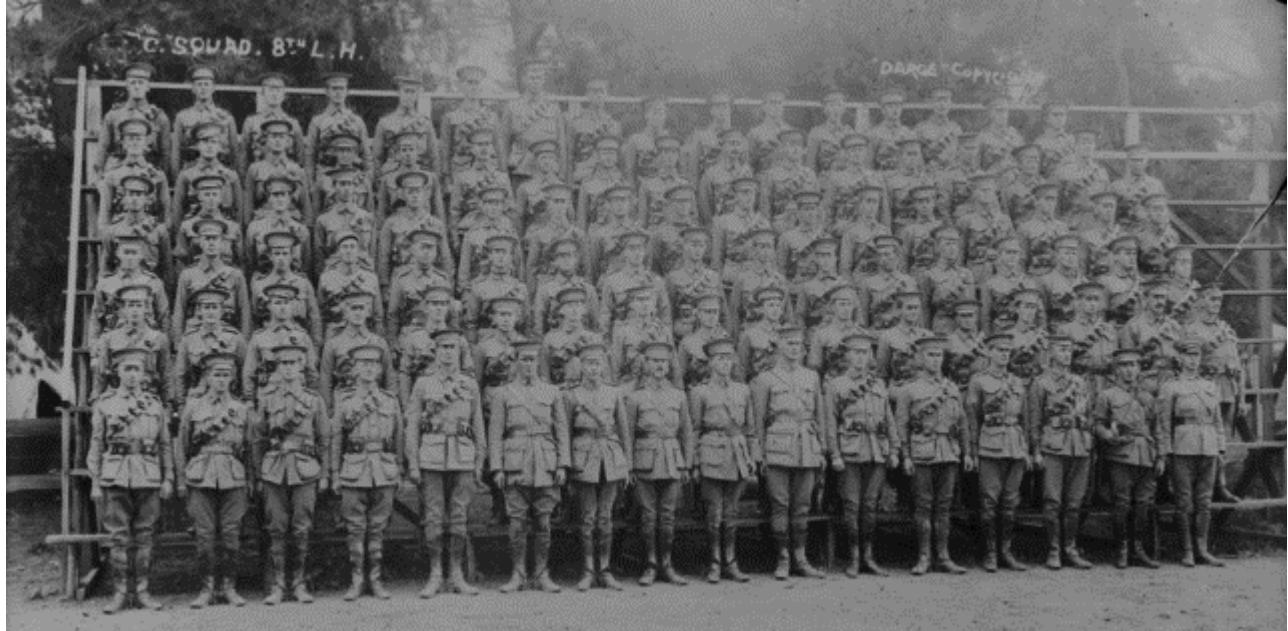
Alfred's willingness to remain in England would have no doubt related to his marriage on 14 June 1919, when he married Lily Taylor. The pair were married at Hampstead; Lily was some five years older than Alfred. In 1919 Alfred was posted to Tidworth and later for duty at the Lewes Detention Barracks, Lewes (shown right) was a British prison that had been taken over by the Australian Provost Corps and was used to house some of the worst offenders within the AIF.

In late February 1920 Alfred was posted to London as he continued to await a passage to Australia for he and Lily, the couple were finally granted that passage aboard the *Zealandic* on 27 March. During the voyage Alfred took ill and was admitted overnight to the ship's hospital ward. The *Zealandic* arrived in Sydney on 15 May 1920; Alfred was not discharged from the AIF until 15 August 1920.



441 CORPORAL Herbert Claude SMETHURST

Herbert Smethurst hailed from Drouin in Victoria, he fronted to enlist at Melbourne on 18 September 1914, he described himself as a chauffeur, Herbert was 23 years of age and still single. The Smethurst family were dairy farmers in the Gippsland region. The photo of Bert (to the **right**) comes from a group photo from his brother Joe's wedding earlier in 1914. Trooper Smethurst was allotted to 'C' Squadron of the 8th Light Horse Regiment.



The 8th Light Horse Regiment was raised at Victoria in September 1914, originally known as the 6th Light Horse Regiment, but following a reorganisation in October the regiment was renumbered the 8th Regiment. It comprised twenty-five officers and 497 other ranks, serving in three Squadrons, each of six Troops. Each troop was divided into eight sections, of four men each. In action, one man of each section was nominated as a horse holder, reducing the regiment's rifle strength by a quarter. Once formed the regiment was assigned to the 3rd Light Horse Brigade, serving alongside the 9th and 10th Light Horse Regiments.



The 8th Light Horse Regiment left Melbourne on 25 February 1915, for Egypt aboard the troopship *Star of Victoria*. When the Australian infantry units were dispatched to Gallipoli, it was thought the terrain was unsuitable for mounted troops, and the light horse regiments remained in Egypt.



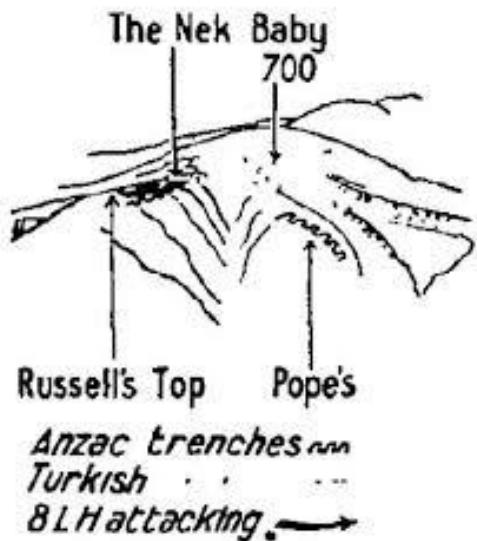
However, heavy casualties amongst the Australian infantry battalions resulted in the deployment of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade as reinforcements in May 1915. On arrival, the regiment was attached to the New Zealand and Australian Division. The regiment was heavily involved in the Battle of The Nek, suffering severe casualties, including its commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander White, who was killed leading the first wave.

The Nek was a vitally important position on the northern end of the ANZAC front line and the scene of the tragic attack by the 3rd Light Horse Brigade at dawn on 7 August, 1915. It was a narrow bridge of land that stretched between Russell's Top and Baby 700 across the top of Monash Valley. The Turkish trenches on the slopes of Baby 700 allowed them to dominate the Australian positions below.

As part of the diversionary effort for the August Offensive, the 3rd Light Horse Brigade was ordered to attack the Turkish trenches at The Nek at 4.30 am on 7 August, to support an attack on Baby 700 by New Zealand troops who were to have captured Chunuk Bair the previous evening.

The attack commenced with a bombardment of the Turkish positions by a destroyer steaming offshore, but the bulk of the shells fell beyond their target and the bombardment ended seven minutes early. Instead of charging at this point, the officers of the light horse held their men back until the appointed time for the attack arrived. This gave the Turks time to man their positions, having sought shelter during the bombardment.

The first wave of light horsemen from the 8th Light Horse Regiment were shot down by Turkish rifle and machine-gun fire. The second line, also from the 8th, scrambled over the dead and wounded of the first line to make their attack, and suffered the same fate. Cancellation of the attack was proposed, but was rejected by Major John Antill, who had taken over effective command of the 3rd Brigade. The third line of soldiers, from the 10th Light Horse, went over the top and were also shot down. Cancellation was again suggested, but before a decision was made, the right flank of the fourth line charged as a result of a misunderstanding, and some of the rest of the line followed. They too were mowed down by the Turkish fire. The 8th Light Horse suffered 234 casualties, 154 fatal; and the 10th suffered 138 casualties, 80 fatal.



Bert survived the August attacks, but by early October ill-health was beginning to take its toll on him. On 9 October he was admitted to a field ambulance suffering from jaundice, he was evacuated firstly to Malta and then after a few days sent on to England for treatment. Bert was admitted to the 3rd London Hospital at Wandsworth.

No further entries appear on his file until the end of June 1916, when Bert is shown as being at the Monte Video Camp at Weymouth. On 28 June he was transferred to the Perham Downs depot at Salisbury.

The following Gippsland names appear in the 113th casualty list :— Wounded, Private G. K. Smith, Bairnsdale; ill, Lance-Corporal Bes-ton, Drouin, Privates E. R. Erington, Trafalgar, W. W. Etheridge, Trar-algon, A. D. Hopkins, Stratford, M. Kenworthy, Bairnsdale, T. J. Moore, Cunningham, D. Pye, Traralgon; reported in hospital, Private H. C. Smethurst, Yannathan; embarked for England, Sergt. T. C. Weir, Stratford.



Bert was earmarked for the newly forming 3rd Division, was forming (primarily) in England. On 9 August 1916 Trooper Smethurst was formally taken on the strength of the 3rd Divisional Headquarters as a MMP.

It was while at No 4 Parkhouse Camp on the Salisbury Plain that Bert married 22 year old Lillian Dorothy Sanders. The couple married on 2 November 1916 at the Parish Church at Harrow in Middlesex.

Trooper Smethurst was with the 3rd Division's MMP when they moved to France on 22 November 1916. Bert would remain with the 3rd Division for most of the war. On 9 February 1917 the 3rd Divisions MMP were formally absorbed into the Anzac Provost Corps. This was purely an administrative move and it saw no change to their roles within the division.

In mid-February Bert was evacuated to the 10th Field Ambulance, suffering from the mumps. He was sent to a hospital at St Omer for treatment, where he remained up until 9 March. By 11 March he had rejoined his unit.

Being part of the Australian [previously Anzac] Provost Corps the MMP from the divisions were regularly sent on course to refresh their military police skills. On 19 January 1918 Bert was sent on course at the 4th Provost School of Instruction. The course generally involved;

- Charge Reports and Evidence,
- Notebook and Traffic Notes,
- Revolver handling,
- Equitation and Stables, and
- General smartness and efficiency.

The men received training and were marked on each area, but it should be noted that some of the shooting scores (revolvers) seen by the author were pretty low.

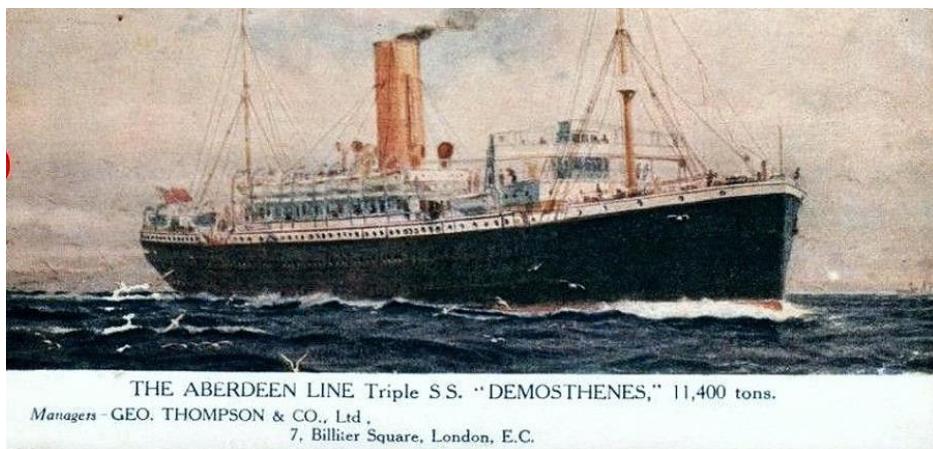
Trooper Herbert Smethurst rejoined the 3rd Division's MMP on 3 February 1918, he continued to serve on the Western Front. In mid-August 1918 Bert became eligible for two weeks leave to the U.K., no doubt spending that time with Lillian, he returned to duty in France on 3 September.

With the declaration of peace and the winding down of troop numbers in Belgium and France on 18 January 1919 Bert was detached for duty with the APM at Longpre. Longpre was one of the base depots that began handling the pending repatriation of many of the Australian troops.

On 13 February 1919 Bert was posted back to England, here he took up duty at Tidworth, with his transfer he was promoted to corporal (ER 2nd Cpl). In early march Herbert was struck down by the flu, it was several weeks before he returned to duty. The following photo shows Herbert with two of his fellow military policemen at Tidworth, Lance Corporal Ogden is to the left (facing), SSM Gomer Martin in the centre and Herbert to the right.



Herbert and Lillian were given a berth to Australia aboard the *Demosthenes*, departing the UK on 26 July 1919. The troopship arrived at Melbourne on 14 September. It was not until 13 November 1919 that Herbert Smethurst was discharged from the AIF.



surviving through the depression and on. Three more children were born, Betty, Norman and Doug.

Cecil and Norman would both serve during WW2, Cecil was killed on the Kokoda Track, Norman was reported missing during the fall of Singapore. One can only imagine the grief of Bert and Lillian at the loss of their eldest sons.

SMETHURST.—On the 27th May, at 7 Tivoli road, trench End, N.E. London, to Lance-Corporal H. C. Smethurst, 8th Light Horse (Anzac), and Mrs. Smethurst—a son.



WEDDING OF MISS EMMIE COULSTON AND MR. JOE SMETHURST

Standing at Back—Mr. Jack Coulston, Mr. **Herbert Smethurst**, Mr. Stanley Fowler. In Front—Miss Ivy Coulston, The Bridegroom, photo by Sears.

2262 CORPORAL George WATSON

George Watson was born in Sydney and described himself as an engineer when he enlisted on 21 February 1916. George was married to Jessie; he was nearly 28 years of age when he joined up at Bathurst. Jessie gave a Belmore and then later a Lakemba address while her husband was away.

George's brother, Eric Stanley Watson (shown **right**) had served with the 5th Light Horse Regiment and had been seriously wounded at Gallipoli and had died aboard the Hospital Ship *Sicilia* on 26 May 1915.

Eric was a few years younger than George and had been working as a baker, working alongside his father, George (senior) at the Belmore Bakery prior to enlisting. Eric had written his will to leave all monies owed to him by the army to his brother George's son, George (junior).



George told the recruiting clerk that he had been a cadet during his senior years of school and had then spent some five years with the Scottish Rifle's Regiment (militia) in New South Wales. Taken on a Bathurst, George started his training there, he was allotted to J Company of the Depot Bathurst Battalion, his depot regimental number while at Bathurst was N 17584.

Watson's previous militia service saw him quickly promoted; on 1 March 1916 he was promoted to the rank of colour sergeant major. Just prior to embarking for overseas, George's rank was confirmed as acting sergeant. George is in this photo from the Bathurst Army Camp, he is in the middle row, fourth from the left.



Infantry Non-commissioned Officers.

Left to right.—Front row: Q.M.S. E. B. Clouston, Sergt. C. Houston, C.S.M. J. Bowran, C.S.M. W. A. A. Macgregor, Sergt. N. Patman, Sergt. J. E. Whiting, Sergt. C. S. Harold, Sergt. R. Armstrong, Sergt. C. Clark. Second row: Sergt. A. M. Stanner, Sergt. H. Grady, Sergt. F. Daly, Sergt. G. Watson, Sergt. J. Laird, Sergt. E. Kesby, Sergt. R. C. Doyle, R.Q.M.S., C. Thompson, Q.M.S. L. Loneragan, Sergt. J. Kelly. Back row: C.S.M. S. R. Eastment, C.S.M. J. Stinson, Sergt. G. Jenkins, Sergt. A. A. Mays, Sergt. H. B. Maxson, Sergt. W. B. M. Suttor.



The Depot Battalion on parade.

The photo above shows the Depot Battalion on parade at Bathurst, these photo's are from the New South Wales *Town and Country Journal* of the time. The photo's to the right shows the original source of the previous photo, George's group (top) shows the NCO's from within the Depot (Training) Battalion, these men were themselves training, as well as helping train their own men who would serve overseas.

The second photo shows the NCO's that were staff at the camp itself, these men were probably permanent Instructional Staff and were not earmarked for service outside Australia. The bottom photo shows the Soldier's Recreation Hall within the Camp.

George was probably at the Bathurst Camp (the Bathurst Showground) when the campsite was flooded in early October 1916. Following the flooding it was decided to close the camp and the men were re-allotted to other camps. George had become part of the 4th re-enforcements for the 53rd Battalion (known as B Company within the camp?). Many of the men from the 53rd and 54th Battalion's came from the Central West.



Infantry Non-commissioned Officers.

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Non-Commissioned Officers Depot Battalion.

Left to right.—Front row: Sergt. J. R. Palmer, Sergt. W. T. Perkins, W.O. W. Boulton, Sergt. G. V. Oxenham, Sergt. R. Hington. Back row: Sergt. W. A. Elbourne, Sergt. L. T. Lunn, R.Q.M.S. N. G. Gilchrist, Sergt. E. S. Shaw, R.Q.M.S. S. R. Lowe, Sergt. A. H. Smith, Sergt. H. G. Phillips, Cpl. H. Croft.



The Soldiers' Recreation Hall, erected by the Citizens of Bathurst.

The draft that George belonged to sailed from Sydney aboard the troopship *Vestalia* on 11 July 1916, that's the *Vestalia* still at the wharf, the *Orsova* is just being pushed away by the tug. (this photo is from Victoria in 1916). The *Vestalia* sailed directly to England where it docked at Devonport. In the U.K. George's draft was sent to the 14th Training Battalion at Larkhill. As the draft continued to train George retained his rank of acting sergeant.

On 14 September 1916 George was admitted to the Military Hospital at Fargo suffering from the flu and otitis media? On being admitted to hospital George formally reverted to being a private. It was not until 2 January that Watson returned to duty at the 14th Training Battalion, marching back into the depot he remained his substantive rank of private.



On 11 February 1917 Private Watson was charged for being '*Absent from Church Parade*' he was admonished over the incident (guilty - but no punishment). On 18 March George was again promoted, his file gives his rank as an EDP Sergeant, EDP presumably standing for extra duty pay. On 28 July he was further promoted when he was appointed as Acting CQMS (Company Quarter Master Sergeant).

With a move to the Western Front pending; on 10 September 1917 George again reverted to the rank of private. George moved to Southampton and from there crossed the English Channel (with at least part of his draft) in France he marched into the Le Havre Depot as he waited to march out to a battalion.

After a little over a week at Le Havre, part of George's draft marched out to join the 53rd Battalion. The 53rd's unit war diary records that eighteen men (re-enforcements) including George, joined the battalion at Reninghelst in Belgium on 20 September, on 24 September a further twenty nine reinforcements joined the 53rd Battalion at the Battalion's location at '*Half Way House*' near Glencorse Wood where the battalion was in reserve. Only a day after joining the battalion Private Watson received one stripe (lance corporal), George would stay at that rank while with the 53rd Battalion on the Western Front.

The 53rd's war diary states that the men were allocated to the various companies, but it is unclear what company George joined. George and those other re-enforcements joined the battalion as it was about to move into the line in front of Glencorse Wood, the battalion at this time numbered some 21 officers and 676 men.

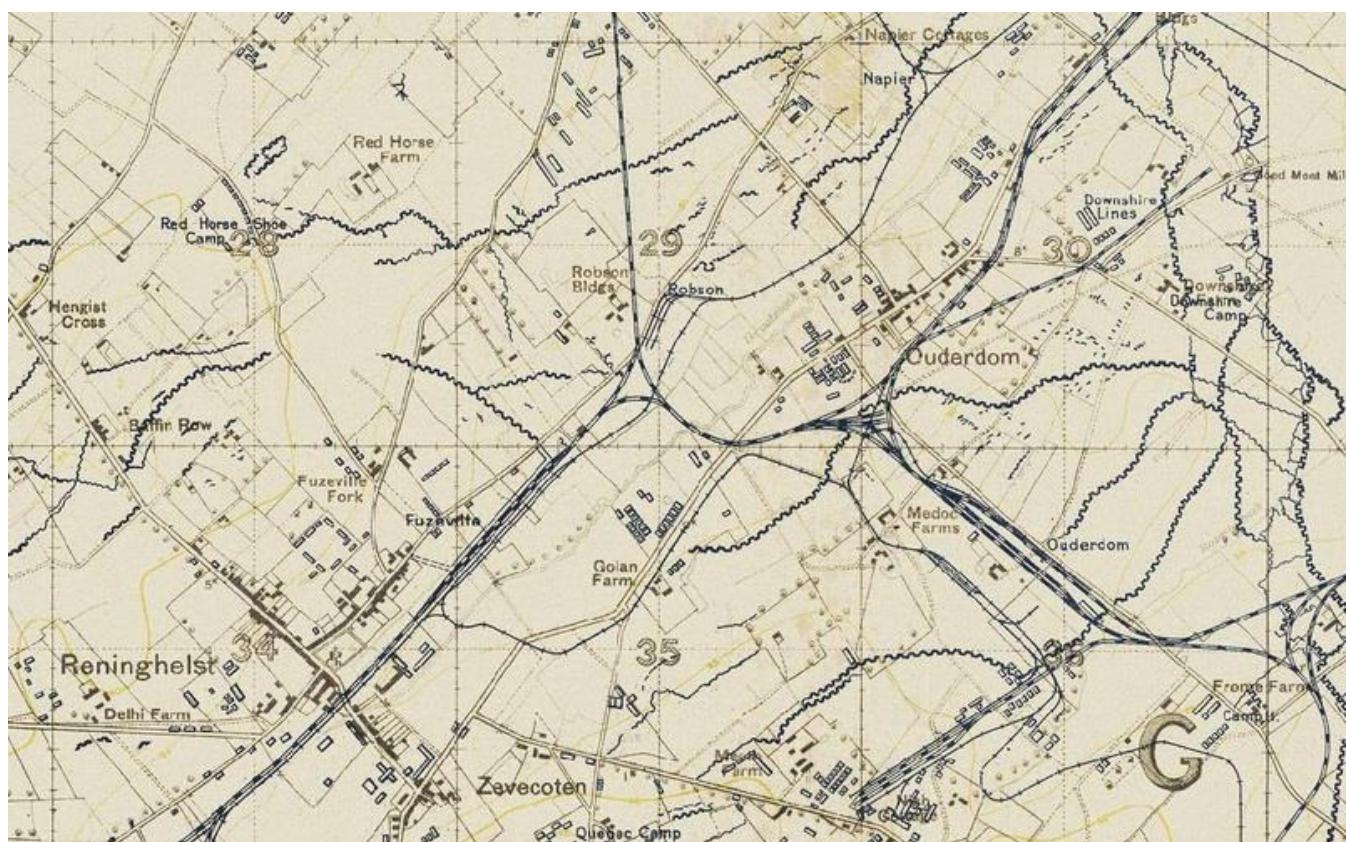
At midnight on the 25/26 September the men moved into their assembly areas ready to attack early on the morning of the 26th. The battalion had already suffered quite a few casualties from enemy shelling, only about 500 men actually attacked.

The 53rd Battalion successfully attacked, seizing a strongpoint known as the Butte in Glencorse Wood that attack took about an hour. The battalion lost about 40 men during the first phase of the attack as the Butte was seized. The battalion then consolidated the positions it held around the Butte. The Germans mounted several heavy counter-attacks, despite the heavy fighting the 53rd Battalion was able to hold its positions and continued to further reinforce their posts with wire and improvements to the trenches.

The 53rd held the line until the night of 29/30 September when it was relieved, returning to near Half Way House. The following night the battalion retired to Pioneer Camp. During those few days of fighting the battalion suffered (killed, wounded or missing) 8 officers and 342 men.

Somehow George through the fighting unscathed, no doubt many of the fresh batches of reinforcements would have been killed or wounded during their first time in battle. One of the battalion's casualties was Lieutenant Colonel Croshaw, the battalion's Commanding Officer, he was killed in action.

On 1 October Lieutenant Colonel Cheeseman assumed command of the battalion. The following day the battalion moved to the Reninghelst Staging Camp, here the battalion re-grouped, many officers were temporarily attached to the 53rd to replace those lost during the previous battle. Training resumed as the men prepared for the battalion's next action.



On 8 October 1917 the battalion moved to Ouderdom, on this occasion however 4 officers and 53 men were left at Reninghelst to act as a battalion nucleus. This party of men was designed to act as a 'nucleus' to rebuild upon, should the battalion suffer heavy casualties during the upcoming fighting.

The battalion then moved forward to Zillebeke, here for a week the battalion provided carrying parties. Despite the parties being regularly targeted by shellfire, few casualties were suffered.

On 17 October the battalion took over the support line on Anzac Ridge. The 53rd Battalion was supporting its sister battalion, the 56th Battalion, nearby the 55th Battalion was in support of the 54th Battalion. The 53rd Battalion continued to provide carrying parties up to the frontline.

The battalion was relieved by the 30th Battalion on 21 October, it retired to Dickebusch. On 25 October the battalion marched back to Wippenhoek, here it once again re-organised and the focus once again turned to training. By the end of the month the 53rd Battalion's was shown as being 33 officers and 784 men, about 100 of these men were actually on detachment or on leave.

The battalion remained in the Wippenhoek area. On 2 November Captain Lang had charge of a military funeral for Lance Corporal Bill Mara (see **right**), Mara had been a very gallant stretcher bearer for the battalion and had been wounded during the recent fighting, dying a few days later. Mara had hailed from the Central West (Bathurst and then Wellington).

On 4 November the battalion moved to a new camp near Neuve Berquin, here training continued. On 10 November the 53rd Battalion marched to the Loker area, the following day the battalion marched to Kemmel. The quarters at Berquin and Kemmel were comfortable for the men.



On 12 November 5 officers and 127 men remained to the rear at Norfolk Camp as the battalion's nucleus party, these men continued their training as they awaited the 53rd's next action. The remainder of the battalion moved forward into support lines in the Wytschaete sector on 12 November.

On the night of 13 November the battalion relieved a British Battalion in the frontline. Despite having some quite good dugouts the men suffered badly in the heavy mud. On 14 November an enemy patrol approached the 53rd's line, throwing many bombs, the battalion easily beating off the attack. It was on 14 November Lance Corporal Watson was forced to leave his battalion and attend sick parade at the 8th Australian Field Ambulance suffering from flu like symptoms. George was evacuated back to Etaples for treatment, his condition now re-diagnosed as Trench Fever.

George spent ten days at an Etaples Hospital before being sent back to the U.K. on 27 November 1917. Upon his arrival in England George was admitted to the 1st Southern War Hospital at Birmingham, when he had recovered sufficiently George was transferred to the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford.



The Australian Army had taken over the Orchard Military Hospital in October 1916 (see photo); the hospital now treated war-related nerve cases and neuroses. At its peak the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital had some 1400 beds.

George remained at Dartford until the end of January 1918 when he was granted two weeks 'furlo,' he was ordered to report to No 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott on 14 February.

After several weeks at Hurdcott George was attached to the Australian Provost Corps at Tidworth. George underwent a period of training and assessment as to his suitability to be a military policeman, on 5 April 1918 he was formally transferred to the Australian Provost Corps; he also formally reverted to the rank of private.

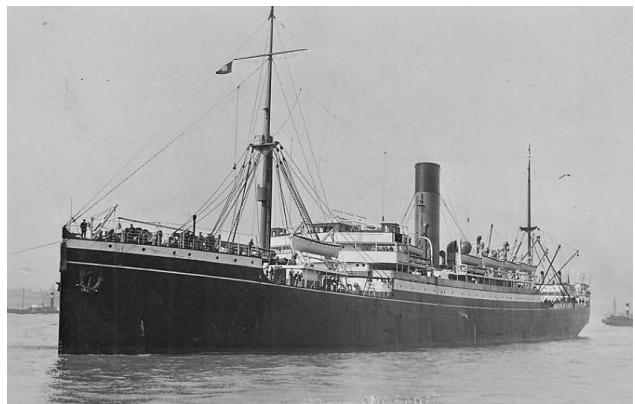




George remained posted to Bhurapore Barracks at Tidworth and would not return to either Belgium or France. On 17 September 1918 he was promoted to the rank of E.R. Corporal, the E.R. stood for 'Extra Regimental', this was a rank commonly utilised by the provost corps. George would remain a corporal until discharge.

The photo to the left was taken by Gordon Binns, a member of the Australian Provost Corps, he was a clerk at Bhurapore Barracks, Binn's recorded the photo as being '*Watson*' and it would appear that it probably is George. The photos were taken in late 1918 and early 1919 when George was posted to Tidworth.

George Watson remained in the U.K. up until late September 1919; on 25 September he began his return to Australia aboard the troopship *Mahana*. The *Mahana* (shown **right**) docked at Sydney on 12 November 1919; George was discharged from the AIF on 10 January 1920.



The following profiles are only brief, the men were (presumably) mostly from the Hurdcott detachment from 1917. The men all made entries into this small address book, possibly the owner was an Australian nurse?

322 Joseph Robert SOLWAY – 18th Battalion & Anzac Provost Corps

3/5/1917 Hurdcott

My Dear Friend,

**These few lines are written by a stranger
in a strange land and when he gets back
to his own land he will be no longer a
stranger.**

**322 J R Solway Pte – Anzac Provost
Corps - Hurdcott**

Joe enlisted in NSW in February 1915 into A Company of the 18th Battalion – he was 30 years old and gave his occupation as a lineman. He embarked overseas aboard the troopship *Ceramic* with his Battalion in June 1915.

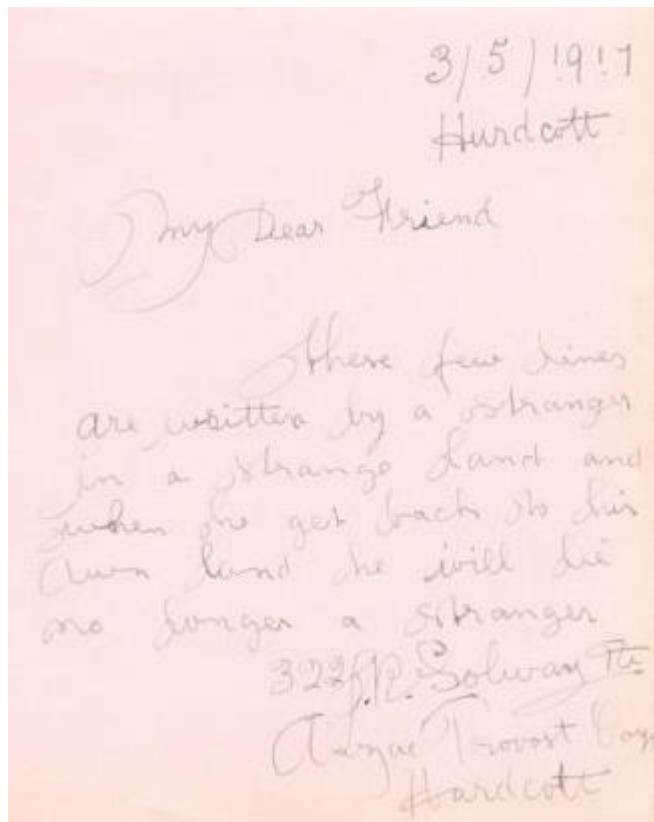
The 18th Joe landed with the 18th Battalion at Gallipoli on the 20th of August 1915 and the following day would have taken part in the last great offensive of the Gallipoli campaign – the Attack on Hill 60, which cost the 18th Battalion 50% casualties. Joe remained with the 18th Battalion until the final evacuation in late December, returning to Egypt in early January 1916.

In April 1916, while still in Egypt, Joe was transferred to the Anzac Provost Corps, joining several hundred other men it training at **Abbassia**, at the completion of their training and the closing of Abbassia he was part of a contingent that embarked for England in August 1916.



Solway remained in the U.K. until July 1917 when he embarked for France and joined the Anzac Provost Corps at Le Havre. In December 1917 he was promoted to Lance Corporal and in October 1918 was promoted to Temporary Corporal.

After the Armistice Joe remained in France until March 1919 when he returned to England and from there he eventually embarked on board the *Leicestershire* to return to Australia in May 1919. Joe Solway was discharged from the AIF on 21 August 1919.



2699 Walter John Charles MATTHEWS – 53rd Battalion, Anzac Provost Corps & 1st Australian Divisional Train

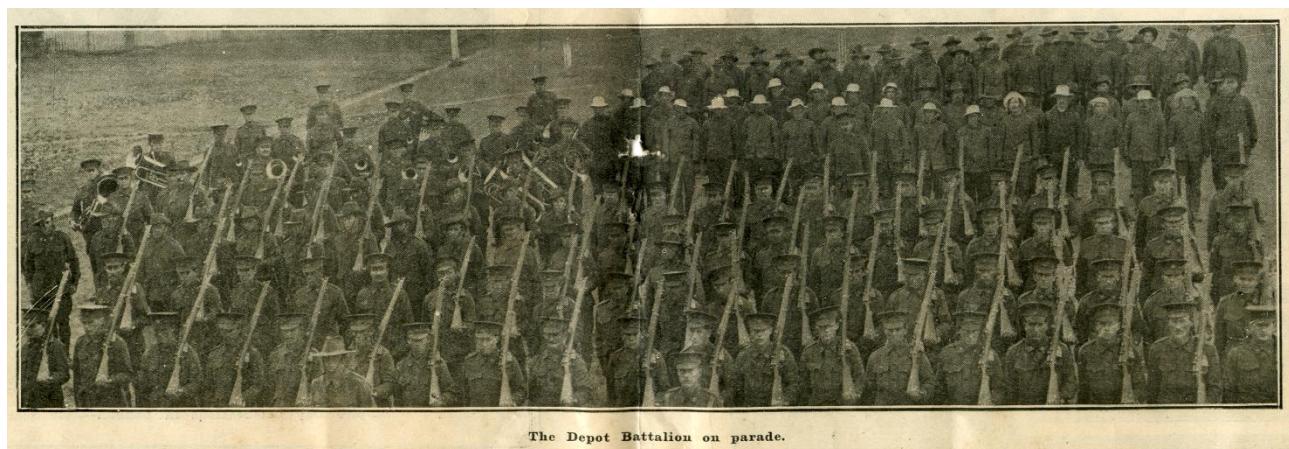
Anzac Provost Corps – No 10 Camp – Hurdcott – Salisbury – 28th April 1917

The Happiest Hours I spent in my Life

Were spend in the Arms of another Man's Wife – My Brother

2699 Pte W J C Matthews

Walter enlisted in NSW on 4 April 1916 into the 6th Reinforcements of the 53rd Battalion – he was 18 years old and gave his occupation as ‘Garage hand’ and an address at Balmain. Matthews was initially sent to the Dubbo Depot to begin his training, he was then sent to the larger Bathurst Camp, here he was allotted to A ‘Company’ with the 53rd Battalion. The actual 53rd Battalion was overseas so this was probably a Depot Battalion allocation, while at Bathurst Walter was charged by Lt A.E. Johnson (shown **right**) with ‘overstaying his leave’ in late September.



The Depot Battalion on parade.

Private Matthews appears to have sailed for overseas aboard the *Ceramic* in early October 1916. Walter was probably part of the 6th re-enforcements for the 53rd Battalion.

Walter arrived in England in November 1916 and after a short period of further training was transferred to the Anzac Provost Corps at Hurdcott. After a time he elected to join the 53rd Battalion, he embarked for France in October 1917 where he joined the 53rd Battalion in the field. The following month he was attached for duty with the 14th Machine Gun Company.

Walter was in and out of hospital for a while suffering from Laryngitis – eventually his medical class was downgraded to B1 and he was transferred to the 1st Australian Divisional Train in March 1918, where he remained till the end of the war. He returned to England in December 1918.

While waiting to return home to Australia, Walter got into a bit of trouble, going AWL from the 3rd to the 17th of January 1919 – as the war was now over it appears that the authorities recognised that Walter was just taking a bit of a holiday before going home and were significantly lenient with him – he was merely fined 23 day’s pay with no other punishment. He returned to Australia in early March 1919 aboard the *Port Denison*. His service record has a final note, stating that he died in 1987.

1775 Bertram Fullalove –13th Light Horse & Australian Provost Corps

Owen Moor went away

Owing more than he could pay

Owen Moor came back

Owing Moore.

No 1775 Trooper Bert Fullalove

13th Light Horse “The Devil’s Own”

A.I.F.

Bert added another inscription to a different page, which reads:

Roses red voilets blue

Honey is sweet & so are you

So is he who wrote this

And when we meet will have a kiss.

I have a heart a heart this is true

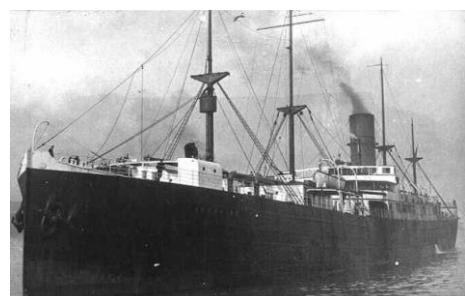
Long have I kept this heart for you

If you prove faithful I’ll prove true

Then nothing but death shall part us two

Trooper Bert Fullalove – 13th Light Horse - The Devils Own – A.I.F. Home address – B Fullalove 30 Victoria Street - North Melbourne – Victoria - Australia

Bert enlisted in Victoria in February 1916 into the 9th Reinforcements of the 13th Light Horse – he was 28 years old and gave his occupation as ‘Engine driver’ (interestingly his service record notes that he was a Widower and had a son). Bert also had previous military experience, having served 3 years in the Victoria Scottish Regiment. Bert trained mostly at the Seymour Camp, before embarking overseas in early July 1916 aboard the troopship *Ayrshire* (shown right)



Bert arrived in England in September 1916 and marched into the 13th Light Horse Training Depot at Tidworth. In October 1916 he transferred to the Anzac Provost Corps, joining the corps at Bhurtpore Barracks, which was also located at Tidworth. Bert’s older brother Ernest had been with the provost corps since its formation at Abbassia in April 1916, at the time when Bert joined the corps Ernest was posted at _____.

In mid October 1916 Bert was posted to the Woolwich area for duty. In mid March 1917 was sent to France where he was posted to the Le Havre Detachment and promoted to Lance Corporal while on duty there. (Le Havre is shown below)



Bert's first stay in France was quite short, on 12 April 1917 he was kicked in the knee by a horse while on stable duty. As a result he was evacuated to a hospital in England – he remained there until September when he returned to France and rejoined his unit. In January 1918 he was again evacuated sick to hospital in England where he remained till the end of the war – in late February 1918 he returned to duty at Tidworth. In

December 1918 he was promoted to Temporary Corporal, at this time Ernest was also at ___ holding the rank of sergeant.

The photo shown (left) is probably Bert, it was taken at Tidworth by Corporal Gordon Binns, the exact date of the photo is unknown and Binns only recorded the surname of the soldier. Bert's brother was also at Tidworth during the time Binns was there, the second photo (right) is probably Sergeant Ern Fullalove, he is the central figure, Burn is to his right, Gillam to his left.



In July 1919 Bert got into a bit of trouble while waiting to go home – being charged with being 'Drunk in the Garrison Gymnasium and Creating a disturbance', for which he was severely reprimanded. He eventually returned to Australia in September 1919 aboard the troopship *Mahana*.

Bert Fullalove died in May 1947, he was buried at New Cheltenham in Victoria.

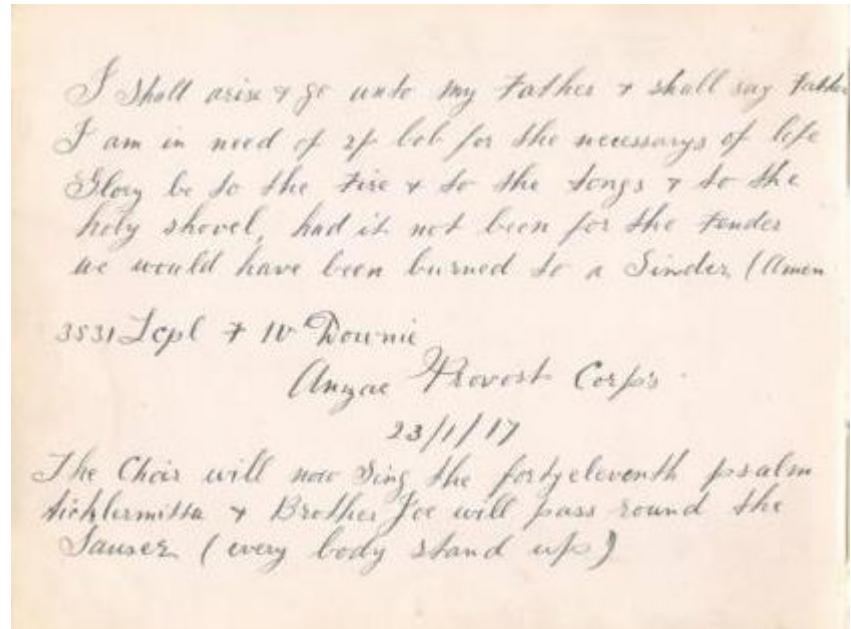
3531 Frank William Downie – 6th Battalion & Anzac Provost Corps

I shall arise & go unto my father & shall say Father I am in need of 2 bob for the necessary's of life. Glory be to the Fire & to the tongs & to the holy shovel, had it not been for the fender we would have been burned to a sinder Amen.

3531 LCPL F W Downie Anzac Provost Corps 23/11/17

This Choir will now sing the forty eleventh psalm – Aicklermitta & Brother Joe will pass round the Sauses (every body stand up)

Frank enlisted in July 1915 in Victoria training at the Albert Park Depot for a few weeks before moving to the larger Broadmeadows Camp, here he became part of the 11th Reinforcements of the 6th Battalion. Frank stated that he was 36 years old and gave his occupation as an Ironworker. He embarked overseas in October 1915.



Frank arrived in Egypt early in 1916 and on 3 April was transferred to the Anzac Provost Corps, joining the corps at its **Abbassia** Training Camp (below). Frank was one of those earmarked for establishing a Provost Depot in the U.K., in early August he embarked for England where he remained until June 1917. On 24 June he embarked for France to join the Anzac Provost Corps BEF (British Expeditionary Force). In France he was posted as a MMP with the 2nd Australian Division,

in mid-July he was promoted to Lance Corporal.



In March 1918 Frank was sent on a two week course of refresher training at the 4th Army Provost School of Instruction (in France). Frank was still in France in May 1918 when he faced a Field Court Marshall, where he was charged with, and pleaded guilty to,

being drunk, for which he received 40 days loss of pay and 20 days Field Punishment No. 2.

After the above incident, Frank parted company with the Provost Corps and was transferred back to the 6th Battalion on the 18th of May 1918 – he remained with this unit until the end of the war. He eventually returned to Australia in November 1918.

4211 Alexander James Hall – 6th & 5th Battalions & Anzac Provost Corps

Pte A. J. Hall – Anzac Provost Corps – Tidworth – via Salisbury England.

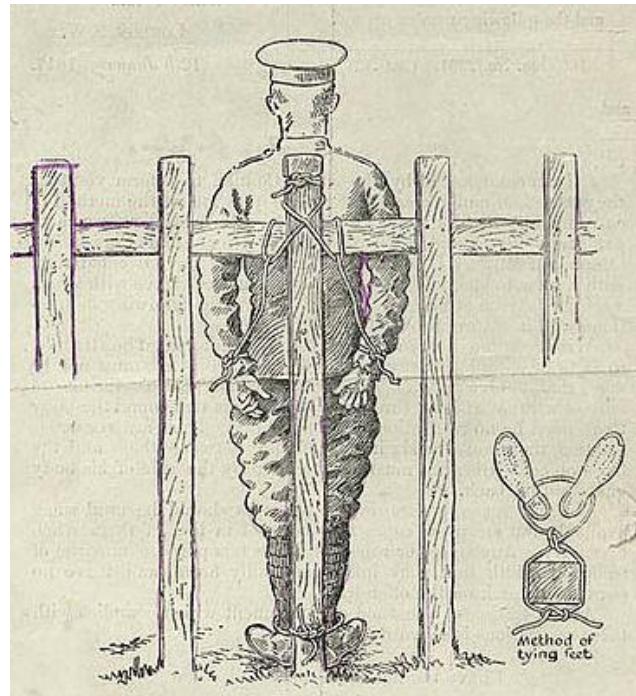
Alex actually enlisted twice in the AIF, the first time in Victoria in September 1914 he enlisted into the 6th Battalion, embarked from Melbourne in October 1914 but was returned to Australia in April 1915 being discharged as ‘Medically Unfit’. Apparently not put off by this experience he re-enlisted in September 1915 in Victoria into the 13th Reinforcements of the 5th Battalion – he was 24 years old, married, and gave his occupation as ‘Pipe-fitter’. He embarked overseas in December 1915 and arrived in Egypt early in 1916.

Like Joe Solway and Frank Downie, Alex Hall joined the Anzac Provost Corps at **Abbassia** on 3 April 1916. Alex was formally transferred to the Anzac Provost Corps and with this unit he embarked for England in August 1916 – he remained there until August 1917 when he was sent to France. After a short time at the Rouelles Depot he marched out for duty at the 1st Anzac F.P. Compound (Field Punishment) – he remained there until well after the Armistice.

The 1st Anzac Field Punishment Compound had been established through necessity in late 1916; the compound was manned by members of the Anzac Provost Corps. The compound was designed to deal with ‘Bad Characters awaiting trial likely to escape from Battalion or Division Guard Rooms’ as well as men serving longer sentences for more serious offences. As at Divisional or Brigade Compounds (not manned by military police), the regime at the Corps Compound was strict.

Prisoners were roused at 6.30, answering the first of several roll calls, by 8.30 they were beginning to drill, later in the day there was forty five minutes of pack-drill after a 5 pm tea. All movement within the compound by prisoners was at the double. Guards forbade speaking from 7.30 on through the night, the prisoner’s diet was a basic one of biscuits, bully [beef] and tea, not surprisingly some prisoners suffered scurvy due to the poor diet.

On 1 January 1917 Captain Arthur Edge was seconded for duty with the Anzac Provost Corps; it appears that his previous occupation of being a prison warden made him the logical choice in becoming the OC (Officer in Charge) of the newly formed 1st Anzac Corps Field Punishment Compound. Edge modelled the compound upon similar lines to that used by the Lewes Detention Barracks in England.



Alex continued to serve in France, taking up duty in February 1919 at the Staging Area that had been established for the Australian Forces at Charleroi in Belgium, he was also promoted at this time to corporal. It was not until late July 1919 that he returned to England, even then only weeks later returning to France for a short time on escort duty. After several months at Tidworth he then continued to serve at the Warwick Square Detachment in London, eventually returned to Australia for discharge in April 1920. Alex Hall also served in the Army in the 2nd World War, Service number V16475. On his discharge in 1944 he was serving with Land Headquarters and held the rank of Corporal.

949 Valentine Mark Sullivan – 31st Battalion, Army Provost Corps & 5th Machine Gun Battalion

Wilton – May 17. 1917

To thine own self be true

And it must follow as the night, the day

Thou cans't not then be false to any man



Val M Sullivan – Anzac Provost Corps – Ommice Vincet Amor

Valentine enlisted in Victoria in July 1915 into 'D' Company of the 31st Battalion – he was 22 years old and gave his occupation as 'Labourer'. He embarked overseas with the 31st Battalion aboard the *Wandilla* in November 1915 and arrived in Egypt in December.

Immediately upon docking at Suez Sullivan had been admitted to hospital, the result of venereal disease.

From Suez Val was transferred to hospitals at Abbassia, it not until 10 March that he returned to duty at the 8th Training Battalion at Zeitoun.

Sullivan was another of several hundred men that volunteered for the newly formed Anzac Provost Corps in early April 1916. Val was transferred to the Anzac Provost Corps and trained at **Abbassia** (shown right). With training and assessment finished and the emphasis now on Training Camps in England and service on the Western Front many of the Abbassia men (including Sullivan) was sent to England aboard the *Tunisian* on 3 August 1916.



Sullivan remained in England until August 1917 he spent time at Fovant and Bhurtpore Barracks at Tidworth with the military police. On 7 August he was transferred back to the 31st Battalion (not that he had spent any real time with the battalion) and the following month embarked for France. Upon his arrival in France he was almost immediately transferred to the 25th Machine Gun Company, where he remained until April 1918 when the company formally was transferred into the 5th Machine Gun Battalion (a redesignation of titles for the Machine Gun Companies only) – the following month he was promoted to Lance Corporal and in September to Corporal.

After the war Valentine remained in France until 1919 when he was sent to England. Val Sullivan returned home to Australia aboard the *Trazos-Montes* on 22 May 1919, he was discharged from the AIF on 15 July.

1893 Frank Turner Ellis – 52ndBattalion & Anzac Provost Corps

April 28th 1917 – Anzac Provost Corps
– No 10 Camp – Hurdcott

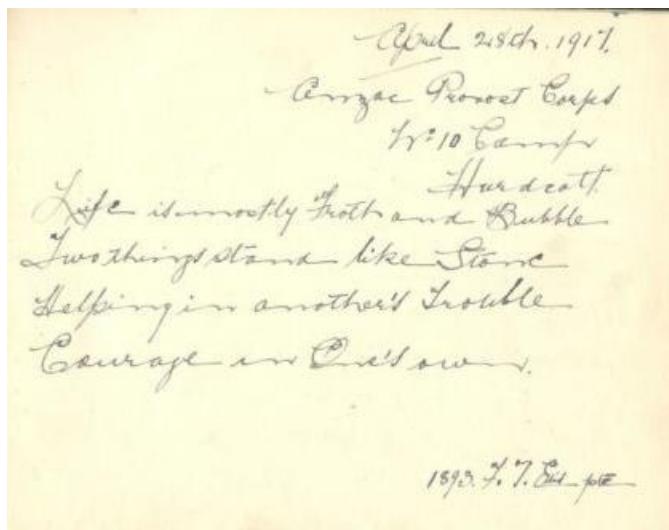
Life is mostly Froth and Bubble

Two things stand like stone

Helping in another's trouble

Courage in One's own

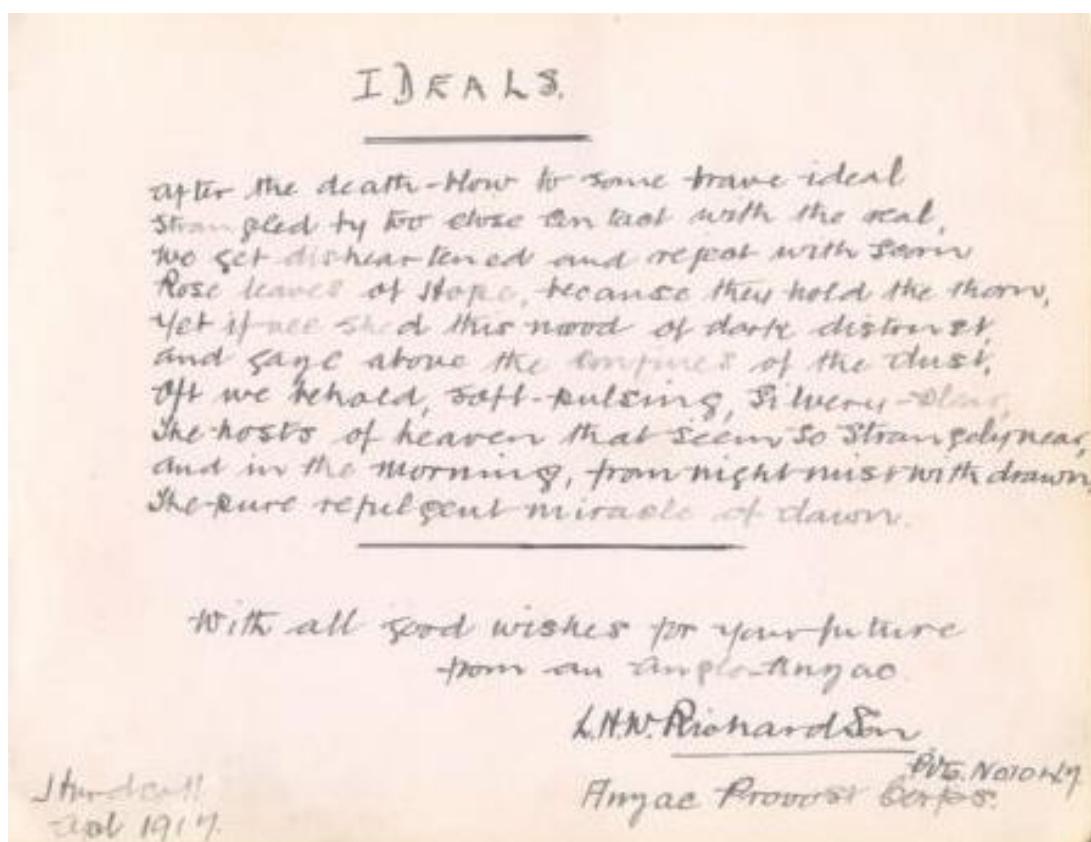
1893 F. T. Ellis pte



Frank enlisted in Queensland in December 1915 into the 3rd Reinforcements of the 52ndBattalion – he was 32 years old and gave his occupation as 'Clerk'. He embarked overseas in May 1916.

Frank arrived in Egypt in July, where he was transferred to the ANZAC Provost Corps. He embarked for England the following month.

Frank was part of the Provost Corps in England until August 1917, when he was transferred back to the 52ndBattalion training battalion – he remained with this unit in England October 1917 when he returned to Australia for discharge.



Peace, 1919.



*Back Row, reading left to right :—*Cpl. G. L. Green (Tas.), Cpl. J. Howard (W.A.), Cpl. J. Pendegast (N.S.W.), Cpl. R. Jensen (Qld.), Cpl. J. Thomson (W.A.), Cpl. W. Hawkey (Vic.), Cpl. J. C. Turner (Qld.), Cpl. W. Walker (Vic.), Cpl. S. Thurley (Tas.), Dvr. F. Briggs (W.A.)

*Centre Row :—*Sgt.-Major J. T. Barnes (Vic.), His Worship the Mayor (J. Macklin, Esq.), Capt. R. P. Penna (Vic.), Cpl. T. E. Eades (Vic.).

*Bottom Row :—*Cpl. L. C. Flint (Tas.), Cpl. J. R. Duff (Vic.), Cpl. J. S. Kelly (Vic.), Sergt. B. T. Drowley (Vic.), Cpl. S. G. Snowdon (Vic.).

The photo shown (courtesy of Vic Snowdon) is of sixteen military policeman of the Australian Provost Corps, Driver Frank Briggs is also part of the group, although from the transport section he appears to have spent much of the war posted to Bhurtpore Barracks, Tidworth, attached to the corps. It is possible that these men are all members of the Salisbury detachment under Captain Reuben Penna (shown standing next to the Mayor). Unfortunately many of the military policemen simply have 'Tidworth' as their posting, even though there were numerous smaller detachments on the Salisbury Plains. It would appear that the photo is probably circa late June 1919.

LIEUTENANT Reuben Pearce PENNA

Reuben Penna was a Victorian Mounted Policeman prior to enlisting; he had also had nearly 5 years (both militia and regular) military service. Penna had been a butcher prior to joining the police force in April 1911, initially he had served at Cobram and then Wonthaggi, before joining the mounted police in January 1914.

Enlisting on 7 August 1914 Penna initially served as a driver with an artillery ammunition column. Once in Egypt in March 1915 Reuben was promoted to sergeant and transferred to the 1st Infantry Brigade HQ as a MMP. Serving on Gallipoli from the landing, on 6 July 1915 Penna was transferred to the 1st Division Headquarters, remaining a MMP. Sergeant Penna remained with the 1st Division for just less than two months. For his actions he was mentioned in despatch;



Has served with the Military Mounted Police with the 1st Infantry brigade and with Divisional Headquarters from the 25th April, and has proved himself on all occasions a cool and gallant soldier as well as a most efficient assistant to the A.P.M. He has done yeoman service under the extremely trying conditions of the beach under shell fire whilst his gallant bearing and coolness have set an invaluable example particularly in landing troops and conducting them to their destination at all times of the day and night.

In early September 1915 Reuben was transferred from 1st Division HQ to the 2nd Division HQ, which at this stage were still in Egypt. Penna was sent back to Egypt to join his new unit. On 17 September he was promoted to RQMS. Penna was recommended for the Medaille Militaire for his service on Gallipoli, this appears to have been downgraded to a mention in despatch, his amended citation read:-

For highly meritorious service with the Military Police of the 1st Australian Division, and later as RQMS of the 2nd Division. He has at all times displayed coolness under fire and has shown an excellent example of energy and reliability.

Penna was promoted to Lieutenant in January 1916; he was formally taken on strength by the 12th Battalion on 20 February. However it appears that Penna was seconded for duty as APM for the 2nd Division at least for a time. Penna took over the role when Captain John Williams, the original APM, was promoted and was earmarked to take charge of the newly forming Anzac Provost Corps.

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES

CAMPBELL'S CREEK SOLDIER.

CONSPICUOUS SERVICES.

Mr Samuel Penna, of Campbell's Creek, yesterday received an official communication to the effect that his son, Sergeant R. P. Penna, has been mentioned in despatches. The message states that Sgt. Penna has rendered conspicuous service in the capacity of a mounted military police. No particulars are yet to hand, but details are yet expected. Sgt. Penna has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

It is unclear as to how long Penna spent as acting APM, in August 1916 he was transferred to the 22nd Battalion. Although formally being with the 22nd Battalion, Penna was at times utilised as a Traffic Control Officer (TCO), he was carrying out that role at the time of the photo being taken (**right**). (after a short time Penna was most probably seconded for fulltime duty as TCO; not verified)

The photo (**right**) shows Lieutenant Penna, standing behind Captain W Kensett in February 1917. The pair have been taken from a group photo of officers described as being the '*provost marshals of the I Anzac Corps*'. Kensett at the time was APM for the 4th Australian Division.



Lieutenant Penna was described as being the APM Learner for the 4th Division, presumably traffic duties were also Penna's responsibilities. On 7 November 1918 Lieutenant Penna was formally transferred from the 22nd Battalion, back to the Australian Provost Corps. Promoted to Captain, Penna then took command of the Australian Corps Field Punishment Compound.

Penna was once again mentioned in despatch, this time on 1 October 1918, the recommendation for his earlier traffic control duties, his mention read;

Gallantry under shell fire at Bailleul and Corbie 1918 in saving lives and property of civilians under enemy bombardment of those places.



Penna remained in France up until May 1919, on 25 May he returned to the U.K., reporting to Bhurtpore Barracks at Tidworth for duty. Reuben remained posted at Tidworth for the remainder of 1919, it's unclear as to the exact date of the group photo at the start of this chapter, but it is probably late June 1919, or early July 1919, when the actual peace treaty was signed at Versailles, that seems to be born out by some of the men's postings to the Tidworth area.



Captain Penna became the DAPM at Salisbury, he is standing next to Mayor James Macklin, esq, who served six successive terms as Mayor of Salisbury, commencing in November 1913, and coming to an end in 1919. His incumbency of the office coincided with the First World War.

On 16 September 1918 Macklin "was presented to His Majesty [King George V] by Lieut.-General Sir Henry Sclater. The King said to him, 'I understand, Mr. Mayor, that you have been Mayor of the city for five years. I am very grateful to you for the unselfish way in which you have devoted yourself to the services of the city and to myself.' The Mayor, acknowledging this gracious

remark, said, with becoming modesty: 'I have to thank my colleagues for any success I have had Your Majesty,' and the King rejoined: 'Will you also express my thanks to your colleagues.' His Majesty, continuing, said he understood that his troops on [Salisbury] Plain had been well treated in the way of entertainments and hospitality at Salisbury. The Mayor assured His Majesty that the citizens had been pleased to do everything they could for the troops, and the King graciously added: 'I wish you to thank the citizens for all they have done for the soldiers.' His Majesty then expressed good wishes for the Mayor's health and said he wished the Mayor to convey his message to the citizens."

As mayor of the city he was appointed as a magistrate for the Salisbury petty sessional division. He served as deputy mayor during 1919–1920, was made an alderman in 1919, and was given the freedom of the city of Salisbury in 1921. The Salisbury Town Hall is the backdrop for the photo, it also housed Salisbury's Courthouse.

During his last few months in the U.K. Reuben organised to go into business in England with a fellow officer, he was discharged at London on 3 January 1920.



It is unclear as to how long Reuben remained in the U.K., by January 1922 Penna had been re-instated into the Victorian Police force, by now he was married (to Florence) with two children. Reuben took charge of the station at Redesdale. In November 1923 he was ordered to Melbourne for "strike duty", as many of the city members of the police force went out on strike.

On 24 November 1923 he alighted from a tram in St Kilda Road, in front of the police (?) hospital. The tram continued on, but apparently Reuben did not see another tram travelling in the opposite direction and he was struck down by that second tram, he died shortly after as a result of those injuries.



1779 SQUADRON SERGEANT-MAJOR John Turner BARNES

John Barnes was born at Collingwood in Victoria, on enlisting in January 1915 he described himself as a 'storeman and cellarman.' John enlisted at Melbourne, during the war his wife, Harriett lived, firstly at Abbotsford and then Northcote.



John was nearly 29 years old when he stepped forward to enlist on 7 January 1915, he stated to the recruiting clerk that he had seen militia service with the 6th Australian Infantry (Victoria). Private Barnes was allotted to the 2nd reinforcements for the 24th Battalion, that draft of men carried out most of their training at the Seymour Camp. That is where the following AWM photos were taken by the Darge Photographic Company, the first photo shows many of men well rugged up against the wintry conditions.



Those 24th Battalion reinforcements sailed from Melbourne on 16 July 1915 aboard the troopship *Demosthenes*. John's file doesn't show him holding any rank during training, but he may have been wearing sergeant's stripes. Upon their arrival in Egypt on 13 June John's draft was sent to a base depot at Zeitoun.

Less than two months after their arrival in Egypt the bulk of the 2nd reinforcements were headed to join the 24th Battalion on Gallipoli aboard the *Ionian*. Barely a week after his arrival on the peninsula John was promoted to sergeant (temporary). The 24th Battalion had taken over the trenches at Lone Pine (shown **below**), the battalion rotating regularly (every 24 hours) with the 23rd Battalion, the fighting being so dangerous and exhausting on the men.



Just days short of the final evacuation on 14 December 1915 Sergeant Barnes was evacuated back, firstly to Mudros and then to Heliopolis (in Egypt), due to an injury to his back. Upon his admission to the 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Heliopolis he was diagnosed as suffering from rheumatism.

Less than a week later John returned to duty at Ghezireh and then about a month later (in early February 1916) back to Zeitoun. In early April 1916 John answered the call for volunteers for the newly formed Anzac Provost Corps which was coming together at a training centre at Abbassia. The men coming or going from parade are shown below.

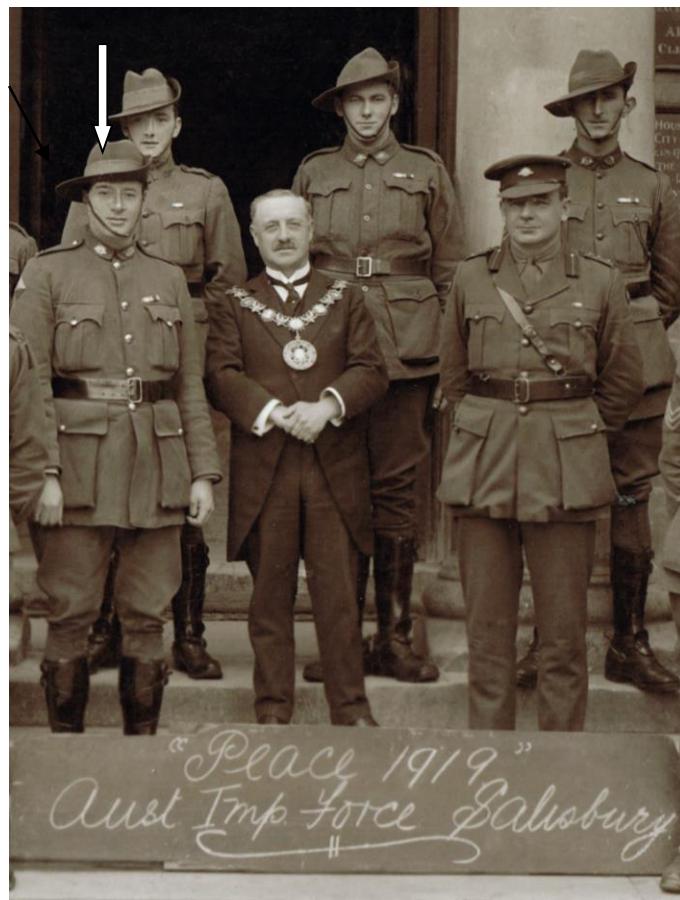


Sergeant Barnes retained his sergeant's rank, he remained at Abbassia for the next few months until the training centre was wrapped up and the remainder of the men headed to the U.K. to form a detachment there, [REDACTED] officers and [REDACTED] men did so aboard the *Tunisian* on 3 August 1916. After a short time at a Parkhouse camp these men took up duty at Bhurtpore Barracks at Tidworth.

John remained posted (officially) to Tidworth throughout the war, for most of 1918 he was holding the rank of staff sergeant and was the senior NCO in charge of the Bristol Detachment. The Bristol detachment probably numbered around 20 men (not verified).

On 10 October 1918 he was promoted to squadron sergeant major, he retained that rank for the remainder of his time overseas. Sergeant Major Barnes is one of the eighteen men shown at the start of this chapter, the photo is probably mid-1919. The sign in the middle of the men is simply entitled 'Peace 1919', this may in fact refer to the formal Peace Treaty that was in fact signed at Versailles on 28 June 1919.

John is standing next to Mayor J Macklin, esq, the mayor of Salisbury, the photo is taken in front of the Salisbury Town Hall. On the other side of the Mayor is Captain Reuben Penna, unfortunately it's not identified if the military policemen are all part of a smaller detachment i.e.; possibly Bristol or Warminster?



For his service overseas John was '*Brought to the Notice of Secretary of State for war, for valuable services rendered in connection with the war.*'

It was not until early September 1919 that SSM Barnes left the U.K. aboard the *Berrima*, with the view of being posted, if required, for duty at Durban. When the troopship docked on 6 September John reported for duty only to be advised he was not required, he re-boarded the *Berrima* and continued his return to Australia. The *Berrima* arrived back in Victoria on 2 November 1919, John Turner Barnes was finally discharged from the AIF on 16 January 1920.

15205 DRIVER Frank BRIGGS

Frank Briggs was born in Yorkshire in the U.K., by the time of the Great War his family was living in Western Australia. Frank had tried to enlist as soon as he turned 18, but on that occasion had been rejected because of flat feet, Frank described his trade as a 'Motor driver.'

On the second occasion, on 26 October 1917 he was accepted, Frank advised the recruiting clerk that he had four years of cadet training and was still an active member of the 89A, Mid Junction militia. Frank handed back his militia gear, he had sought his mother's approval to enlist (being under 21 years of age). Frank's mother, Clara Smith (re-married) gave an address of the 'Home of Peace', Subiaco, the Home of Peace was in fact a hospice for the dying and incurable, it appears Clara was a patient there.

Frank's step-father George (433 Sapper G.C. Smith) was in fact already serving, he was at the Worgret Camp at Wareham in the U.K. as Frank was training. Frank had fronted at Perth enlist and after a few weeks was allotted to the service corps, carrying most of his training at the BlackBoy Hill Camp. Private Briggs sailed as part of the 'August reinforcements, Service corps', departing Fremantle aboard the *Aeneas* on 30 October 1917.

The *Aeneas* (shown **right**) arrived in England on 27 December 1917. Frank (and the rest of his draft) were sent to the ASC training Depot at Parkhouse to complete their training. On 18 February 1918 Driver Briggs was attached for duty at Tidworth, a further, more specific entry dated 24 April states that he was attached for duty at Bhurpore Barracks. Frank spent a little over a month as a driver working with the military police at Tidworth.



Continuing bouts of asthma and bronchitis saw 40 year old George Smith's eventual return to Australia in September 1917. George had enlisted at Kalgoorlie and his days of mining may have attributed to his ill-health.

Driver Briggs was posted to France on 25 May 1918, serving with the 1st Australian Motorised Transport Company, he remained in France up until 8 May 1919. On that date he returned to England to a depot at Sutton Veny.

After a short time at Sutton Veny Frank was posted to a motor transport unit at Chelsea. On 29 May 1919 he was once again attached to the Australian Provost Corps (still as a driver) at Tidworth. That would be consistent with Frank being attached to the Salisbury Detachment in late June 1919, unfortunately Frank's face is partially obscured in the photo.



It was not until late August 1919 that Frank returned to a Sutton Veny Depot to await a passage back to Australia. Frank returned to Australia aboard the *Plassy*, arriving at Fremantle on 17 October 1919, he was discharged from the AIF on 25 November 1919.

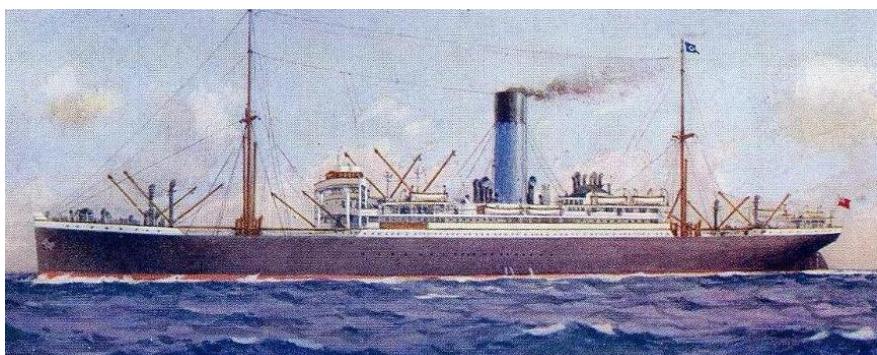
735 SERGEANT Bertram Thomas DROWLEY

Bert Drowley was born near Violet Town in Victoria in January 1889, he described himself as being a 26 year old farmer when he enlisted on 4 February 1915. Bert gave his next-of-kin as his father, Walter, he was probably farming with his father at Leongatha prior to joining up, Bert was still single.



Private Drowley became part of C Company with the 22nd Battalion, the battalion carried out most of its training at the Broadmeadows Camp. The battalion was purely Victorian in composition, save for one draft of New South Welshmen, many of the men had initially been accepted for the light horse and were disappointed to be re-allocated to the infantry, the men came from all over Victoria.

The Darge portrait shown to the right, is Bert shortly before his battalion sailed. The 22nd Battalion did so aboard the *Ulysses*, departing the Port of Melbourne on 8 May 1915. The men from the battalion took part in an '*orthodox Neptune ceremony*' under the watchful guidance of the crew as the *Ulysses* crossed the equator.

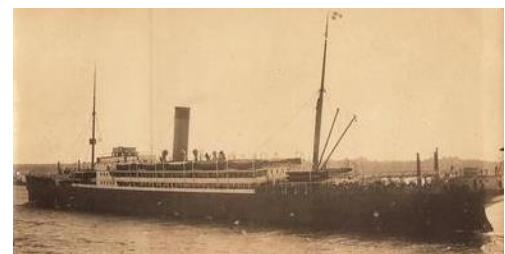


At Colombo some of the men snuck away from the vessel, upon arriving back they gave various names and regimental details, the following day the guard was employed in correctly identifying the absentees. On 9 June 1915 the *Ulysses* docked at Alexandria, that first night the men were allowed shore leave, most not returning to the troopship until well after midnight.

Upon officially disembarking the battalion entrained to Zeitoun and from there the men marched to the Heliopolis camp, where the 22nd Battalion established its own camp. Here the men's slouch hats were temporarily withdrawn, the men were issued with pith helmets and more suitable light weight shorts and shirts. While at Heliopolis Bert was promoted to lance corporal.

The men were given ample time off to see the sights of Cairo and its surrounds. The electric tram service from Heliopolis into Cairo itself being often patronised.

On 29 August 1915 the battalion marched back to Zeitoun and from there entrained to Alexandria. The battalion boarded the *Scotian* and headed for Lemnos, which was reached on 2 September.



The 22nd Battalion sailed from Lemnos for Gallipoli aboard the *Osmanieh*. The battalion arrived in the early morning of 5 September, offloading in the dark, guides were waiting on the beach (probably military policemen), they led the battalion to Rest Gully, where the men were able to snatch some sleep, the next day was also spent in rest Gully.



AWM A00848 shows the 22nd Battalion moving forward on 6 September as the battalion began taking over portions of the line from the 6th 7th and 8th battalions, in positions opposite Johnson's Jolly linking up with the Lone Pine defences. The tired men from the 1st Division were allowed to fire a 'parting salvo' of 'five rounds rapid' at the Turkish positions opposite.

The 22nd Battalion would man these positions until the final evacuation. The men soon got used to having little water and sometimes dubious rations (often water damaged when being landed). Captain R.H.S Abbott was initially in charge of C Company. The end of September and early October brought extreme heat. Despite the CO demanding clean trenches, dysentery was prevalent and the men's general health suffered while living in the trenches.

Bert Drowley was promoted to corporal on 13 October. Work parties came and went to the beaches to bring forward store, although the men were on the beach it was only occasionally that they might be allowed the luxury of a swim (still potentially under shellfire).

Corporal Drowley was admitted to the 5th Field Ambulance suffering from a sore throat and diarrhoea on 27 October 1915. Bert was evacuated from the peninsula aboard the hospital ship *Somali*, he was admitted to a hospital at Gibraltar on 7 November. After a month on Gibraltar Bert was sent to England, where he was admitted to the 3rd London General Hospital (Wandsworth).

Bert's exact movements for the next few months are not well recorded in his file, it appears that when he returned to duty, that he did so at an Abbey Wood depot. He was at that depot on 8 February when he was removed from the 22nd Battalion's nominal roll and placed a U.K. supernumerary list, as he had been away from his battalion for over three months.

ANZAC PROVOST CORPS

On 25 May 1916 Bert was transferred to Wandsworth Barracks, it appears that he took up duties working at the detention barracks there. On 4 September 1916 he marched into No 2 Command Depot and then after a number of depot transfers finally on 25 October joined the Anzac Provost corps at Tidworth.

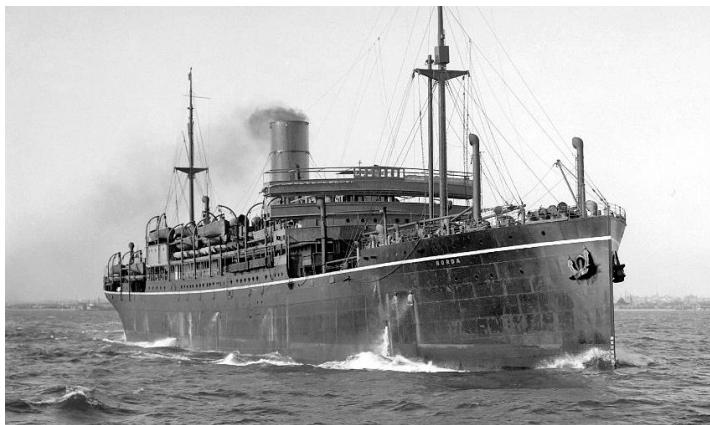
After a short period of assessment Bert was taken on strength by the corps on 1 January 1917. Bert came across to the military police with the rank of corporal. Bert spent all of 1917 and the first half of 1918 posted to Tidworth, on 1 September 1917 he was promoted to sergeant.

In line with corps policy on 23 July 1918 Sergeant Drowley was posted to France and was formally taken on strength with the MMP Detachment of the 2nd Australian Division. It's APM at that time was Major A.B.D Brown, Bert remained posted to France for the remainder of 1918.



It was not until New Year's Eve that Bert returned to a coastal depot in France. On 3 January 1919 he marched into No 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, two weeks later he was posted to Bhurpore Barracks at Tidworth.

Bert Drowley married Beatrice May Maull at Wilton on 18 June 1919, he remained posted to the Salisbury area and it was probably shortly after his wedding that the group photo was taken, interestingly Bert is wearing puttees, not the more familiar leather leggings that the (now) Australian Provost Corps wore, possibly it was Bert's choice to wear the puttees.



Bert appears to have been happy to remain in England. Pending embarkations back to Australia aboard several different vessels and dates are shown and then cancelled. It was not until 9 December 1919 that he and Beatrice were given berths to Australia aboard the *Borda*.



Bertram Thomas Drowley was discharged from the AIF at Melbourne on 27 April 1920. After the war Bert and Beatrice lived in Victoria, for most of the 1920's they were living at 'Bentleigh' at Henty. Bert also served with the CMF during WW2, later addresses included Gippsland and La Trobe and finally Frankston (Mornington).

95 LANCE CORPORAL James Robert DUFF

James [Jim] Duff was born at Pakenham in the Gippsland district, by August 1914 he described himself as being a butcher, he was 32 years of age when he fronted to enlist at Broadmeadows on 18 August 1914. Jim described himself as being a widower, he had married Agnes Conder in 1908 and then couple had four children, James (1909), Dorothy (1911), Nancy (1913), and Basil (1914), Agnes died in 1914, perhaps during childbirth?

Jim told the recruiting clerk that he had served with the Victorian Mounted Rifles, he became part of the 2nd Battalion of the 1st Commonwealth Horse during the Boer War. (Regimental Number 642).

Enlisting in January 1902, Jim was with his contingent when it left Australia in February 1902 aboard the transport *St Andrew* the ship arrived at Durban on 10 March. The contingent arrived in time to take part in a large 'drive' against the Boers in early May. Following that the contingent returned to Klerksdorp on 21 May, and remained there until after peace was declared, they then marched back to Elandsfontein on 25 May. The contingent arrived back in Victoria on 2 August 1902, the men were paid off and discharged that same day.



Returning to his trade as a butcher, Jim once again stepped forward to enlist in the AIF at the outbreak of war in August 1914. Trooper Duff became part of A Squadron with the 4th Light Horse Regiment. The 4th Light Horse Regiment was originally formed as Divisional Cavalry for the Australian Division. It was raised at the Broadmeadows Camp on 11 August 1914. The bulk of its recruits were drawn from the Melbourne metropolitan area, with the balance of its men coming from militia units, including a number from New South Wales, the bulk of those men being allotted to C Squadron.



Training continued at Broadmeadows up until October 1914. The embarkation of the 4th Regiment occurred aboard the *Wiltshire* and the *Anglo Egyptian*, departing from Melbourne as part of the 1st Contingent on 19 October, the bulk of the regiment were aboard the *Wiltshire* (shown right).

The *Wiltshire* arrived at Albany on 1 November, from there the vessel steamed to Colombo which was reached on 15 November. The *Wiltshire* remained at Colombo for several days, the troopship arrived at Suez on 1 December and then Port Said the following day. Alexandria was reached on 8 December, but it was not until the 11th that the regiment was allowed to disembark.



The regiment proceeded to the Mena Camp on the outskirts of Cairo, the camp was in the shadows of the pyramids. A liberal amount of leave was granted to allow the men to visit the sites close to camp and to travel into Cairo.

One of the first tasks was to get the regiment's mounts back into peak physical condition. Initially the horses were led everywhere and gradually more weight was added to their saddlery, however it was several days before the men were allowed to ride their horses.

The 4th Light Horse Regiment was not part of a Light Horse Brigade, and as such didn't train alongside the other light horse regiments located nearby. The 4th Regiment was part of the Australian Division. The regiment's training syllabus shows the men being put through rigorous drills in '*dismounting for action to meet Cavalry Mounted Attack*', its drills orientated towards working with and against infantry and other cavalry.

Mid-January saw the regiment carry out a route march followed by outpost practice. On 25 January the regiment drilled in '*Advance and rear Guards*,' the following day the regiment was trained in the '*Practice of Pursuit*.' On Wednesday 27 January the regiment drilled in '*attacking defensive positions when dismounted*,' during the afternoons the men were regularly rotated in being allowed to wash their clothes and clean their saddlery.

February saw various training conducted including '*musketry instruction and bayonet fighting*.' The regiment continued to practice its drills in '*Advance and Rear Guards*' and '*Dismounted Actions*'.

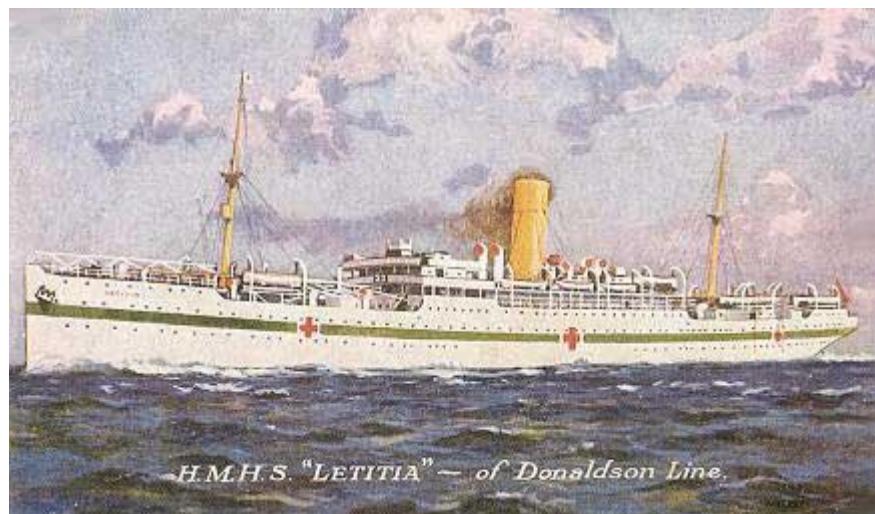


Date.	Morning 8.45a.m. to 11am.
Mon. 22nd.	By Troops. First half hour - Bayonet fighting. Second half hour - Arms Drill. Second Hour - Musketry. All Batman and last reinforcements will parade under R.S.M. assisted by S.M. Smith, ^{of 4th L.H.R.} for instruction in Arms Drill and Musketry.
Tues. 23rd.	Holiday for those who remained in on previous Saturday. Remainder:- Bathing parade, washing clothes, and cleaning saddlery.
Wed. 24th.	Attack and Defence of Convoy.
Thur. 25th.	Squadron Drill. All Troop Leaders to be given turn at handling Squadron. Tactical problems by Squadrons.
Friday. 26th.	Same as for Monday.
Saturday. 27th.	Washing clothes & cleaning saddlery. Holiday for those who remained in on previous Tuesday.

March saw the squadrons being inspected ‘with all war outfit’, the squadrons continued to rotate through various drills. On 8 March the regiment carried out a short route march, by 10 March all the squadrons had been checked to ensure they were ‘war outfitted.’ Mid-March saw the men carrying out their drills using blank ammunition, perhaps the realisation that action was close would have given the men a bit more purpose.

The 4th Regiment headed for Gallipoli in mid-May 1915, landing on 22 and 24 May. The regiment was initially split up into squadrons, helping to reinforce the depleted infantry battalions. After 11 June 1915 the 4th Light Horse Regiment was reformed and was then mainly deployed on defensive activities around Ryrie’s Post.

Like so many Trooper Duff only remained on the peninsula for a few months before ill-health required his evacuation. On 8 August 1915 he was admitted to a field ambulance on the peninsula and then on 15 August he was sent back to Alexandria, where he was admitted to No 21 General Hospital, he was recorded as suffering enteric fever.



Jim remained in hospital at Alexandria up until early October 1915 when he was sent to England aboard the hospital ship *Letita* on 12 October he was admitted to the Royal Victorian Hospital at Netley (London).

Trooper Duff's file gives no details as to when or where he returned, it is not unlike many other soldiers recuperating from ill-health in the UK after

being wounded on Anzac Cove. There are no entries at all for 1916 shown on his file, presumably he was given a role at a depot that suited himself and the army.

What is shown is his transfer to the Anzac Provost Corps on 1 January 1917. Jim is shown as being posted to Bhurpore Barracks at Tidworth, he would spend the next 12 months at Tidworth. While he was at Tidworth he married 20 year old Mary Leach, Jim was now 34 years of age, the couple married at Wilton on 8 August 1917.



On 1 January 1918 Trooper Duff was sent to France and after a short time at the Rouelles (Cavalry) Depot on 7 January he joined the MMP detachment of the 2nd Division. Jim remained on the Western Front for most of 1918. During June he spent a short time at a casualty clearing station suffering from the flu. On 1 September 1918 he was promoted to lance corporal.

Because of his early enlistment in November 1918 Jim became eligible for 'special 1914 leave', he could have chosen to have returned to Australia, but because Mary was still living in the U.K. (Bemerton, Salisbury) Jim chose to take his 75 days furlough in England. Jim was at Tidworth about to take his leave when the Armistice was signed, he had his photo taken on the steps (most probably of the Salisbury Town Hall) in early 1919.

In the group photo Jim is standing next to Lance Corporal Leslie Flint and Corporal James Kelly, behind them left to right are; Corporal's (or Lance Corporal) George Green, John Howard, James Pendergast and Richard Jensen.

Upon the completion of his leave he returned to duty at Tidworth. It appears that Jim Duff was happy to stay in England throughout 1919, it was not until 10 February 1920 that he and Mary began the voyage to Australia aboard the *Port Napier*.

Lance Corporal James Robert Duff was discharged from the AIF at Melbourne on 12 March 1920. Following his discharge Jim applied for a soldiers' settlers block near Apsley, in April 1920 he was successful in a ballot and was granted a block on Elderslie Station, 9 miles to the south of Apsley.

It's unclear exactly how long Jim farmed on Elderslie for, several of the original settlers did not last long before surrendering their blocks. A report in the Horsham Times in late August 1924 noted that '*the Duff's block on Elderslie has been taken up by one of the Wilson's.*'

Jim and Mary are shown as living on the Coleraine Road at North Hamilton in 1931, Jim was described as a trainer. 1936 shows the couple living in Stephen Street, Hamilton, Jim's daughter, Nancy (now 23 years old) also appears to have been living at that address. A later letter on his file gave Jim's address as Barunah Plains, Hesse (Victoria) in June 1943.

ANZAC
PROVOST CORPS



4189 SERGEANT Thomas Edward EADES

Thomas Eades was born and bred at Hastings in New Zealand prior to moving to Australia in 1899 when he was aged 16; upon his arrival in Victoria he quickly learnt the differences between venomous and non-venomous snakes. Having learnt these skills Tom became quite adept at handling the reptiles and soon took to giving public demonstrations in different suburbs around Melbourne. While travelling to Tamba Springs near Bamba (to replenish their supply of snakes), Tom and a colleague stopped at a swamp and while there a group of Hindu hawkers observed them, the hawkers referred to Tom as Pambo – the “great snake man”.



Sensing that this mystique could assist him, Tom adopted this title; he dressed in eastern clothes and painted his exposed skin brown, and called himself Pambo. Some of ‘Pambo’s’ favourite show places were the St Kilda foreshore and Bourke Street in the city, so realistic was his act that it apparently would often fool Indians who witnessed his act.

When he enlisted on 22 July 1915 Tom described himself as being married (he had married Florence in 1913), by now he was 30 years old age, quite rightly so, he described himself as a snake expert. Tom took his stock to the Melbourne Zoo for safe keeping while he was to be away overseas serving. Tom and Florence had two children, Ralph and Theresa, unfortunately Florence died at Box Hill on 11 August 1915, while Tom was still training. Tom continued to serve, his son Ralph now became his next-of-kin, Tom left his children in the care of his late wife’s mother.

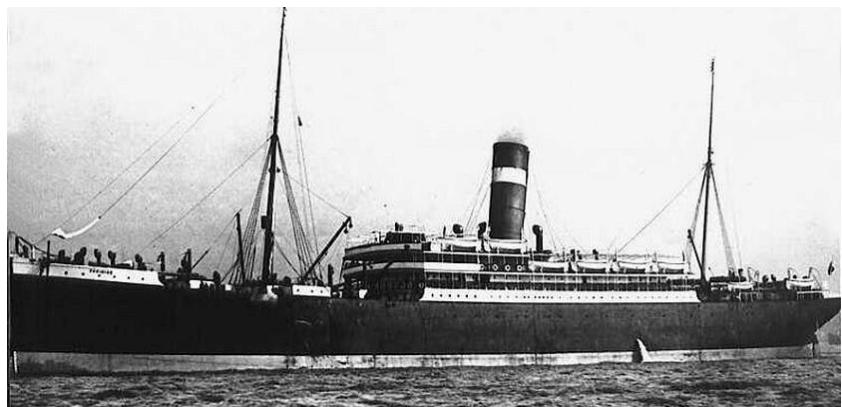
Private Thomas Eades carried most of his training at the Ascot Vale camp, initially he was allotted to the 11th Battalion and then to the 10th Battalion, but finally sailed as part of the 13th reinforcements for the 7th Battalion. That draft of 150 men sailed from Melbourne on 20 December 1915. In a later statement Tom stated that he played the bagpipes in the army, but looking at his file no formal verification of that can be made, his claim is probably correct because the Anzac Provost Corps did have had a bagpipes band, at least during the first few months of its existence. Tom is probably one of the pipers shown below, the photo is from Abbassia (see paragraph below).



Private Eades most probably never joined the 7th Battalion, which by the time Tom arrived in Egypt would have returned to a camp in Egypt following the Gallipoli evacuation. With the call for volunteers for the Anzac Provost Corps, Private Eades stepped forward and despite a lack of active service he was accepted. The nucleus of the Corps formed at a large camp at **Abbassia**, most of the men officially taken on strength on 3 April 1916.

By early August 1916 the bulk of the men were deemed as being appropriately and adequately trained to undertake duties as military policemen. The training had weeded out most of the men that were not suited to the role, most returned to their original units to soldier on. Some of the men were sent directly to France to bolster numbers there.

Eades was part of the large contingent that was sent to England aboard the *Tunisian* (shown right) on 3 August 1916. These men were sent to Tidworth where the Australian Military Police in the U.K. would concentrate its duties and from now on its training.



In early December 1916 a large number of men were sent from Tidworth to take up duties in France. Trooper Eades joined Trooper's Booler, Martin and Stark in taking up duties with the 4th Divisional MMP Detachment. Tom would remain with the 4th Division MMP for the remainder of the war.

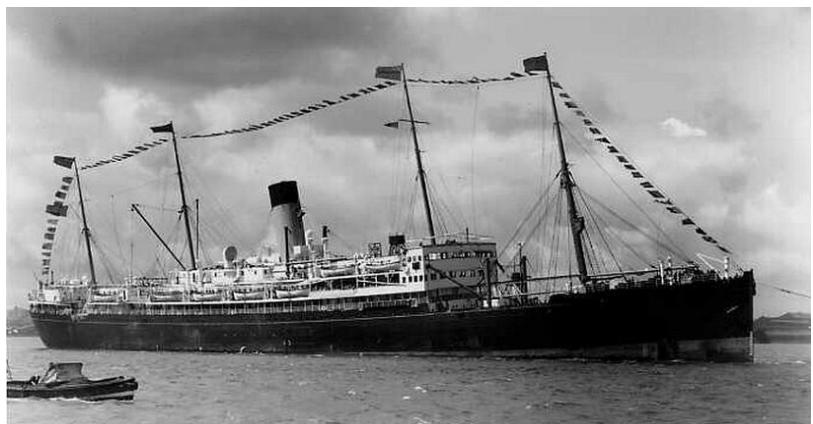
Tom remained in reasonable health while on the Western Front; however after his arrival at the 4th Division MMP he did have to be admitted to hospital suffering from piles (not an unusual ailment for mounted troops). Towards the end of 1917 and then again in 1918, Tom became eligible for two weeks leave in the U.K.



Trooper Eades remained with the 4th Division even after the signing of the armistice in November 1918. In mid-March Tom was formally mentioned in despatch, no formal wording of the despatch has been seen to date, but Trooper Samuel Frost and SSM Wilkinson were mentioned in the same despatch.

In May 1919 Trooper Eades was transferred back to Tidworth where he was posted for duty, he in fact spent most of 1919 in the U.K. Tom appears to have spent most of 1919 at the Warminster detachment. Tom is shown to the left from 1919, the other men are also military policemen.

It was not until early December 1919 that Tom was given a passage back to Australia aboard the *Shropshire* (shown right). Thomas Eades was formally discharged from the AIF on 21 April 1920.



Upon his return to civilian life Tom resumed his interest in snakes; his alter ego of Pambo appears to have also been resurrected (at least to some extent). In 1921 Tom married Irene Madigan, and by 1924 Tom and his second wife had three children, Leslie, John and Raymond. 1924 shows Tom and Irene living in Collins Street, Northcote, at that time Tom was described as a manufacturer.

DEMONSTRATION AT ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.



As can be seen from the photo left from that year Tom was definitely involved in his passion for snakes, now on staff at the Melbourne Zoo. The captioning for the photo from the *The Argus* (Melbourne) in December 1924 states; *After a trip to the Murray, Mr Thomas Eade, the snake expert of the Zoolalogical Gardens returned with 35 fine specimens for the reptile house, nearly all of the tiger species.*

During the holiday periods at the Zoo, Tom would give demonstrations to the public on the handling of Tiger snakes. It would appear that around 1928 Tom's focus changed, when Dr Neil Hamilton-Fairley (ex-AIF) and Dr Charles Kellaway (also ex-AIF) started to employ Tom's services as the pair researched snake venom. Tom collected the snakes, cared for them and milked them.





The photo to the left is from the *Canberra Times* from January 1929, the photo is captioned;

“PAMBO”

Otherwise known as Thomas Eades, Melbourne Zoo snake expert, who is catching snakes for Melbourne Hospital to help research into snake poisoning. He caught sixty at Tallangatta recently.

The photo to the right comes from *The Argus* from March 1930, it shows Tom's cat playing with a snake. In the early 1930's Tom was employed by the Walter and Eliza Hall Institutes as a full-time assistant to Dr Kellaway. In 1935 Tom became the keeper of reptiles at the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories.

Various sources state that Tom was probably bitten over forty times during his career. Although initially he had a strong resistance to tiger snake venom, this gradually tapered off, and during the 1930's he had several bites that required anti-venom and saw him placed on the critical list in hospital a number of times.

In 1936 Tom applied for copyright on an instructive leaflet he produced, entitled; “First Aid Treatment of Snake Bite” (this 3 page leaflet is viewable on-line at the NAA). Many snakebites and regular inhaling of powdered venom led to Tom developing asthma in later life. Tom was eventually forced to wear a mask while working with reptiles and in later years developed a serious reaction to snake skin – he died from asthma in Melbourne in 1942.

Footnote: Thanks to Heather Ford (Frev) for her assistance in preparing this article. Photos and some article details have been sourced through *Trove*.

3.4. Tom Eades (1883–1942)

Originally from New Zealand, Tom Eades (Fig. 3F) came to Sydney when he was 16, learnt the differences between venomous and non-venomous snakes and their preferred habitats from “Professor” Fred Fox (*Wildlife Australian Nature Magazine*, 1939).

Having mastered the skills of snake handling he ventured out “a safe distance from his boarding house” and did public demonstrations in a different suburb each week. Whilst *en route* to Tamba Springs near Bamba, he and a colleague stopped at a swamp to replenish their stocks and were observed by a party of Hindu hawkers who called him Pambo—the “great snake man”. Sensing this name would add something to his shows, he dressed in eastern clothes and painted his exposed skin brown and called himself Pambo. So convincing was his disguise that he even fooled other Hindus who thought he was a fellow countryman. Some of his favorite show places were places like St Kilda foreshore and Bourke Street in Melbourne (*Wildlife Australian Nature Magazine*, 1939).

6099 CORPORAL Leslie Charles FLINT

Leslie Flint was born at Ulverstone in Tasmania in 1891(?). By mid-1916 he was living and working as a farmer (with his family) at Upper Castra in Tasmania. Leslie disclosed to the recruiting clerk that he had seen three years of militia service with the Tasmanian Rangers.

Private Flint was 25 years of age and still single when he enlisted at Claremont on 17 May 1916. After several weeks of training Leslie was allotted to the 19th reinforcements for the 12th Battalion. Leslie's draft sailed from Hobart on 8 August 1916 aboard the *Ballarat*, the troopship arrived in England in early October, the men were sent to the 3rd Training Battalion to continue their training.



A period in hospital as a result of a venereal affliction slowed Private Flint's movement to frontline service. It was not until 19 March 1917 that Leslie joined the 12th Battalion on the Western Front. The 12th Battalion were out of the line at Dernancourt, the battalion was down to 786 men and the arrival of fresh reinforcements on 19 and 20 March saw the battalion's strength back close to a thousand men.

Only days after Leslie joined the 12th Battalion it moved from Dernancourt to Baizieux. The first half of March the battalion had spent in training to '*attack under barrage fire*', the remainder of the month was spent in training for '*open warfare and tactical schemes*.' The unit war diary recorded; '*The reinforcements obtained have been of good physique, intelligent and well trained.*'

The 12th Battalion remained at Baizieux up until 4 April, when it marched to Montauban. The following day the battalion marched to Fremicourt. From the 7th to the 10th of April the 12th Battalion was engaged in successful operations at Boursies. On 11 April the battalion moved out of the line, moving back to M orchies.

From 14-17 April the battalion held the line in the Lagnicourt sector. After a few days' rest after moving out of the line, the battalion took over the Beugny-Yrtes line on 24 April. On 29 and 30 April 1917 the men were given the opportunity to vote in elections occurring back in Australia.

From 3-9 May the 12th Battalion were involved in operations near Noreuil. During the heavy fighting over those six days the battalion suffered many casualties, mainly shrapnel wounds from the heavy shelling, over 200 men were wounded during this battle, 30 men were killed and a further 25 men were posted as missing (presumed killed).

Private Leslie Flint was wounded, most likely by shrapnel, on 6 May 1917, he was treated initially at the 5th Australian Field Ambulance and from there sent back quickly to the 3rd Casualty clearing Station, his wound was described as a gunshot wound (shrapnel?) to his right leg (slight). Leslie was sent back to a hospital at Etaples on 9 May and was then almost immediately transferred to England aboard the hospital ship *St Denis*, he was admitted to the Military Hospital at Boscombe.

On 4 June 1917 Leslie was fit enough to be transferred to the 1st Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield. A ‘high turnover’ hospital, it was Harefield’s task to get the men fit to return to active service, or if not fit, to get them medically boarded back to Australia, or a home service type role in the U.K.

In mid-June Leslie was transferred to No 2 Command Depot at Weymouth. On 19 September he was transferred to No 4 Command Depot at Codford (Hurdcott).



Typical of a soldier returning to the Western Front, Leslie’s next move was to the Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill on 2 November 1917. Three weeks later he crossed the English Channel to France. After less than a week at the Le Havre depot (Harfleur), on 30 November Private Flint rejoined the 12th Battalion.

However Leslie’s active (frontline) service was nearly over, less than two weeks after re-joining his battalion he was admitted to hospital because of his previous leg wounds (so much for them not being serious). Admitted to the 5th General Hospital at Rouen Leslie was medically downgraded to B2, and on 24 June 1918 was sent back to England for re-allocation.



Leslie was initially sent to No 2 Command depot (at Weymouth) and then in mid-July was transferred to No 4 Command depot (Hurdcott). Private Flint remained at Hurdcott until 11 October 1918, when he was attached to the military police at Bhurtpore Barracks, Tidworth. On 19 October Leslie was formerly taken on strength by the Australian Provost Corps.

Trooper (Private) Flint was promoted to corporal on 10 February 1919. Leslie’s file shows him on leave from 22 April until 2 May, while on leave (on 23 April) he married Mildred Bartlett from Henstridge. Mildred was 19 years old, by now Leslie was 28 years of age.

A small note on his file gives Mildred’s address as 35 Salt Lane, Salisbury, Wilts. Leslie may well have been living at that address as a married man. Leslie is part of the group photo shown, it was probably taken in late June 1919, and possibly the men are all part of the Salisbury Detachments (most of their files simply read as Tidworth).

Leslie and Mildred headed for Australia aboard the *Mahana*. The couple are shown arriving in Tasmania on 10 November. Leslie Charles Flint was discharged from the AIF on 26 December 1919. The couple lived in Tasmania for the rest of their lives around Table Cape and Wynyard areas, where Leslie and Mildred ran a market garden (despite his war wounds) for many years.

Leslie Charles Flint died in January 1940, he was laid to rest locally with Reverend J.W.Bethune officiating at his service.

The hearse was preceded through the streets by former members of the A.I.F. under the leadership of the vice-president of the local sub-branch of the R.S.L. (Mr. E. H. O'Brien), the president (Mr. E. Hicks) being unavoidably absent. Six soldier comrades of the deceased in Messrs. C. Rogers, C. Maddox, A. W. Thompson, J. Mawer, H. Saward and S. Billing carried the casket, which was draped with the Australian flag, to its last resting place. At the conclusion of the service the "Last Post" was sounded by Mr. A. E. Frimley.

The chief mourners, in addition to the widow and immediate members of the family were Mr. and Mrs. A. Flint (father and mother); Mr. Albert Flint (brother); Mesdames W. Green, S. Watkinson and J. Watkinson (sisters); Mrs. A. Flint (sister-in-law); Messrs. S. Watkinson, J. Watkinson, W. Green and S. Bartlett (brothers-in-law); Messrs. S. Green and J. Watkinson (nephews); Mrs. J. Pearce (aunt); Messrs. J. Pearce, J. Filleul and A. Flint (uncles), and Mr. A. Flint (cousin).

Among the many beautiful wreaths were tributes from Table Cape Sunday School, Wynyard sub-branch R.S.L., Table Cape Hall committee, Table Cape Badminton Club, Lighthouse State School, and Lighthouse School Parents' Association.



3660 CORPORAL George Lewis GREEN

George Green was born and lived most of his life at Wesley Vale in Tasmania. George described himself as a 22 year old labourer when he enlisted at Claremont on 13 September 1915, he listed his mother, Jane, as his next-of-kin.



On 23 November Private Green was allotted to the 26th Battalion, becoming part of the 8th reinforcements. George's draft sailed on 5 January 1916 aboard the troopship *Afric*, George's draft arrived in Egypt about a month later.

George had still not joined his battalion before it had headed to France, he sailed, still as a reinforcement on 21 March 1916 aboard the *Oriana*. George was sent to the Etaples Depot for further training.

In mid-May George was admitted to hospital suffering lumbago. It was not until 25 June that he joined a unit, when he did so it was actually a newly formed 1st Anzac Entrenching Battalion.

The 1st Anzac Entrenching Battalion was actually formed near Etaples (at La Motte au Bois), hence Private Green being one of those men allocated to the unit. It was 25 June that the unit left Etaples, arriving at Bailleul later in the day the battalion then moved into billets at Rue Petit Vert.

The battalion was under the command of Major E.N. Waters with Captain N. Macrae as adjutant, the battalion numbered 21 officers and 1008 men. On 28 June the battalion moved into bivouacs near Danoutre, the next few days were spent in improving the camp. Entrenching Battalions were in fact advanced section of the base depots, where the men further prepared for life in the frontline. The Entrenching Battalions then provided reinforcements for the infantry battalions in the trenches, the use of entrenching battalions was gradually phased out.

An uncomfortable case of haemorrhoids saw George leave the battalion and attend a field ambulance on 9 July 1916. George was then moved back to the 2nd Casualty Clearing Station, he was then sent by train back to Boulogne. George's file shows that he once again returned to duty at Etaples, only to be in and out of hospital for the next few weeks. Finally on 4 September George was invalided back to England.

Private Green returned to duty at No 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 22 September. On 18 October he was transferred to the 7th Training Battalion at Rollestow.



Rather than being sent back to France, on 1 November 1916 George was sent on attachment to the Anzac Provost corps at Bhurapore Barracks, Tidworth. After a short period of training and assessment for his suitability to be a military policeman on 1 January 1917 George Green was formally transferred to the Anzac provost Corps.

George's file shows him marching into the RBAA (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) depot at Larkhill. Possibly this was on detachment or (more probably) as part of a small military police detachment sent to that camp.

On 2 January 1918 George marched into the Rouelles Depot (near Le Havre) as he prepared to serve with the [now] Australian Provost Corps. The Australian military police heading to the Western Front were now passing through the Rouelles Depot, as it was a cavalry depot and the Australian military police were mounted troops.

On 17 January Trooper Green was detached to the 3rd Divisional Headquarters MMP. On 30 August 1918 George's file shows that he was in trouble with his APM, Captain W. Colpitts, for coming on parade with 'dirty saddling.' George forfeited two days' pay for his misdemeanour.

Trooper Green was transferred to the Safe Custody Compound on 18 September. George remained in France (and Belgium), on 10 February 1919 he received his promotion to corporal (Extra Regimental). Three days later he was detached for duty with the DAPM at Brussels.

George spent a few days in hospital suffering tonsillitis in late March 1919. In mid-April George was again in hospital, on this occasion due to stomach ulcers.

On 19 May 1919 George was posted back to the Tidworth area. Corporal Green remained posted to the Salisbury Plains up until early September 1919, when he was posted to the London Detachment.



Corporal George Lewis Green returned to Australia aboard the *Shropshire*, he arrived back in Tasmania on 22 January 1920. George was discharged from the AIF on 30 April 1920.

1219 CORPORAL William HAWKEY

William Hawkey was a native of the Parramatta district, he had been a constable in the New South Wales Police Force for nearly two years before he stepped forward to enlist on 28 June 1915. Like other ex-policeman at this stage of the war he was granted long term leave to go to war, the NSW Police Department also supplemented the ex-constables wages and (if fit) gave a guarantee of employment upon their return. Bill (as he was always known) also had three years militia service under his belt prior to joining up.



Bill (shown **right**) was 22 years old when he enlisted, he was single at the time, but would marry shortly before sailing. Initially Private Hawkey was allotted to the 9th reinforcements for the 13th Battalion, not surprisingly on 15 July Bill was re-allotted to the 'Military Provost Staff' at the Liverpool Camp. This seems to have been a now common practice of taking suitable men and employing for several months prior to embarkation and then to return them to an embarking unit, alongside him in the military police was ex-constable McGillicuddy (seen with initials F and W, he is one and the same).



Private Hawkey would remain a military policeman at Liverpool for two months. It was while in this role that he married Christina Winifred Godfrey at St John's Church on [REDACTED]. Bill chose to wed in uniform, with Corporal W. McGillicuddy (shown **left**), by his side as his best man. Bill and Chrissie's family made up the remainder of the Bridal Party. A reception was held at the home of Chrissie's mother's residence at Merrylands.

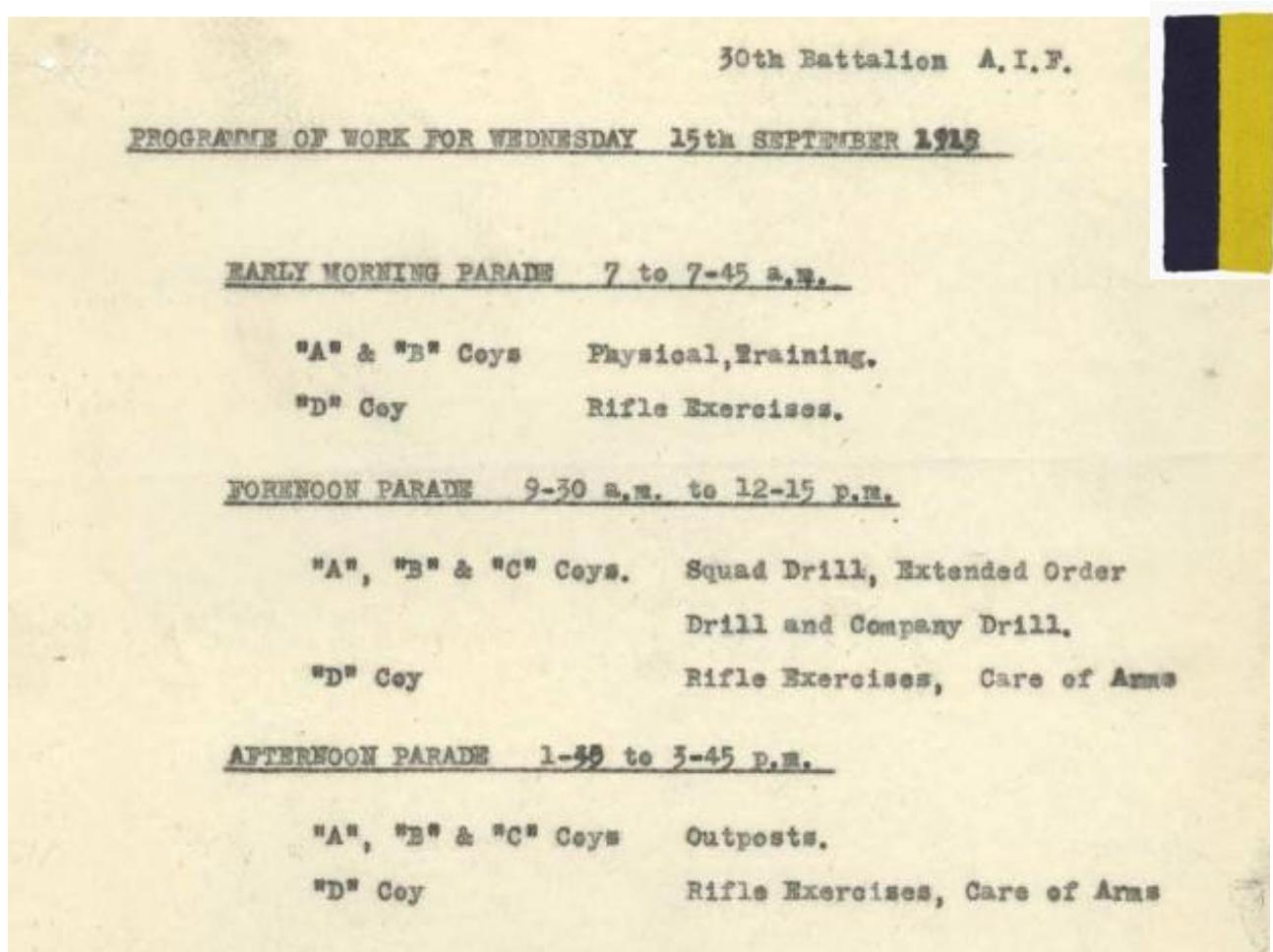
While Bill had been on 'Police Duties' the bulk of the 9th reinforcements for the 13th Battalion were re-allotted to the 30th Battalion, not all would remain with the battalion as too many men had actually been sent to the battalion. The 30th Battalion orderly room was very fastidious and documented every action and re-action within the battalion, Bill is recorded as joining the 30th Battalion on 16 September 1915 [probably not actually until 1 October] alongside four other men that had been serving

as military police, Corporal McGillicuddy being one of those men.

TRANSFERS	6.	
	- Hawkey W from "P.S. L'pool to "C" Coy 30th Bn	1/10/15
	- Bovard JA
	- Hutchinson PJ
	- "McGillicuddy
	- Nolan HR from Z1 Coy to B Coy 30th Bn ..	24/8/15
	- Hillier C from 6th R 19th Bn to B Coy 30th Bn ..	1/9/15
326	Guy UH from B Coy 30th Bn to 10th R 4th Bn ..	1/10/15
REGIMENTAL NUMBERS	7.	The undermentioned men having been taken on the strength of the 30th Bn are allotted Regt Nos as specified:-
		1219 Pte Hawkey W "C" Coy
		1220 Pte Bovard JA "C" Coy
		1221 Pte Hutchinson PJ "C" Coy

Bill and Private Bovard would both end up serving as military policemen, Hutchison and McGillicuddy remained with the 30th Battalion, McGillicuddy earning the Military Medal and holding the rank of sergeant. These men were allotted to C Company, not A Company like the men from the 9th reinforcements.

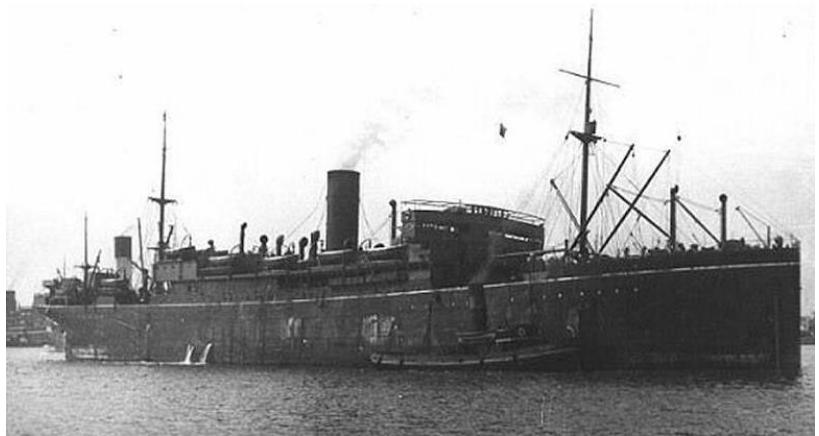
In early September the battalion had moved from the Liverpool Camp to the R.A.S. (Royal Agricultural Show) Grounds at Moore Park. The battalion continued its training at Moore Park, (shown below) the routine orders below are typical of a day's activities.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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Training continued at the Showground throughout October. On 5 November the transport section of the battalion, with its horses sailed for Egypt aboard the transport *Kaituna*. The remainder of the 30th Battalion (as well as various other re-enforcements) sailed for Egypt aboard the *Beltana* (shown **right**) on 9 November. The voyage was relatively uneventful, there were no deaths on board, no serious illness and Colonel Clark was impressed that there were no serious disciplinary breaches during the voyage.



The *Beltana* arrived at Suez on 8 December 1915, but due to the backlog of ships the men could not disembark until 12 December. Apparently while waiting in the harbour the men were allowed to have some activities around the ship in the ship's lifeboats (to break the boredom).

After docking the battalion then marched to the Aerodrome Camp at Heliopolis. The battalion's stay at Heliopolis was only brief, on 16 December the battalion moved to Helmeih where it boarded trains that transported the battalion to Moascar. From Moascar the battalion marched to Ferry Post where it erected a permanent camp.

During January 1916 other Australian units began to arrive at Ferry Post as the AIF began to consolidate its units in Egypt following the evacuation of Anzac Cove. In early February the 30th Battalion moved to Tel-el-Kebir, the battalion continued its training at its new camp. On 28 February General Birdwood inspected the 8th Infantry Brigade (to which the 30th Battalion belonged).

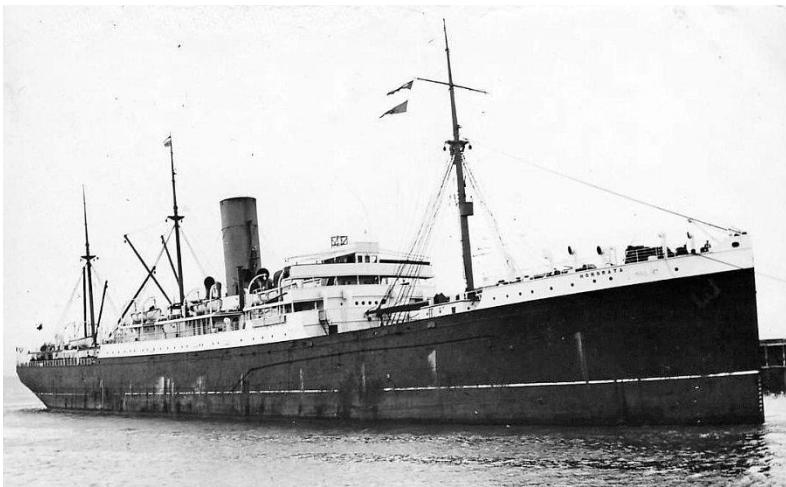
The following month, on 22 March the battalion the battalion was inspected, once again as part of the 8th Brigade, by HRH, the Prince of Wales. The following day the battalion moved by train to Moascar, it then marched (via Ismailia) to a camp one mile east of Ferry Post.

From this camp on 28 March the 30th Battalion moved to positions at the rear of a feature known as Hog's Back Hill, which was part of the Ismailia Section of the Canal defences. The battalion took over trenches that had been manned by the NZ Mounted Rifles.

It was not until 15 April before the 30th Battalion moved back to a staging camp at Ferry Post. The remainder of April the battalion carried out duties and fatigues as part of the Ferry Post Garrison Command.



The battalion remained at Ferry Post throughout May 1916, on 30 May the battalion received orders for a pending move to France. The battalion moved to Moascar from 1-14 June as it prepared for its move to the Western Front.

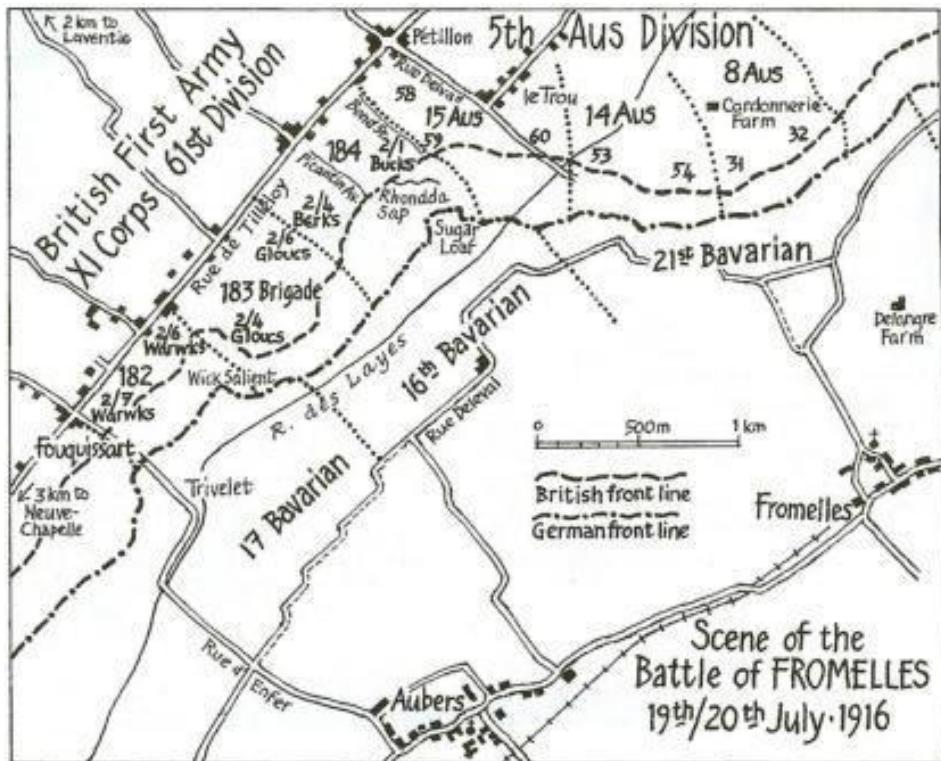


On 15 June the battalion began moving to Alexandria and on 16 June boarded the *Hororata*. The *Hororata* sailed for Marseilles in the south of France the following day. Marseilles was reached on 22 June, after an uneventful voyage. From Marseilles the battalion moved to Hazebrouck. A Company remained in Marseilles for a few days to act as the Rear Party for the 5th Australian Division.

Towards the end of June the battalion entrained to Morbecque, gas helmet training becoming a priority for the next few days. On 8 July the battalion moved to Estaires, where it was billeted, next day the battalion marched to Erquinghem, where it was billeted for the night at Jesus Farm. On 10 July the 30th Battalion moved into the firing line in the Bois Grenier sector.

The 30th Battalion had the 29th Battalion to its right and the 2nd Battalion (Canterbury) NZ Rifle Brigade to its left. On 12 July the battalion its baptism of fire when it was subjected to a heavy artillery bombardment, despite its intensity the battalion suffered no casualties, only suffering minor damage to some trenches.

On 16 July the battalion handed over its trenches to the 3rd Battalion, NZ Rifles, the battalion then marched to Fleurbaix were the battalion moved into billets. Upon its arrival at Fleurbaix the battalion received orders that it was to participate in an attack on the enemy's frontline as part of the 5th Australian Division in conjunction with the British 61st Division.



Two Divisions, the Australian 5th and the British 61st were to be deployed in the Fromelles operation. The Australian 5th Division had just entered the line to relieve the Australian 4th Division, which was to join the 1st and 2nd Australian Divisions on the Somme.

The Fromelles attack was to begin at 6.00 pm on 19 July 1916 after a seven hour bombardment by British artillery commencing at 11.00 am on the same day. All three Infantry Brigades of the 5th Division (the 8th, 14th and 15th) were to be in the front line trenches for the attack, although using only two of their battalions for the actual fighting.

The 31st and 32nd Infantry Battalions of the 8th Infantry Brigade, the 53rd and 54th Infantry Battalions of the 14th Infantry Brigade and the 59th and 60th Infantry Battalions of the 15th Infantry Brigade were the Australian 5th Division's assault battalions at Fromelles.

The 30th Infantry Battalion (8th Infantry Brigade), 55th Infantry Battalion (14th Infantry Brigade) and the 58th Infantry Battalion (15th Infantry Brigade) were the first reserve battalions, and the 29th Infantry Battalion (8th Infantry Brigade), 56th Infantry Battalion (14th Infantry Brigade) and the 57th Infantry Battalion (15th Infantry Brigade) were the second reserve battalions.



The majority of troops in the Australian 5th Division had never been in the front line before and were far from ready for the operation. Nevertheless, as the official Australian war correspondent Charles Bean (**left**) wrote: "The Australians were in great fettle and were cheered to see the German parapets leaping into the air in shreds" during the artillery bombardment.

Being forewarned of the coming attack the Germans poured heavy artillery barrages into the Australian front lines, causing heavy casualties to the 8th Infantry Brigade (29th, 30th, 31st and 32nd Infantry Battalions) which suffered further casualties from 'friendly fire' as they advanced towards the German lines and trenches.

As the Australians advanced with fixed bayonets, the German defenders fled before them enabling the 8th and 14th Infantry Brigades to quickly seize one thousand metres of the enemy front line system and form a line of posts. The 15th Infantry Brigade had to attack where No Man's Land was widest and within a few minutes of the cessation of supporting British artillery fire, they were met with fierce German machine gun fire and shot to earth with many of its leaders killed. The survivors were forced to seek shelter in ditches and furrows in the ground.

Those who followed found only dead and wounded comrades, with the Germans firing freely at everything that moved. The situation was deteriorating rapidly. All reserves of the Australian 5th Division were quickly thrown into the battle and a fierce and deadly struggle continued through the night. The captured enemy trenches were held most bravely until next morning, until the 8th Infantry Brigade was driven back, throwing a shadow over the morale of the remaining troops. The retreat of the 8th Infantry Brigade made the position of the 14th Infantry Brigade ever more perilous and it too was ordered to retire to the Australian lines, now overflowing with the wounded and dying.



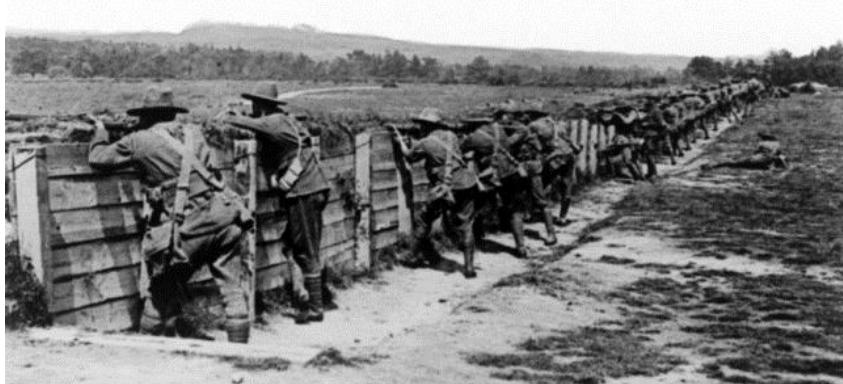
After the fighting had ended, Australian soldiers facing the risk of being killed by enemy machine gun and rifle fire, went out into No Man's Land to rescue their wounded mates. The Australian 5th Division had been decimated during the Battle of Fromelles. The casualties for the NSW Battalions are shown below;

30th Infantry Battalion - 9 Officers, 343 Other Ranks
31st Infantry Battalion - 16 Officers, 528 Other Ranks
53rd Infantry Battalion - 24 Officers, 601 Other Ranks
54th Infantry Battalion - 19 Officers, 521 Other Ranks
55th Infantry Battalion - 11 Officers, 330 Other Ranks
56th Infantry Battalion - 2 Officers, 149 Other Ranks

Private Bill Hawkey survived the fighting, but did suffer shrapnel wounds to his right hand. Admitted initially to the 14th Field Ambulance, Bill was then sent to the 2nd Casualty Clearing Station. Private John Bovard suffered a similar wound during the fighting.

Evacuated back to the 3rd Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, Bill was then transferred to the hospital ship *St David* on 21 July, crossing the channel back to England. Bill was admitted to the Ontario Military Hospital in Kent.

It was not until 7 October 1916 that Bill was released from hospital, he was granted a week's furlough prior to marching into No1 Command Depot at Perham Downs. Bill's medical classification upon marching into that depot was B1a.



Bill remained at the Perham Downs Depot for just over five months, on 4 April 1917 he was transferred to the 61st Battalion at Wareham (the Lark Hill Camp). The 61st Battalion (shown to the left training) was to be part of the newly forming 16th Australian Infantry Brigade, which was to have been part of a newly formed 6th Australian Division.

The 16th Brigade was struggling to be formed, other Brigades on the Western Front were screaming out for reinforcements, ultimately the Brigade (and the Division) was disbanded. Bill didn't remain at Wareham until the disbandment, after a month (on 8 May 1917) he opted for a transfer to the military police. Private Hawkey was formally accepted and taken on strength by the Anzac Provost Corps on 23 June 1917.

October 1917 saw Bill admitted to hospital for several weeks, receiving treatment firstly in London and then at Dartford. Upon returning to duty he appears to have done so with the London Detachment.

On 30 March 1918 Bill is shown as being 'attached for duty' at the 2nd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Southall. On 10 April that duty ceased and he returned to duty with the 'APM Warwick Square' (i.e.; the London Detachment).

Considered fit enough to carry out military police duties in France on 4 October 1918 Bill was posted to France. After two weeks at the British Cavalry Base Depot at Rouen Bill was posted for duty to the Australian Corps F.P. (Field Punishment) Compound, which at that time located at Flixecourt (?).

On 13 December a venereal affliction saw Bill in hospital, he spent about a month getting treatment in France. On 16 January 1919 he was sent back to England where he marched into a depot at Parkhouse. It was until 4 April that Bill marched back into Tidworth, he was promoted to corporal upon returning to Tidworth.

Bill's file shows him 'Doing duty with Provost Corps, Salisbury' on 1 September, which helps confirm the group photo may well be of the Salisbury Detachment. At the end of September Bill became eligible for fifteen days leave. On 3 December he is shown as being transferred to the APM London – ex Warminster [Detachment].

Corporal William Hawkey began his return voyage to Australia aboard the *Megantic* on 9 January 1920, the vessel arrived in Sydney on 27 February. Bill was discharged from the AIF on 5 July 1920.

Bill did re-join the New South Wales Police Force after the war, he was known to have been posted to Kiama for a time and around 1936 was promoted to sergeant taking up a posting to Port Kembla. Bill and Chrissie had one son, Keith. Chrissie died prematurely in May 1944, Bill Hawkey died in May 1949.

ANZAC
PROVOST CORPS



821 CORPORAL John Edward HOWARD

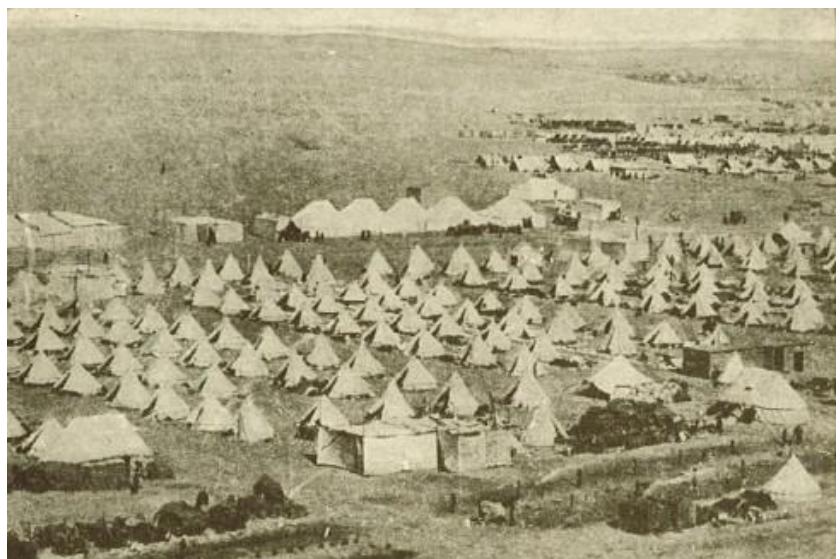
John Howard was born at Wandering in Western Australia in 1890, he was the son of Edward and Emeline Howard. John is shown as a farmhand in Dowerin in 1912 and 1913 and later as a farmer on Waddy Waddy farm at Coorow. It appears he was farming at Three Springs prior to enlisting, by now he was 24 years old and still single.



Stepping forward to enlist near Perth, Private Howard became part of G Company with the 12th Battalion, carrying out their training at the BlackBoy Hill Camp. G and H Companies were both raised in Western Australia, the remainder of the battalion hailed from South Australia and Tasmania.

The bulk of the 12th Battalion sailed from Fremantle aboard the troopship, *Geelong*. The *Geelong* arrived at Colombo on 15 November and then at Aden on 25 November. Three days later the troopship received orders that the convoy was to offload its troops in Egypt, where they were to complete their training.

Suez was reached on 1 December and the vessel passed through the canal the following day. After a few days at Port Said the convoy continued on to Alexandria, which was reached on 9 December 1914. The following day the 12th Battalion disembarked and entrained for the Mena camp (shown right) near Cairo. The battalion remained at the Mena Camp throughout the remainder of 1914 and the first few months of 1915.



On 1 January 1915 the battalion changed to only having four companies, this change occurred throughout the AIF (following changes in the British Army), it was left to the individual battalions as to how the reduction in companies from eight back to four was carried out. Private Howard's company (G Company) amalgamated with the other Western Australian company (H Company) and became the new D Company.



The battalion began to board the *Devanha* at Alexandria on 1 March 1915, officially the 12th battalion didn't know where it was heading. On 4 March the vessel arrived at Mudros harbour on Lemnos Island. Here the battalion continued its training as best it could while living aboard the *Devanha*, the training involved landing from the ships.

It was not until 21 April that the battalion received formal orders that it was to take part in a landing on the Gallipoli peninsula. The battalion sailed for the peninsula, some aboard the *Devanha*, other companies in different vessels on 24 April 1915.

Elements of the 12th Battalion began landing on Anzac from around 4.30 am on the early morning of 25 April 1915. Having been split between several vessels and like so many of the other battalions involved in the landing, the companies of the 12th Battalion became badly separated and fought their own battles, well away from battalion headquarters.

A Company and Battalion HQ landed to the north near the feature known as the 'Sphinx.' Elements of the battalion fought and helped clear the Turks off a feature that would become known as 'Baby 700.' Savage fighting saw the Hill taken and then lost to the Turks and the once again seized, A Company was so badly knocked around during those first few days that it failed to fight as a company, the remaining members of the company joining other companies.

After the first days battle, a roll call revealed only 8 officers and 472 men were present and fit to continue the fight. A line of defence formed around where the Battalions stopped on the first day advances. By May a more formal trench system had been dug. The later photo **below** from the peninsula shows the Sphinx in the middle background, it gives some indication as to the steepness of the terrain the battalion fought over.



The weather was hot and dusty so much of the standard Australian kit was soon discarded. Some men wore putties, some had tunics (unbuttoned), some were unshaven, and others had hair down to the back of the neck. But all men always took care of their rifle, bayonet, and ammunition. There was no safe area at Gallipoli. All areas of the landing (even the beaches) were under threat of Turkish bombardment.

As May slowly passed, if one was not on the line then one was carrying water, ammo, digging, or attempting to make a safe dugout. A typical day started with a "stand-to" one hour before dawn, then a day of digging and ended a dusk with another platoon taking over.

The 12th Battalion front soon became known as "Tasmanian Post" (on Holly Ridge) and was strongly defended. A large Turkish attack on 18 to 19 May was repulsed with heavy Turkish loss of life.

June brought even hotter weather with swarms of flies making life even worse. 114 fresh reinforcements helped bring the 12th Battalion back up to strength.

In July, the lack of water becomes a major problem. On July 12th, the Battalion launches a small supporting attack to help the light horse assault on the right of the 12th's trenches. PH Helmet are issued as Gas attacks on the western front shock the Allies. By the end of July the weather gets even hotter and the men of the unit start to fall in record numbers with dysentery.

August brings more reinforcements and the attack on Lone Pine (6 August). The 12th Battalion started out in the Divisional reserve but within 1/2 hour is thrown into the general assault (A & D Company's). They had to cover the dead filled ground to reach the enemy trenches with a light loss of life, but once they made the trenches they found chaos. The dead literally carpeted the ground and all the trenches filled with wounded and dying men. A & D Company's fought on for the next two days repelling repeated counter attacks. By 8 August the remnants of both companies were replaced by fresh troops from other battalions as well as B Company, by the end of the battle the 12th Battalion is down to 26 officers and 712 men.

By September the battalion is worn out with much of the unit sick. On 15 September most of the battalion was sent to the Island of Imbros for much needed rest. On 23 October John was promoted to corporal.



October brings chilly weather and the return of the battalion to the line. "Beachy Bill", the large calibre Turkish gun at Olive Grove always puts in a mid-day strafe on the beach. November it rains and starts to get very cold.

It was not the cold or disease that would cause John's evacuation from the peninsula, on 3 November he suffered severe shrapnel wounds to his right side and back. Possibly it was "Beachy Bill" that had lobbed the shell that wounded John.

Corporal Howard was quickly treated and sent back to the beach where he was placed aboard the hospital ship *Galeka*. On 11 November the hospital ship arrived back in Alexandria, where he was admitted to the 19th General Hospital. Upon leaving his battalion John officially reverted back to the rank of private.

Towards the end of November John was fit enough to be sent to a convalescent depot. On 21 December 1915 he reported to an ‘overseas base depot’ ready to resume duty. It appears that he was still at this depot in early 1916 when the call went out for volunteers for the newly forming Anzac Provost Corps.



John is shown as joining the corps at Abbassia on 3 April 1916 (as were most of the men). John was given a stripe (lance corporal) during his training. From the group photo at Salisbury, John Barnes, Gordon Snowdon and Tom Eades also joined the corps at Abbassia.



The men were trained at a camp at Abbassia, on the outskirts of Cairo. The Corps decided it would need around 600 men, comprising two companies of infantry and a squadron of Light Horse; accordingly a rigid system of weeding out was carried out. During the training any man who wished to return to his unit was allowed to do so, and any man who committed a serious breach of discipline was immediately rejected.

It doesn’t appear that John intended to remain as a military policeman, the Abbassia Training Centre had all but closed down and the remainder of the Anzac Provost Corps had headed to the U.K aboard the *Tunisian* on 3 August. On 26 August Lance Corporal was sent from Abbassia to a details camp at Moascar, with an aim of returning to the 12th Battalion. John remained at the details camp for just under a month, on 21 September he was sent to England aboard the *Nile*.

After a brief time at No 3 Camp Parkhouse John appears to have been re-allocated to the Anzac Provost Corps, joining the corps at its Tidworth Depot (Bhurtpore Barracks) on 8 October 1916.



John Howard would remain posted to Tidworth for most of the war. In mid-April 1917 he spent a month and a half in a military hospital due to ill-health. On 7 October 1917 John received promotion to corporal.

John gave his address at the time of his marriage on 23 February 1918 as Bhurtpore Barracks. John married Emma Mason at the Parish Church of St Alban at Bournemouth. Emma named her father as Walter Mason, carpenter, John acknowledged that his father Edward was deceased, Emma gave an address of 38 Hankinson Road, Winton, Bournemouth.

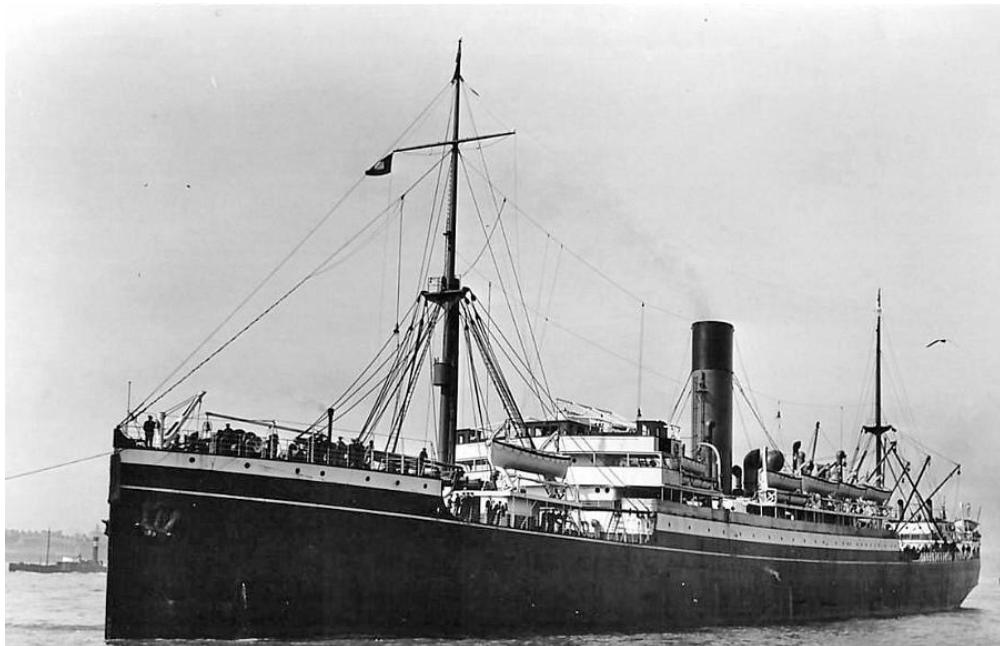
In line with corps policy John was sent to France in late 1918. On 4 October 1918 he crossed the English Channel and after about a week at a Base Depot at Rouen John was attached for duty with the 5th Divisional Headquarters MMP.

With the declaration of the armistice on 11 November 1918 the push to get the 1914 enlistees back to Australia increased. The men were granted a 'Special 1914 Leave' and units released these men to return to England to join a quota returning to Australia. Alternatively the men could choose to take 75 days leave in the U.K. and in the case of many military policemen with early enlistment dates they were happy to do so. On 20 December 1918 returned to England, no doubt heading back to Bournemouth for his leave.



Upon his return to duty John remained in the U.K., not returning to France or Belgium. John once again resumed duty at Tidworth, the photo labelling of 'Peace 1919' probably refers to the formal signing of the peace treaty at Versailles towards the end of June 1919.

John and Emma were given a birth back to Australia aboard the *Mahana* in early October 1919(?), with them was there infant son, John, also on-board were Leslie Flint and his wife, Mildred. Indeed on this voyage the *Mahana* (shown **below**) was referred to as 'the Bride Ship.'



The *Mahana* arrived at Fremantle on 3 November 1919. John Edward Howard was discharged from the AIF on 17 November. John returned to Three Springs with his family, where he returned to life on the land as a farmhand and a clearing contractor, despite his war wounds John was quite an active sportsman after the war (running and football).

In later life John Howard lived in the Perth suburb of Cloverdale.

53038 CORPORAL Richard JENSEN

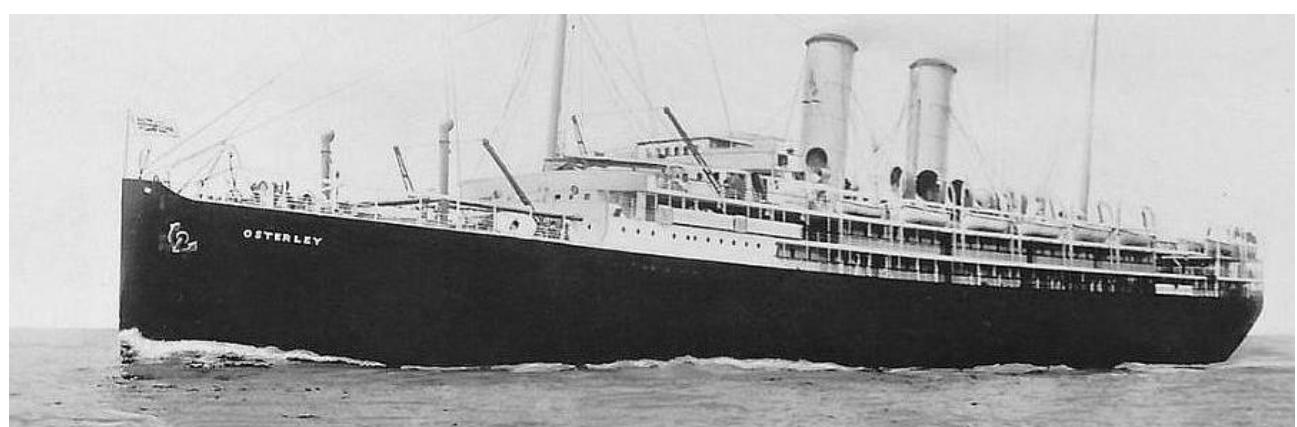
Richard (Dick) Jensen was the son of Charles and Elizabeth Jensen from Tirroan. Tirroan is located just outside Gin Gin, to the north of Bundaberg, here the family farmed small crops, raised dairy cattle, horses and grew sugarcane. Dick was nearly 26 years of age when he stepped forward to enlist at Maryborough on 5 January 1918, the war had been raging for over three years with no end in sight.

On enlisting Dick described himself as a farmer and grazier, he was still single, but did have an admirer from the farm next-door, Constance (Connie) Eleanora Trulson was 19 years of age and would regularly write to Dick while he was overseas. Dick would regularly send Connie postcards from the various locations he was at.

Private Jensen is shown as being allotted to the 2nd Reinforcements "Q" on 13 April 1918, this presumably meant that he was being earmarked for a supply unit, he continued his training at the Rifle Range Camp, which was a camp within the larger Enoggera camp, the camp is shown (**right**). As the postcard shows the Enoggera camp was by now well established with substantial huts and training facilities.



Jensen continued his training and on 5 May 1918 was sent by train down to Sydney ready to embark for overseas aboard the *Osterley*. By this stage of the war the men were not being specifically allocated to a unit, he sailed as part of the 2nd GSR (General Service Reinforcements) Queensland personnel. The *Osterley* (shown **below**) sailed for England on 8 May 1918. Dick was still sailing to England when Connie made an enquiry to the Base Records Office at Melbourne as to what the best address was to write to him, in the letter she referred to Dick as being a Queensland Light Horse reinforcements.



The troopship docked at Liverpool in England on 10 July 1918, from there Dick was sent to the 9th Training Battalion at Fovant. Fovant was by now a thriving training area, it was also famous for its white chalk badges that units had carved into the nearby hills.

Amongst the badges was the Rising Sun and as shown in the photo below an outline of Australia. The Fovant Camp was designed along the same lines as other camps on the Salisbury Plain. It was the most southerly of the camps in Wiltshire. The camp could hold up to 20,000 men in prefab wooden huts.



Dick only remained at Fovant for ten days, when he was re-allotted to the artillery. Private Jensen became Gunner Jensen as he was sent to train at the RBAA (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) Heytesbury on 23 July 1918.



The AIF had taken over an Artillery Training base at Knook Camp, Heytesbury, it was located on the edge of the Salisbury Plain. The photo to the left shows a group of Australian gunners training at Heytesbury, most probably in 1918. The men are most probably training on the popular 18 pounders that were the backbone of the British Army.

Gunner Jensen trained at Heytesbury up until 8 October when he was sent to France, after only a few days at the Rouelles Depot, on 14 October 1918 Dick joined the 2nd Field Artillery Brigade (FAB). The 2nd FAB was resting at Conde-Folie when Gunner Jensen reached his new unit. The men were being allowed limited leave to Abbeville, they continued to train while away from the line and were busy preparing for an upcoming 1st Division Review that was to be held in early November (the brigade was part of the 1st Australian Infantry Division).



The 2nd FAB consisted of the 4th, 5th and 6th Batteries (18 pounders, **left**) and the 102nd Battery (4 inch howitzers, **right**), Dick was allotted to the 6th Battery. The batteries continued to practice for the upcoming parade, the various batteries rotating through ‘mock inspections’ at nearby Riviere Wood.



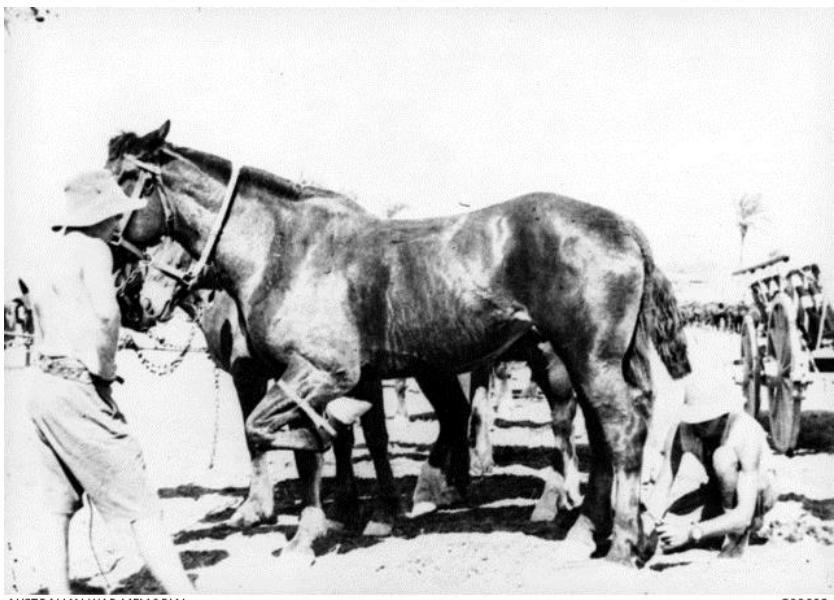


On 27 October the artillerymen attended a 'Memoriam' Service for the officers and men from the Brigade who had died since April 1918. On the afternoon of 30 October the Lena Ashwell Concert Party gave a concert in the Factory, Conde. Concert parties during the war adopted similar variety formats, drawing on the conventions and material of the music halls, often military life featured as the subject of many skits and songs. Concert parties could be civilian, like Ms Ashwell's, or equally as popular were those formed from within military units.

For Ashwell, the soldiers' response was the most relevant and important for her cause. She found that different 'Dominions' responded differently. At an Australian camp in France: "They were a very good audience, but rather disconcerting, as they do not laugh as much as the other troops, but make strange noises, whistle, 'coo-ee' and cheer." The New Zealanders gave "their thrilling and inspiring Maori war-cry," the English "always gave three cheers" and the Canadians, "their Razzle dazzle, razzle dazzle, zis boom pah! Canada Canada, Ra! Ra! Ra!"



The 2nd FAB's war dairy shows that the Brigade's strength was at 21 Officers and 690 men, the brigade also had around 550 horses (?) and 78 mules. The unit's war dairy recorded that many of the 1914 men (the 'originals') were being released from the brigade to take furlough (3 months leave) back to Australia. The fresh reinforcements filling the gaps within the brigade left by the old experienced men leaving.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

C00309

troops most nights at the Factory, in Conde. Lieutenant Larwill is shown to the **left**, Lieutenant Dibbs to the **right**.

THE BOOMERANGS
2ND SQUADRON, A. F. C.

PRESENT :

THE MAGISTRATE

A COMEDY IN 3 ACTS

DIRECTOR: LIEUT. J. A. LARWILL
PRODUCER: C. RICHARDSON-CLARK




CASTE OF THE PLAY

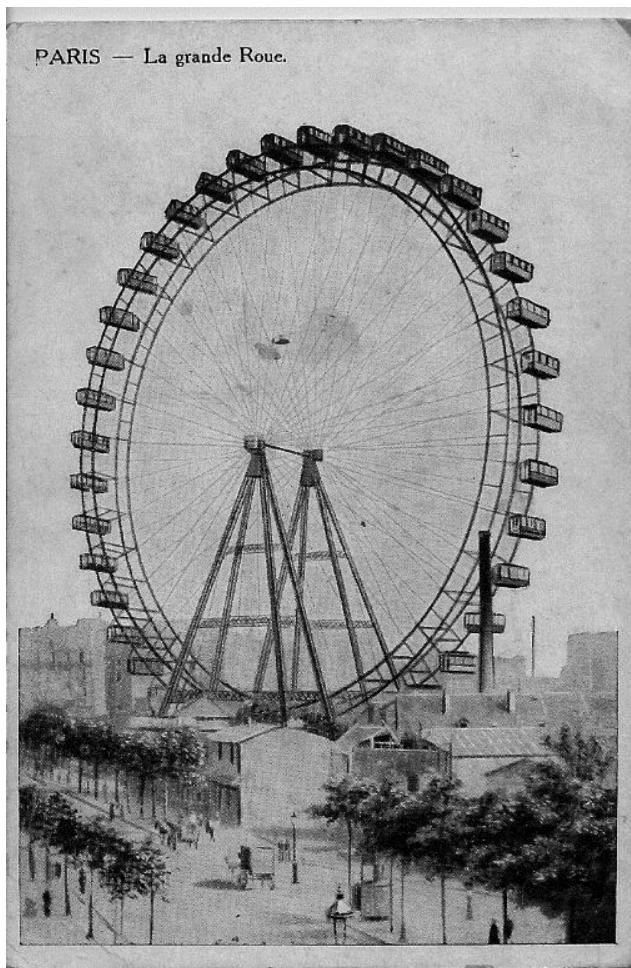
MR POSKET (MAGISTRATE MULBERRY ST POLICE COURT).....	R. L. EDWARDS
MRS POSKET (LATE FARRINGDON).....	C. R. CLARK
CIS FARRINGDON HER SON).....	E. R. DIBBS

November also saw some members of the Brigade involved in a wide round-up of deserters from the AIF who had taken to thieving and other undesirable conduct close to the frontline and in the nearby villages. The men were armed during the searches and had orders '*to fire on anybody wearing Australian uniform who attempted to escape after being challenged for an explanation as to why he was not with his unit.*' The searches were successful in helping round up a number of absentees.

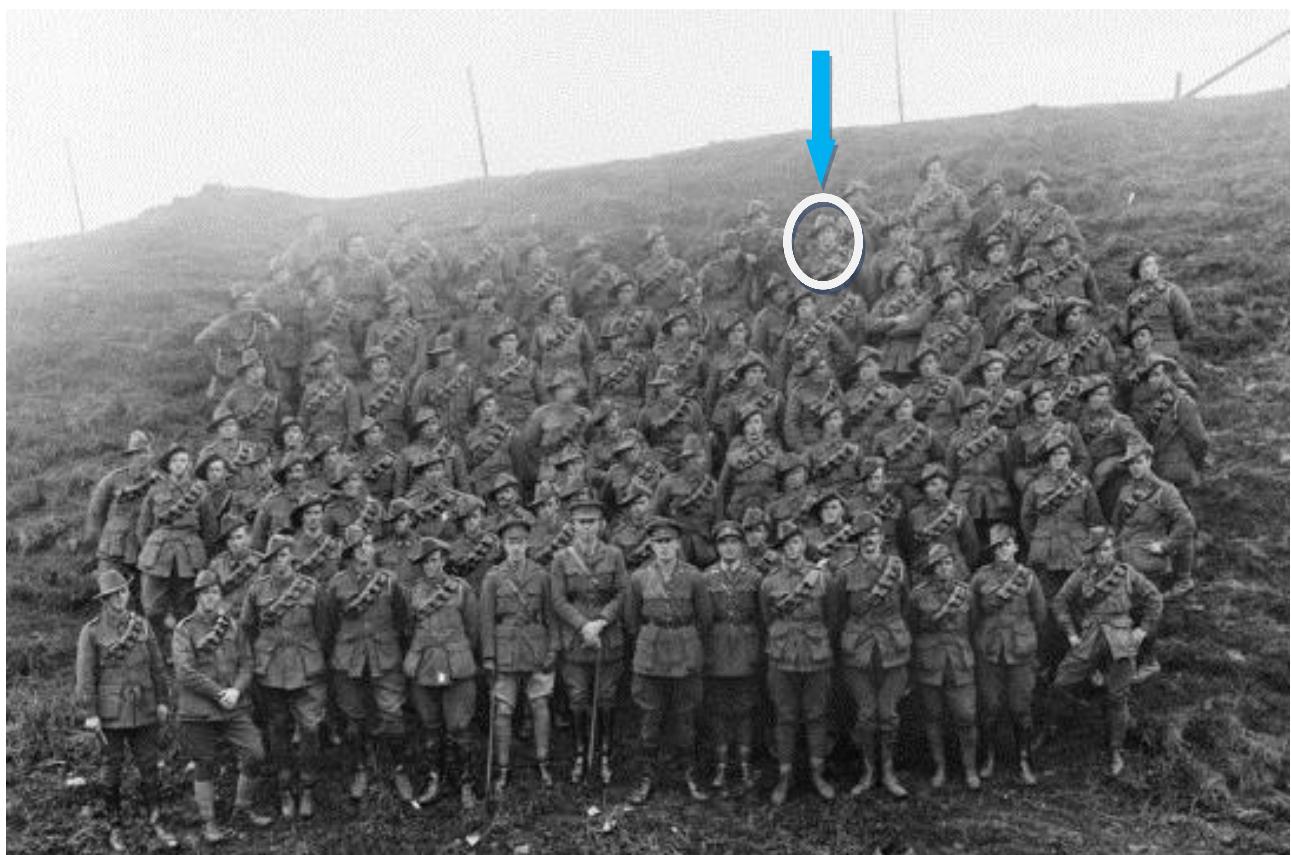
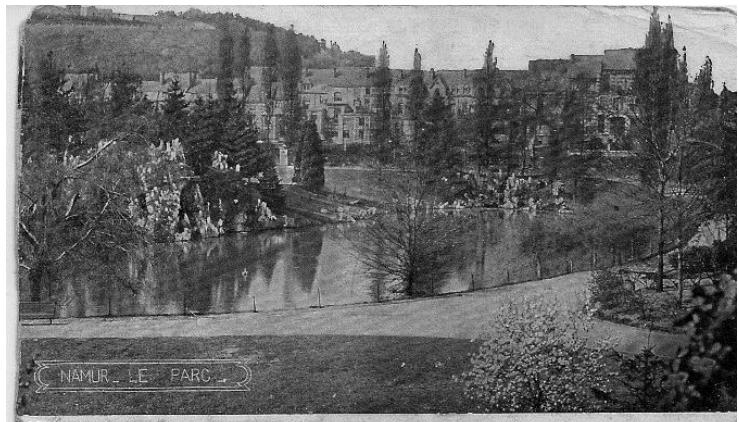
Early November continued along the same lines, a full practice for the upcoming review was held on the makeshift parade ground at Riviere Wood on 4 November. The formal review was due to be held the following day and was actually cancelled due to the inclement on the day.

The men were kept busy in clipping the Brigade's horses and in general maintenance. The 'Boomerangs' Concert Party, a troupe from the nearby 2nd Squadron AFC (Australian Flying Corps) would entertain the

On 12 November Dick was evacuated to hospital suffering measles, he was sent back to Abbeville to the 2nd Stationary Hospital. Dick remained at Abbeville until 4 December when he was discharged back to duty at the Le Havre Depot, from where he would re-join his unit. While in France Dick would have had several opportunities to visit Paris, he sent Connie many postcards from the various places he was based, including these from Paris.



It was not until Christmas Eve 1918 that Gunner Jensen rejoined the 2nd FAB. The 2nd FAB had taken up billets at Morialme (near Namur), in Belgium. Dick was lucky enough to re-join his battery (6th Battery) just in time for an official photograph, better still nearly all the men were named and their positions indicated within the photo. Gnr R. Jensen is No 98 in the photo in the second last row towards the right rear.



The unit war diary noted that on Christmas Day the men were served an 'excellent dinner.' Two days later the Brigade took part in a Divisional Parade which was inspected by his HRH, the Prince of Wales.

January 1919 saw the Brigade settling into the routine of a peacetime army. The 1914 enlistee's from the Brigade continued to be sent back to England where they could choose to take their leave in the UK or return to Australia. On 17 January a large draft of 1915 men returned to England as they prepared for demobilisation home to Australia. On 20 January the 2nd FAB combined with the YMCA to open up a club for the men, the club included a library, reading and writing rooms and also featured an 'electric light' canteen, it was also proposed to add a gymnasium and showers.



Leave parties were allowed to go to Brussels. Some of the men who had taken their 1914 leave (75 days) had done so in the U.K. and began to re-join the Brigade. During February the Brigade demobilised all of its guns, vehicles and equipment, a large number of its horses were demobilised, many of the horses were sold, often realising good prices. The men's club was now in full swing, the gymnasium had been completed, including hot bathes.



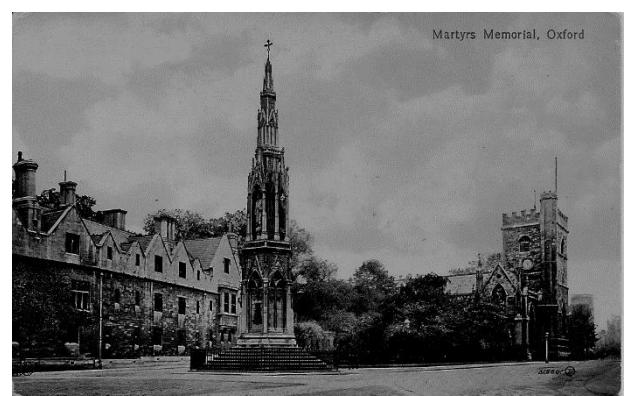
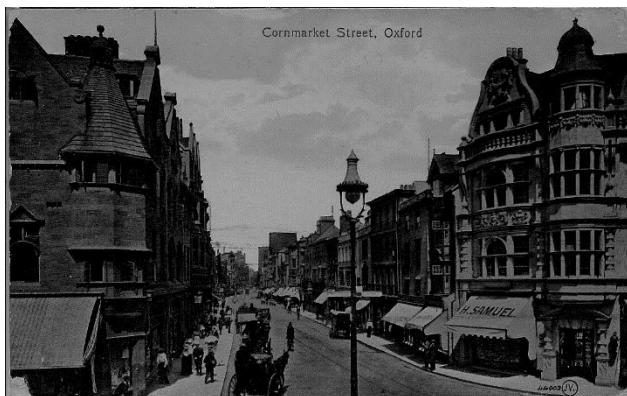
The 2nd FAB remained at Morialme for the first half of March 1918. On 21 March 1919 Dick transferred to the Australian Provost Corps, becoming a MMP (Military Mounted Policeman) attached to the 1st Division's MMP Detachment. The 1st Division's MMP were under the command of the Division's APM (Assistant Provost Marshal) Major Robert Kerr, Kerr was ably assisted by a TCO (Traffic Control Officer/ APM Learner).

Trooper Jensen (MMP were mounted troops) remained in France until mid-July 1919, he received promotion to corporal (Extra Regimental 2nd Corporal) on 21 May 1918. This photo of Dick is from his time as a military policeman (you can see his corporal rank on his right sleeve).

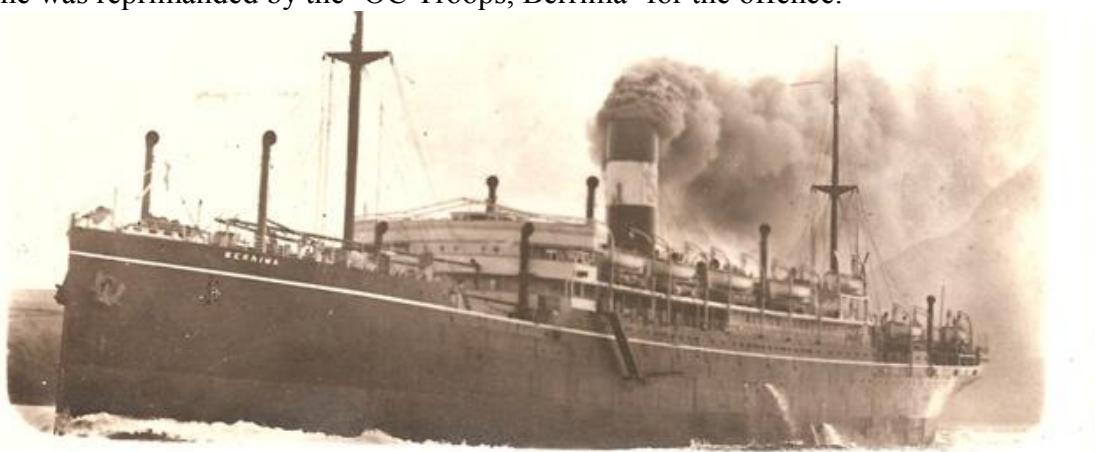
On 10 July Dick was posted back to England, taking up duty at Bhurtpore Barracks at Tidworth. Tidworth and London had become the main depots for the Australian Provost Corps as Australian troops returned to England from the western front and were placed in drafts (according to their enlistment date) for demobilisation back to Australia. Many of the military policemen were

themselves eligible to return to Australia, if they were happy to remain in the U.K. they were allowed to do so.





Corporal Jensen's own return to Australia came on 6 September 1919, when he was given a berth aboard the *Berrima*. On 4 October Dick was in trouble aboard the troopship for 'Smoking between Decks', he was reprimanded by the 'OC Troops, Berrima' for the offence.



The *Berrima* arrived at Sydney on 8 November 1919, from there the men who had enlisted from Queensland entrained back to Brisbane. Richard Jensen was discharged from the AIF on 2 December 1919.

Dick and Connie did marry in 1922, the Jensen farm was not big enough to support all the Jensen boys, so Dick and Connie purchased a sugarcane property on the Kolan River, at Bucca, some 25 kilometres inland from Bundaberg (Dick probably received some government assistance as a returned soldier). On their property the couple grew cane, ran a dairy, and became renowned in the district for growing fresh vegetables.

Dick supplied anyone and everyone who wanted fresh veggies (free of charge), he was a regular contributor to the Gin Gin Show. Over the years he and Connie had six sons and three daughters. Richard Jensen passed away in 1978.



(Information and photographs courtesy of Rob and Margaret Vinson, nee Margaret Jensen)



4319 CORPORAL James Sylvester KELLY

James Kelly was born at Jarvis Creek near Tallangatta in Victoria, he described himself as a 26 year farmer when he stepped forward to join up on 2 August 1916. Jim was still single, he listed his mother, Jane, as his next-of-kin.

Trooper Kelly began his training at a Light Horse Depot and continued to train there up until 27 September. On 28 September Jim was re-allocated to the 11 reinforcements for the 29th Battalion. Jim's draft (normally 150 men) sailed from Sydney aboard the *Afric* on 3 November 1916. These men sailed to England, disembarking at Plymouth on 9 January 1917, the men were sent to the 8th Training Battalion.



When Jim Kelly joined the 29th Battalion it was holding positions around the village of Beaumetz. Jim's baptism of fire was almost immediate, he joined the battalion as the Germans launched a determined counter-attack, the Germans were able to re-seize parts of Beaumetz.



A spirited counter-attack by the 29th and 30th Battalion saw the Germans driven out of the village, the last pockets of the enemy holding the house shown above, the desolation caused by widespread shelling is evident. The German shelling caused many casualties, including Private Kelly who had to attend the 6th Field Ambulance suffering minor shrapnel wounds to his left hand and leg as the 29th Battalion retired from the frontline on 24 March.

With only minor wounds Jim was able to resume duty after about a week. On the night of 5 April the 29th Battalion moved up into the outpost line and relieved the 54th Battalion, only to be relieved a day later. The battalion then moved back to Bancourt, here it spent the next week repairing the Bapaume-Fremicourt road.

On 15 April the battalion moved to M orchies and the following day relieved the 6th Battalion in the Beugny Line. The battalion spent the next six days in the line.

The men were pleased to come out of the line on 21 April and were told they would be the Corps Reserve for a time. The battalion took up camp at the Bendigo Camp at Bazentin, the battalion then trained up until 9 May at the camp.

On 9 May the battalion moved to Bapaume, and from there was ordered on to Fremicourt and then to Vaulx. On 12 May the battalion moved to the Lagnicourt sector. The 29th Battalion remained in the Lagnicourt front line up until the night of 20 May.

The next five days were spent in trenches in the reserve line, the battalion providing numerous working parties during that time. The 29th Battalion returned to Bapaume on 25 May, unfortunately the Germans shelled Bapaume (shown right) on 27 May hitting several of the battalion's billets, causing some minor casualties.



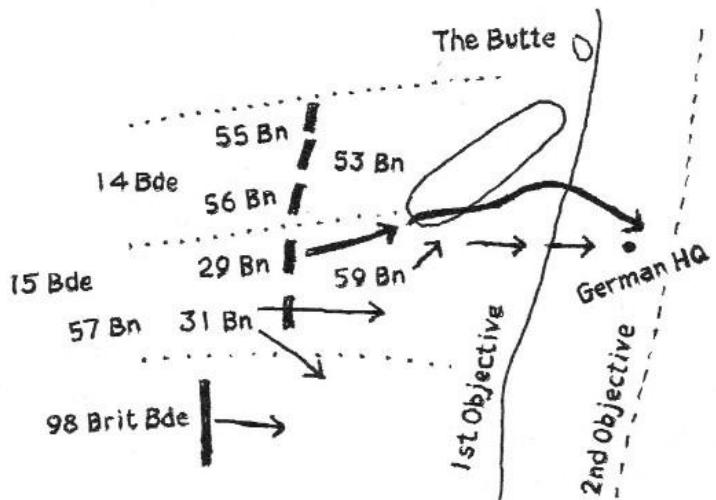
No. 4

The battalion settled into a training regime, with the aim to getting its fresh reinforcements up to the same standard as the rest of the men. In mid-June the battalion moved to Senlis where it took up billets, the battalion continued to train for the remainder of May and nearly all of July at Senlis. Towards the middle of July the battalion painted its colour patch onto the left side of all of its helmets.

At the end of July 1917 the battalion moved to billets at Blaringhem, which was to the south west of Hazebrouck in northern France. Training continued in earnest, focussing on signalling, bombing, gas drill and platoon tactics, the men were also given ample time for sport and recreation.

On 24 September the 29th Battalion moved to the south of Ypres. A sudden change of orders saw the 29th Battalion ordered into an attack on Polygon Wood. The 29th and 31st Battalion were to join the 59th, 56th and 53rd Battalions in the early morning of 26 September.

Despite quite a bit of confusion over orders given to the battalions, by midday on 26 September the 29th Battalion had captured its two objectives, plus taken 120 prisoners and captured 30 enemy machine guns. During the afternoon of 26 September the battalion fought off four counter-attacks, this was followed by two more attacks on the following day, all were repulsed with the enemy suffering heavy losses. The 29th Battalion was relieved by the 30th Battalion during the night of 27 September, moving to an earlier position.



Unfortunately Jim Kelly suffered badly during the attack, it appears that during the afternoon of 26 September a shell had burst close to him badly disorientating him. Jim failed to go forward with the attack, he headed rearwards and it was stretcher-bearers heading back to the 3rd Australian Field Ambulance that took him under their wing and guided him back to the field ambulance.

Jim was transferred from the field ambulance to the 17th Casualty Clearing Station, from there he was evacuated back to the New Zealand Stationary Hospital at Wisques. Jim's shell shock was officially recorded as neurasthenia, he received treatment at the 3rd Canadian Hospital at Boulogne for most of November 1917.

After a short time at the Le Havre Depot Jim rejoined the 29th Battalion on 29 November 1917. The battalion was holding trenches at Gappard, the battalion was given a break in mid-December, moving back to Desvres for a well-earned rest.

The 29th remained at Desvres for nearly all of January 1918. On 26 January Jim was evacuated suffering from the mumps, he was sent back to Boulogne for treatment.

It was not until 9 March 1918 that Jim rejoined his battalion. The battalion had come out of the line on 22 February and was still at the Ramillies Camp near Kemmel when Jim re-joined.

On 15 March the battalion moved back to the frontline at Oostaverne, where it relieved the 60th Battalion. Towards the end of March the battalion had moved to Vauchelle where it continued to train for upcoming 'outpost work.'

On 4 April the battalion boarded 25 buses and moved to Daours (five miles east of Amiens), from there the battalion marched to Bois de Gentelles. Here the battalion was briefly located next to a French unit, the men mingled freely, even the battalion cooks were able to compare menus and swap recipes.

On 6 April the battalion marched to Blangy-Tronville and from there on to Aubigny and then finally to Corbie. Here the men found the town in a sorry state, it had been ransacked by previous units and alcohol was freely available, most of the battalion overindulged, much to the disgust of the battalion's CO. In non-combat related incidents two of the battalion's men were shot, one by a military policeman.

Three houses in the main street caught fire on 16 April, through the quick response of some of the 29th Battalion men the fire was stopped after only minimal damage. No contact with the enemy had yet been made, although the enemy's position were visible in the distance, during that lull the men were encouraged to salvage any military material in and around the town.

The first contact with the enemy came during the early morning of 24 April. A Company was the centre company of the 29th Battalion, it fought off the German attack. The fighting for the remainder of April and the first half of May was savage as the Germans tried to re-seize lost territory.

However the German Offensive had all but ground to a halt by 20 May, that didn't stop the shelling of the trenches. On 21 May 1918 Jim had to be evacuated, having been gassed, he was initially admitted to the 14th Field Ambulance and from there sent back to the 5th and then the 49th Casualty Clearing Stations.

On 24 May Jim was admitted to the 2nd Stationary Hospital at Abbeville, where he spent the next week. Private Kelly was evacuated to England aboard the hospital ship *St Denis* on 1 June 1918, he was admitted to the Kitchener Military Hospital at Brighton.

After two weeks at Brighton Jim was fit enough to be discharged to No 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott. Rather than returning to the Western Front, Private Jim Kelly would remain in the U.K., on 25 July 1918 he transferred from Hurdcott and was attached to the Australian Provost Corps at Tidworth. Assessed as being suitable to be a military policemen on 16 August Jim Kelly was formally transferred to the Australian Provost Corps.

AUSTRALIAN
PROVOST CORPS



Jim (shown left) remained posted to Tidworth the remainder of his time overseas, however Tidworth also administered many of the smaller detachments on the Salisbury Plains. A letter on his file may shed a little more light on the group photo shown at the start of this chapter, one of Jim's sisters in making enquiries as to his exact location, referred to the last known address held for Jim as being the Angel Hotel, Salisbury (shown below). Indicating the men show may well all be from the Salisbury Detachment.



As the photo shows 'Peace 1919' this probably refers to the formal signing of the Peace Treaty at Versailles at the end of June 1919. Jim Kelly received his promotion to corporal on 10 February, he finally began his return to Australia aboard the *Berrima* (see also SSM Barnes and Corporal Jensen) on 6 September 1919. The *Berrima* arrived back in Victoria on 2 November, James Sylvester was formally discharged from the AIF on 17 December 1919.

A letter to the Army from the Public Curator's Office in Brisbane dated 24 May 1959 indicates he probably died in Queensland. The Public Curator correctly indicating he had been born at Tallangatta on 20 July 1895, interestingly the letter also indicated he may have been known as Edward James Kelly at some stage during his life.

2259 CORPORAL James Norbert PENDERGAST

Jim Pendergast hailed from Sydney, when he joined up on 15 February he described himself to the recruiting clerk as being a woolclasser. Jim stated that he was nearly 35 years old and that he was married, he and his Mary had two daughters, Mary (junior) and Neta. Mary gave a wartime address of Marrickville.

After a couple of different draft allocations Private Pendergast became part of the 4th reinforcements for the 19th Battalion. That draft of men sailed from Sydney aboard the *Argyllshire* on 30 September 1915.



Jim didn't get to serve on Gallipoli, he remained at a depot in Egypt and still had not joined the 19th Battalion even after it had returned to Egypt in early 1916. On 27 March he sailed for Marseilles, the 19th Battalion had done so about a week earlier, Jim would then spend a couple more weeks at the Etaples Depot before joining his battalion.



Private Pendergast was finally taken on strength by the 19th Battalion on the Western Front on 24 April 1916. Like many of the other Australian battalions, the 19th had initially moved into the quieter Armentieres sector in order to ease them into warfare on the front. So life had begun on the Western Front for the 19th Battalion, Australian units employed a sector system as per the British Army, one thing that did differ to the British attitude was that at night Australian units actively and aggressively patrolled No Man's Land, rather than the British inactivity at night.

The 19th Battalion had taken over and had been holding the La Rolandrie sector for two weeks when Jim had joined it. Shelling was always a risk, on 23 April (the day before Jim had joined the battalion) the 19th Battalion's billets in the rear were shelled, one house being burnt as a result of the shelling. On the night of 25-26 June the battalion provided some officers and men to join a raiding party consisting of several of the 5th Brigade's other battalions as well, this was seen as a 'payback raid' following a successful German Raid on the 20th Battalion lines shortly after it had entered the frontline in France.

At the end of June the 19th Battalion (as part of the 5th Brigade) moved into reserve, handing over responsibility for the La Rolandrie sector to the newly arrived Australian 4th Division. The 5th Brigade retired some three miles behind the front, the battalions were dispersed amongst local villages. The 17th Battalion was at L'Hallobœuf, the 18th at Rue Dormoire, the 19th at Fort Rompu and the 20th battalion at Jesus Farm. The entire brigade spent the next ten days in reserve, each battalion carrying out their own training in order to get their men battle-ready once again.

On 9 July the 5th Brigade began a three-day move southwards to Amiens, firstly on foot to Strazeele, then on 10 July to Ebblinghem, from where they entrained to Amiens, which was reached on 11 July. The brigade then marched to their billets, the 17th and 18th Battalions were located at Argœuves and the 19th and 20th Battalions at Picquigny.

The units continued their training for the next three days, the men being allowed the opportunity to swim in the Somme River. On 16 July the 19th Battalion moved to Coisy for another two days of training. The 19th Battalion arrived at Herissart on 19 July as part of the 5th Brigade approach march eastwards from Amiens through the area near Albert. From there the men could see the ridge line that contained the small farming village of Pozieres.



The 1st Division's attack on the German lines at Pozieres was largely successful, with most of the town captured early. However the German retaliatory fire almost completely destroyed the village in what had been the worst bombardment in the war to date.

It was late on the evening of 24 July that the 5th Brigade moved forward to Sausage Valley (shown below), a shallow depression immediately to the south of the Pozieres village, this was the main access into the battle area. This was a preliminary move before the 5th Brigade would take over a portion of the firing line from the 3rd Brigade.



The 5th Brigade led the 2nd Division into Pozieres on the night of 25-26 July, the shattered survivors of the 1st Division moved to the rear, Sergeant Rule (from the 4th Division a bit further to the rear) described the 1st Division men moving past him;

.....we had our eyes opened when we saw these men march by. Those who watched them will never forget it as long as they live. They looked like men who had been in hell. Almost without exception each man looked drawn and haggard and so dazed that they appeared to be walking in a dream and their eyes looked glassy and starey. Quite a few were silly and these were the only noisy ones in the crowd.... In all my experience I've never seen men so shaken up as these.

The 19th Battalion helped relieve the 3rd Brigade at the eastern end of the village, the 19th Battalion relieved the 12th Battalion. The 18th and 17th Battalion were alongside the 19th Battalion in an arc facing trenches known as OG1 and OG2 (OG simply meant 'Old German').

During the daylight hours of 26 July the 19th Battalion, holding the eastern end of what had been Pozieres village, was subjected to constant bombardment as furious as anything encountered by the 1st Division during the previous days. Later in the afternoon of 26 July and further to the 19th Battalion's right, the 17th Battalion became embroiled in what was to be known as the 'Munster Alley Bomb fight.' The 17th Battalion's bombing platoon began helping the South Wales Borderers fight off a determined German counter-attack. The bombing platoons of the 19th and 20th Battalions and then the 18th Battalion were all brought into the battle, it was a fight that lasted fifteen hours.



During its first 24 hours in the line at Pozieres the 19th battalion lost 21 men killed and numerous men wounded. Private Jim Pendergast was reported as wounded on 26 July, it's impossible to say when exactly he was wounded, his file indicates he suffered a badly bruised back and had been partially buried when a shell landed close by. Jim was admitted to a field ambulance, it was also noted he had cuts and abrasions to his back and chest, he was quickly evacuated back to a hospital at Rouen.

On 4 August 1916 Jim crossed the English Channel aboard the hospital ship *Marama*. In England he was admitted to the Birmingham War Hospital, where he received treatment for the remainder of August and most of September.



Medically downgraded to B1a Jim marched into No 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs on 27 September. Jim remained at Perham Downs until mid-January 1917 when he was transferred to the Anzac Provost Corps at Tidworth.

It's unclear if for at least part of his time while in the U.K. that he was formally posted to the London Detachment. He may have been, as on 24 March 1917 the APM London, Major T.V. Brown charged Private Pendergast with; '*Neglect of duty, while exercising a prisoner, allowing him to return to the guard room in a drunken condition.*' Jim was found guilty and was given 14 days detention.

On 9 September 1917 Jim was promoted to lance corporal, he was promoted to corporal on 15 October. An entry dated shows that he was accidentally injured, but no exact details appear on his file. It appears he spent most of his time on the Salisbury Plains, most probably posted to Tidworth.

The group photo shown (at the start of the Chapter) is most probably from late June 1919, when the formal Versailles Treaty was signed. In this portion of the photo (**left**) Jim is circled.

Jim Pendergast began his return to Australia aboard the *Berrima* on 6 September 1919 (the same voyage as SSM Barnes). The *Berrima* arrived back in Victoria in early November 1919. James Norbert Pendergast was discharged from the AIF on 2 February 1920.



9524 CORPORAL Stanley Gordon SNOWDON

Gordon, Dave and Percy all stepped forward to enlist in Victoria in July 1915. Gordon (shown right) and Percy did so at Wangaratta on 23 July 1915, passing their initial medical they were then sent to Melbourne, their formal enlistment date of 27 July is probably upon being re-examined in Melbourne. Their brother Tom had enlisted back in August 1914 and was serving with the C Company 8th Battalion on Gallipoli as his brothers were joining up.

Dave was granted temporary leave from the Victorian Police Force and had enlisted on 22 July 1915 in Melbourne, he joined his brothers at the 4th Depot Battalion (possibly at Seymour?). The trio all hailed from Victoria, Percy and Dave gave their place of birth as Wangaratta, Gordon (slightly younger) gave his more specifically as Milawa, all six of the Snowdon boys were in fact born at Milawa. They all listed their father, William, from Springhurst as their next of kin.



Milawa was to the south of Wangaratta, the Snowdon's lived about two kilometres west of Milawa on the northern side of Oxley road, their home was across the road from the Brown Bros. Winery. During Gordon's early years the family moved to a share-farm at Boralma, just south-west of Springhurst, near Chiltern.

All of the boys were educated at Boralma, Dave and Tom being the most concern to their teacher. After leaving school Gordon returned to Milawa to work at the winery, then alongside Percy and Tom the trio went timber cutting around Harrietville.

Devitt, J A
Farrelly, J
Harrington, T T
Holloway, J R

SPRINGHURST

Binion, A (Bert)	Pond, R R
Canning, B	Pond, Jno
Finemore, G	Pettigrew, J.
Finemore, J	Pettigrew, A
Goble, N	Pettigrew, W
Goble, S	Pithie, R
Gullifer, Frank	Robinson, M
Jones, H	Sanderson, Percy
Kelly, J	Smith, Fin
Kelly, E	Snowdon, T
Kerr, E	Snowdon, G
Luckie, F	Snowdon, P
McGuffie, N	Snowdon, D
Pearce, J	Sims, A

HOWLONG

Bocquet, H	Newey, C W
Bocquet Ber	Sheehan, Jas
Hartley, D E	Smith E
Koehn, G T	Smith, F
Klein, W F	Wilkinson, W

Quick, T W
Rogash, E
Sutherland, Jack

Gordon and Percy were close in age and often worked together, the pair worked for the Condon's from Toolern Vale/Diggers Rest districts, Percy would marry one of the Condon girls.

In early August 1915, Private Tom Snowdon was evacuated from Gallipoli suffering a head wound, he was sent to England for treatment. Another brother, Robert, had been living in Tasmania, he enlisted on 24 August 1915, he became a reinforcement for the Tasmanian 40th Battalion.

Gordon was 18 years old (probably just short of) when he joined up, he was still single and described himself as a farmer (on his father's place?) On 1 November 1915 the trio were all allotted as Service Corps reinforcements. On 20 January they were allocated to the 3rd Light Horse Brigade Train at the Broadmeadows Camp.

The trio all sailed aboard the troopship *Ballarat*, departing the Port of Melbourne on 18 February 1916, on the embarkation roll all three of the Snowdon boys are shown as being drivers. Upon arrival in Egypt the service corps reinforcements were sent to a reinforcement camp at Zeitoun.

The Honour Roll to the left (previous page) comes from the *Federal Standard* (Chiltern, Victoria), Tom, Gordon, Percy and Dave's names all appear on the roll. The M. Robinson on the roll is Maurice Robinson, he would also serve as a military policeman for most of the war.



The brothers were still at Zeitoun awaiting formal allocation to a unit when a call came out volunteers to help form the Anzac Provost Corps. Initially the call had gone out for men who had seen service on Gallipoli, but with more men needed, it was widened to some of the reinforcements training at the numerous depots in Egypt.

Possibly it was Dave that suggested that the military police might not be such a bad lurk. All three stepped forward and after being interviewed and re-examined medically were found suitable to begin training at a Provost Corps training centre at Abbassia on 3 April 1916. The men were billeted near the 3rd AGH (Australian General Hospital) and utilised the grounds of the hospital for much of their training.



From Abbassia the Snowdon boys would all take different paths, although Gordon, Dave and Percy would all remain military policemen throughout the war. Trooper Gordon Snowdon left his brothers at Abbassia, becoming part of a detachment earmarked for service with Australian Forces in France and Belgium. Gordon joined 49 other men under Lieutenant W Kensett who departed from Alexandria aboard the troopship *Oriana* (shown right) on 6 June 1916, the *Oriana* arrived at Marseilles on 13 June.



Gordon's file doesn't specify his particular unit in France, it appears he may have been retained by Colonel William Smith, the overall APM for France and Belgium, and as such became part of the 1st Anzac Headquarters MMP Detachment. The detachment was probably around the same size as a divisional MMP detachment, which numbered about twenty five men (possibly a bit smaller).

One of the other MMP that Gordon bumped into in France was Maurice Robinson, Maurie was also well known in the Springhurst District. Maurie in fact had written to his family several months earlier stating that he had come across a horse sold to the army by William Snowdon. Maurie (shown right) was a corporal, also with 1st Anzac Headquarters MMP Detachment, later he served as a MMP with the 4th Division.



Towards the end of July Gordon was evacuated to the 35th General Hospital back at Calais on the French coast suffering from varicocele, a painful condition to the scrotum, but not a venereal affliction necessarily. Transferred then to base details at Boulogne Gordon was medically downgraded as unfit (admitted as "T.B") [temporary base?]

It was not until 3 January 1917 that Gordon returned to his own unit (1st Anzac Headquarters MMP) possibly for the previous few months he had been 'retained' at a base depot.

On 14 February 1917 Gordon was admitted to the 38th Casualty Clearing Station suffering from the German measles (described as German Fever in a letter home). It would not in fact be until 9 May that he returned to duty.

The following article appeared in the Wangaratta Chronicle, it updated local readers on what the Snowdon boys were doing overseas.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Snowdon, of Boralma, are in receipt of letters from each of their five sons. Sgt. R. Snowdon, writing from Durban on 17th February, says he is doing well. He weighs 13st, and has an appetite like a horse. Durban is a clean and picturesque town, with a lovely beach. Foxcroft, formerly of Wangaratta, is a wireless operator on the boat.—Pte. Thomas Snowdon, writing from France on 3rd February, acknowledges receipt of Christmas box, tobacco and socks from his home at Boralma. He was still enjoying a spell in the cook-house.—Lance-Cpl. Percy Snowdon, writing from Egypt, on 8th March, says his brother Dave, spent two days' leave in Cairo, where they met. Both were well.—Driver Dave Snowdon, writes to say it is useless sending parcels to Egypt, as the soldiers never get them. He and Percy think they have had enough of Egypt.—Driver Gordon Snowdon, writing from France on 18th February, says he had been in hospital with German fever and was recovering. He regretted to hear of Mr. J.

Only twenty days after returning to duty on 29 May 1917 Gordon was evacuated to Rouen, due to further ill-health. On 5 September 1917 he was sent back to England aboard the *Grantully Castle* for further treatment. Gordon received further treatment at No 2 London General Hospital at Chelsea. In mid-December 1917 Gordon was due to return to a base depot, he was given weeks furlough prior to doing so, however instead of marching into a depot on Christmas Day he was instead admitted to the Military Hospital at Bulford.

Early 1918 saw Gordon in and out of various depots at Parkhouse and Sutton Veny, as he prepared to return to duty. On 9 April 1918 Gordon returned to military police duties at Bhurapore Barracks, Tidworth. Bhurapore Barracks was the main depot for the [now] Australian Provost Corps, the bulk of the corps in the UK were located at Tidworth. Tidworth was a garrison town, several barracks were handed over to the AIF for use during the war.



In mid-October 1918 Gordon was promoted to lance corporal and then a month later to corporal (temporary). Remaining at Tidworth, in early February 1919 Gordon was promoted to corporal (Extra Regimental 2nd Corporal). Towards the end of the war this was a rank often utilised by the military police, it alleviated the need for the men to be formally sent on an NCO's Course to earn their two stripes.

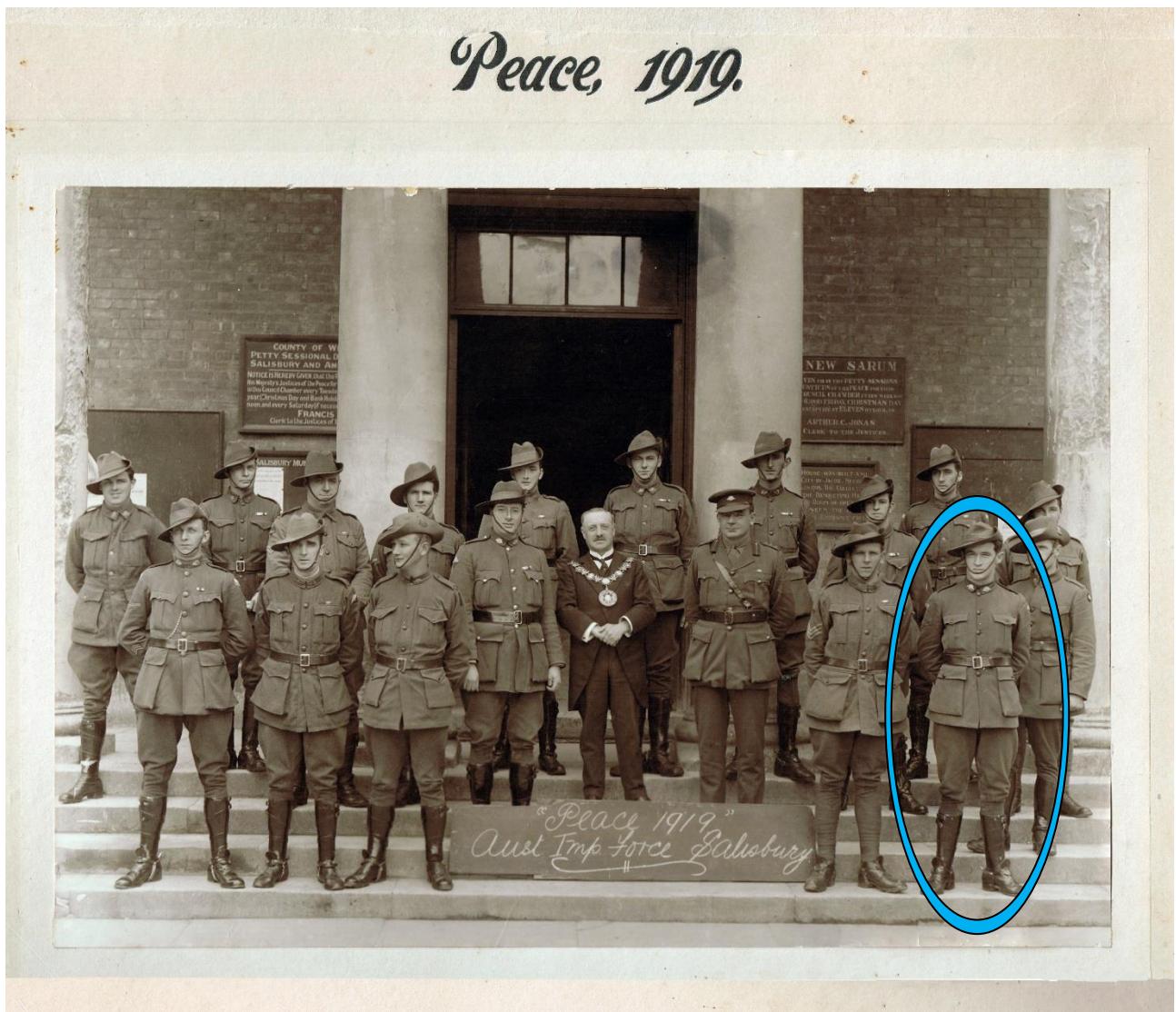
As a military policeman Gordon (**right**) would have been encouraged to remain in England to help police the AIF as it demobilised. Gordon remained at Tidworth (formally) for most of 1919, he became eligible for several periods of 'disembarkation leave' due to his ongoing service in the U.K.

Gordon's file shows him transferring from the Warminster Detachment to headquarters at Warwick Square, London in January 1920. Gordon's future wife, Lillian, was one of three civilian shorthand typists employed at the British High Command, and it was during early 1920 in London that the pair met.



That possibly confirms that several men from the large group photo, could have in fact been from the Warminster Detachment, but more likely the Salisbury Detachment. The photo appears to have been on the steps of the Salisbury Town Hall, which may have incorporated the Courthouse.

Finally on 31 March 1920 Corporal Gordon Snowdon was granted a passage back to Australia aboard the *Wahehe*. The *Wahehe* (shown right) docked at Melbourne on 20 May, Stanley Gordon Snowdon was discharged from the AIF on 19 August 1920.



Gordon married Lillian Witt in 1920, their wedding photo is shown below, note Gordon is still in uniform. The couple were married on 28 May at St Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne, interestingly Gordon described himself as a Butter Maker on his marriage certificate. Percy and (possibly) David were the formal witnesses to the marriage.



Gordon and Lillian went to live at Wangaratta and then Boralma, but times had been tough due to drought. Luckily, older brother, Robert had a shop in Maffra and he was able to find a job for Gordon at a small milk factory at Boisdale, for around six months picked up milk in the district. When the factory was bought by Nestles, Gordon was offered a job with the company in their Maffra factory.

The couple built their first home on the outskirts of Maffra, they even had a paddock for a house-cow. Gordon's job was in charge of the evaporation vacuum pans and carried out this role up until the factory closed in June 1931. Gordon had been working with the chemist that developed Milo and he was offered a job up in Kempsey in New South Wales.

So Gordon and Lillian, with 11 year old Muriel and 13 month old Victor, were transferred (by ship) to Smithtown near Kempsey. Gordon worked his way up to being a general foreman and then a under manager, he remained at Smithtown until the end of 1938, when he and Lillian bought a mixed business at Toongabbie, near Parramatta.

When war was declared Gordon was offered a job in re-opening and running the factory back at Maffra. Gordon saw out the war and into 1946 at Maffra, the couple then bought a milk bar in Carlton North. Vic worked in the shop for a time, before becoming a teacher.

After a few more years in small businesses Gordon took a job at Diecasters in Richmond, as a production clerk. He built a home in Reservoir and then in Eltham. On retirement Gordon and Lillian moved to Castlemaine in Central Victoria, here they had a large block and Gordon had a large fowl house. They later moved to Paynesville on the Gippsland Lakes where Gordon built another home. Not long after completing that house Gordon died peacefully in his sleep, just weeks before his 70th birthday.

Write-up prepared by Trevor Munro and Vic Snowdon (Gordon's son)



CORPORAL J THOMSON

Unsure of this soldier's identity at this time. Logically he appears to be a military policeman, but it is hard to verify a Corporal Thomson serving with the corps at Tidworth (Salisbury) during mid-June 1919, the approximate date of the photo.



1247 CORPORAL Stanley THURLEY

Stanley Thurley was born at Geeveston, Tasmania in February 1895. Stan described himself as a single, 19 year old labourer, when he opted to enlist at the Army Barracks at Hobart on 20 September 1914. Stan enlisted alongside Walter Stanley Thurley (an older brother or cousin?)

After a few weeks Private Thurley was allocated to be a reinforcement for the 12th Battalion, the battalion had men from Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania, each state in turn also provided reinforcements. Stan appears to have carried out most of his training at the Broadmeadows Camp. Stan's draft embarked from Melbourne aboard the *Themistocles* on 22 December 1914.



Stan and the other reinforcements joined the 12th Battalion at the Mena Camp near Cairo in early 1915. On 1 January 1915 the battalion had changed to only having four companies, this change occurred throughout the AIF (following changes in the British Army), it was left to the individual battalions as to how the reduction in companies from eight back to four was carried out.



The battalion began to board the *Devanha* at Alexandria on 1 March 1915, officially the 12th battalion didn't know where it was heading. On 4 March the vessel arrived at Mudros harbour on Lemnos Island. Here the battalion continued its training as best it could while living aboard the *Devanha*, the training involved landing from the ships.

It was not until 21 April that the battalion received formal orders

that it was to take part in a landing on the Gallipoli peninsula. The battalion sailed for the peninsula, some aboard the *Devanha*, other companies in different vessels on 24 April 1915.

Elements of the 12th Battalion began landing on Anzac from around 4.30 am on the early morning of 25 April 1915. Having been split between several vessels and like so many of the other battalions involved in the landing, the companies of the 12th Battalion became badly separated and fought their own battles, well away from battalion headquarters.

A Company and Battalion HQ landed to the north near the feature known as the 'Sphinx.' Elements of the battalion fought and helped clear the Turks off a feature that would become known as 'Baby 700.' Savage fighting saw the Hill taken and then lost to the Turks and the once again seized, A Company was so badly knocked around during those first few days that it failed to fight as a company, the remaining members of the company joining other companies.

After the first days battle, a roll call revealed only 8 officers and 472 men were present and fit to continue the fight. A line of defence formed around where the Battalions stopped on the first day advances. By May a more formal trench system had been dug.

The weather was hot and dusty so much of the standard Australian kit was soon discarded. Some men wore putties, some had tunics (unbuttoned), some were unshaven, and others had hair down to the back of the neck. But all men always took care of their rifle, bayonet, and ammunition. There was no safe area at Gallipoli. All areas of the landing (even the beaches) were under threat of Turkish bombardment.

As May slowly passed, if one was not on the line then one was carrying water, ammo, digging, or attempting to make a safe dugout. A typical day started with a "stand-to" one hour before dawn, then a day of digging and ended a dusk with another platoon taking over.



The 12th Battalion front soon became known as "Tasmanian Post" (on Holly Ridge) and was strongly defended. A large Turkish attack on 18 to 19 May was repulsed with heavy Turkish loss of life.

June brought even hotter weather with swarms of flies making life even worse. 114 fresh reinforcements helped bring the 12th battalion back up to strength.

In July, the lack of water becomes a major problem. On July 12th, the Battalion launches a small supporting attack to help the light horse assault on the right of the 12th's trenches. PH Helmet are issued as Gas attacks on the western front shock the Allies. By the end of July the weather gets even hotter and the men of the unit start to fall in record numbers with dysentery.

August brings more reinforcements and the attack on Lone Pine (6 August). The 12th Battalion started out in the Divisional reserve but within 1/2 hour is thrown into the general assault (A & D Company's). They had to cover the dead filled ground to reach the enemy trenches with a light loss of life, but once they made the trenches they found chaos. The dead literally carpeted the ground and all the trenches filled with wounded and dying men. A & D Company's fought on for the next two days repelling repeated counter attacks. By 8 August the remnants of both companies were replaced by fresh troops from other battalions as well as B Company, by the end of the battle the 12th Battalion is down to 26 officers and 712 men.

Stan Thurley survived the savage fighting of Lone Pine, however ill-health forced him to attend the 1st Field Ambulance on 26 August. Various diagnosed as suffering diarrhoea, dysentery and/or gastritis. Stan was evacuated two days later aboard the hospital ship *Gascon*, he was initially sent to Mudros for treatment. After a few days on Mudros Stan was sent back to Alexandria and from there was admitted to No 3 Australian General Hospital (AGH) at Abbassia.



On 14 October 1915 Stan was released from hospital and was sent to a base depot. Stan remained in Egypt for the five months, he was still at the 3rd Training Battalion when the call for men to form the Anzac Provost Corps went out in late March/ early April 1916. On 14 April Stan was transferred to a Provost Training School that had been established at Abbassia, here he joined several hundred other men as they trained and were assessed as to their suitability to be military policemen. The training centre utilised part of the 3rd AGH.

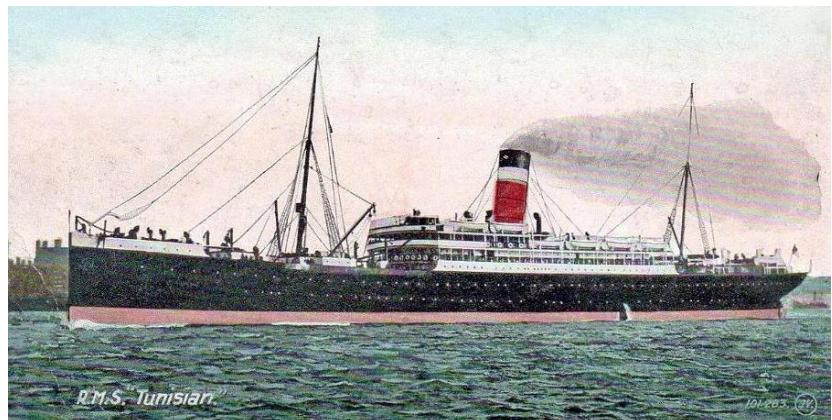
ANZAC
PROVOST CORPS

Stan's file has an entry showing that he was formally 'taken on Strength' by the Anzac Police on 3 April 1916. This was the recognised date for the formation of the Anzac Provost Corps, Stan was still a week and a bit away from joining the corps.



On 8 June 1916 Stan was admitted to the 3rd AGH, suffering from dengue fever (often simply referred to as Nile Fever). Five days later he returned to duty. A month later Stan was re-admitted, once again as a result of dengue fever, after a few weeks of treatment Stan was sent to a convalescent depot on 26 July. The military police training at Abbassia had concluded and the remaining men joined a contingent that was to head to England to form a depot there, Stan returned to duty on 2 August in time to join that body of men.

Stan joined the contingent of [redacted] men that boarded the *Tunisian* (shown right) bound for England on 3 August 1916. Initially the men set up at Parkhouse, but after several weeks were sent to a permanent location at Bhurpore Barracks, Tidworth. Bhurpore Barracks now became the focal point of military police activity in the U.K., training and assessment of the men wishing to join the corps occurred here, Tidworth provided the bulk of the manpower needed to escort prisoners in England.



Tidworth also administered the smaller detachments on the Salisbury Plains. The return statistics shown below give the larger detachments, at times smaller detachments would be formed to deal with any large influx of troops, where trouble might occur within the camps, or in the nearby villages. London had a large detachment, however generally these men were AGMP (Australian garrison Military Police) the equivalent to those on home service, the London Detachment appears to have provided the men for the Glasgow and Edinburgh Detachments later on during the war. (by war's end there was little difference between the men of any detachment).

LON- DON.	GOD- FORD.	WARMIN- STER.	WEY- MOUTH.	BATH.	BRIS- TOL.	NOV- ANT.	BOURNE- MOUTH.	SALIS- BURY.	TID- WORTH.	BIR- MING- HAM.
90	22	22	4	9	34	7	1	24	10	2
1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
-	-	1	3	-	-	1	5	-	4	-
1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	1	16	9	-	-	26	-	-	10	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
96	23	41	22	9	34	35	6	24	26	4

The first line of statistics refer to the arrest of absentees. Stan became part of the Wareham Detachment initially, he remained with that detachment for about two months before being posted back to Tidworth. Unfortunately his movements during 1917 are not recorded, technically he simply remained posted to Tidworth, an entry on his file dated 11 January 1918 acknowledges his promotion to lance corporal, it also records that he was in fact with the Salisbury Detachment.

Like many of the other men in the group photo Stanley Thurley married while in England. Stan was now 23 years of age, Ivy Beatrice Read was 21 when they married at St James, Church of England Church, at Poole in Dorset on 3 March 1918. An address of Church Street, Tisbury is given for the couple on the marriage certificate.

In September 1918 Lance Corporal Thurley was posted to Candahar Barracks, Tidworth, a neighbouring barracks close to Bhurtpore barracks, as he prepared for active service on the Western Front. On 4 October 1918, he and a number of other military policemen crossed the English Channel to take up duty with the Divisional MMP of a fighting Division, this was in line with corps policy of rotating the men (where medically possible).

After a few days at a Rouen Depot on 18 October 1918 Stan joined the 1st Divisional Headquarters MMP. Stan remained in France (or Belgium) up until 5 December 1918, when because of his early enlistment (September 1914) he was sent back to England in order to take the 75 days of Special leave due to him.

Upon his return to duty Stan did so at Tidworth, upon doing so he was also promoted to corporal (Extra Regimental 2nd Corporal, a favourite rank often utilised by the provost corps). An entry dated 1 September 1919 records his location as Salisbury, indicating the men shown were possibly all part of the Salisbury Detachment.

Stan opted to stay in the UK on duty, in mid-November he was formally transferred from the Warminster Detachment to the APM London. This was mainly an administrative move as he was granted indefinite leave until he and Ivy were granted a passage to Australia. Stan and Ivy and two children were given passage aboard the *Konigin Luise*, which departed England on 18 December 1919.

During the voyage Stan was admitted to the ship's hospital ward for two days, the *Konigan Luise* arrived in Victoria (?) on 1 February 1920. Stanley Thurley was discharged from the AIF on 2 April 1920.



Stan and Ivy and their family lived in Tasmania after the war. Stan seems to have suffered stomach complaints regularly, he and Ivy ran a small store in Huonville. In October 1962 Stan attended his local doctor complaining of stomach pains and vomiting badly. The doctor quickly organised an ambulance to convey Stan to a Hobart hospital, he died of heart failure before arriving at the hospital.

2028 LANCE CORPORAL John Clive TURNER

Jack Turner described himself as a horse breaker when he fronted to join up at Condobolin in New South Wales on 4 September 1914. Jack stated that he was 24 years old and that he hailed from Warwick in Queensland, Jack listed his father George, from Warwick, as his next-of-kin.



Jack advised the recruiting clerk that he had seen three years militia service while at Warwick, serving with the '14th Australian Light Horse'. Private Turner became part of the 4th Field Ambulance, training at the Rosebery Park Camp in Sydney. Jack sailed with his unit aboard the *Berrima*.

Jack served on Gallipoli for a time, his file also shows that he was awarded 28 days detention for 'Insolence to a NCO.' It appears he probably carried out his detention at Alexandria.

In late November 1915 (at the completion of his sentence?) Jack was transferred to a details camp at Maadi. Jack remained at the Maadi camp and did not re-join his unit (back in Egypt) until early February 1916.



Pleurisy saw Jack in and out of hospital on several occasions. In mid-April 1916 Jack was transferred to the 13th Field Ambulance. On 9 May 1916 Turner transferred to the MMP element of the 4th Divisional Headquarters, presumably this move to the military police was at his request.

Trooper Turner sailed with the 4th Divisional MMP aboard the *Kingsfaun Castle*, heading for Marseilles and service on the Western Front on 2 June 1916. Shortly after his arrival in France he was temporarily attached to the 13th Infantry Brigade Headquarters, a week after being attached Jack was promoted to corporal (acting). On 8 August he rejoined the 4th Divisional Headquarters.



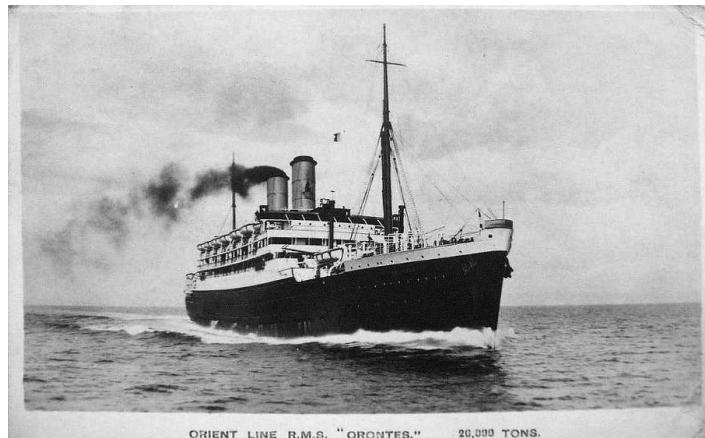
Jack continued to serve with the 4th Division's MMP throughout 1917, on 8 October 1917 Jack reverted to the rank of lance corporal. This was not on disciplinary grounds more so the fact that the MMP detachment had too many acting corporals on its establishment (strength).

On February 1918 Jack was posted back to Bhurpore Barracks at Tidworth. Jack remained at Tidworth for the remainder of his time overseas. On 14 November 1918, three days after the signing of the armistice, Jack was promoted to corporal (E.R. Extra Regimental).

With an early enlistment date (September 1914) Jack probably could have taken a passage back to Australia in early 1919. On 4 April 1919 he married Kate Moody at Quailey in Southampton, Kate was two years younger than the now 29 year old Jack. As a result Jack was probably happy to remain in the U.K., taking liberal amounts of leave that became due to him, in between carrying out his police duties.

Jack is one of the eighteen men shown in the group photo at the start of this chapter. All are military policemen posted on the Salisbury Plains, the photo was taken in front of the Salisbury Town Hall.

On 25 October 1919 he and Kate sailed for Australia aboard the *Orontes*. Jack's file also shows Kate had a child with her (Jack's?), the *Orontes* arrived in Australia in early December. John Clive Turner was finally discharged at Sydney on 9 February 1920.



3305 CORPORAL William Henry WALKER

William Walker was born at Montrose in Victoria, on his son's enlistment, Henry Walker gave his address as Mt Dandenong North, Henry gave his permission for his son to join up (being under 21). William was still single and described himself as a labourer when he stepped forward to join up in Melbourne, he informed the recruiting clerk that he had served as a cadet for several years (as had most young men of his vintage).

William's formal enlistment date would be recorded as 21 July 1915, although he probably fronted a few days earlier than that. William commenced his training at the 1st Depot Battalion at Seymour. Initially he was allotted to the 7th reinforcements for the 24th Battalion, however on 16 November he was re-allotted to be a reinforcement for the 23rd Battalion.



Private Walker sailed aboard the troopship, *Commonwealth* on 26 November 1915. He remained in Egypt at various hospitals and depots in early 1916, it was not actually until 15 June 1916 that William joined his battalion on the Western Front. The 23rd Battalion had only days earlier entered the Rue de Bois sector.

Influenza saw him admitted to hospital on 20 August 1916, being sent back to Boulogne for treatment. It was not until 2 October that William returned to duty at a base depot. William rejoined the 23rd Battalion on 22 November.

In early February 1917 William was admitted to hospital suffering a 'septic right hand', this saw him away from his battalion for just over a month. After a month back at his battalion William suffered shrapnel wounds to his left ankle as his battalion fought near Noreuil during the second battle of Bullecourt.

William was sent back to Rouen aboard a hospital train for treatment. On 13 May 1917 William was transferred to England where he was admitted to the Bath War Hospital. It was not until 26 June 1917 before William was released from hospital, typical of a recovering wounded soldier he was released to furlo and in William's case, granted two weeks leave prior to marching in to a training depot at Perham Downs on 10 July. William's initial medical classification at that time was B1a, towards the end of August 1917 he was re-graded as B1a2.

On 4 October Private Walker was sent to the Overseas training Brigade (Longbridge Deverill) as he prepared to report back to his battalion in France. On 2 November he crossed the English Channel, marching into the Le Havre Depot.

William rejoined the 23rd Battalion at [REDACTED] on 7 November. However ill-health would eventually once again force him back to the U.K. on 9 July 1918. He spent the next few months at hospitals in Edmonton and then Dartford.

Continuing his recovery William returned to duty at the Hurdcott Depot (No 3 Command Depot) on 5 August and then transferred to No 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny. On 19 October he returned to the Overseas training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill (shown **below**).



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS

assessment he was formally taken on strength by the corps on 18 November.

Shortly after, on 23 November 1918, 23 year old William Walker married 18 year old Nora Kathleen Hinds. The couple married in Nora's home town of Bath.

Private Walker was promoted to the rank of E.R. 2nd Corporal (Extra Regimental) on 10 February 1919. William remained posted (officially) to Tidworth for the remainder of his time overseas. He appears to have been attached to the smaller Salisbury Detachment during at least part of 1919 (see photo details).

Corporal Walker began his return to Australia aboard the *Mahana* on 25 September 1919, Nora was also on board that vessel. The *Mahana* arrived in Victoria on 10 November, it was not until 8 May 1920 that William Henry Walker was discharged from the AIF. William and Nora appear to have had one daughter (Nancy Olive Walker).

William was still at Longbridge Deverill when he was attached to the Australian provost Corps at Tidworth on 31 October 1918. After a short period of



THE PROVOST CORPS.

(To the Editor)

Sir.—It doesn't matter where Aussies meet to yarn over their experiences abroad, there is one topic that always evokes unanimous derision and that is the military policeman, particularly the gent who was so conspicuous on the London Front. As a member of the staff at a soldiers' institution I was deputed to write and request you A.P.C. "What did you do in the Great War, dad?"

Said a little boy one day
To a great big sixfoot father,
Who smiled and turned away.
"Now lad you have asked me some-
thing,
So I suppose I had better tell;
You know I don't like skiting,
But you'll hear it just as well.
"I joined to serve my country,
And I served it true and well,
And some of the things I've gone
through
Have been hotter far than hell;
For I was not long in the army
Till luck came round my way,
I'd a chance to show my valor,
So I joined the police that day.
"I joined the gallant Provost Corps,
A trusted band and true,
We swore to run the lads in
And see the business through,
We didn't do a bayonet charge,
Nor grapple with the Hun,
But we put the Diggers in the clink



When we were two to one.
"We rounded them up for passes
When they came for a hard-earned
spell,
We clinked them for not saluting
And for any old thing as well.
We gave them some awful hidings
When we had their hands tied tight,
We hit them with sticks and hand-
cuffs,
And showed them the way to fight.
"And many a drunken Digger,
With his pockets full of 'chink,'
Found that his cash was missing
When he woke next day in the clink.
Of course we struck tight corners
When the bottles flew quite free,
But we whistled for reinforcements
And cleaned them up you see.
"We never have been beaten,
And never put on side,
And the soldiers of Australia
Look up to us with pride.
Of course, they can't all join us,
For the A.P.C. are —
Aye. — born and bred!
"So, son, be like your father—
If they start another war,
Just prove yourself am an —
As your father did before."



HIS GRIEVANCE.

"Garn, yer miserable ——s. If it wasn't for blokes like me the likes o' yous wouldn't 'ave a job!"