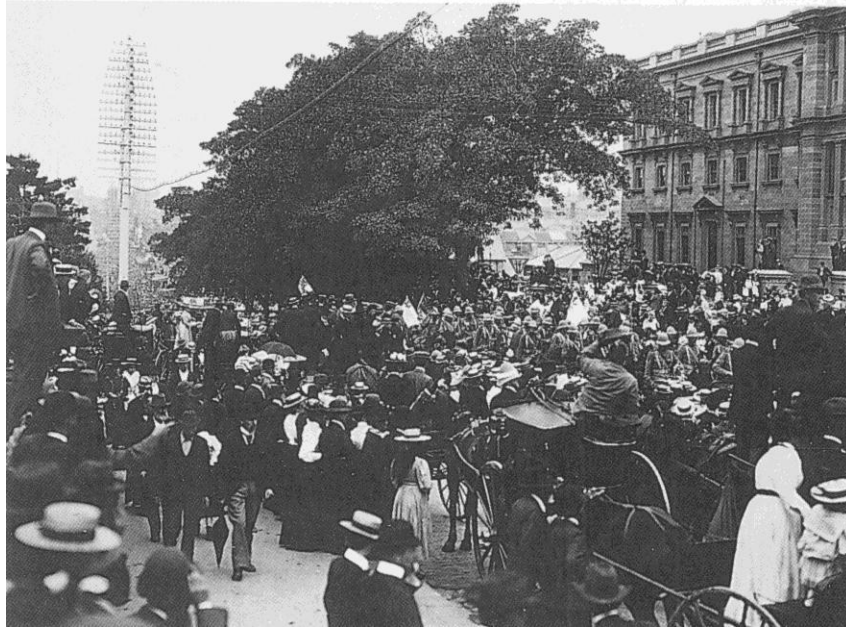


Constable Walter William DUMBRELL



Walter William DUMBRELL was born in July 1883, at Galston near Sydney, New South Wales. He was the second child of three boys and three girls of David and Jane DUMBRELL.

The Boer War was the third conflict in which the people of the British Colony of Australia had been called upon to support mother England in defending her dominions. The Australian people followed the political situation in South Africa very closely and most thought that war was inevitable. In October 1899, when the South African Boer Republics of Transvaal and Orange Free State, declared war on Britain and then seized the British Colonies of Natal and Cape Colony, Australian's quickly volunteered for the call to arms. As Federation was not to occur until 1901, each State contributed their own contingent for service overseas.



Farwell of troops to the Boer War in Sydney 1900

At the age of 17yrs, Walter DUMBRELL was as keen to join up as many other young men seeking adventure. It may have been in part, due to the outpouring of public sentiment and patriotic fervour, generated by volunteers marching through the streets singing 'Rule Britannia' supported by the cheers of large crowds. Walter attempted to join the Australian Expeditionary Force as it was collectively known but due to his age, he required parental permission. Walter was undeterred when this permission was not given by his father. He was determined to be part of the adventure and paid his own fare to Capetown, where he represented his age as 21 years to join the 5th Contingent of the Queensland Imperial Bushmen. This was a mounted unit where he served for a period of 12 months from 1901 to the cessation of hostilities in May 1902.



Australian Troopers water their horses on the Veldt

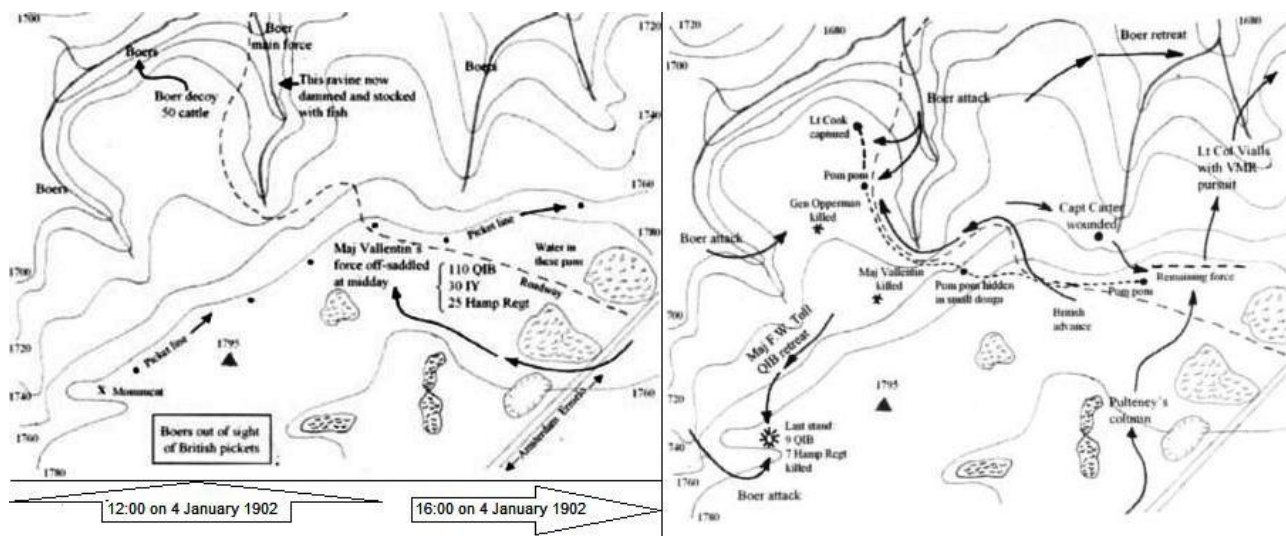
By the time Walter saw service, the conflict had degenerated into the more difficult guerrilla fighting, with the Boers striking by sudden ambush on less superior forces garrisoned in blockhouse outposts. There were several instances however where the Boers concentrated to strike against British Forces in strength. Walter's unit was the

subject of one such attack at Onverwacht. Blockhouse outposts stretched along the frontier, and a large force of the British was busy pinning down the remaining Boer Commandos in the area against the Swaziland border. In a last desperate attempt to continue the armed resistance, the Boers tried to prevent this. The British forces commanded by Major VALLENTIN moved out of Ermelo in a north-easterly direction to corner General Louis Botha's Commando. VALLENTIN's force consisted of three columns being the Somerset Light Infantry, the Buffs Mounted Infantry, Hampshire Mounted Infantry, a company of Yeomen and 110 privates of the 5th Queensland Imperial Bushmen under command of Major Frederick TOLL. They also had a horse drawn quick firing cannon, called a 'pom pom' gun in support.



A strong west wind was blowing when Major VALLENTIN's corps reached the hilly terrain of Onverwacht's ridges. He set the Buffs Mounted Infantry the task of occupying the heights at Bankkop in expectation of the arrival of General PLUMER's main force.

Meanwhile Major VALLENTIN and his corps advanced another mile (1.6 km). There he decided to remain and place his force in a half-circle of 3 miles (4.8 km) long. The Yeomen were placed in the middle, supported by 25 men of the Hampshire Mounted Infantry slightly behind the Yeomen. The 5th Queensland Imperial Bushmen were placed on the flanks.



Shortly after they had come to a halt, they noticed about 50 Boers on the right flank of a small ravine. Without waiting to familiarize himself with the unknown terrain, Major VALLENTIN decided to chase the 50 Boers. They had hardly advanced half a mile (800 metres) when they were surprised by 300 Boers waiting in ambush.

The superior power of the Boers forced VALLENTIN's forces back. The Boers then concentrated on trying to seize the pom-pom cannon however, the lightning-fast action of the Hampshires and the 5th Queensland Imperial Bushmen prevented this. Upon orders of Major VALLENTIN the pom-pom cannon fell back and resumed firing.

The Boers then surrounded the flank of the British forces and succeeded in shooting the draft-horses of the pom-pom cannon. The cannon ended up in a gully and the Boers could not succeed in capturing it. In the meantime, Major VALLENTIN spurred the rest of his force on to make a last attempt to prevent a defeat. Major TOLL of the 5th Queensland Imperial Bushmen had to retreat on foot with his soldiers and together with Major VALLENTIN and the remaining Hampshires they made a last desperate attempt on a bare ridge. The superior force of the Boers however was too big - approximately 500 Boers at the time. Major VALLENTIN was killed in action, and the battle was won by the Boers on surrender of the overwhelmed remainder.

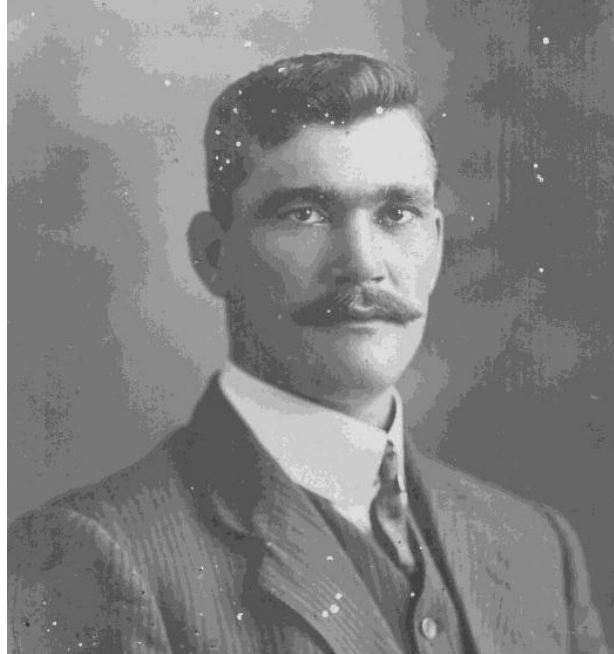
Seventy-nine British soldiers were taken prisoner. The Boer forces did not have much time to celebrate their victory however and they seized horses, weapons, ammunition, clothes and footwear before they had to disperse as reinforcements from General PLUMER's forces arrived. The captured soldiers and the pom-pom gun were left behind. This was a terrifying battle where the British forces were outnumbered, and most fighting occurred within 20metres of each other. Walter would have been very lucky to have survived as fourteen other soldiers of the Imperial Bushmen were killed.

For his service in the Boer War, Walter was awarded the Queens South Africa Medal.



Queens South Africa Medal

Following the Boer War, Walter returned to Queensland with his military unit and sought labouring work in the far west. In 1909, he worked in Kynunah and then Longreach before making his way to Rockhampton. It was in Rockhampton that he became a Constable in the Queensland Police Force, being sworn in on 4th May 1910. New recruits attended a 'police camp' in Rockhampton during their training and were quartered in the police barracks in the same location where the police station stands today.



Walter DUMBRELL as a young man

Walter first performed duty in Rockhampton where he walked the beat in an area where the many ferries berthed in the Fitzroy River. He ran afoul of his supervising Sergeant on one occasion where he was charged with 'gossiping on duty'. This related to the Sergeant observing him speaking to a female at the exit to the ferry when the Sergeant was checking members on the beat. Walter claimed that he was merely answering a member of the public's request for directions, however the fact that the female left on the approach of the Sergeant was inferred that it was not a communication in the line of the Constable's duty and he was found 'guilty' and fined. Walter remained in Rockhampton until the end of August 1912, when he was transferred to Banana.

Banana was a two-man station at that time with an official station having been built there in the late 1880's. It was a substantial building incorporating the courthouse and accommodation for several police officers. Constable DUMBRELL was stationed at Banana for a short period of nine months before returning to Rockhampton to marry his sweetheart, Grace EVANS on 12th May 1913. Was she the woman on the wharf that night?

Amongst the wedding party are Grace's brother and stepbrother who along with Walter, all lost their lives during The Great War.



Wedding Photo of Walter and Grace DUMBRELL

Walter and Grace had a son the following year on 30th July 1914 and christened him Walter David DUMBRELL. On 25th March 1915, the family moved on transfer to Many Peaks Station. Many Peaks at the time was a bustling community being the centre of logging and gold mining in the surrounding area and a mine at Many Peaks itself. It was also a main railway siding to transport the timber and flux to the Mt. Morgan gold mine.

A photograph of Constable DUMBRELL, and another officer, Constable Herbert GRIDLEY with a group of aboriginal people, (believed to be police trackers and their families) was taken while he was stationed at Many Peaks.



Constable Walter DUMBRELL at a Police Camp
(DUMBRELL is the officer on the left)

It is unknown exactly where the photo was taken, however the tent structure police station was atypical of a temporary demountable police station at the time. Police records indicate that the de-mountable station from Glasford Creek was moved to Many Peaks but at the time, Many Peaks was called 'Nanandu' up until 1909. I believe the station was located at the Racecourse at Builyan from the background structure but the presence of the two officers indicates that it was taken in 1915. The photograph was found amongst other personal photographs and memorabilia of Walter DUMBRELL. Amongst these items are the Queensland Police Force buttons from the tunic worn in the photograph.

With a wife and young son to look after, Walter must have had great difficulty in again answering the call to arms for the duration of the Great War 1914-18. His service in the Boer War would have given him an appreciation of the hardships and loss caused by war and this would have been reinforced by the never-ending casualty lists from the landing at Gallipoli published in newspapers. It may well have been the call to 'help our coppers at ANZAC' which made up his mind. At age 32 years, he joined the 41st Battalion, AIF at Rockhampton on 18th September 1915.



Colour Patch of the 41st Battalion AIF

(This is a photograph of an original patch found in the memorabilia of Walter DUMBRELL)

The 41st was a new Battalion comprising mainly of Queenslanders, and due to a fall in the rate of enlistments, it was not completely raised until February 1916. Recruits were trained at Vidgens paddock at Enoggera and Walter sent a picture postcard home of himself and some of the other recruits.



Recruits at Vidgens Paddock 24th November 1915

(Walter Dumbrell standing extreme left)

Leave was granted over Christmas 1915 and Walter took the train home from Central Station on 23rd December 1915, to spend what would be his last Christmas with his wife and family. He recorded the trip in his notebook, even noting that the fare travelling second class was 49 shillings and 3 pence. It would have been a very emotional departure from Many Peaks to return to his unit, however he would have been comforted knowing that his sister Gwen would be staying with Grace at Many Peaks while he was overseas.



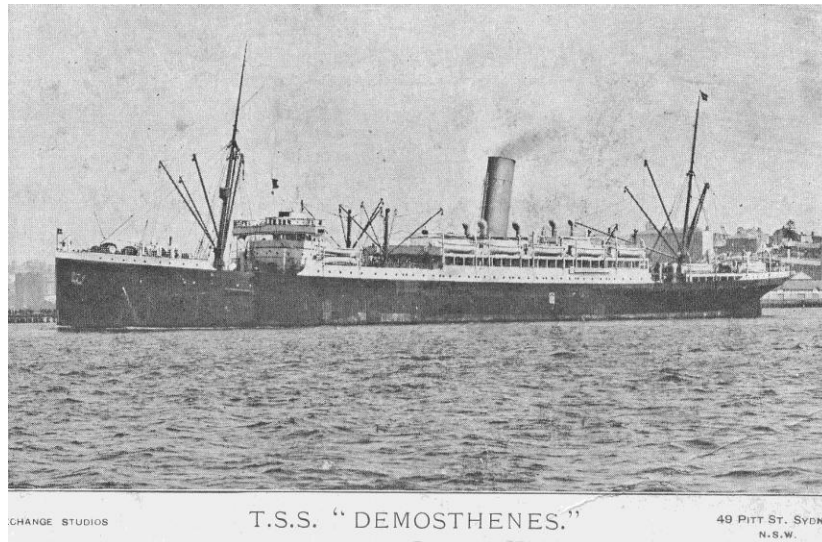
As a keepsake to take overseas, he picked several leaves from gum trees, which he kept pressed in his personal notebook. The leaves are still there.

Final leave was granted in May 1915 after which, the Battalion fell in to travel by train to Sydney. A photograph was taken of some of Walter's B Company before they left, with Corporal DUMBRELL's imposing stature making him easily recognisable amongst the group.



Some of B Company 41st Battalion

On arrival in Sydney, the Battalion was taken direct by train to board the transport ship A64 'Demosthenes'. Through a mix up of not knowing exactly what was going to happen, Walter's sister Myrtle was waiting at the city railway station to meet him. Unfortunately, they did not get to see each other before the Demosthenes moved from the wharf to anchor overnight in the harbour. They set sail for England at 6:00am the following morning on 18th May 1916.



It was a rough and cold trip around the Cape to England, which impeded training onboard, but calm summer weather presented on their arrival at Plymouth on 20th July 1916. Here, the Battalion entrained for the trip to Lark Hill Training Camp on the Salisbury Plain. This consisted of bayonet fighting, route marching and trench warfare using trenches dug similar to what they would find on the Western Front. That was of course minus the effect of constant shelling and machine gun fire. With his previous service, Walter was made a Sergeant during training and the trip to England. As was the custom when troops went to the front however, he reverted to the ranks but was immediately promoted to Corporal. Orders to the Front were received in mid-November 1916.

Walter's Battalion left Southampton for Le Havre in France where they were greeted by cold torrential rain for their six-mile walk to their first camp. Everyone was soaked to the skin. The following day they travelled through tranquil French countryside on a slow train to Bailleau in Flanders. Here they first caught sight of the distant flares in 'no man's land'.



The next week saw more training before travelling to Armentieres through the first signs of the total destruction of war, and their baptism of shellfire. The Battalion relieved a sector

of the Front here on the 24th December 1916. Corporal DUMBRELL's stay on the front line on this occasion was short lived, for he was suffering severe sinusitis causing him to report to the 9th Australian Field Ambulance on the very next day. He did not return to his unit until 10th January 1917.

Fighting on the Front at that time consisted mainly of a trench routine consisting of laying wire, manning posts, night scouting patrols and 'raids'. The raid was lead by an Officer and from 20 to 40 men with the object to take prisoners and gain intelligence about the opposing troops. The Battalion did not fare well in their first raids, mainly due to the artillery not cutting the enemy wire and they lost their first members killed in action with little result.

The Battalion took turnabout with the 35th Battalion in manning the frozen and snow-covered trenches and resting in billets at Armentieres during the winter.



Winter near Armentieres

In mid-March they were withdrawn during heavy shellfire, to move to the line at Le Touquet sector. Here, they were responsible for the front line of about 3,000 yards north of the River Lys. They endured heavy shelling from trench mortars until being withdrawn on 5th April 1916. The Battalion then moved to the Ploegsteert-St Ives sector in support of the 42nd Battalion before again going into the line at Ploegsteert Wood. During this time in the line, they thwarted the first gas attack on the Battalion by firing on the enemy party who were bringing up gas cylinders to use a favourable wind to drift the deadly fumes toward their trenches.

The Battalion was relieved to prepare for the upcoming 'Battle of Messines' and travelled to Bayingham, where models of the area to be attacked were set out on the ground and rehearsals were conducted on replicas of allied and enemy defences. In the last week of May, the Battalion returned to Ploegsteert Wood where they prepared for the coming battle.



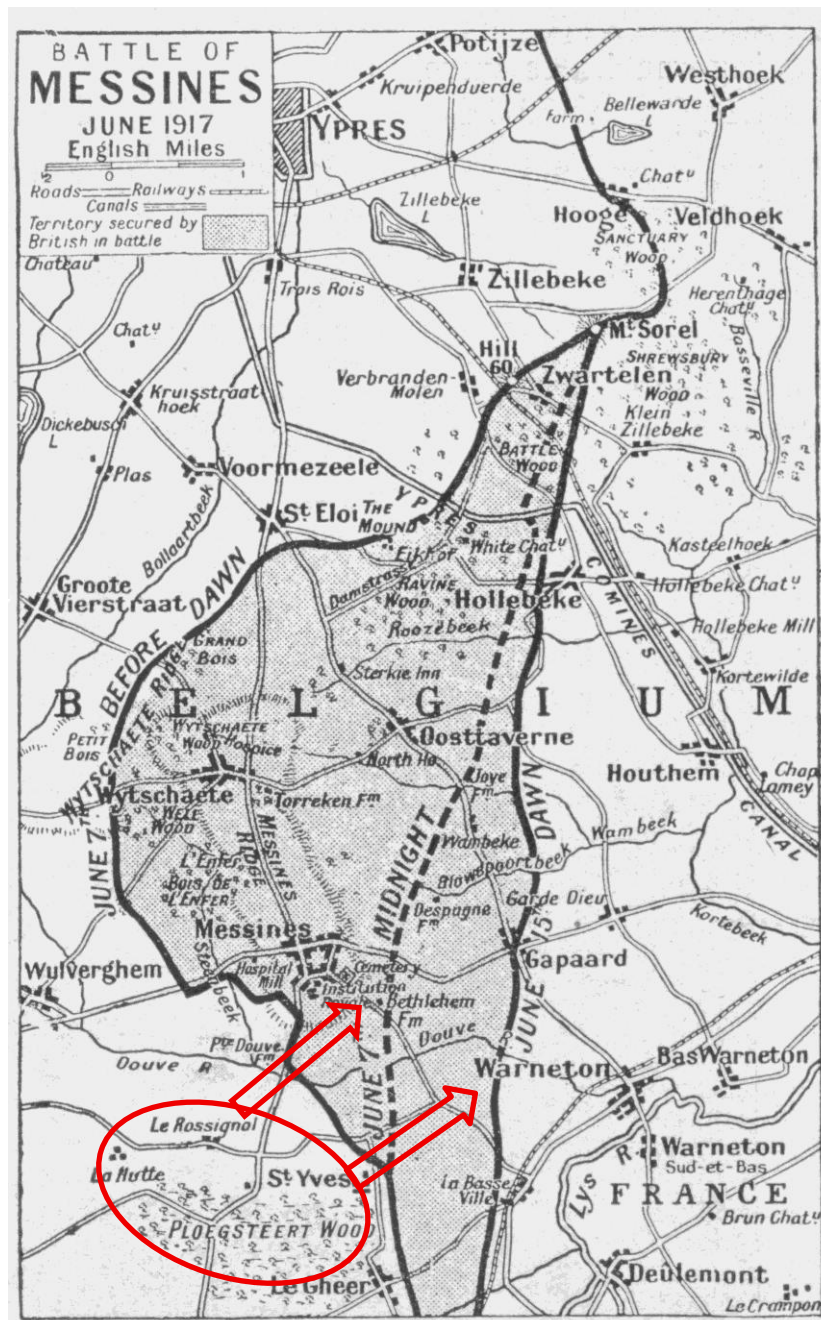
Australian Troops study the Model of Messines Ridge

On 3rd June the massed Allied artillery commenced their preliminary bombardment, which drew a matched retaliation from the enemy on the front line. For four days the Battalion was under the heavy strain of constant shellfire receiving more than twenty casualties each day.



The Objective – Messines Ridge

The assaulting force for the Battle of Messines Ridge relieved the Battalion in the front line on 7th June 1917, and under heavy shellfire including chlorine gas, they moved back to the supporting trenches. The battle commenced with the firing of nineteen huge mines all along the enemy front, and this was followed by an intense artillery barrage.



Battle Map – Messines Ridge

During the assault phase, the 41st Battalion was formed into carrying parties to carry ammunition and stores to the assaulting troops through constant shellfire. This job was just as dangerous as being in the assaulting force as the enemy artillery constantly shelled the troops bring up supplies. There was nowhere for them to hide, and they had to run the gauntlet of the falling barrage numerous times as they took stores forward. At Messines, chlorine gas shells were fired the previous night of the attack by the Germans, and it lingered in pockets in the low-lying areas between the old front line and Messines Ridge. This meant that the troops were constantly moving through it as they moved stores forward. The battle for Messines resulted in one of the few successes at the time in advancing the front line.

Walter's Battalion had little or no rest for several days being involved in the follow up attacks on the German trenches to the rear of Messines Ridge.



German Trenches destroyed by Artillery – Messines Ridge

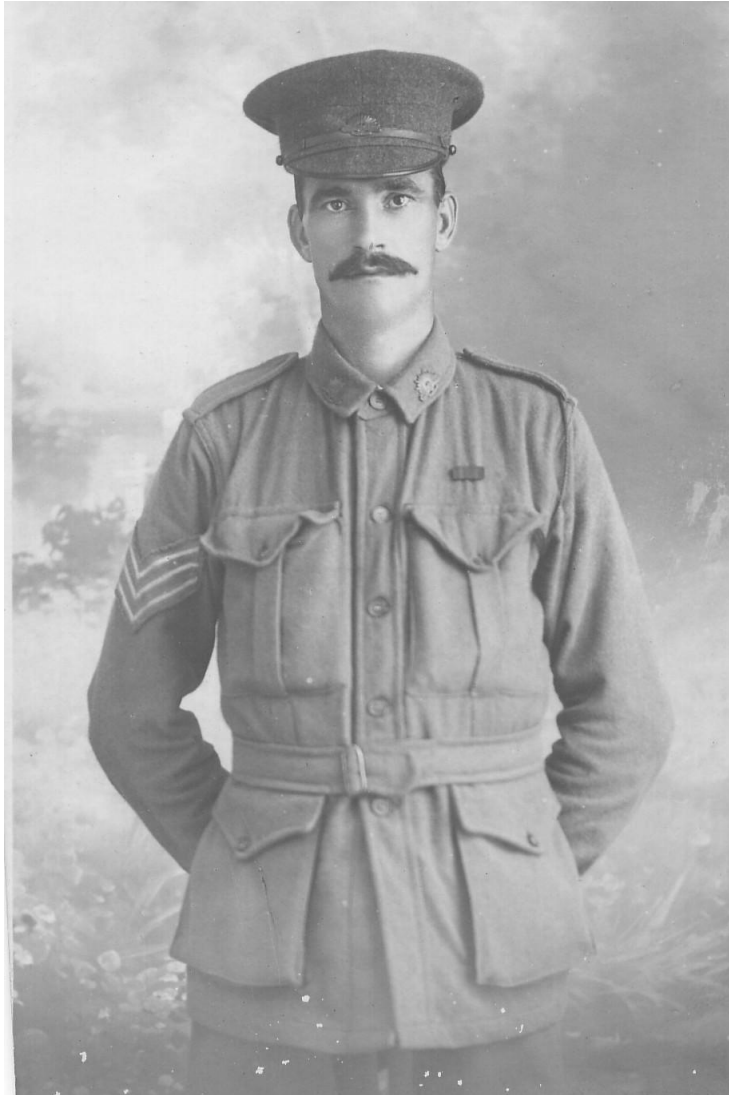
Walter wrote to his brother-in-law that he was badly affected by gas during this phase of the attack and he had to be carried to the rear. The whole Battalion was exhausted, and they were withdrawn to the Catacombs and later to Neuve Eglise where they reorganized and re-equipped.



What so many lives cost – Nothing but desolation – Ploegsteert Wood

Walter was appointed Lance Sergeant on 16th June 1917 at about that time they moved to Steenwerck where they rested until 21st June 1917.

It was then back into the mud filled and sodden trenches of the newly captured Messines Ridge. Here for eighteen days in the front line or immediately behind in the support trenches, the Battalion worked constantly at night to improve defences in the war-torn earth and mud left from the bombardment days earlier. Work parties were all the while under constant fire of traversing machine guns, shelling, and the eerie light of flares illuminating 'no mans land'. On 12th July 1917 Walter was promoted to Sergeant.



On 31st July 1917, the battalion was part of a Brigade attack west of Warneton. A feint attack was also made to give the enemy the belief that their objective was actually the village itself. The real objective was to seize the posts in 'no man's land' and then consolidate them into the front line. Walter's Battalion was in support having the responsibility to dig communication trenches and although the posts were captured, consolidation proved impossible due to heavy rain, which filled the trenches chest high in water. The enemy threw counterattack after counterattack on their position to regain the lost ground over the next four days, but Walter's Battalion held firm until relieved to rest in the rear at Steenwerck. They were then withdrawn to St. Marie Capelle near Cassel for a further well-earned rest.

It was customary for newly promoted Sergeants to be sent to England for training and development, and Walter became part of the permanent training staff of 11th Training Battalion on 03rd September 1917. During this time, he attended the Lewis Gun Training School at Tidsworth where he achieved highly to become a training instructor first class on

this weapon. He also served for a period with the 9th Training Battalion at Fovant and was quartered with other Sergeants mainly from the 42nd Battalion.



Sgt DUMBRELL with other Sergeants at Fovant, England.
(DUMBRELL is standing third from the right)

Walter returned to the 41st Battalion at the Front on 7th March 1918. At that time, the Battalion had just been withdrawn for a period of rest after heavy fighting, and he rejoined them at Ques Ques.

On 22nd March the Battalion was warned out to be ready to move at short notice to meet the German spring offensive, which was pushing towards Amiens on the Somme. Opposing British Units had sustained heavy losses and were withering before the German offensive of Operation Michael. The whole Australian 3rd Division was being rushed there to block the German advance. On their way they passed the whole civilian population carrying what valuables they could to escape the advancing Germans as well as withdrawing British units and artillery. With much marching and some vehicular transport, they reached Heilly on the morning of 27th March 1918.



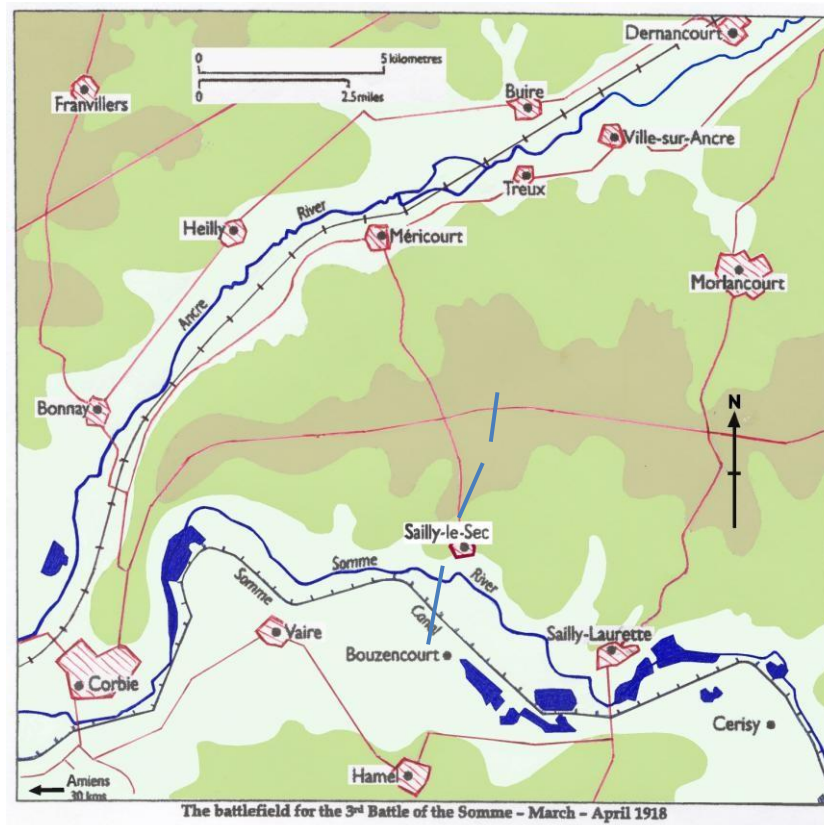
Troop Transport Vehicles – A luxury for the foot soldier

The Brigade was given the vitally important approach to Amiens to defend at all costs between Mericourt-L'Abbe and Sailly-le-Sec. The line of troops moved cautiously forward across the countryside to a ridgeline where the defence was to be conducted. This area of the Somme was chalky with white fine dust and the scars of trenches fought over here previously in 1916. Now however, grass and flowers had grown over the old battlefields. On the ridgeline, they waited for the enemy and dug in while other units of the Division arrived.



Digging in in the chalk on the Somme

The 41st Battalion held part of the front line between the Bray-Corbie Road and the Bois de Hamel (Hamel Wood), which was a front of about three kilometres wide.



On 30th March, the advancing German infantry massed in waves under the protection of an artillery bombardment and machine gun fire in front of the Battalion position. Walter's Company was occupying the outpost that bore the brunt of the assault, but they remained cool and controlled, putting up a sustained murderous fire into the enemy. The assault wilted and the Germans sought cover and withdrew. A second assault in open formation was made two hours later, but it also met the same fate causing the enemy to dig in where they could. Unfortunately, the British units to the south near Hamel were forced back allowing the German artillery to establish a field artillery unit, which began to range in on the Battalion position. This was later to prove fatal for Walter.



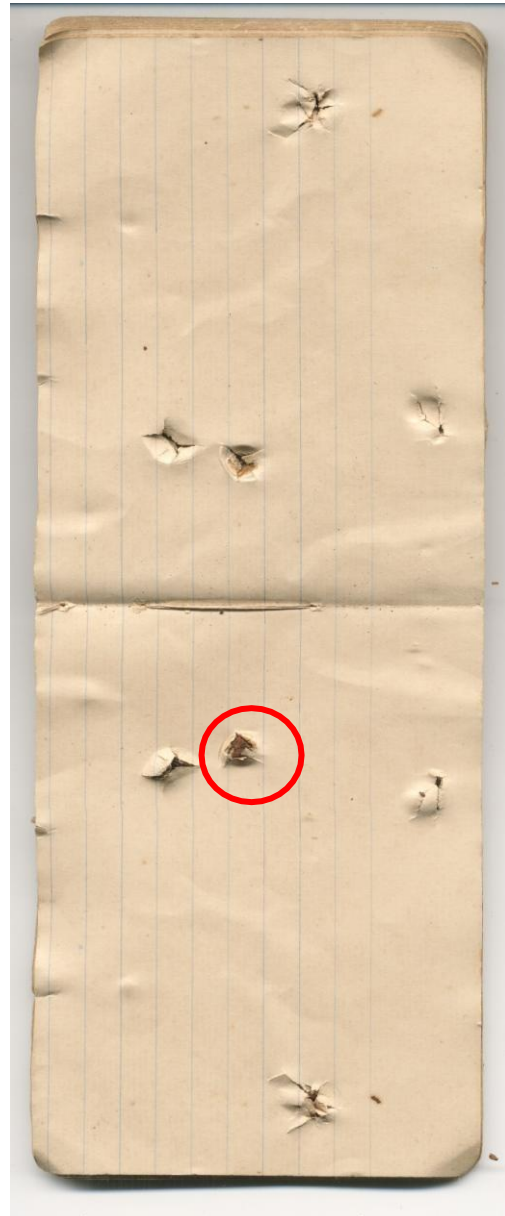
Sunken Road North of Sailley le Sec 29th March 1918

After a few days, Walter's Battalion was relieved and moved to the rear support area for baths and rest. During this so-called rest, they were strafed by enemy planes and artillery barrages, which rained down on all nearby villages. They returned to the line, relieving the 43rd Battalion during the night of 13th-14th April. Night patrols commenced immediately and a series of highly successful raids commencing from the 15th April, causing the enemy to eventually withdraw all outposts in 'no man's land' in front of the Battalion. The enemy advance was halted. Shelling was constant, however, causing regular casualties. Eventually Walter's luck ran out.

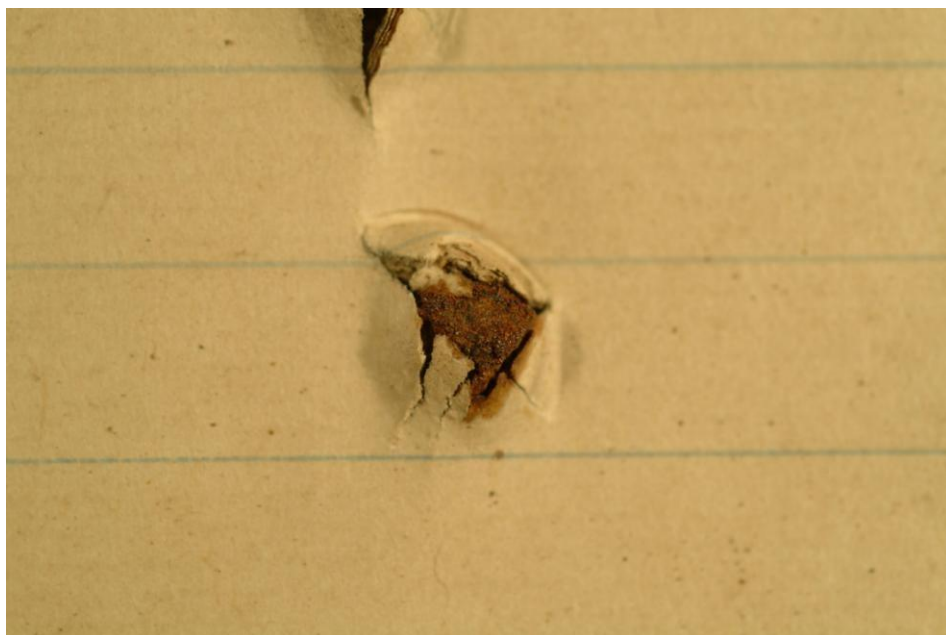
Sergeant Walter William DUMBRELL was killed by shellfire in the trenches North of the Bray-Corbie Road, on the afternoon of 19th April 1918. Death was instantaneous.

The Military Notebook carried by Walter showed the affect of the shrapnel, which killed him, piercing all of the pages and leaving one small piece captured within its pages. Walter's blood stains the cover of the book imprinting the weave of his tunic. His wallet was also stained with his blood. A book of common prayer given to him by his sister Gwen also bears the scars of shrapnel and must have been on his person when he died.

The consignment note for the return of his personal property lists a number of items, which were found amongst his memorabilia. They are in the same state as they were listed as if untouched since their return to his family.

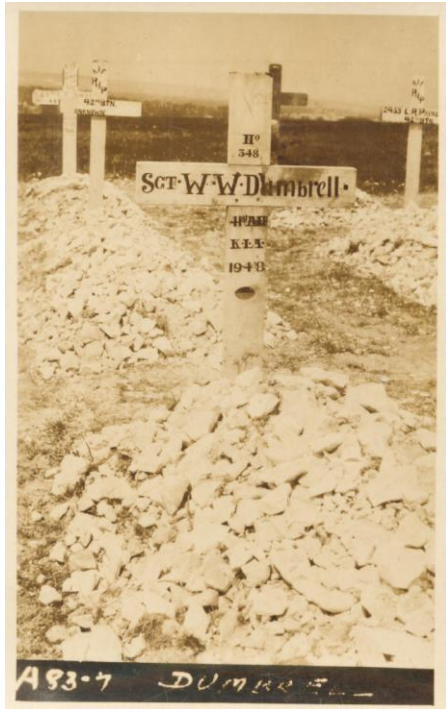


Walter's Military Notebook



The piece of shrapnel captured within the pages of his Notebook

Walter was buried initially with a cross erected on his grave about 1000 yards North of Sailley-le-Sec and about three miles South of Morlancourt.



DUMBRELL's Grave 1920



DUMBRELL's Grave 2005

At the end of the war in 1920, Walter's remains were re-interred from the field into the Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Here he rests with more than 2,000 other British and Commonwealth war dead. A photograph of his grave was sent to his wife Grace.

For his service during the war, Walter was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. The medals were distributed amongst his family and the only surviving medal now is the Victory Medal, which was returned to his son Walter during the 1960's.



War Medal & Victory Medal

Walters' wife Grace was deeply affected by his death and at first wanted to believe that some mistake had been made. She wrote a letter to the Base War Records Office in Melbourne hoping he had been mistaken for another soldier of the same surname, before she accepted the inevitable news. This was because the casualty list advising of his death had given his incorrect regimental number. In part of her letter, there was an acknowledgement of how great an effect the war had on her family, with three relatives, her husband, her brother and stepbrother killed, and six other family members still serving at the time Walter was killed.

Following Walter's death, Grace had to leave the police residence at Many Peaks and she moved back to relatives in Mt. Morgan. She later re-married to become Grace BURKOWSKI and had three more children from this union. As a nursing sister, Grace received recognition for her nursing of the Queensland Governor, who fell ill at Mt Morgan on a visit during 1926. She was personally asked to care for him during the train trip to Cairns from Mt. Morgan. She died in 1930 from complications during childbirth.

Walter's son 'Wally' was 17 years old when Grace died and he continued living in Mt Morgan until he died in 1999. He served with the 127th General Transport Company during World War 2 but was to see further tragedy caused by war with his half brother, Joseph BUKOWSKI killed in action in New Guinea in 1943. Wally's other stepsister died at the age of 21 from consumption.

Wally married but the marriage only lasted for a few years when his wife deserted him and their two year old daughter. Wally continued to care for his daughter for another year when his ex-wife contacted him and asked that their daughter be allowed to travel to Brisbane for a holiday with her. Wally agreed and their daughter went to her mother but never returned. Wally never saw her again. Little is known of what happened to his daughter after that.



Grace DUMBRELL and son Walter

Written by Paul RUGE on 27th July 2006. Ammended 06th June 2014.

Postscript:

Research into Constable DUMBRELL's life commenced in 2004. No photographs were known of him and only his military records were held by the Queensland Police Museum. Locating the veritable treasure trove of his memorabilia is a story within itself. A genealogy search located the extended family of the BURKOWSKI descendants however all avenues to locate the DUMBRELL descendants lead to nowhere, with all members of Walter's and Graces' immediate family being deceased.

As a last resort in May 2006, the undertaker in Mt. Morgan who buried Walter's son, Wally DUMBRELL in 1999, was contacted in the forlorn hope of someone knowing something about him. I had always remained hopeful that a photograph of Constable DUMBRELL could exist as photographs were listed in his personal property returned to the family after he was killed.

The undertaker's receptionist remembered Walter's son Walley, as 'a nice old man who lived on the hill and kept a good vegetable garden.' She was able to direct me to some longtime residents of Mt Morgan by the name of BALLARD, who lived a few doors down from 'old Wally'. She was also able to tell me from the records that the daughter of these people, Cheryl BALLARD, was the person who signed authorisation for his burial.

A phone call to the BALLARD's was disappointing as they couldn't tell me much about 'old Wally' at all, but they thought their daughter Cheryl, who lived in Rockhampton, may be able to help.

A phone call later that evening put me in touch with Cheryl CUNNINGHAM, who I nervously told my story and asked if perhaps she knew if there were any photos of old Wally's father. My heart leapt as she told me "Yes, I've got a picture of his father; one in his police uniform and one in his army uniform".

Cheryl told me the story of how she came to know 'old Wally' which resulted in her being named as a beneficiary in his will. Cheryl was about 9 years of age when 'old Wally' had a stroke and lost the power to speak and read. She decided one day that she was going to teach him to speak and read again, taking up her little blackboard and did just that over a period of time. They were very close ever since with Wally looking upon Cheryl as his daughter. When he died, Cheryl was left everything in his will, and she cleaned out his house soon after. During the cleanout she found many items that related to his father that seemed to have sat in a time warp and not been touched. Numerous postcards sent by Walter to his wife Grace, his son, his sisters Gwen and Myrtle and other relatives, as well as cards sent to him whilst he was overseas were all kept, enabling some intimate aspects of his life to emerge. Photographs were numerous considering the era in which they were taken. Also amongst his keepsakes were the items listed as being returned to Grace after the War.

His diary unfortunately had all the pages removed, which probably occurred after his death as it was a serious offence for a soldier to keep a diary during the war. They were most probably destroyed in line with AIF policy at the time.

His calf leather wallet was very special and still in excellent condition. A bloodstain on part of it probably indicates that he had it on his person when he was killed. In it, as listed on

the property sheet was the small penknife, his leather identification disk, his personal notebook containing the gum leaves and some pressed Flanders poppies, and some original colour patches of the 41st Battalion. His three rising sun badges, two from the collar and one from his cap were there amongst other badges he collected during the War. Walter's Victory Medal was amongst his property however his Queens South Africa Medal and War Medal 1914-18 were missing. Some correspondence indicated that the medals were distributed amongst Walter's family and only one of these had been returned to his son Walter.

There was also the Queensland Police Force buttons circa 1910 and the photo of the police camp. Unfortunately, the police camp photo was badly damaged, but it has been slowly and painfully restored toward its former self. Over 200 hours have been spent restoring this photo so far.

Cheryl told me when I picked up these items that she thought "They seemed like they would be important to someone someday". She was certainly right as her keeping of these items has enabled me to turn Walter DUMBRELL's name back into a person again:- one of thirty Queensland Police Officers who died on Active Service during The Great War 1914-18. I thank Cheryl most deeply for the safekeeping of these valuable items for these many years and for their loan to me to copy and write this story.

Cheryl has since donated all the items of Walter DUMBRELL to me for safekeeping. They have been loaned to the Military and Colonial Museum in Maryborough where a display is dedicated to Walter DUMBRELL. They are held in trust by the Museum for the duration that they remain on display for all visitors to enjoy their unique properties.



Photos associated with Walter DUMBRELL



The Memorial at Calliope, Queensland where Walters name is recorded



Death Penny of Walter DUMBRELL



Memorial Plaque now held by the Many Peaks Hotel



Mary Peaks
5th May 1918

To Base Records "Officers"
Melbourne
Dear Sirs

I saw in the Morning Bulletin some time ago, that the Base Records, Melbourne, is the receiving station for Australian casualties. I was advised on May 1st by Lieut. Col. Luscombe from ^{George} St. Brisbane that my husband Sergt. Walter Dumbrell N^o. 248 was killed in action April 19th. The number is wrong, and I was wondering if it is a mistake, and it may not be my husband at all, but I suppose I must not build up my hopes in that direction. Some time ago my husband informed me that there was a Soldier in his company an A. W. Dumbrell and I thought perhaps the names ~~the~~ got mixed, and as mistakes are often made, I thought it no harm to enquire. Kindly let me know as soon as possible, any further word you have received about Sergt. Dumbrell. This terrible war has hit hard to some of us. We have lost as, three fine men, as ever walked the face of God's earth, and still have six relatives serving the colours. Its hard to part with those we hold so dear, but we can hold our

heads up with pride and be consoled by saying
They died a glorious death by fighting for "King
& Country."

I remain

Yours faithfully

Ms^s Grace L. Dumbrell

Nanny Peaks

Boyne Valley Line
Queensland.

My husband's address was

Sergt. W. W. Dumbrell

N^o: 348 C. Company

41st Battalion

11th Brigade

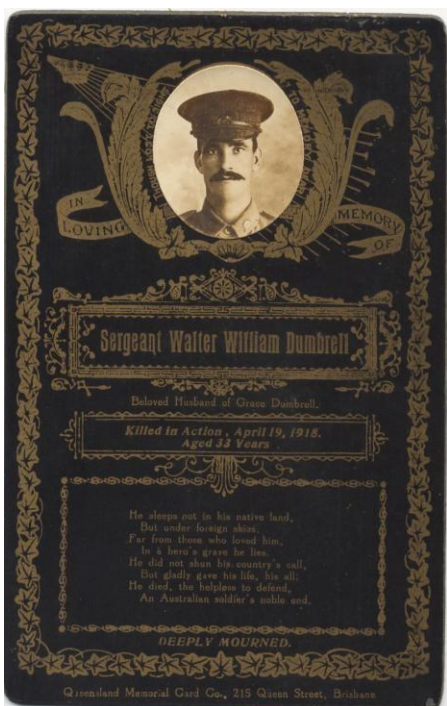
Australian Imperial Forces

On Active Service Abroad



Real poppies from the Somme pressed by Walter in his notebook

Memorial Card



Mother's Badge

