

John William Wood

Private (Pte) 2177 John William Wood enlisted in the 39th Infantry Battalion in the 10th Infantry Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division in Ballarat on 15 May 1916. He embarked overseas on 25 September and disembarked in Plymouth on 11 November, where he joined the 10th (Brigade) Training Battalion at Hurdcott Camp.

He departed England on 20 December and disembarked in France the next day, where he was subsequently taken on strength of the 39th Battalion, in the field at Armentieres, on 15 January 1917, one of 43 reinforcements received that day.

The battalion moved to the rear area around La Creche in early March 1917 and spent the next few weeks training, before they re-entered the line, in the L'EpINETTE sector, from 8 – 16 April.

The battalion then entered the front line at Ploegsteert Wood, Belgium from 28 April 1917, where they came under heavy German artillery fire in the ensuing days, including gas shells, and repelled several large German raiding parties, for the loss of 14 killed and 63 wounded, one of whom was Pte Wood, who sustained multiple shrapnel wounds to his scalp, left shoulder and back on 30 April.

He was initially treated at the 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station from 1 – 7 May, then at the 3rd Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne from 7 – 10 May, when he was transferred to England and admitted to the 3rd London General Hospital from 10 May – 26 July 1917.



He never fully recovered from his wounds and, after a period of convalescence at Weymouth, he boarded a ship for return to Australia on 27 September.

Private 2177 John William Wood disembarked in Melbourne on 18 November, where he was medically discharged from the AIF on 24 December 1917.

Name: Wood, John William	
Service Number	2177
Date enlisted	15 May 1916
Place enlisted	Ballarat, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	39 th Infantry Battalion
Date and ship embarked for overseas	25 September 1916 HMAT A9 <i>Shropshire</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	23 years 6 months
Place of birth	Ararat, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Bootmaker
Religion	Presbyterian
Next of kin and address	Wood, Mr William Bloomfield, father, 10 Hotham Street, Ballarat, Victoria
Permanent address	10 Hotham Street, Ballarat, Victoria
Appearance	Brown complexion, light brown hair, hazel eyes, height – 5 feet 2 ½ inches, weight – 8 stone, 4 lbs, chest measurement – 31/33 inches
Final Rank	Private
Final Unit	39 th Infantry Battalion
Theatres of war served in	France, Belgium
Fate	Returned to Australia
Date and place wounded	30 April 1917 Ploegsteert Wood, Belgium
Nature of wounds	Shrapnel wounds to scalp, left shoulder and back
Date and ship embarked for Australia	27 September 1917 HT <i>Suevic</i>
Date discharged	24 December 1917
Nature of discharge	Medically Unfit (wounds)
Honours/medals	British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Listed on the Ballarat Arch of Victory and Avenue of Honour (Tree 2402). Brother of Frank Sterling Wood (SN 55477). Cousin of John William Wood (SN 2095). Died 23 November 1956.