

Dugald Alexander Hood

Private (Pte) 3352 Dugald Alexander Hood enlisted in the 8th Infantry Battalion in Geelong on 13 July 1915. He embarked overseas on 11 October and disembarked in Egypt in early November, where he was later transferred to the 6th Infantry Battalion at Serapeum on 22 February 1916.

He contracted venereal disease and was hospitalised at the 1st Dermatological Hospital in Cairo from 3 – 29 March, then transferred to the 58th Infantry Battalion in the 15th Infantry Brigade of the 5th Australian Division at Ferry Post on 20 April. Shortly after, he was promoted to Lance Corporal on 2 May and then again to Sergeant (Sgt) on 31 May.

The 58th Battalion departed Egypt on 17 June and disembarked in Marseilles on 23 June, where they travelled north by train to Hazebrouck. They marched to Sailly-sur-la-Lys and into the front line for the first time, near Fleurbaix, on 11 July, where they came under a heavy German bombardment on the night of 15 July, which caused 150 casualties, including 47 killed.

Just a few days later they experienced their first major battle, at Fromelles on 19 July 1916, when ordered to charge the German trenches in support of the 59th and 60th Battalions, which had been held up by machine guns and enfilade fire from the right, due to a failed British attack on that flank. The 58th Battalion sustained 247 casualties, including 80 killed or missing, then spent the next three months recovering in the Fromelles/Fleurbaix area.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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German view of the flat, open Fromelles battlefield looking towards the line from which the 15th Infantry Brigade attacked on 19 July 1916.

Sgt Hood was transferred and taken on strength of the 60th Infantry Battalion, also in the 15th Infantry Brigade, at Flesselles on 7 November, where he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant (2nd Lt) on 18 November 1916.

Heading into winter, the conditions in the trenches were atrocious and 2nd Lt Hood contracted bronchitis and laryngitis on 6 December. He was initially treated at the Red Cross Hospital at Le Touquet from 7 – 15 December, then transferred to England, where he was admitted to the 3rd Eastern General Hospital at Brighton between 15 December – 30 January 1917.

After a fortnight at Perham Downs Camp, he returned to France on 13 February, where he was hospitalised with venereal disease at the 39th General Hospital at le Havre from 14 February – 6 April. He rejoined the 60th Battalion at Beaulencourt on 17 April.

He was promoted to Lieutenant (Lt) on 2 May, shortly after which the battalion entered the line at Bullecourt, where they helped to defend the gains made by the 2nd Division. They repulsed several German counterattacks during 11 – 12 May, for the loss of 109 casualties (27 killed).

Lt Hood returned to England on 18 July 1917, where he was detached for duty with the 15th (Brigade) Training Battalion at Codford Camp on 21 July.

During his time in England, he also spent three weeks on duty at the AIF School of Instruction at Hurdcott (20 August – 15 September) and the Drill School in Chelsea (31 December – 19 January 1918).

He left Codford on 23 April and returned to France the next day, where he rejoined the 60th Battalion at Blangy Tronville on 10 May 1918.

On 12 June, Lt Hood was diagnosed with myocarditis, for which he was treated at the 1st Australian General Hospital at Rouen between 14 – 21 June.

A subsequent medical board convened on 24 June considered Lt Hood to be permanently invalided in respect to further active service. As a result, he was seconded for duty with the 1st Australian Convalescent Depot at le Havre from 20 July, where he served for the remainder of the war, most likely in an office role.

The heavily depleted 60th Battalion was disbanded on 25 September 1918 so, for purely administrative purposes, Lt Hood was officially taken on strength of the 59th Battalion on the same date, even though he remained on duty in le Havre.

He was granted leave in Etretat from 14 – 29 October, then left France for the last time on 22 February 1919 and embarked for return to Australia on 2 March.

Lieutenant Dugald Alexander Hood disembarked in Melbourne on 22 April, where his Appointment as a Commissioned Officer in the AIF was terminated on 14 June 1919.

Name: Hood, Dugald Alexander	
Service Number	3352
Date enlisted	13 July 1915
Place enlisted	Geelong, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	8 th Infantry Battalion
Date and ship embarked for overseas	11 October 1915 HMAT A71 <i>Nestor</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	21 years 7 months (17 November 1893)
Place of birth	Warracknabeal, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Labourer
Religion	Presbyterian
Next of kin and address	Hood, Mrs Margaret, mother, Corner Ormond Road & Anderson Street, East Geelong, Victoria
Permanent address	East Geelong, Victoria
Appearance	Fair complexion, red hair, grey eyes, height – 5 feet 8 inches, weight – 10 stone, 8 lbs, chest measurement – 36 ½ inches
Final Rank	Lieutenant
Final Unit	59 th Infantry Battalion
Theatres of war served in	Egypt, France
Fate	Returned to Australia
Date and ship embarked for Australia	2 March 1919 HT <i>Derbyshire</i>
Date discharged	14 June 1919
Nature of discharge	Appointment Terminated
Honours/medals	1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Home Service WW2 (SN V6166). Brother of Joseph Hood. Died 1963. Remembered on the St Leonards Honor Roll, St Paul's Anglican Church Honor Roll, Portarlington Honor Roll, Marcus & Mannerim Roll of Honor and Mannerim State School & District Roll of Honor.