

Alfred Walbanche

Private (Pte) 4813 Alfred Walbanche enlisted in the 21st Infantry Battalion in the 6th Infantry Brigade of the 2nd Australian Division in Brunswick on 23 February 1916.

He embarked overseas on 4 April, but his service record is silent as to where and when he disembarked in England.

He left England on 16 September and landed in France the next day, where he was taken on strength of the 21st Battalion, in the field at Brandhoek, Belgium on 28 September.

After a short rest period, the battalion headed south and moved into the front line near Flers on 3 November, where they experienced the heavy, energy sapping mud for the first time, and it was here that Pte Walbank sustained a gunshot wound to his right leg on 8 November 1916.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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Australian soldiers move along the sunken road in front of Flers, November 1916

He was evacuated to the 5th General Hospital at Rouen from 10 – 15 November, then transferred to England and admitted to the Duchess of Connaught's Canadian Red Cross Hospital at Taplow from 17 November – 5 December.

After his recovery, he was also diagnosed with varicose veins and deemed "over-age", and he embarked for return to Australia on 13 February 1917.

Private 4813 Alfred Walbanche disembarked in Melbourne on 12 April, where he was medically discharged from the AIF on 18 May 1917.

Name: Walbanché, Alfred	
Service Number	4813
Date enlisted	23 February 1916
Place enlisted	Brunswick, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	21 st Infantry Battalion
Previous military service	Ex-Australian Artillery – 9 years
Date and ship embarked for overseas	4 April 1916 HMAT A14 <i>Euripides</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	44 years 3 months
Place of birth	London, England
Marital status	Married
Occupation	Storekeeper
Religion	Presbyterian
Next of kin and address	Walbank, Mrs Elizabeth, wife, Queenscliff, Victoria
Permanent address	Queenscliff, Victoria
Appearance	Tanned complexion, fair hair, blue eyes, height – 5 feet 7 ½ inches, weight – 7 stone, 15 lbs, chest measurement – 35/37 inches
Final Rank	Private
Final Unit	21 st Infantry Battalion
Theatres of war served in	France, Belgium
Fate	Returned to Australia
Date and place wounded	8 November 1916 Flers, France
Nature of wounds	Gunshot wound to right leg
Date and ship embarked for Australia	13 February 1917 HT <i>Ulysses</i>
Date discharged	18 May 1917
Nature of discharge	Medically Unfit (over age)
Honours/medals	British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Died 1939. Enlisted in AIF as Alfred Walbank. Also remembered on the Borough of Queenscliffe Roll of Honor.