

Heber Mallalieu



Private (Pte) 6903 Heber Mallalieu enlisted in the 23rd Infantry Battalion in the 6th Infantry Brigade of the 2nd Australian Division in Hamilton on 30 July 1917. He embarked overseas on 21 November and disembarked in Southampton, via short stops at Suez and Taranto, on 23 January 1918, where he joined the 6th (Brigade) Training Battalion.

He departed England on 15 April and landed in France two days later, where he was taken on strength of the 23rd Battalion near Millencourt on 20 April. They remained on the Somme and on 19 May 1918 the 6th Brigade attacked and captured Ville sur Ancre, plus about 330 Germans. The 23rd Battalion was involved in mopping up duties only and sustained three casualties (one killed).

On 4 July, the battalion then participated in the successful Battle of Le Hamel and captured 90 German prisoners for the loss of 75 casualties (ten killed) of their own.

The Amiens offensive commenced on 8 August, and in the weeks that followed, the 23rd Battalion pursued and fought the retreating Germans, including at Mont St Quentin on 31 August, where they lost another 39 men killed (of the 120 rifles they started the day with). The battalion was held as Brigade reserve for the last AIF action of the war at Montbrehain on 5 October, after which they left the line for the last time.

Pte Mallalieu was detached to the Australian Corps School from 7 January – 29 April 1919, then he returned to England on 8 May and subsequently embarked for Australia on 23 July.

Private 6903 Heber Mallalieu disembarked in Melbourne on 11 October, where he was discharged from the AIF on 10 November 1919.



Memorial plaque at Springvale Botanical Cemetery

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| Name: Mallalieu, Heber | |
| Service Number | 6903 |
| Date enlisted | 30 July 1917 |
| Place enlisted | Hamilton, Victoria |
| Rank on enlistment | Private |
| Initial Unit | 23 rd Infantry Battalion |
| Date and ship embarked for overseas | 21 November 1917 HMAT A71 <i>Nestor</i> |
| Stated age/DOB (if known) | 21 years |
| Place of birth | Ballarat, Victoria |
| Marital status | Single |
| Occupation | Bank clerk |
| Religion | Methodist |
| Next of kin and address | Mallalieu, Rev Paul, father, 66 Nimmo Street, Middle Park, Victoria |
| Permanent address | 66 Nimmo Street, Middle Park, Vic. |
| Appearance | Medium complexion, brown hair, grey eyes, height – 5 feet 10 inches, weight – 8 stone, 14 lbs, chest measurement – 30/33 inches |
| Final Rank | Private |
| Final Unit | 23 rd Infantry Battalion |
| Theatres of war served in | Egypt, France, Belgium |
| Fate | Returned to Australia |
| Date and ship embarked for Australia | 23 July 1919 HT <i>Main</i> |
| Date discharged | 10 November 1919 |
| Nature of discharge | Termination of Period of Enlistment |
| Honours/medals | British War Medal, Victory Medal |
| Notes | Died 19 March 1961. Rev Mallalieu was Minister of the Queenscliff Methodist Church in 1916. |

