

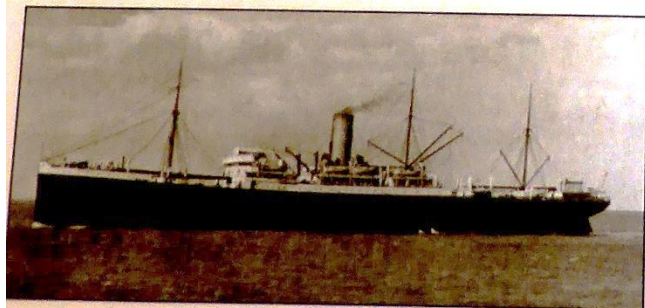


## 5358 Shoeing Smith Harold Edward Spackman

18 year old Harold Spackman had served 12 months of a Blacksmithing apprenticeship with E.R. Maxwell of Manoora when he joined at Keswick on 12 July 1915. Born at Dimboola in Victoria, he was the son of Mary Jane Hewton and George Spackman, farmer, of Auburn. Harold's brother, 5399 R. S. "Stan" Spackman, 27th Battalion was killed in action at Ypres on 7 October, 1917.



At Mitcham Camp Harold was appointed to 8th Field Artillery and then to 10th Reinforcements 3rd Field Artillery Brigade. Having entrained to Broadmeadows Camp in Melbourne for training



HMAT A20 Hororata  
State Library of New South Wales

*I hereby give my consent to  
my son Harold Edward Spackman  
to enlist for service for  
Reinforcements  
I am  
George Spackman  
Auburn S.A.*

Harold embarked at Melbourne on 17 September 1915 aboard HMAT A20 Hororata.

After landing in Egypt Harold was taken on strength of 3rd Brigade Ammunition Column at Heliopolis. Two days after Christmas Harold was admitted to No.4 Auxiliary Hospital in Ablasia with the mumps.

In mid January Harold was discharged to duty in Cairo but it was not until March that he rejoined his unit at Tel-el-Kebir. On 23 March the Ammunition Column embarked from Alexandria to join the British Expeditionary Force in France. They disembarked in Marseilles on 23 March but it had not all been plain sailing for Harold.

*30/3/16 Awarded 5 days Field  
Punishment No2 France for absence  
from 7.15 Parade*

In May Harold was transferred from 3rd Brigade Ammunition Column to 1st Division Ammunition Column and in August was mustered as a Shoeing Smith. This was probably due to his civilian training as a blacksmith. Throughout the latter part of the year the unit was in action on the Somme in France. At the end of March 1917 Harold was transferred and taken on strength of 2nd Field Artillery Brigade and posted to 4th Battery. He retained the rank of Shoeing Smith. The 2nd Field Artillery Brigade was in continuous



action on the Hindenburg Line and at Bettencourt until July when Harold was granted ten days leave to England. For the next twelve months the unit was in action in northern France and Belgium. Eventually in August 1918 Harold was granted three weeks leave to the United Kingdom.

Offence: 12/10/18

(1) Neglect of duty

(2) Insolence

Award: Three days Field Punishment

No2

With the war ended Harold left Havre and disembarked at Weymouth on 4 February 1919. However three weeks later he was admitted to 1st Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny with influenza.

Harold finally left England on 12 April aboard HMAT A23 Suffolk and disembarked in Adelaide on 31 May. He was discharged on 25 July 1919.

Harold married May Allen of "Braeside", Auburn on 1 January 1927. He died in 1956 and is buried in the Catholic Section of Centennial Park Cemetery.



HMAT A23 Suffolk  
State Library of Victoria (Green Collection)

[Link to National Archive Soldiers Records:](#)

**'Spogs' 15 pages.**

<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8087899>

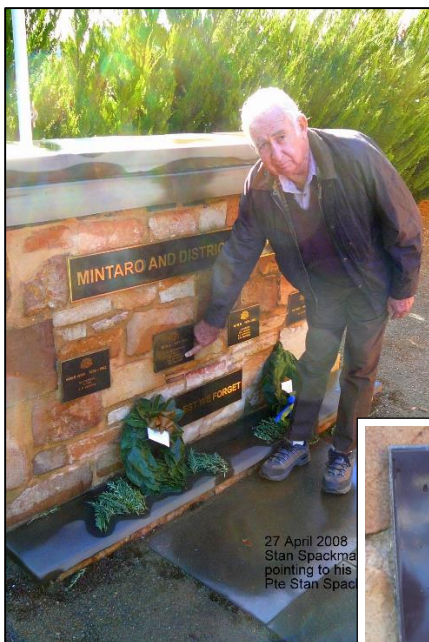
**Private Robert Stanley Spackman; 37 Pages**

<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8087903>

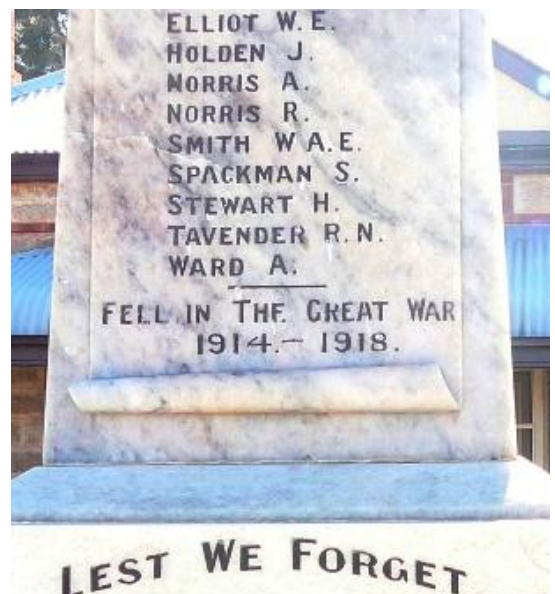
*Interesting both enlisted trade as blacksmith, Spogs rank Shoeing-Smith & Stan rank Private. Both awarded Field punishment, Spog an apprentice blacksmith fined £3.00 for Sunday trading! Stan 3 days for hesitating to obey a corporals order 13 Jul 1917 - KIA 7 October - *be interesting to hear their story!**

*Stan born Gerang -1/2 way between Nhill & Dimboola enlisted age 20.8 months 12<sup>th</sup> April 16 (1" taller than his brother) Harold 5'41/4" also born Dimboola, who enlisted 30 May 1915 age 18.*

*The Auburn RSL issued Stan a memorial arm band, Mintaro and Watervale Memorials honour him.*



Stanley John Spackman 27 April 2008



Watervale Memorial



### Robert Stanley SPACKMAN



Regimental number	5399
Place of birth	Antwerp, Victoria
School	Watervale School, South Australia
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Blacksmith
Address	Auburn, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	20
Next of kin	Father, George Spackman, c/o John Ward, Auburn, South Australia
Enlistment date	12 April 1916
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAT A70 <i>Ballarat</i> on 12 August 1916
Rank from Nominal Roll	Private
Unit from Nominal Roll	27th Battalion
Fate	Killed in Action 7 October 1917
Place of death or wounding	France
Age at death	22.2
Age at death from cemetery records	22
Place of burial	No known grave
Commemoration details	The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial (Panel 23), Belgium



Stan Spackman

The Menin Gate Memorial (so named because the road led to the town of Menin) was constructed on the site of a gateway in the eastern walls of the old Flemish town of Ypres, Belgium, where hundreds of thousands of allied troops passed on their way to the front, the Ypres salient, the site from April 1915 to the end of the war of some of the fiercest fighting of the war.

The Memorial was conceived as a monument to the 350,000 men of the British Empire who fought in the campaign. Inside the arch, on tablets of Portland stone, are inscribed the names of 56,000 men, including 6,178 Australians, who served in the Ypres campaign and who have no known grave.

The opening of the Menin Gate Memorial on 24 July 1927 so moved the Australian artist Will Longstaff that he painted 'The Menin Gate at Midnight', which portrays a ghostly army of the dead marching past the Menin Gate. The painting now hangs in the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, at the entrance of which are two medieval stone lions presented to the Memorial by the City of Ypres in 1936.

Since the 1930s, with the brief interval of the German occupation in the Second World War, the City of Ypres has conducted a ceremony at the Memorial at dusk each evening to commemorate those who died in the Ypres campaign.