

Alfred Stanley Stringer



Private (Pte) 459 Alfred Stanley Stringer enlisted in the 5th Infantry Battalion in the 2nd Infantry Brigade of the Australian Division at Albert Park on 18 August 1914. He embarked overseas on 21 October and disembarked in Egypt on 1 December.

On 5 April 1915, the 5th Battalion embarked for the island of Lemnos, where they practiced disembarking from the ship and climbing the local hills each day. On the night of 24 April, the troopships departed Mudros Harbour and sailed for Gallipoli.

From 5.30 am on 25 April 1915 the battalion disembarked from their transports into smaller boats and were towed toward the beaches. The 5th Battalion landed as part of the second wave and found the beach crowded with troops and wounded men. Between 25 – 29 April, the 5th Battalion sustained 660 casualties, and on 2 May, Pte Stringer was promoted to Lance Corporal (L Cpl).

On 6 May 1915, the 2nd Brigade was moved 20 km south by boat to Cape Helles, where they participated in a poorly planned, British led attack on Krithia between 8 – 11 May. The 5th Battalion sustained heavy casualties in the action, one of whom was L Cpl Stringer who sustained a gunshot wound to his left foot on 9 May.

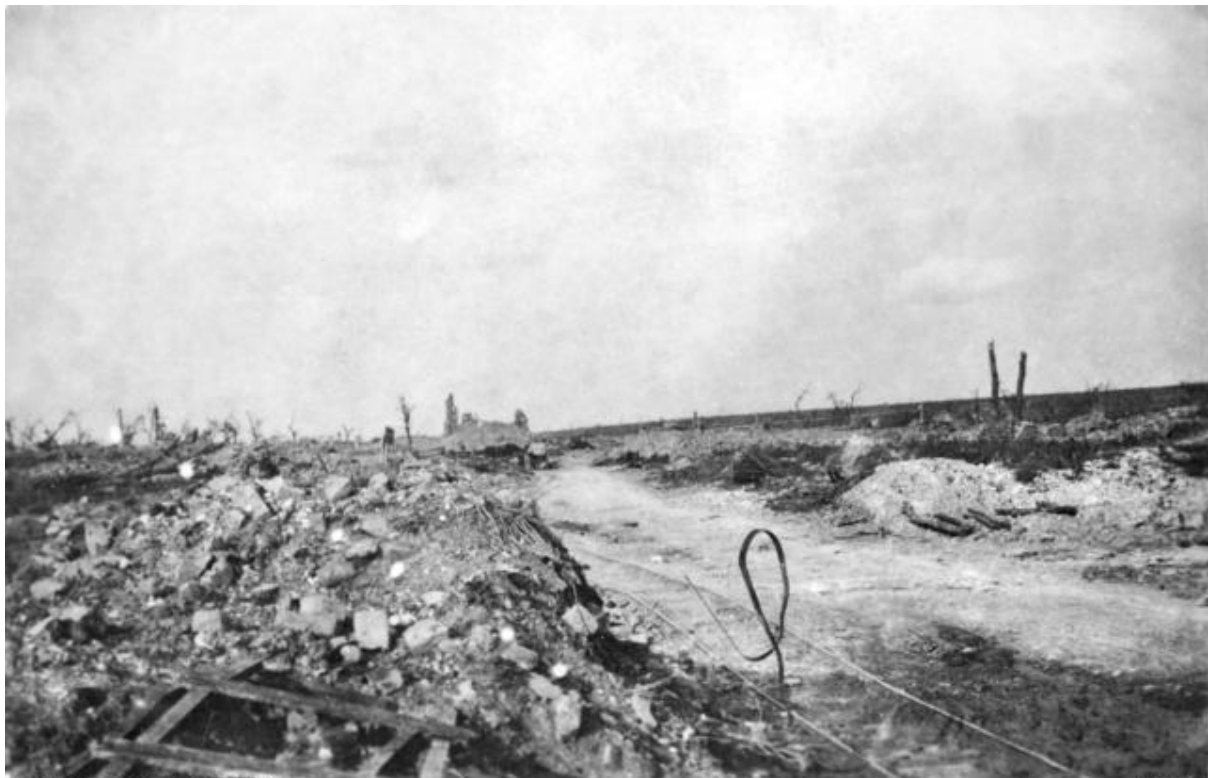
He was evacuated to Malta and hospitalised at the Royal Navy Hospital at Mtarfa from 17 May – 6 July and rejoined the 5th Battalion at Gallipoli on 2 October, where he was promoted to Corporal on 31 October, and then to Sergeant (Sgt) on 27 November. The battalion evacuated Gallipoli in late December and returned to Egypt on 7 January 1916.

Sgt Stringer was sent to the Corps School of Instruction at Zeitoun on 2 March and promoted to Second Lieutenant (2nd Lt) on 12 March.

The battalion embarked for France on 25 March and disembarked in Marseilles on 30 March, where they entrained for the 63-hour journey to the Hazebrouck region in the north. The 5th Battalion entered the front line at Fromelles on 30 April, where they spent the next two weeks, being relieved on 13 May.

During this period, the battalion lost 25 men (five killed). They re-occupied the same trenches between 28 May – 10 June for the loss of another 25 men (three killed).

After a brief period in Belgium, the 5th Battalion was moved south to the Somme from 12 July and reached Albert on 21 July, where the 1st Division was ordered to attack and capture the French village of Pozieres on 23 July. The division achieved its objectives and then had to withstand several fierce counter attacks and the most severe artillery bombardments that any Australian soldiers had encountered to that time. The 5th Battalion suffered 446 casualties, one of whom was 2nd Lt Stringer, who was killed in action on 25 July.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A05776

The main street of Pozieres, December 1916

Second Lieutenant Alfred Stanley Stringer was buried near where he fell, however his remains were subsequently re-interred in the Pozieres British Cemetery at Ovillers-La-Boisselle, France in 1921.

Name: Stringer, Alfred Stanley	
Service Number	459
Date enlisted	18 August 1914
Place enlisted	Albert Park, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	5 th Infantry Battalion
Previous military service	Senior cadets – 2 years
Date and ship embarked for overseas	21 October 1914 HMAT A3 <i>Orvieto</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	22 years 1 month
Place of birth	Scoresby, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Bank official
Religion	Church of England
Next of kin and address	Stringer, Mr Fred, father, Home Affairs, Learmonth Street, Queenscliff, Victoria
Permanent address	Albert Park, Victoria
Appearance	Dark complexion, dark hair, brown eyes, height – 5 feet 10 ½ inches, weight – 10 stone, 9 lbs, chest measurement – 36 inches
Final Rank	Second Lieutenant
Final Unit	5 th Infantry Battalion
Theatres of war served in	Egypt, Gallipoli, France, Belgium
Fate	Killed in action
Date and place wounded	9 May 1915 Krithia, Gallipoli, Turkey
Nature of wounds	Gunshot wound to left foot
Date and place died	25 July 1916 Poizieres, France
Cemetery details	Poizieres British Cemetery, Ovillers-La-Boisselle, France. Plot IV, Row P, Grave 13
Honours/medals	1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Also remembered on the Camperdown War Memorial