

Cecil Augustus (Charlie) LEVEN - R/N 473

Cecil Augustus (Charlie) **LEVEN** was born 15 December 1895, at Tamworth, NSW. He died at Abbotsford on 28 February 1978.

He was the son of Arletta HOPKINS of Glendower near Bingara. She died in 1964 at, Auburn, aged 86.

Cecil was raised by Augustus Charles LEVEN (known as Charles Leven), a Selector, and his wife Lucy Leven (nee WILSON) on the Horton River, 3 miles upstream from Elcombe (which was a stage coach horse changing location). Augustus Charles Leven, aged 44, farmer, died of enteric fever at Bingara Hospital on 10 March 1899. Lucy died in 1925 at Bingara, aged 68.

Cecil's enlistment form dated 4 January 1916 noted Lucy Cooper (formerly Leven) of Maitland Street, Bingara as his guardian.

He married Cicely Blanche GODFREY, the daughter of Charles and Harriet GODFREY on the 14 January 1919 at The Baptist Chapel, Queen Street, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, England.

They had the following children:

1. Norman LEVEN. He served in the RAAF during WW2 as a pilot; - deceased
2. Vernon LEVEN. He served in the 2nd AIF during WW2; - deceased
3. Raymond LEVEN. He served in the RAN (navy) during WW2; - deceased
4. Iris LEVEN. She married George TWINING.

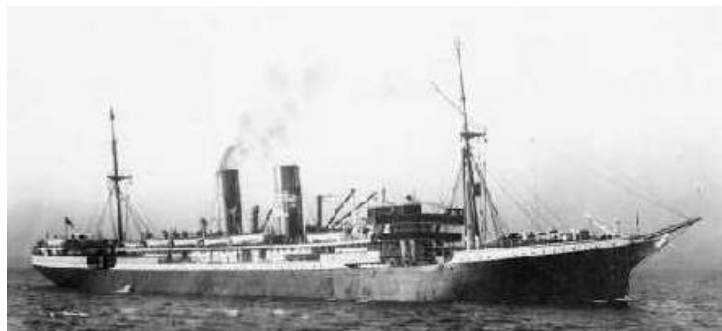
Cecil completed his enlistment application on 28 December 1915 in Bingara at the age of 19 years 10 months. He joined the 33rd Battalion on 4 January 1916 in at Armidale, NSW. At the time of his enlistment his address was given as Bingara, NSW. His enlistment papers recorded his occupation as being a Labourer.

His physical description on his enlistment papers was:

Height:	6 feet, ½ inches;
Weight:	11 stone 9 lbs (163 lbs);
Chest:	35- 38 inches;
Complexion:	Dark;
Eyes:	Brown;
Hair:	Brown;
Religion Denomination:	Church of England;
Distinctive Marks:	Birth mark lower part of abdomen ;

After initial training at the Armidale depot camp he moved with the Battalion to the Rutherford camp near Maitland in March 1916; then to Sydney on 3 May 1916 for embarkation on the transport ship 'Marathon' for overseas to Egypt via Albany, WA. This destination was changed to England en-route and the transport returned to Fremantle, WA to reload with additional coal.

On the 23 May 1916 the 'Marathon' left Fremantle and sailed for England via Durban and Cape Town, South Africa.



After a 65 day voyage the 'Marathon' arrived at Plymouth and the Battalion disembarked, then boarded trains for the Lark Hill, Durrington Camp, Salisbury Plains, Wiltshire. The Battalion arrived at the Lark Hill camp on 10 July 1916.

After extensive training his Battalion, with other units of the 9th Brigade, proceeded to France via Southampton on 21 November 1916. His unit arriving at Steenwerck, France on the 24th.

The 33rd Battalion moved into the trenches at Chaprelle d'Armentieres on the 27th to get their first experience in trench warfare. The Armentieres sector was commonly called the



'nursery sector' because it was where inexperienced units were sent.

Cecil was wounded in action 13 May 1917 near Le Touquet, France. He received multiple shell shot wounds and was treated by the 11th Field Ambulance and the 2nd Australian Casualty Clear Station, then transferred to the AT 22 (a transfer station).

He was then admitted to the 3rd Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on the 17th with shot wounds to the left buttock and legs.

On 19th Cecil was transferred to England and admitted to the London War Hospital with shrapnel wounds to the left leg.

He was granted a furlo (leave) from 24.7.1917 to 7.8.1917 with instructions to report to the No1 Command Depot at Perham Downs. From the Depot he marched out to the Overseas Training Brigade at Perham Downs.

On the 5 September 1917 Cecil again proceeded overseas to France, via Southampton, and marched into the 3rd Australian Division Base Depot at Rouelles, France on the 6th.

Cecil re-joined the 33rd Battalion on 17 September 1917 at billets in Champagne lez Bournais where the Battalion was resting and

DIGGER PROFILE - 33rd BATTALION 1st AIF

training for their next action in the famed battle of Ypres – the Broodseinde and Passchendaele offensives.

On 11 February 1918 Cecil, was granted leave to Paris, with Cyril Herborn, and they returned on 18th.

Cecil reported sick on the 23 March 1918 and was treated by the 11th Casualty Clear Station and 9th Field Ambulance for bronchitis and admitted, via the AT 29 (a transfer station), to the 35th General Hospital at Calais on the 29th with pleurisy.

He was transferred to England from Calais aboard the 'Stad Anterfen' on 31st and admitted to 1st South General Hospital Stourbridge Section, Birmingham.

Cecil was granted another furlo (leave) from 13 June 1918 to the 27th with instruction to report the No1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny. Upon his return to Sutton Veny he was classified medically as B1A3 – "Fit for overseas training camp in two to three weeks"

On 11 July 1918 he marched out to the Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire then on the 22nd to the 2nd Training Brigade for the Signal School at Codford, Wilts.

Cecil reported sick on to the Fovant Hospital on 9 August 1918 and returned to the 9th Training Brigade on the 19th.

On 30 August 1918 Cecil went AWL (absent without leave) and returned back to the Training Brigade on 2 September. He was awarded 7 days field punishment No2 and forfeited 10 day's pay.

Cecil married Cicely Blanche GODFREY on the 14 January 1919 at Ilkeston, Derbyshire, England. The facsimile of his marriage certificate states his address at the time of marriage was the 3rd Division Signal School, Codford, Wilts.

This marriage was one of the many that took place for the ANZAC Diggers in the UK.

On the 27 January 1919 Cecil marched out from the Training Brigade No15 Concentration Camp at Codford for return to Australia. But Cecil, on 10 February, was admitted to the Red Cross Hospital at Ilkeston, Derbyshire with influenza, He was discharged March 1st and returned to the 2nd Training Brigade at Codford, Wilts.

He was then transferred to the 1st Training Brigade at Sutton Veny on 13 April and granted indefinite leave until his recall for return to Australia on a "family boat". Diggers that had family with them in the UK had to wait for boats with suitable family accommodation.

Cecil with wife Cicely and their son Norman embarked from England on 7 February 1920 aboard the 'Konigin Luise' and disembarked at Port Melbourne. They then travelled overland by train to Sydney.

Cecil was discharged from the AIF on 31st March 1920.

The family travelled to Bingara and then returned to Sydney where they purchased a newly constructed house and spent the remainder of their life, at Abbotsford, overlooking Henry Lawson Park and Hen and Chicken Bay.



Cecil's medals and the Returned Serviceman Badge



Cyril Herborn and Cecil Leven
on leave in Paris February 1918
(Cyril Herborn became the last surviving member
of the 33rd Battalion 1st AIF)



Cecil Leven – in France 1916

The look appears to say, "just out of the hell of the trenches oram wounded and healing or... had enough of this sh..t or never had that gas at Bingara or thank God I might be sent to England on a blighty"

DIGGER PROFILE - 33rd BATTALION 1st AIF



Cecil at the 1960 ANZAC Day March in Sydney



Cecil and Cicely – in England circa.1919



Wire cutters from WW1 - a souvenir from Belgium or France

WW1 Service Record	Cecil Augustus LEVEN
Regimental number	473
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Labourer
Address	Maitland Street, Bingara, NSW
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	19 years 10 months
Next of kin	Lucy Cooper of Bingara, NSW - Guardian
Enlistment date	4 January 1916
Unit on Embarkation Roll	33rd Battalion, B Company
Unit on Nominal Roll	33rd Battalion
Rank on enlistment	Private
Rank on Nominal Roll	Private
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/50/1
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Sydney, New South Wales, on board HMAT A74 Marathon on 4 May 1916
Casualty	Wounded - 13 May 1917 near Le Touquet, France
To CCS or hospital	March 1918, August 1918, February 1919
Fate	Returned to Australia – 7 February 1920
Family connections	NIL