

Andrew Clifford Phillip Williamson

Gunner (Gnr) 34068 Andrew Clifford Phillip Williamson enlisted in the Field Artillery Brigades reinforcements in Melbourne on 22 January 1917. He embarked overseas on 11 May and disembarked in Plymouth, England on 20 July, where he joined the Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery (RBAA) at its Larkhill Camp for the next six weeks.

He proceeded overseas to France on 11 September, where he was taken on strength of the 6th Field Artillery Brigade, in the field at Zillebeke, Belgium, on 17 September, where they supported the 1st and 2nd Division's successful assault from Menin Road on 20 September.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E00920

Batteries of the 5th Field Artillery Brigade in action near Ypres, September 1917

After a week or two out of the line, the brigade returned to Zillebeke and provided artillery fire support for the first two weeks of November, after which Third Ypres wound down, and they took over the line near Kemmel for several weeks.

During late March 1918, the brigade was operating near Messines, when it regularly came under German counter battery fire. During one of these bombardments, Gnr Williamson was gassed on 23 March 1918, evacuated, and admitted to the 35th General Hospital at Calais a week later.

He embarked for England on 8 April, where he was hospitalised at the 2nd Southern General Hospital in Bristol until 7 May, after which he was granted leave until 21 May 1918.

He also spent a month at the 1st Northern General Hospital in Newcastle from 23 July – 24 August (no details given) and returned to the RBAA on 6 September.

He then contracted influenza and was further hospitalised at the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny for five weeks between 2 November – 10 December 1918. He never returned to France and boarded a ship for Australia on 19 February 1919.

Gunner 34068 Andrew Clifford Phillip Williamson disembarked in Melbourne on 7 April, where he was formally discharged from the AIF on 10 September 1919.

Name: Williamson, Andrew Clifford Phillip	
Service Number	34068
Date enlisted	22 January 1917
Place enlisted	Melbourne, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Gunner
Initial Unit	Field Artillery Brigades reinforcements
Date and ship embarked for overseas	11 May 1917 HMAT A11 <i>Ascanius</i>
Previous military service	4 years cadets
Stated age/DOB (if known)	18 years 8 months
Place of birth	Queenscliff, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Electrician
Religion	Presbyterian
Next of kin and address	Williamson, Mr Joseph, father, 1 Market Street, St Kilda, Victoria
Permanent address in Australia	1 Market Street, St Kilda, Victoria
Appearance	Fair complexion, fair hair, blue eyes, height – 5 feet 7 inches, weight – 8 stone, 12 lbs, chest measurement – 32/36 inches
Final Rank	Gunner
Final Unit	6 th Field Artillery Brigade
Theatres of war served in	France, Belgium
Fate	Returned to Australia
Date and place wounded	23 March 1918 Messines, Belgium
Nature of wounds	Gassed
Date and ship embarked for Australia	19 February 1919 HT <i>Orca</i>
Date discharged	10 September 1919
Nature of discharge	Termination of Period of Enlistment
Honours/medals	British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Listed on the Borough of Queenscliffe Roll of Honor