

Alexander Milne

Gunner (Gnr) Alexander Milne enlisted in the 3rd Field Artillery Brigade (FAB) in the 1st Australian Division in Sydney on 12 February 1917. He embarked overseas on 5 November and disembarked in Egypt on 12 December, where he spent a week in hospital at Suez with influenza from 14 – 21 December.

He departed Egypt on 2 January 1918 and disembarked in Taranto, Italy on 13 January, where he entrained for Cherbourg, France. From there he sailed across the English Channel and arrived in Southampton on 24 January, where he joined the Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery later the same day.

At the completion of his training, he left England on 8 April and landed in France the next day, where he was taken on strength of the 3rd Field Artillery Brigade, in the field at Franvillers, on 14 April 1918. While there, they provided fire support for the 6th Brigade's capture on Ville sur Ancre on 19 May for the loss of two wounded.

The 1st Division moved south in early August in preparation for the Amiens offensive, which began with a massive artillery bombardment and involved all the Australian field brigades. The attack was a success and as the infantry moved eastwards, the field artillery brigades followed in support. By 10 August the brigade was in Harbonnieres and fired in support of the Australian capture of Lihons the next day.

On 2 September the brigade provided fire support for the 2nd Division's attack on Mont St Quentin, then supported the 1st Division's assault on the Hindenburg Outpost Line on 18 September.

Gnr Milne contracted influenza on 27 September and was evacuated to le Havre, where he was hospitalised at the 2nd General Hospital from 29 September – 2 October. He spent a month at a convalescent depot from 3 October – 5 November and rejoined his unit on 15 November.

He was granted leave in England between 24 March – 12 April 1919, after which he sailed from France for the last time on 5 May and embarked for Australia on 20 June.

Gunner 36644 Alexander Milne disembarked in Melbourne on 6 August, where he was discharged from the AIF on 29 August 1919.

Name: Milne, Alexander	
Service Number	36644
Date enlisted	12 February 1917
Place enlisted	Sydney, NSW
Rank on enlistment	Gunner
Initial Unit	3 rd Field Artillery Brigade
Date and ship embarked for overseas	5 November 1917 HMAT A15 <i>Port Sydney</i>
Previous military service	18 months – 41 st Battalion (CMF)
Stated age/DOB (if known)	19 years 7 months
Place of birth	Geelong, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Student
Religion	Church of England
Next of kin and address	Milne, Mr David Anderson, father, c/- Strachan, Murray, Shannon & Co, Geelong, Victoria
Permanent address	Geelong, Victoria
Appearance	Fair complexion, fair hair, blue eyes, height – 5 feet 7 ½ inches, weight – 9 stone, chest measurement – 33/35 inches
Final Rank	Gunner
Final Unit	3 rd Field Artillery Brigade
Theatres of war served in	Egypt, France, Belgium
Fate	Returned to Australia
Date and ship embarked for Australia	20 June 1919 HT <i>Konig Frederich August</i>
Date discharged	29 August 1919
Nature of discharge	Termination of Period of Enlistment
Honours/medals	British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Also listed on the Newtown All Saints Church Honor Roll