

## **Alexander Tyson**

Sapper (Spr) 18804 Alexander Tyson enlisted in the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Divisional Signals Company in Melbourne on 2 October 1916.

While undertaking his signals training, he was declared a deserter from the AIF at a Board of Enquiry held at Seymour Camp on 7 March 1917 and a warrant was issued for his arrest. He subsequently returned to camp on 1 May, but his service record is silent with respect to the reason for his absence, or whether his return was voluntary or enforced.

In any event, he embarked overseas on 4 August and disembarked in Glasgow on 2 October, where he joined the Signals Section of the Engineers Training Depot at Shefford on 5 November.

His training completed, Spr Tyson departed England on 3 March 1918 and landed in France the next day, where he was re-mustered as a Driver (Dvr) and taken on strength of the Australian Corps Headquarters Signals Company at Fletre on 26 March.

The signal company's role was to provide and deal with communications from Australian Corps Headquarters to/from those of superior/subordinate formations, such as British 4<sup>th</sup> Army and the five Australian Divisions.

The company moved south to the Somme sector in early April, following the German Spring Offensive in late March, and established communications at Villers Bocage on 5 April 1918.

They then moved to Bertangles on 6 May, where they remained for the next three months.

Following the success of the allies' Amiens offensive, the company moved east to Glisy on 14 August and then to Mericourt l'Abbe on 1 September and Buire Wood on 1 October.

Following the signing of the Armistice on 11 November, Dvr Tyson was granted leave to Paris from 24 November – 7 December, then additional leave in England between 3 – 24 February 1919.

He left France for the last time on 8 April and spent the next four months at Sutton Veny Camp, before he embarked for return to Australia on 19 August.

Driver 18804 Alexander Tyson disembarked in Sydney on 9 October, then made his way to Melbourne where he was discharged from the AIF on 10 November 1919.

Name: Tyson, Alexander	
Service Number	18804
Date enlisted	2 October 1916
Place enlisted	Melbourne, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Sapper
Initial Unit	1 <sup>st</sup> Divisional Signals Company
Date and ship embarked for overseas	4 August 1917 HMAT A32 <i>Themistocles</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	32 years 3 months
Place of birth	Donald, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Farmer
Religion	Presbyterian
Next of kin and address	Tyson, Mrs Elizabeth, mother, Donald, Victoria
Permanent address	Melbourne, Victoria
Appearance	Fresh complexion, black hair, brown eyes, height – 5 feet 9 inches, weight – 9 stone, 5 lbs, chest measurement – 36/38 inches
Final Rank	Driver
Final Unit	Australian Corps Headquarters Signal Company
Theatres of war served in	France
Fate	Returned to Australia
Date and ship embarked for Australia	19 August 1919 HT <i>Ajana</i>
Date discharged	10 November 1919
Nature of discharge	Termination of Period of Enlistment
Honours/medals	British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Farm worker at St Leonards prior to enlisting. Remembered on the St Paul's Anglican Church Honor Roll.