

## **Lambert Joseph Henry Ash**

Private (Pte) 815 Lambert Joseph Henry Ash enlisted in the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion in Geelong on 22 March 1915. He embarked overseas on 10 May and disembarked in Egypt on 12 June.

For reasons that are not clear from his service record, Pte Ash did not embark for Gallipoli with the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion, and he remained in Zeitoun for the duration of that campaign.

He was subsequently chosen to return to Australia on “Escort Duty” aboard HT *Commonwealth*, which departed Suez on 21 January 1916 and arrived in Australia on 29 February.

After several months in Australia, Pte Ash was transferred for duty at Royal Park Camp in Melbourne on 1 August then, on 12 October 1916, for undisclosed reasons he deserted from camp and never returned.

After the war, the Army eventually contacted Pte Ash, who readily confessed to desertion and was subsequently discharged “Services No Longer Required” from the AIF on 10 April 1920 (under the provisions of a general order issued by the Defence Department on 3 October 1919).

Name: Ash, Lambert Joseph Henry	
Service Number	815
Date enlisted	22 March 1915
Place enlisted	Geelong, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	24 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion
Date and ship embarked for overseas	10 May 1915 HMAT A14 <i>Euripides</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	27 years 10 months (25/5/1886)
Place of birth	Leopold, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Labourer
Religion	Church of England
Next of kin and address	Ash, Mrs Emma, mother, Leopold, Victoria
Permanent address	Leopold, Victoria
Appearance	Fair complexion, brown hair, grey eyes, height – 5 feet 5 inches, weight – 9 stone, 7 lbs, chest measurement – 35 inches
Final Rank	Private
Final Unit	24 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion
Theatres of war served in	n/a
Fate	Returned to Australia
Date and ship embarked for Australia	21 January 1916 HT <i>Commonwealth</i> (Escort Duty)
Date discharged	10 April 1920
Nature of discharge	Services No Longer Required
Honours/medals	n/a
Notes	Deserted from Royal Park Camp 12 October 1916. Home Service WW2 (SN V147807). Died 13 July 1954. Also remembered on the Leopold State School Honor Roll, Leopold & District Honor Roll and the Leopold War Memorial.