

## Henry Ward

Driver (Dvr) 172 Henry Ward enlisted in the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Brigade (FAB) of the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division in Melbourne on 18 August 1914. Being a Driver meant he would have led a team of horses, as all field artillery and associated supply wagons were horse drawn. He embarked overseas on 18 October and disembarked at Alexandria on 5 December.

After the Australians landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915, the 1<sup>st</sup> FAB continued south and disembarked at Cape Helles on 6 May, where they supported joint British, French, Australian and New Zealand operations there until 30 September. In early October, the field guns and their crews embarked for Anzac Cove, while the horses, wagons and their teams, including Dvr Ward, embarked for Alexandria. When the Anzacs evacuated Gallipoli in late December, the field guns had to be destroyed as they could not be embarked in secrecy.

After a period of reorganisation and training, the 1<sup>st</sup> FAB departed Egypt on 21 March 1916 and disembarked at Marseilles on 27 March, where they moved north to le Havre to collect their new field guns, horses and other equipment. Dvr Ward was hospitalised for just over a week with tonsillitis from 10 – 19 April and rejoined the brigade on 15 June 1916.

The 1<sup>st</sup> FAB provided fire support for the Australian infantry operations around Pozieres and Mouquet Farm during late July to mid-September 1916. Dvr Ward was hospitalised in Rouen with trench feet on 17 November, then evacuated to the Reading War Hospital in England on 9 December. Post discharge, he was granted leave in England from 2 – 17 February 1917. He then spent the next seven months in various camps training and regaining his fitness.

He embarked for France on 25 September and eventually rejoined the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Brigade, in the field east of Ypres, Belgium on 1 October. The very next day, Dvr Ward sustained shrapnel wounds to his back and hip during a German artillery barrage as the 1<sup>st</sup> FAB was moving forward to support the forthcoming operation at Broodseinde Ridge.

He was evacuated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Stationary Hospital at Abbeville on 4 October, and then to the Graylingwell War Hospital in England on 17 October, where he remained for a month. He spent another four months in various convalescent and training camps, before again embarking for France on 30 April 1918, where he rejoined his unit, in the field near Strazeele, on 15 May.

Complications from the original wound to his hip caused Dvr Ward to be re-admitted to hospital on 20 May, and he rejoined the brigade on 16 June. The 1<sup>st</sup> FAB moved south to the Somme in early August and provided fire support for the allied offensive from Amiens that commenced on 8 August. Shortly afterward, Dvr Ward contracted venereal disease and was initially admitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Stationary Hospital at Rouen on 1 September, and then the 39<sup>th</sup> General Hospital at le Havre on 4 October.

On 10 October, he was diagnosed with broncho pneumonia and transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Hospital, also at le Havre, where he subsequently died of his illness on 13 October 1918.

Driver 172 Henry Ward was buried at the Saint-Marie Cemetery, le Havre, the next day.

Name: Ward, Henry	
Service Number	172
Date enlisted	18 August 1914
Place enlisted	Maribyrnong, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Driver
Initial Unit	1 <sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Brigade
Date and ship embarked for overseas	18 October 1914 HMAT A8 <i>Argyllshire</i>
Previous military service or enlistment attempts?	18 months Royal Australian Field Artillery, Melbourne
Stated age/DOB (if known)	19 years
Place of birth	Melbourne, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Professional soldier
Religion	Church of England
Next of kin and address	Ward, Mr WJ, father, Henry Street, Queenscliff, Victoria
Permanent address	Maribyrnong Barracks, Melbourne
Appearance	Fresh complexion, light brown hair, blue eyes, height – 5 feet 7 ½ inches, weight – 8 stone, 4 lbs, chest measurement – 32/36 inches
Final Rank	Driver
Final Unit	1 <sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Brigade
Theatres of war served in	Egypt, Gallipoli, France, Belgium
Fate	Died of illness (broncho pneumonia)
Date and place wounded	2 October 1917 Ypres, Belgium
Nature of wounds	Shrapnel wounds to back & hip
Date and place died	13 October 1918 2 <sup>nd</sup> General Hospital, le Havre, France
Cemetery details	Sainte-Marie Cemetery, le Havre, France. Plot V, Row J, Grave 4
Honours/medals	1914/15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Also remembered on the St George the Martyr Anglican Church Roll of Honor and the Borough of Queenscliffe Roll of Honor

