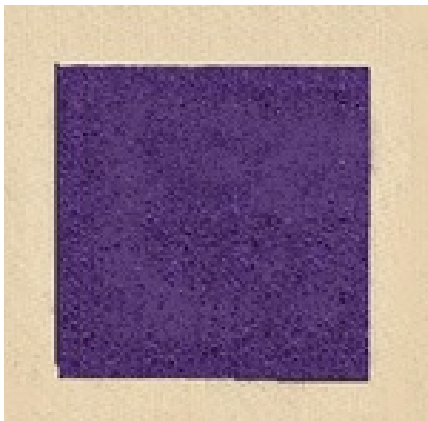


WILLIAM GEORGE FRANKCOM

An insight into the WWI life of Frankcom

Background Information

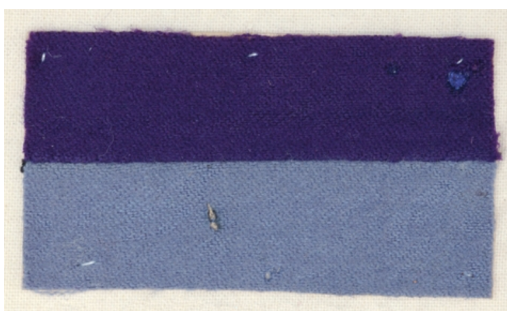
William George Frankcom was a Father of 3, husband of Caroline Frankcom and brother of Richard Charles Frankcom. Private William George Frankcom 5095 joined the Australian Imperial Force on the 28th January 1916 belonging to the 10th Battalion Unit but later on transferring to the 1st Pioneer Battalion. Growing up it was believed that his belief in religion was the 'Church of England'. As a young child, Frankcom was just your average Australian kid attending Goodwood public School in South Australia and later on becoming a labourer.



1st Pioneer Battalion Badge



Image of 1st pioneer battalion football team with supporters standing behind.



10th Battalion Unit Badge



Goodwood Primary School SA. 2022

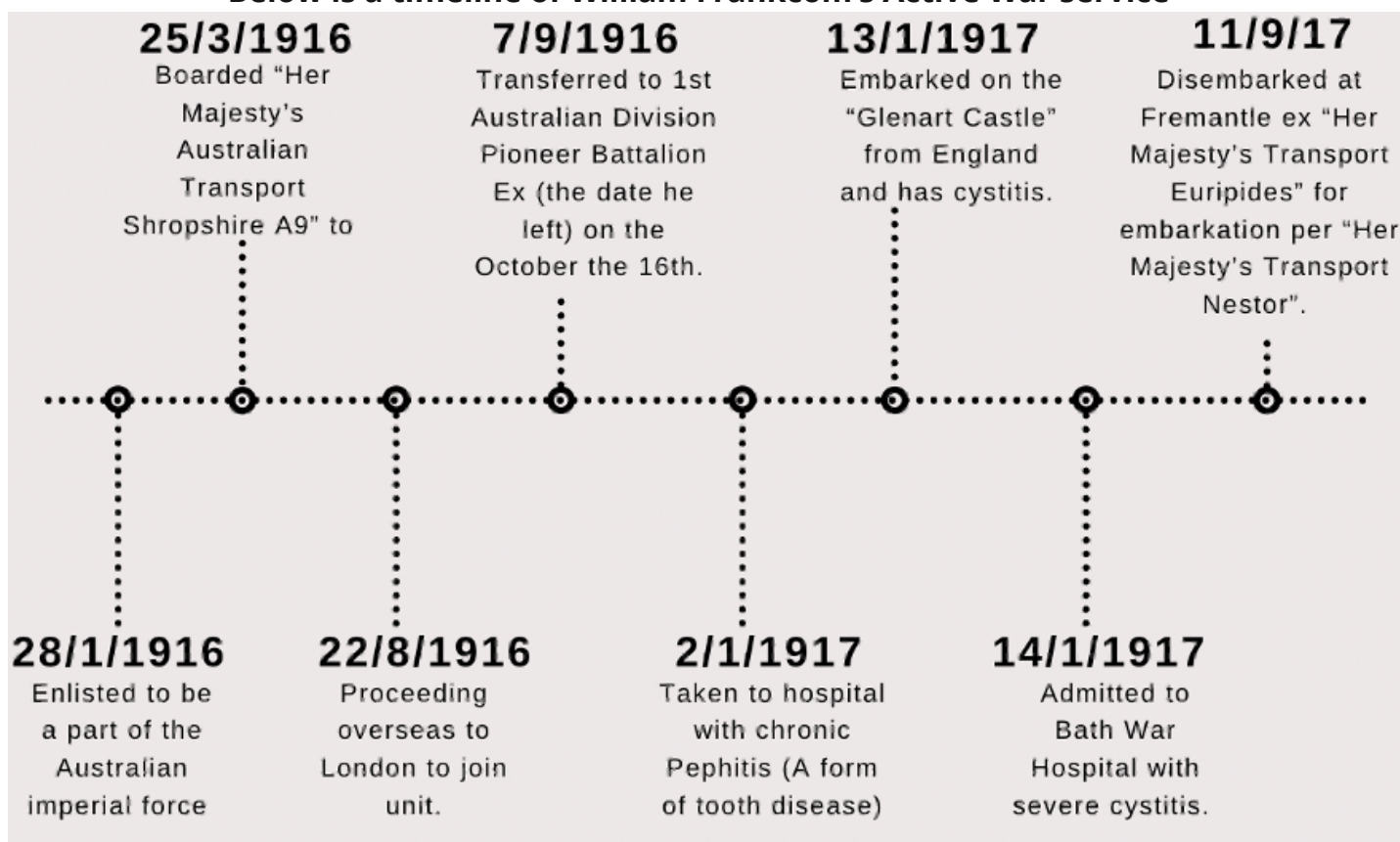
Joining War

At the age of 45, with hair turning grey, 5 feet 3 inches tall and bright blue eyes, William George Frankcom volunteered to put his life at risk on the Western Front, becoming a soldier of the Australian Imperial Force. For him, this meant leaving his home on 82 Hampton Street, Goodwood, South Australia, his labourer occupation, family and most importantly his beloved family of 3 children and his wife, Caroline Frankcom.

**82 Hampton Street, Goodwood, South Australia.
William George Frankcom's House in today's day.**

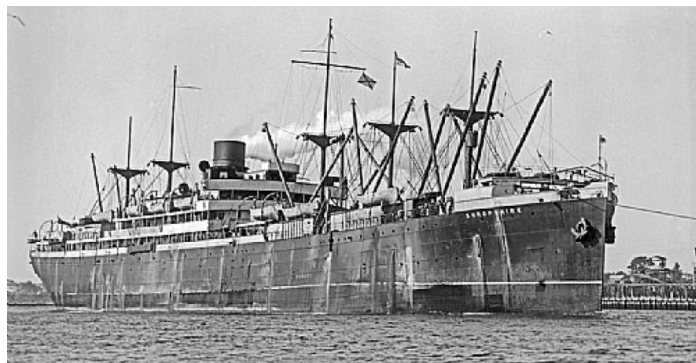


Below is a timeline of William Frankcom's Active War service

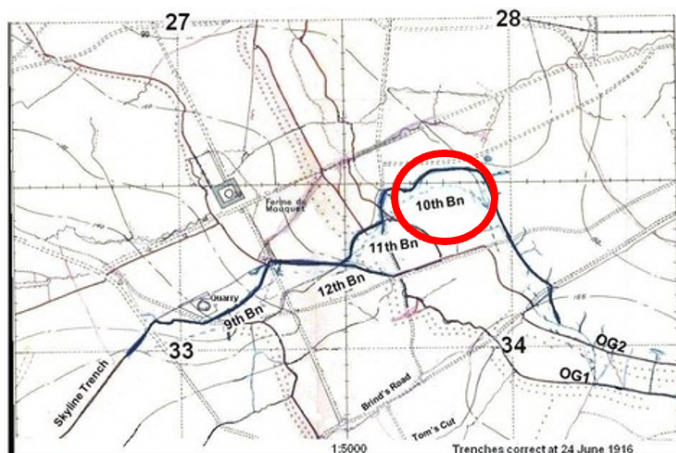


Life of War

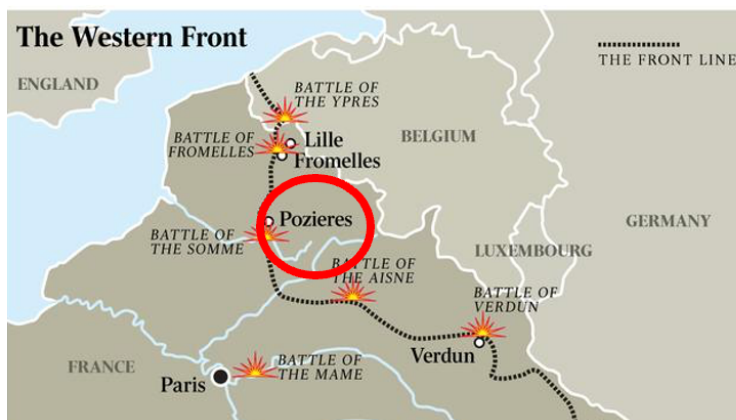
On the 25th March 1916, William George boarded “Her Majesty’s Australian Transport Shropshire A9” at Adelaide, SA, which marked the start of his journey as a soldier fighting on the battlefield’s front lines. Frankcom was not very active in the war due to health issues. The only active wars for Frankcom were between the dates of 22nd August till the 7th September in 1916. Before he transferred to the 1st Pioneer Battalion on the 7th September 1916, being in the 10th battalion unit meant he had a high chance of contributing to battles mainly at the Western Front, at the Mouquet Farm, Battle of Pozieres and Marseille. However, health issues arose during the war, resulting in his early withdrawal.



“Her Majesty’s Australian Transport Shropshire A9”



Map of Mouquet Farm war status on the 21st August. Circled is the position of the 10th battalion troop.



Map of the Western Front. Circled is the war of Pozieres.

A major factor Frankcom was obligated to pull out of the war was his declining health. Joining at the age of 45 into the army would not have been easy for Frankcom especially knowing that the average age of Australian soldiers in WWI was 18-35 years old. Back then the medical health system would not have been the best so pulling out was the best option. On the 13th of January, Frankcom was diagnosed with Cystitis, a medical issue caused by inflammation in a bacterial infection. He was admitted to Bath War Hospital in London on the 14th January and later on returned home to Adelaide on the 11th June 1917. He returned to Australia for at-home service due to “age and disability” on the 3rd August 1917. On the 11th of September 1917, William George Frankcom was officially disembarked at Fremantle on “Her Majesty’s Euripides”.



Painting of Bath War Hospital during WWI (Combe Park)

Achievements

Frankcom has received significant medals that commemorate him for the many achievements and successes he has contributed to. He has received three main medals: the Star Medal, the British War Medal, and the Allied Victory Medal. The Star medal was awarded to soldiers who served in war outside of the UK between the 5th August 1914 and the 31st December 1915, this medal was awarded to a wide range of recipients. The British Medal was awarded to soldiers who entered a war of service overseas from the 5th of August 1914 till the 11th of November 1918. Frankcom fitted these criteria since he was a part of the British and imperial forces. The final medal awarded to Frankcom, the Allied Victory Medal, was awarded to anybody who had entered a place of war.



British war medal



The Allied Victory Medal 4/12



Star medal 1914/15

ANZAC Spirit

Every single Australian soldier in WWI volunteered to fight for their country and put their lives at risk. Many knew what was at stake but some people were unaware. Frankcom left his whole life in Adelaide behind, he left his children, wife, and family to become a volunteer for ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps). He was selfless enough to volunteer to fight for the freedom and justice of ANZAC, he sacrificed his precious time with his family not knowing if he would make it back or if he would ever even see his family again. The Anzac spirit reflects on those who are brave enough to fight for peace, freedom, and justice, for those who are courageous enough to fight on the Western fronts knowing they could die any second. People like William George Frankcom who left his peaceful life in Adelaide in return for an unknown future in WWI.



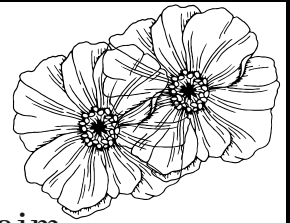
Battalion's officers fully equipped with their AIF uniforms immediately prior to embarkation.



Troops of what is believed to be the 10th Battalion on the deck of the battleship Prince of Wales in Mudros Harbour.



Lest We Forget



The burial site of Willaim George Frankcom is located at Australia Imperial Force Cemetery, West Terrace, Adelaide.

On the stone it says the words:

*In loving memory of No. 5095
Pte (Private) William. G
Frankcom
1st Pioneer Btn A.I.F (1st Pioneer
Battalion Australian Imperial
Force)*

*Died at Adelaide
27th January 1933
Aged 62 years
Remembered in his wife and
family
Rest in peace*

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