

2013 Premier's ANZAC Spirit School Prize

Private Ernest William Tapsel Warman



Cassidy Warman

Reynella East College

Epilogue

Prior to World War I, never had the lives of so many young Australians been wasted. From all walks of life, men volunteered, and risked their lives, to fight for the country that we love today.

Amongst those brave soldiers was my great-grandfather. This is for Ernest William Tapsel Warman, one of the millions of everyday unsung heroes in World War I, who all deserve to have their story told.

Life prior to war

Ernest William Tapsel Warman was born on February 15, 1892, in Serviceton, Victoria, soon after his family moved to Penola, South Australia. Ernest experienced a constant struggle as one of nine of an extremely under privileged family¹. As he got older, Ernest would travel from farm to farm, in search of odd jobs to earn a much required quid for the family.

As a young boy, Ernest always dreamed of travelling Australia by jumping on a train in Penola. This is where his sense of adventure began. Throughout his teenage years, Ernest continued to work on jobs around the town, play football and cricket, and supporting his siblings.

Alfred, his father, was a fireman in the South Australian Railways. At the age of eighteen, Ernest followed in his father's footsteps.² Due to Ernest's small stature of 5'2¾" and extreme physical fitness gained through the oppressive labour of a fireman. They lead to the duties he was to undertake in the Great War (WW1)³.

Photo: Penola Railway Station (now disused)



(form3.staticflickr.com, 1984)

¹ See appendix 1

² See appendix 2

³ The Great War was not referred to as World War 1 (WW1) until after World War 2 (WW2)

Involvement in The Great War

While WW1 began on August 4, 1914 it wasn't until May 9, 1916 that Ernest enlisted at the age of 24 in Petersburg, South Australia⁴.

Soon after his enlistment, his training commenced at Mitcham Training Camp in Adelaide, South Australia.⁵ He was assigned to the 27th Battalion.

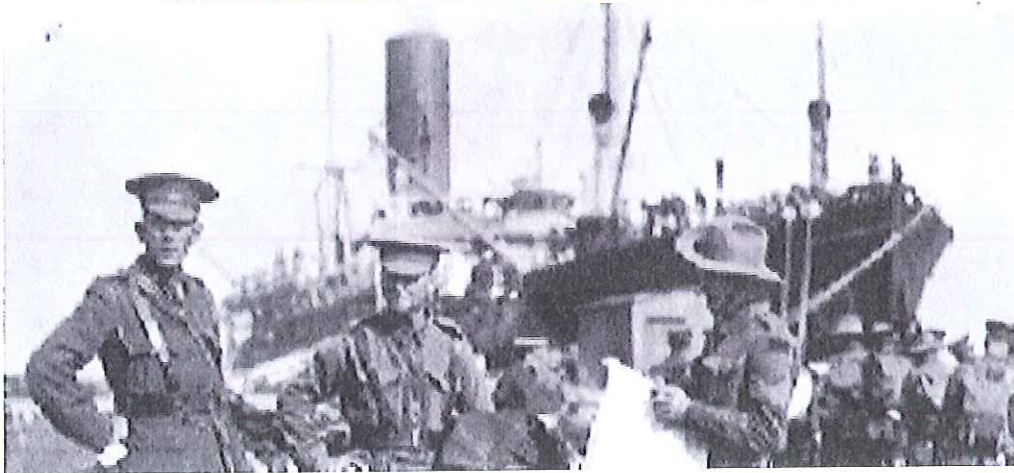
Brown and blue diamond- colour patch of the 27th Battalion



(AMW PHOTO 11214)

Ernest embarked for Plymouth, England, via 'HMAT Anchises A68'⁶, on August 28, 1916, arriving October 31.

Photo: HMAT A68 Anchises at Port Melbourne. 14 March. 1916



(http://alh-research.tripod.com/ships_lh.htm)

Then to France on December 18, on the "SS Golden Eagle". January 22, 1917 Ernest, along with his Battalion joined the 7th Brigade, part of the Australian 2nd Division.

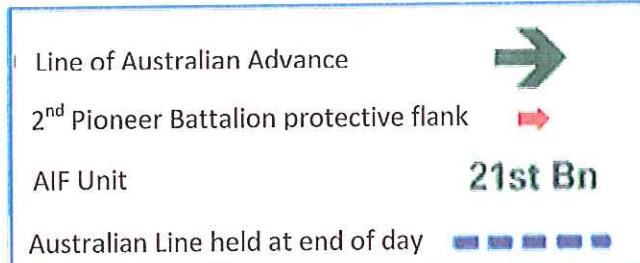
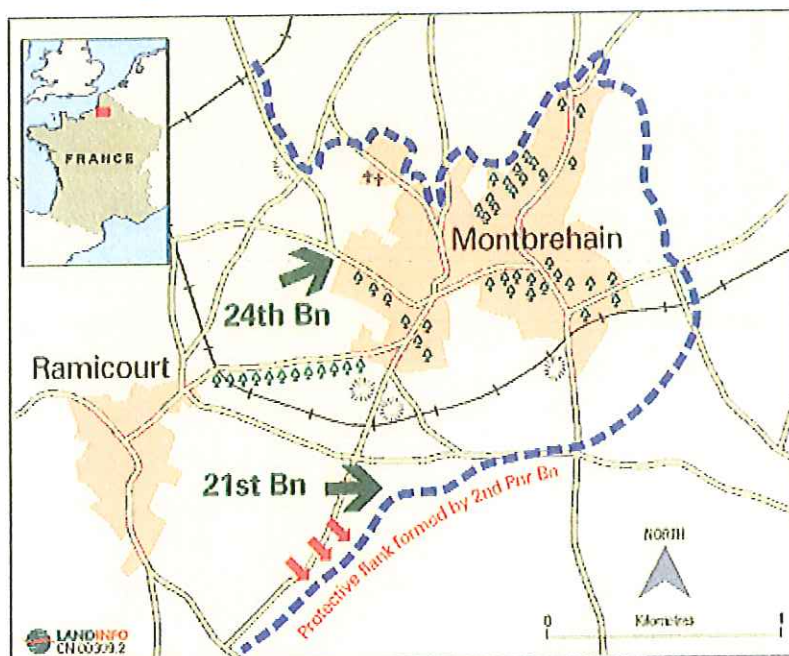
⁴ Now Peterborough

⁵ See appendix 4

⁶ (HMAT) His Majesty of Australian Transport, see also appendix 5

The 27th Battalion were involved in many major confrontations with the German Army, including the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line⁷ in joint operation with the 2nd unit and the U.S. Forces.

Image: German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line



(awm.gov.au 2012)

The freezing conditions affected Ernest's health. March 31st, saw his admission to hospital suffering a serious case of Influenza until July 24.

On September 20, the 27th Battalion became part of the 2nd Division's first wave at the battle of Menin Road.⁸ Throughout these battles, Ernest was a runner.⁹

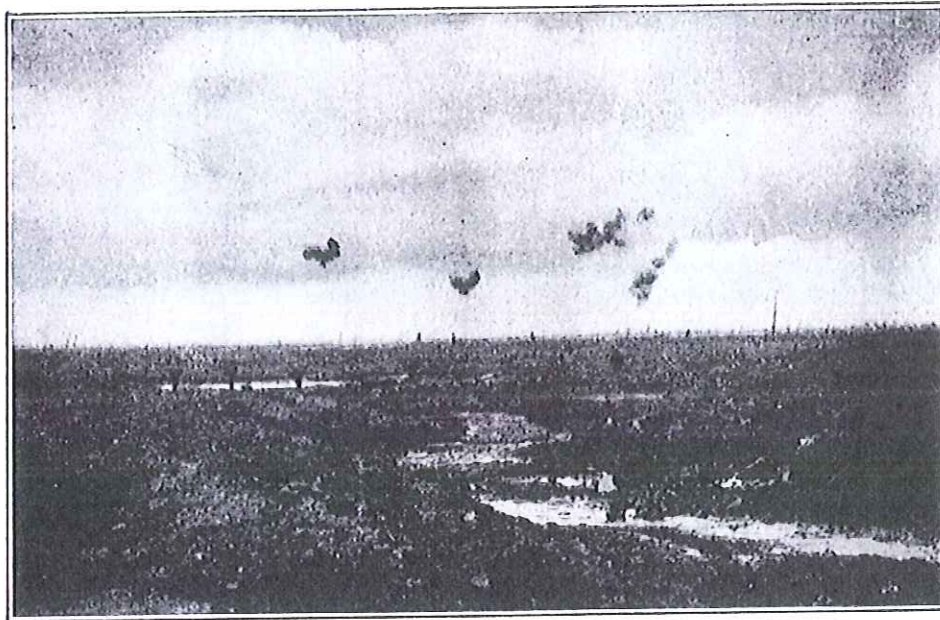
⁷ The Hindenburg Line was a vast system of German defences in North Eastern France in WW1, constructed during winter 1916-17.

⁸ The Menin Road offensive was part of the Third Battle of Ypres. This action saw the first involvement of Australian units (1st and 2nd Divisions AIF).

⁹ See appendix 6

On November 3, in Belgium, he was in the midst of a mustard gas shell explosion¹⁰. Ernest lost a lung and developed non-infective tuberculosis and difficulty with his vision. Consequently, Ernest was discharged on April 2, 1918, returning home on the 'Runic'.

Photo: Shrapnel bursting over the sloughs in front of Paschendale.



Shrapnel bursting over the sloughs in front of Paschendale.

(Pictorial Record from November 1917 to the end of the War, page 9)

Upon returning home, Ernest met his wife, Lillian. They married in 1920. Together they had five children¹¹. The family lived in Mount Gambier, before late in his life, moving to Goodwood.

On December 4, 1970, Ernest passed away. He now lies at Centennial Park Cemetery, alongside thousands of honoured men and fallen comrades.

Photo: Centennial Park Cemetery; Private Ernest William Tapsel Warman



(Primary Source, September 2012)

¹⁰ See appendix 7

¹¹ See appendix 1

The ANZAC Spirit

The ANZAC Spirit is the special characteristic that the Australian and New Zealand soldiers possess. Soldiers on the battlefields of WW1 especially highlighted these qualities. The ANZAC Spirit that evolved in 1915 describes the birth of ANZAC forces. It honours these men and women who gave and risked their lives for their country. The ANZAC forces offered qualities that are recognised in society today; mateship, honour, pride and respect. The ANZAC Spirit means something different to every person, but no matter your idea of the concept, it still holds its place in today's society, as strongly as ever.

The ANZACs stuck by their mates through thick and thin; their sense of humour lightened tough situations; it was an unspoken rule amongst Australian and New Zealand soldiers to outwit the authorities. The ANZAC soldiers' behaviour overseas reflected their lives. It gave our Allies an impression of Australians, which is still reflected today; our easy-going nature yet strength and determination. The Spirit which defined Australia is the inspiring Spirit of the ANZAC's. The binding force of Australians was, and is, MATESHIP. By sticking together, Australians have endured and defied flood, bushfire and drought.¹²

The actions taken by the young men on the battlefields of WW1 shaped our nation. Their honour for their country and their mates during this time and the spirit that has carried on has given an identity to all Australians. The ANZAC Spirit is about more than mateship and courage on the battlefield; it involves seeing things through and having pride in your family, mates and country. It is the unwritten moral obligation we feel to help those in need.

The ANZAC Spirit can be seen in all generations, from WW1 soldiers, to the heroes of WW2 and in today's brave men and women who fight for our country. The ANZAC Spirit is how we identify ourselves as a nation. It is, beyond doubt, seen in the eyes of those who march with pride every ANZAC day. The ANZAC Spirit will live on forever as an Australian identity.

¹² Kokoda - Peter Fitzsimmons p 29

Ernest's reflection of the ANZAC Spirit

Ernest's service on the Western Front strongly displayed the ANZAC Spirit. He was known to be a 'loveable larrikin', whose humour helped men suffering from the traumas of war to look to their mates for support. He didn't let what he was going through bring others down. Ernest was a 'true blue Aussie', always in the midst of practical jokes with the mates he made on the Western Front.

Though he may not have been honoured with any medals other than those for service and victory, he displayed the ANZAC Spirit by risking his life to fight for his country. As a runner, Ernest had a lot of responsibility on his shoulders. He keenly and bravely ran through the line of fire, from trench to trench, armed with only a hand gun, to deliver messages.

Taking on this responsibility, Ernest displayed physical and mental endurance and valour. He never gave up and never gave in; he would not stop running as the lives of his mates potentially lay at his hands. Most runners were highly decorated for selflessness and heroism. Ernest was an exception. His bravery on the frontline was not recognised, but he was not one to let anything get in the way of keeping his fellow comrades safe from threat. Every day Ernest put his life on the line to deliver a message that could potentially change the outcomes in battle. In WW1 lots of runners were necessitated, but it was, without a doubt, a job for those beyond brave.

Ernest never expected recognition for the risks he took and bravery he showed. Knowing his contributions helped the Allied Forces to be victorious was enough for him. Ernest fought, and fought well, because it was the moral thing to do. The ANZAC Spirit displayed with these actions showed us that soldiers believed that every sacrifice was worthwhile as they were fighting for King and country.

On more than one occasion, Ernest threw himself into the line of fire, knowing that at any time he could have been killed, to bring casualties to the safety of trenches and bunkers. There were few men who were recognised for these efforts. Ernest was the type of selfless soldier, who thought nothing of putting himself in danger to pull an injured Digger to safety. He was an ANZAC. Not once did he, or the ANZAC's 'brag' about the sacrifices they made; it was the Aussie way. "Never leave your mate behind."¹³

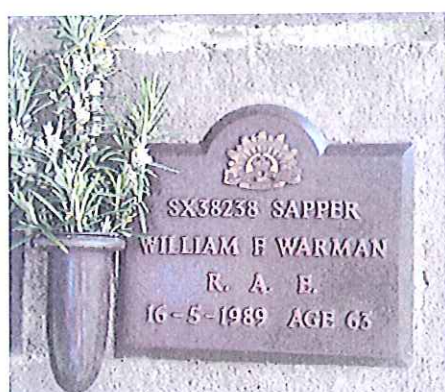
¹³ Primary Source, Margaret Runey, 2012

Ernest was not on the Western Front for as long as many of his mates, due to illness, but his display of ANZAC Spirit continued in his life. Upon returning to Australia, despite the loss of a lung, Ernest always made an effort to be with his children and was an active participant in their lives. He instilled the ANZAC Spirit on his children, in particular his sons, who followed in their father's footsteps by enlisting in WW2.

Although Ernest was never one to talk about his experience on the frontline, it was important to him that the knowledge of the courage, mateship and humour displayed during WW1 was passed down and displayed by future generations.

Ernest enlisted as a young man with dreams of adventure and the drive to serve his country. He returned home a wise and respected hero. I never had the chance to meet this great man, who was not only a war hero, but my great-grandfather. It is those like Ernest William Tapsel Warman that make me proud to be an Australian, and I am honoured to share the Warman family name with the valiant, courageous and principled man that he was known to be.

Photographs: Centennial Park Cemetery, William and Frederick Warman



(Primary Source, September 2012)

Ode of Remembrance

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow
old;*

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

-Laurence Binyon

Mateship

Honour

Respect

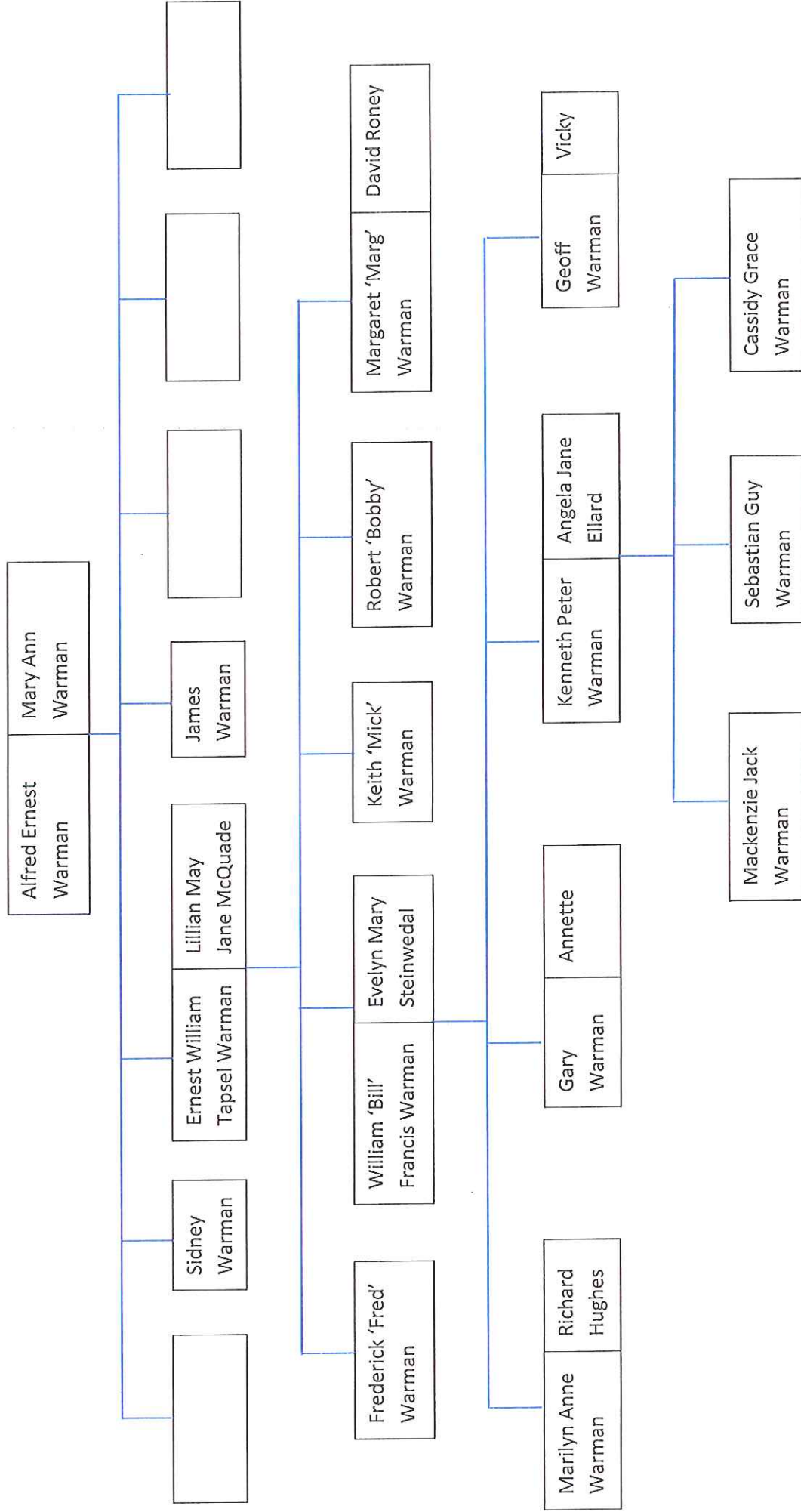
ANZAC

SPIRIT

Pride



Appendix 1



Appendix 2

Fireman

On steam railways, including the South Australian Railways, firemen were given the responsibility of cleaning the ash and dust from the firebox prior to lighting the fire, adding water to the engine's boiler, starting the fire, and continuously throwing masses of coal into a huge furnace to keep the train running¹

Fireman in the railways



<http://www.mylearning.org/overview.asp?journeyid=242>

¹ Wikipedia-Fireman (steam engine)
<[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fireman_\(steam_engine\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fireman_(steam_engine))>

Appendix 3

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD

No. 6342A Name WARMAN, EARNEST WILLIAM ^{TAPSEL}
Unit 2nd DEPOT BATTALION A.I.F. ^{TAPSEL}
Joined on MAY 9 1916 ^{2/48 INT. BATTN.}

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name ?	...	1. <u>Ernest William Tapsel Warman</u>
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born ?	...	2. In the Parish of <u>Wolsley</u> in or near the Town of <u>Wolsley</u> in the County of <u>South Australia</u>
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject ? (N.B. If the latter, papers to be shown.)	...	3. <u>Natural Born</u>
4. What is your age ?	...	4. <u>26 years</u>
5. What is your trade or calling ?	...	5. <u>Fireman S.A. Railway</u>
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice ? If so, where, to whom, and for what period ?	...	6. <u>No</u>
7. Are you married ?	...	7. <u>No</u>
8. Who is your next of kin ? (Address to be stated)	...	8. <u>(Father) Alfred Ernest Warman Wolsley South Australia</u>
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power ?	...	9. <u>No</u>
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with disgrace from the Navy ?	...	10. <u>No</u>
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy or Colonial Forces ? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge	...	11. <u>No</u>
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service ?	...	12. <u>Yes</u>
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service ? If so, on what grounds ?	...	13. <u>No</u>
14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother) — Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach 8/- per day ?	...	14. <u>No</u>
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever ?	...	15. <u>Yes</u>

I, Ernest William Tapsel Warman do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children.

Date 9 May 1916 E. W. J. Warman
Signature of Person Enlisted.

* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 15 years of age
1. Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

Description of Warman Earnest William ^{Tapsel} ~~James~~ on Enlistment

Age 24 years 3 months

Height 5 feet 2 3/4 inches

Weight 122 lbs.

Chest Measurement 32.5 2 3/4 inches

Complexion fair

Eyes grey

Hair fair

Religious Denomination Church of England

DISTINCTIVE MARKS.

Var. H. L. Infancy
Vision R 6/6 L 6/6

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I HAVE examined the above-named person, and find that he does not present any of the following conditions, viz.:—

Scrofula; phthisis; syphilis; impaired constitution; defective intelligence; defects of vision, voice, or hearing; hernia; hæmorrhoids; varicose veins, beyond a limited extent; marked varicocele with unusually pendent testicle; inveterate cutaneous disease; chronic ulcers; traces of corporal punishment, or evidence of having been marked with the letters D. or B.C.; contracted or deformed chest; abnormal curvature of spine; or any other disease or physical defect calculated to unfit him for the duties of a soldier.

He can see the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs; and he declares he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him fit for active service.

Date PETERSBURG 9/5/16

Place May 9 1916 Petersburg

H. J. Winstan 770 B, 135
Signature of Examining Medical Officer.

CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.

I CERTIFY that this Attestation of the above named person is correct, and that the required forms have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and

appoint him to B Coy 2ND DEPOT BATTALION A.I.F.

Date 29-5-16 9161 NR 08

Place Adelaide MITCHAM.

Commanding 2ND DEPOT BATTALION A.I.F.

LT. COL.
COMMANDANT

A.G. 42 370 1964-9

4th Military District

6 MAY 1989

UNITED STATES
ATTORNEY

Officer in Charge,

- 14 - Records

Victoria, British Columbia,

25000

CONFIDENTIAL.

The unit mentioned earlier has been reclassified
Discharge, a discolored, discolored and other documents.

10-1054 forwarded with: - B179. D1. B178. D2. B132.

Dental Exam "X". Dental Exam: papers (2). Medical Sheet, Clinical Sheet (2)
 Dr. 6342 Fink. Pte. Hays. WARMAN. Evans, W. T. B/8.

Mr. BRADY, Frank, Pte., Hove, WARHAM, STUBBS, W. T.

1912.

27th BATTN.

Date of visitation.

9-5-29.

Date of transcription.

28-3-16.

Date of Discharge.

82-11-19.

Reason for Discharge:

MEDICALLY UNFIT INOT

Date of Discharge.

DUE TO MISCONDUCT.

Total Service.

2 years 339 days.

Service At road.

2 years 87 days.

Account Adjusted in Part 1911.

5911.

BASE RECORDS
MAY 19 1916
RECEIVED

CAPTAIN.

STAFF OFFICER INVALIDS & RETURNED SOLDIERS
4th MILITARY DISTRICT.

Original discharge document

<naa.gov.au>

Cassidy Warman

Transferred to

D

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.



No. 6342
Rank Plt Name WARMAN E. W. L.
Unit 27th Battalion

Nov. 1917 Casualty Wounded Gas 859 P. 2808/301 14.11.17

Wounded Gas. Severe. Adm. 12.11.17 to 2nd Eastern
Gen. Hosp. W. ent. 589/445. Std. Edm 24.11.17 Rel 4.12.17
Progressing favourably. WSM 602/321 J. Std. Edm 5.12.17 Rel 11.12.17
612 1647 E.

Ref. to Sub. for H. T. "Dennis" Det "H" with 21st Bn
G. I. H. 200/1000 Std. Edm. 5/10/18. Rel'd B. D. 4/10/18 } Suberculosis

Returned to Australia per. J. H. T. "Dennis"
Disembarked. M. D. 20/1/18 (Sydney) Lst 10/1/18

DATE	PURPORT.	REF. NO.
20.10.17	Form 2. 103. Received	
20.10.17	N.O.K. Advised suffering Gas Poisoning	
Dec 10. 1917	N.O.K. Advised in Hospital	
DEC 14 1917		
DEC 14 1917	N.O.K. Advised progressing favourably	
Jan 2. 1918	N.O.K. Advised Convalescent	
25 OCT 1918	N.O.K. Advised returning to Australia, term	
2-4-19	Discharged Y.M.D. 1818	
WAR HISTORY INDEX		
 		

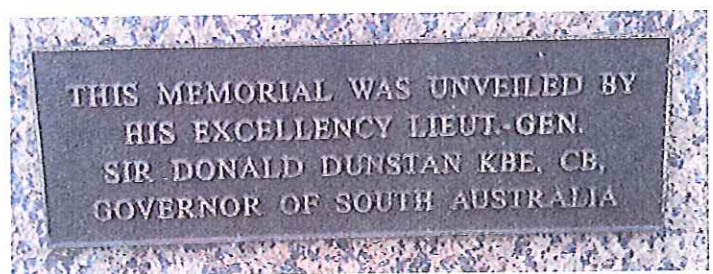
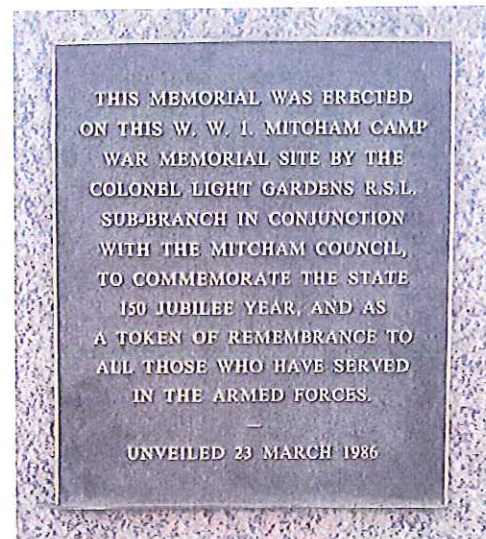
21/1/18 - 21/1/18 - 1818

Appendix 4

Mitcham Camp was main base for South Australian units as they trained to serve in 1914-1918. The Mitcham training camp was built after the training camp at Ascot Park was abandoned.

On March 23 1986, a memorial was erected on the Mitcham Training Camp Memorial Site, in Colonel Light Gardens, where the camp once was.

Photo's: Mitcham Training Camp Memorial, Colonel Light Gardens



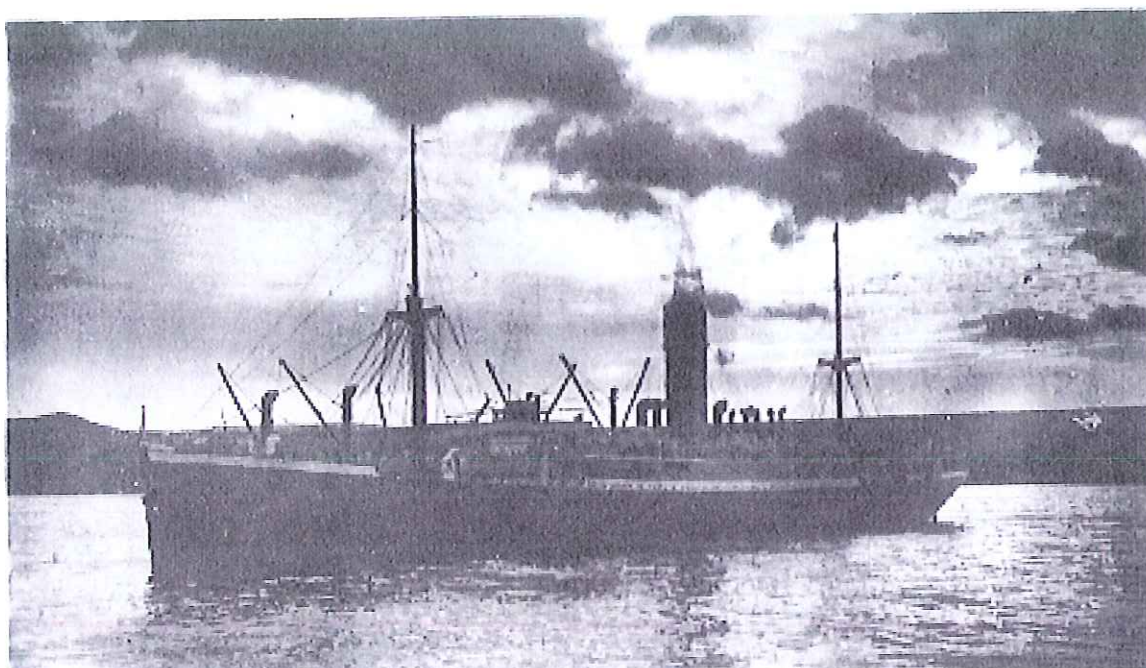
Primary Source, September 2012

Appendix 5

HMAT Anchises A68

“The HMAT Anchises A68 weighed 10,046 tons with an average cruise speed of 10 knots or 18.52 km/h. It was owned by the Ocean SS Co Ltd, Liverpool, and leased by the Commonwealth until 12 October 1917.”²

HMAT Anchises



5 2193

BLUE FUNNEL LINE S. S. "ANCHISES."

<<http://www.flotilla-australia.com/hmat3.htm>>

² WW1 Transportation-HMAT Anchises
<http://alh-research.tripod.com/ships_lh.htm>

Appendix 6

A runner was a soldier responsible for passing messages between trenches, armed with only a hand gun. It was common for runners to die before reaching their destination, this was one of the most dangerous jobs of all, for they were required to leave the safety of a trench or bunker.

Photo: A runner



[<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Runner_\(soldier\)>](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Runner_(soldier))

Photo: A runner



[<http://www.ayo-gorkhali.org/index.php/gallery/aggallerywwone/>](http://www.ayo-gorkhali.org/index.php/gallery/aggallerywwone/)

Appendix 7

The skin of victims of this poison blistered, the eyes became very sore and they began to vomit. Mustard gas caused internal and external bleeding and attacked the bronchial tubes by stripping off the mucous membrane. Most soldiers had to be strapped to their beds.

Soldiers suffering from mustard gas poisoning



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