



## LIFE STORY- HENRY (HARRY)

JOEL PHILLIPS

15th April 1896 to 23rd February 1936

Father of Ellen Barbara (Barb) Sweet (nee Phillips).  
Grandfather of Noel Pittaway (nee Sweet) & Ian Sweet.  
Great Grandfather of Kal Pittaway and Patrick Sweet

Ian Sweet

Author

## **Henry (Harry) Joel Phillips**

### **Early Life**

Along with parents George and Sarah Phillips, Brother Ambrose and Sister Grace, Henry, the youngest sibling grew up in the Northcote region of Melbourne. Henry was 12 and 10 years younger than his siblings respectively and his parents were 39 and 40 years of age when he was born.



*Grace, Ambrose, and Henry Phillips 1896-97*

He was confirmed at the Church of England cathedral in Melbourne in September 1910 at the age of fourteen. The family home at 1 Mansfield St Northcote was built by Henry's parents George and Sarah after they had spent some time living in Shepparton. Henry spent his childhood at this home and up until the time of his enlistment, they later moved to 719 Sydney Rd Coburg.

Henry was a Cadet as a youngster, for a period of 8 years, commenced a trade as a joiner and was apprenticed to a business in Fitzroy. It was noted in his enlistment records that his only conviction was that he was fined for jumping off a Railway Platform.

His height was 5' 3" so was considered under height for service.



*Early 1900's George, Grace, Ambrose, Sarah and Henry Phillips.*



*Confirmation September 1910, 14 years of age*

### **WWI Enlistment and Embarkation**

Henry enlisted at the age of 19 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 1915 at Northcote. He was a Private, no 2917 and was part of the 8<sup>th</sup> reinforcement unit of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion which was based out of Seymour for basic training, and he worked in the Depot.

He was transferred to the 9<sup>th</sup> reinforcement unit of the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 1915 and embarked on the troopship SS Makarini on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 1915 from Melbourne bound for the Middle East Campaign of WW1 as part of the reinforcements for Gallipoli.

The Makarini was part of the 11<sup>th</sup> convoy to the first world war and was a vessel chartered by the Australian Government. It had 999 Military, 2 Navy and 1 civilian aboard. It arrived in Suez Egypt on or around the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 1915.

The 8th Battalion was raised within two weeks of the start of the First World War. Most of its personnel were drawn from volunteers for overseas service from rural Victoria and after undertaking rudimentary training the battalion, attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> infantry Brigade of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division.



*Henry second from the right on the troopship Makirini 1915.*

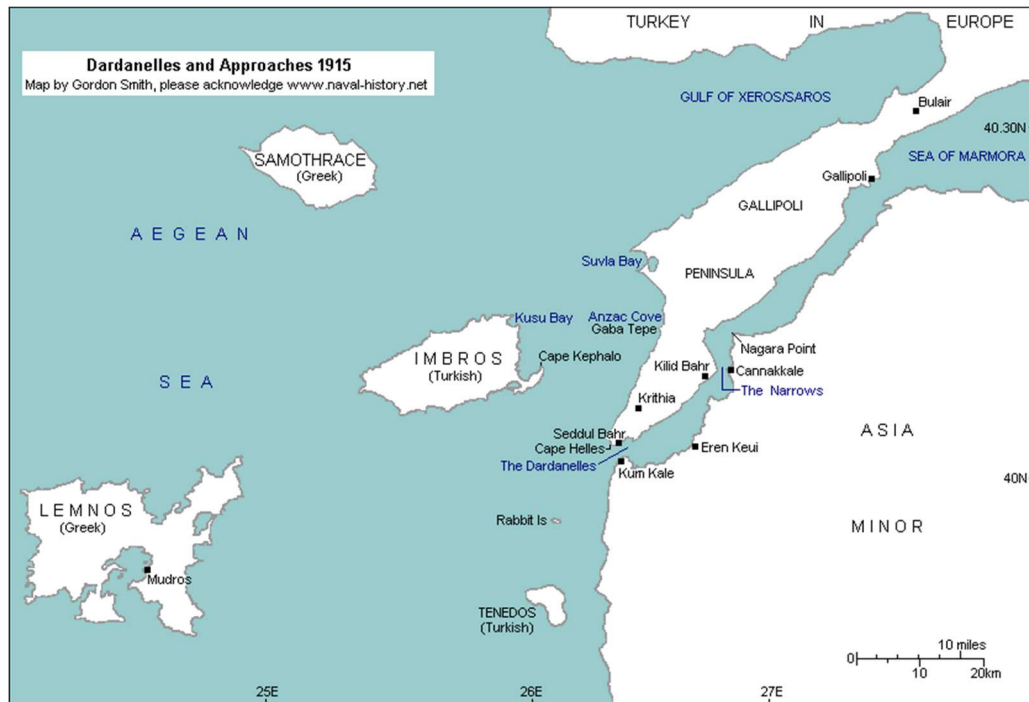


*Life on the troopship Makirini Henry in the middle in shorts.*

### **Middle East and Gallipoli**

The Australians arrived in Egypt in late 1914 briefly taking part in the defense of the Suez Canal from the Turks. Following this, the 8<sup>th</sup> battalion remained in Egypt before being transported to Lemnos Island (Greece) in early April 1915.

In early 1915, British and French forces gathered at Lemnos, a Greek island about 100km from the Gallipoli peninsula. It was the main staging area supporting allied troops during the Gallipoli campaign. In Mudros Harbour during the first weeks of April, Australian men and some of their officers practiced beach landings as they prepared for the invasion. As the campaign on Gallipoli progressed, a small medical centre on Lemnos island was expanded to become a military medical base set up to help wounded and sick soldiers recover their fitness for battle.



*Map showing Lemnos Island, the Dardanelles and Gallipoli 1915*

Henry completed further training at Tell el Kebir a camp close to Cairo. He was admitted to the Australian General Hospital No1. (Heliopilis Private Hotel) in Cairo on the 3rd November 1915 suffering from gastro and discharged on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November. Heliopilis was part of the buildings commandeered to look after sick soldiers.

His records state he landed at ANZAC Gallipoli on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 1915 and was there for approximately 2 weeks and left on or around 20<sup>th</sup> December. This was at the time of the evacuation; the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion having served at ANZAC throughout the whole campaign. It is highly likely that he may have been sent there as part of the evacuation process. It is noted that the official record of the evacuation shows on December 7<sup>th</sup> there were twenty-eight arrivals at Gallipoli of which Henry would have been one of them.

already ordered to move, were sent away from Anzac. Up to the morning of December 8th the result of the preliminary stage at Anzac, as far as the troops were concerned, was:

Date.	Arrivals.	CASUALTIES.			Troops withdrawn.	Remaining strength.
		Killed.	Sick and wounded evacuated.			
Nov. 22	16	4	3	—	41,724	
23	2	2	310	1	41,413	
24	6	2	67	218	41,132	
25	61	10	256	—	40,927	
26	447	5	145	6	41,218	
27	—	10	—	—	41,208	
28	—	6	—	—	41,202	
29	—	21	—	—	41,181	
30	—	35	478	—	40,668	
Dec. 1	9	12	535	—	40,130	
2	67	10	728	30	39,429	
3	—	10	357	2,380	36,687	
4	—	10	162	501	36,044	
5	4	10	350	10	35,670	
6	1,211	3	—	609	36,264	
7	28	—	52	503	35,734	
8	277	—	—	—	36,011	

Official troop movement data from Anzac December 1915

The decision to evacuate Gallipoli was made in November 1915 and was a closely guarded secret as the enemy were to be always kept in the dark. Largely completed by late December 1915 with the last allied troops leaving by 20<sup>th</sup> January 1916. Nov/Dec was extremely cold at Gallipoli with severe storms turning into blizzards, 280 men died with over 16,000 cases of frostbite and exposure.

Evacuations were initially to Lemnos Island, here Henry became unwell, his medical records state he got wet in his tent and was further evacuated on the Empress of Britain disembarking at Alexandria Egypt on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January 1916. The Empress of Britain was a transatlantic ocean liner requisitioned by the British admiralty to transfer troops between the Dardanelles and Egypt.

Henry Phillips

Medical Case Sheet\* Army Form 1, 1227.

No. in Ambulance and Discharge Book*	Regimental No.	Rank	Surname	Christian Name
5,247	2917	Private	Phillips	H. J.
Year	Unit	Age	Service	
1916	8th Bn. A.C.	20	1912	

Cause Station and Date

23/11/15 Diarrhoea - Inf. Anzaco

24/11/15 At Anzaco 2 weeks - left 24 Dec. To Lemnos

25/11/15 - in tent - got wet - got sick

26/11/15 - Coming from Anzaco - got wet on deck

27/11/15 - got diarrhoea - drank in tent - no more

28/11/15 - diarrhoea - belly hard - has been sore

29/11/15 - slight cough - Anzaco

30/11/15 - Anzaco

1/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

2/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

3/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

4/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

5/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

6/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

7/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

8/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

9/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

10/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

11/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

12/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

13/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

14/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

15/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

16/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

17/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

18/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

19/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

20/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

21/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

22/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

23/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

24/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

25/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

26/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

27/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

28/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

29/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

30/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

31/12/15 - Anzaco - got sick

1/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

2/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

3/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

4/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

5/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

6/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

7/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

8/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

9/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

10/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

11/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

12/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

13/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

14/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

15/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

16/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

17/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

18/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

19/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

20/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

21/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

22/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

23/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

24/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

25/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

26/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

27/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

28/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

29/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

30/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

31/1/16 - Anzaco - got sick

1/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

2/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

3/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

4/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

5/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

6/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

7/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

8/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

9/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

10/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

11/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

12/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

13/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

14/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

15/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

16/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

17/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

18/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

19/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

20/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

21/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

22/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

23/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

24/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

25/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

26/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

27/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

28/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

29/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

30/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

31/2/16 - Anzaco - got sick

1/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

2/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

3/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

4/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

5/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

6/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

7/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

8/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

9/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

10/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

11/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

12/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

13/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

14/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

15/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

16/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

17/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

18/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

19/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

20/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

21/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

22/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

23/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

24/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

25/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

26/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

27/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

28/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

29/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

30/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

31/3/16 - Anzaco - got sick

1/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

2/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

3/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

4/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

5/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

6/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

7/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

8/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

9/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

10/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

11/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

12/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

13/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

14/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

15/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

16/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

17/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

18/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

19/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

20/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

21/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

22/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

23/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

24/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

25/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

26/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

27/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

28/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

29/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

30/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

31/4/16 - Anzaco - got sick

1/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

2/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

3/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

4/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

5/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

6/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

7/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

8/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

9/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

10/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

11/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

12/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

13/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

14/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

15/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

16/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

17/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

18/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

19/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

20/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

21/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

22/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

23/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

24/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

25/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

26/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

27/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

28/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

29/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

30/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

31/5/16 - Anzaco - got sick

1/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

2/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

3/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

4/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

5/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

6/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

7/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

8/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

9/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

10/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

11/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

12/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

13/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

14/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

15/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

16/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

17/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

18/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

19/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

20/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

21/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

22/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

23/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

24/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

25/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

26/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

27/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

28/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

29/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

30/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

31/6/16 - Anzaco - got sick

1/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

2/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

3/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

4/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

5/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

6/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

7/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

8/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

9/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

10/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

11/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

12/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

13/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

14/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

15/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

16/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

17/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

18/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

19/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

20/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

21/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

22/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

23/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

24/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

25/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

26/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

27/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

28/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

29/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

30/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

31/7/16 - Anzaco - got sick

1/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

2/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

3/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

4/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

5/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

6/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

7/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

8/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

9/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

10/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

11/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

12/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

13/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

14/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

15/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

16/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

17/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

18/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

19/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

20/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

21/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

22/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

23/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

24/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

25/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

26/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

27/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

28/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

29/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

30/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

31/8/16 - Anzaco - got sick

1/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

2/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

3/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

4/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

5/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

6/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

7/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

8/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

9/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

10/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

11/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

12/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

13/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

14/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

15/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

16/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

17/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

18/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

19/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

20/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

21/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

22/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

23/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

24/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

25/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

26/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

27/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

28/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

29/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

30/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

31/9/16 - Anzaco - got sick

1/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

2/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

3/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

4/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

5/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

6/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

7/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

8/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

9/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

10/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

11/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

12/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

13/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

14/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

15/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

16/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

17/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

18/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

19/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

20/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

21/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

22/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

23/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

24/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

25/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

26/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

27/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

28/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

29/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

30/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

31/10/16 - Anzaco - got sick

1/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

2/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

3/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

4/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

5/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

6/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

7/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

8/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

9/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

10/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

11/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

12/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

13/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

14/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

15/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

16/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

17/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

18/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

19/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

20/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

21/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

22/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

23/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

24/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

25/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

26/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

27/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

28/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

29/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

30/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

31/11/16 - Anzaco - got sick

1/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

2/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

3/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

4/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

5/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

6/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

7/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

8/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

9/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

10/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

11/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

12/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

13/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

14/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

15/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

16/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

17/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

18/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

19/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

20/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

21/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

22/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

23/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

24/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

25/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

26/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

27/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

28/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

29/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

30/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

31/12/16 - Anzaco - got sick

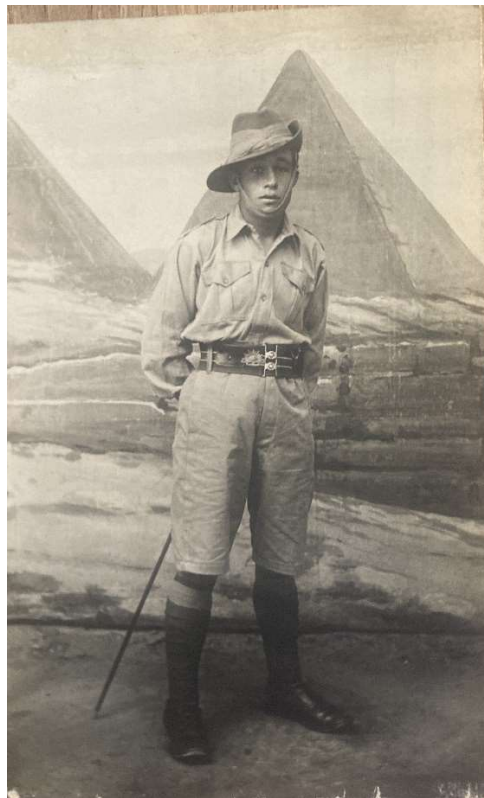
Henry's Medical assessment following his return from Gallipoli & Lemnos

He was sent to Tell el Kebir 110kil northeast of Cairo. which was a training centre, site of the No. 2 Australian General Hospital and Prisoner of War Camp during the Palestine Campaign.

Over 40,000 Australians camped in a tent city at Tell el Kebir. A military railway transferred troops from here to vessels at Alexandria Egypt for shipment to Gallipoli.

His medical records suggest he did not have a tent at Tell el Kebir and was admitted to the No 2 Australian General hospital which was now located at Gezirah Palace Cairo on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January with Influenza and Bronchitis. He remained there until the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 1916 when he was discharged.

Following extraction to Egypt, the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion was split along with all the Battalions in the 1st-4th Brigades to create cadres of experienced officers NCO and soldiers to form the basis of the new Battalions of the 4th and 5th Divisions. The 8th Battalions 'pup' Battalion became the 60th Battalion in the 15th Brigade in the 5th Division.



*Henry in a typical troop portrait in Cairo*

When Henry returned to duty, he was attached to the Sanitary section at Camp Zeitoun in Cairo which was predominately a New Zealand occupied camp however a large camp used by the allies during this period. Australians were given short periods for leave in Cairo. Some toured the pyramids and tombs (where you can still see their graffiti on the walls). Some shopped in Cairo souks (outdoor markets). A few Australians earned a reputation for rowdy behavior, larrikinism, and frequent visits to brothels. Henry's military record show he was still based at Camp Zeitoun Cairo as part of the Australian Sanitary section through the months February 1916 to May 1916.

A Sanitary Section of the Royal Army Medical Corps (consisting of a Lieutenant or Second-Lieutenant, 2 Sergeants, 2 Corporals, 20 Privates and 1 batman) was added to each Division in early 1915. Its job was to maintain as far as possible clean water supplies, cooking facilities and billets, de-lousing stations and similar facilities. The Sanitary Sections were withdrawn from Divisions and came under Corps or Army control from March 1917 onwards. It was part of the Field Ambulance, a mobile front line medical unit.



*Henry (standing) and a mate in the Middle East 1916*

## Relocation to Salisbury Plains England

Henry continued to be stationed in the Cairo region of the Middle East until 28<sup>th</sup> May 1916 when he embarked from Alexandria bound for Plymouth England via the Mediterranean through the Strait of Gibraltar and North past Spain, Portugal and France to England. What an amazing adventure for a 19-year-old joiner from Melbourne landing at Plymouth on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 1916.

Henry travelled on the HMT Corsican, which was built for the Allan Line, and used on the Liverpool to St John, New Brunswick route. Taken over as a troop ship in August 1914 and used until 16 Jul 1917. In August 1914 she began trooping voyages between Southampton and Le Havre. In September 1914 she was transferred to trooping to Alexandria and Bombay and various trooping duties.

Arriving in Plymouth Henry was then transferred to the Park House Training Camp situated close to Tidworth on the Salisbury plain in Wiltshire, which became a depot for the AIF, housing training battalions as well as engineers and signallers, its Army Service Corps and Army Medical Corps.



*Map of WW1 relocation and training camps Salisbury Plains Sth England*

Australian Command Depots in England were used during and after the Gallipoli campaign for the convalescing men once they had been discharged, as they, unlike their British counterparts, had no Home Depot to report to. In response to this a special depot was created in May 1915 at Monte Video Camp near Weymouth, Dorset, on the south coast of England.

The depot was to receive and train men who would likely be fit for return to the front, the aim was to turn them into soldiers who were partly prepared for trench warfare in Belgium and France. Men who were marked for return to Australia were placed at a second camp at nearby Westham. As the war progressed and with the Australians redeployed in 1916 from Egypt/Gallipoli to England/the Western Front, more of the British camps in Southern England and in particular on the Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire were placed under the usage of the Dominion troops.

### **France, the Somme and the Western Front.**

Henry remained at Park House Camp Salisbury joining the No 2 Training Battalion through June and July 1916. He then proceeded overseas to France on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 1916 and was listed as being in Etaples France on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August 1916.

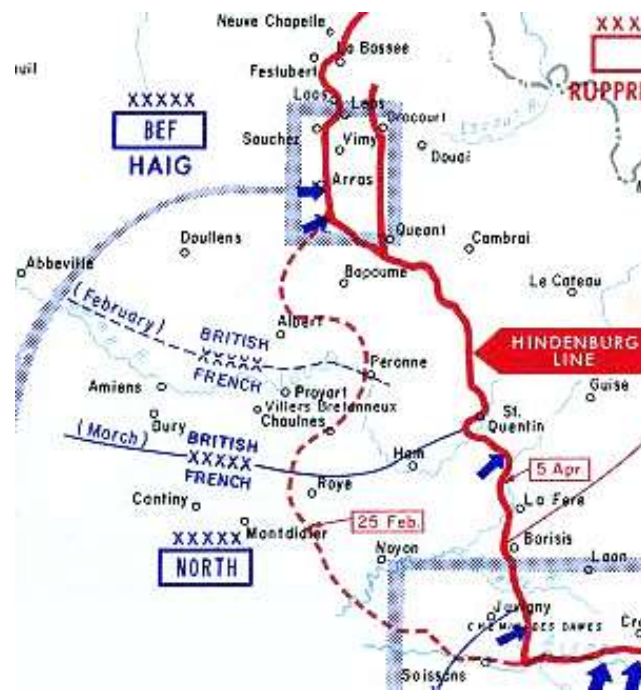
Depots were created in France for one main purpose, that of a reception and final training center for men about to join or re-join their unit from either the Command Depots or Training Groups in England. In all probability, over a million men passed through Etaples between March 1915 and November 1918, and the base accommodated 60-80,000 soldiers at any one time. The first Australian depots were established in March 1916 at Etaples, but this was inconvenient both in time and increased risk of submarine attack. The line of transport from Southampton to Etaples was changed to Le Havre in June 1917. Based at Etaples Henry rejoined his unit on the 25 August 1916.

Henry's service records state that he served with the battalion predominately in the field on the Western Front from the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 1916 up to the 25<sup>th</sup> January 1919. At this point it has become challenging to know of his exact whereabouts.

His timeline was as follows:

- 11<sup>th</sup> August 1916 Etaples France
- 25<sup>th</sup> August 1916 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion France
- 21<sup>st</sup> April 1917 to 10<sup>th</sup> May 1917 Hospital in France
- 10<sup>th</sup> May 1917 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion in France
- 13<sup>th</sup> Oct 1917 to 24<sup>th</sup> Oct 1917 Hospital in France
- 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 1917 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion in France/Belgium
- 11<sup>th</sup> Sept 1918 to 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1918 on leave in the UK
- 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1918 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion in France/Belgium
- 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 1919 Earmarked to return to Aust.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 1919 Returned to the UK via Le Havre
- 28<sup>th</sup> March 1919 Departed UK via Southampton.

Based on these dates and the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalions movements we must therefore assume Henry served at Pozieres a village , on the Albert–Bapaume road, lies atop a ridge approximately in the center of what was the British sector of the Somme battlefield from August 25<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1916. He also would have been involved in operations at Amiens in France and Ypres in Belgium during the period from late 1916 until January 1919.

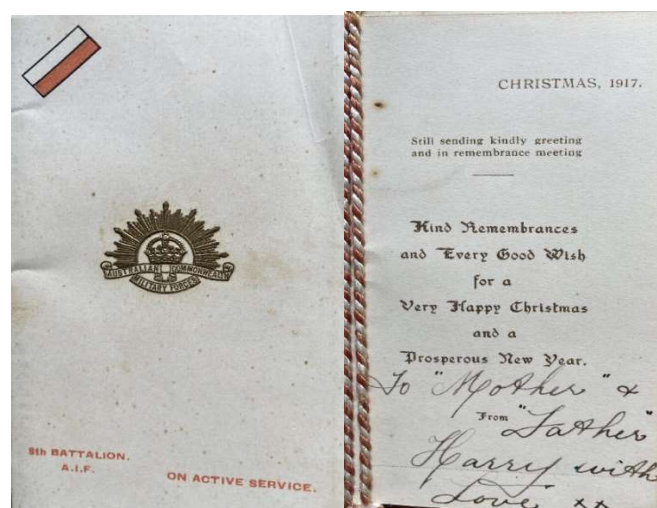


*Map showing the Hindenburg line stretching from France through Belgium*

The 8<sup>th</sup> battalion's first major action in France came at Pozières in July 1916, during which Private Thomas Cooke performed the actions for which he was later posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross. Later the battalion fought at Ypres, in Belgium, before returning to the Somme in winter. Throughout 1917 they took part in operations against the Hindenburg Line, before being involved in the Third Battle of Ypres.

Battle of Passchendaele (31 July – 10 November 1917) also known as the Third Battle of Ypres. Between 400,000 and 900,000 casualties. In the countryside near the Belgian town of Ypres, Australians fought in one of the most costly and horrific campaigns of World War I. Many of them died or were wounded in the epic struggle. In the 1917 offensive, British and French forces tried to roll back the German positions along the low-lying ridges south of Ypres and break through the German lines towards the Channel coast. After eight major British attacks over more than 3 months, the Canadian troops captured Passchendaele early in November. This marked the end of the offensive and the failure of the British strategic plan. The Allies had suffered 310,000 casualties, of whom some 38,000 were Australian, and the Germans lost 270,000 men.

After a preliminary battle at Messines, Australians took part in five major battles during the campaign. Often referred to as Passchendaele, the objective of the Australians' final battle, the campaign is also known as 'the Third Battle of Ypres.' The difficulty of pronouncing the name Ypres led many in the British armies to refer to the town and the campaign as 'Wipers'.



*Henry's Christmas card from the Western Front 1917*

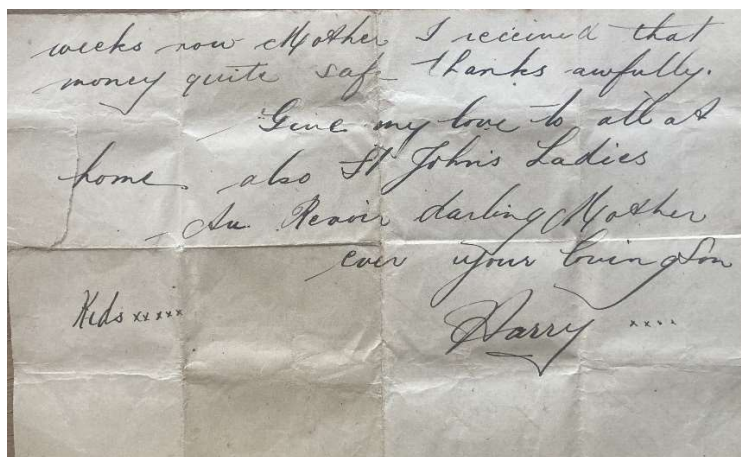
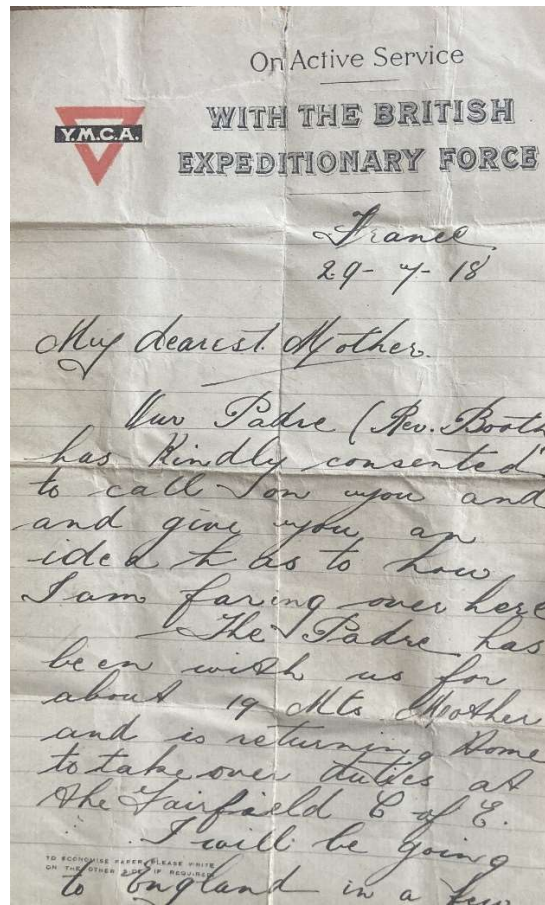
Following the launch of the German spring offensive in March and April 1918, the 8th Battalion took part in defensive operations, before participating in the Battle of Amiens, as the Allies launched their own counter offensive on 8 August 1918; an offensive that ultimately brought about an end to the war.

The battalion continued operations until late September 1918,<sup>[1]</sup> when, suffering severe manpower shortages, the Australian Corps was withdrawn from the line for rest and re-organisation. They were subsequently out of the line when the Armistice was signed on 11 November 1918 and the war ended.

The Battle of Amiens, also known as the Third Battle of Picardy (French: *3ème Bataille de Picardie*), was the opening phase of the Allied offensive which began on 8 August 1918, later known as the Hundred Days Offensive, which ultimately led to the end of World War I. Allied forces advanced over 11 kilometers (7 mi) on the first day, one of the greatest advances of the war, with Gen Henry Rawlinson's British Fourth Army, with nine of its 19 divisions supplied by the fast-moving Australian Corps of Lt. General John Monash and Canadian Corps of Lt General Arthur Currie, and Gen Marie Eugène Debeney's French First Army playing a decisive role. The battle is also notable for its effects on both sides' morale and the large number of surrendering German forces. This led Erich Ludendorff to later describe the first day of the battle as "the **black day of the German Army**". Amiens was one of the first major battles involving armored vehicles.



*Dog tag H.J. Phillips 2917 - 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion*



**Letter to Mother Sarah July 1918 from France**

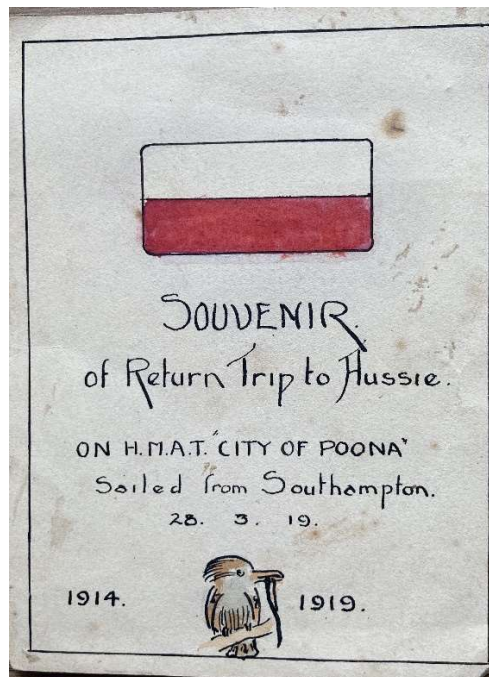
The role of the YMCA in France was significant, there existed the YMCA Walton hut in Etaples Army Base Camp in France. The building was provided and run by the YMCA as an amenities center for soldiers.

## **Return to Australia**

Henry returned to Australia from Southampton England on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March 1919 on SS “City of Poona”. Disembarking in Melbourne on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 1919, some 3 years and 8 months since he left the same port as a wide eyed 19 year old from Northcote.

*The Times, Thursday, Mar 27, 1919*  
**DEPARTURE OF DOMINION TROOPS**  
*Australian troops will embark at Southampton tomorrow in the City of Poona. General Sir William Birdwood will, it is expected, be present. The Union-Castle boat Cawdor Castle will leave with South African troops on Saturday.*

Unfortunately, we don’t have many personal written accounts of Henry’s time overseas, the reasons for that will become clear when I explain the rest of his life. It would have been amazing and daunting to have some insight into those 4 years of his life. I am just grateful he survived otherwise I would not be here to compile this historical snapshot.



*One of the few of Henry’s possessions still in existence*

## **Building the Great Ocean Road**

What many do not realize is that the road was built as a permanent memorial to those who died during the First World War. Carved from wild and windswept cliffs overlooking the Southern Ocean, the Great Ocean road was built by 3,000 returned servicemen fresh from the trenches of the Western Front in memory of their fallen comrades.

“It was just an idea that was floated by a couple of men,” said Dr Meleah Hampton, an historian at the Australian War Memorial.

At the time of the First World War, the remote south-west coast of Victoria was accessible only by sea or rough tracks through dense bush. The chairman of the Country Roads Board in Victoria, William Calder, proposed the repatriation and re-employment of returned soldiers working on roads in sparsely populated areas in the Western District.

It was Geelong mayor Howard Hitchcock who brought the plans to fruition and first saw its potential as a tourist attraction for the region. He formed the Great Ocean Road Trust and set about raising the money to finance the project. He saw it not only as a way of employing returned soldiers, but of creating a lasting monument to those who had died during the war.

Survey work began in August 1918, but the difficult terrain, dense wilderness and bad weather hampered the project. Construction work officially began in September 1919, but progress was slow with workers achieving around three kilometers a month. “Sometimes there are hundreds of men working on it, and sometimes there are just 10 or 20,” Dr Hampton said

For their efforts, the returned soldiers were paid ten shillings and sixpence per day – significantly more than the six shillings they received in the Army, making the project a popular one.

Through rugged terrain, wild weather and steep rocky cliffs, the soldiers worked for eight hours per day, and slept ‘rough’ in the bush, sleeping out in old army tents in tent cities that moved along with the road.

Construction was done by hand using picks and shovels as well as explosives, wheelbarrows, and horse-drawn carts.



*Men working on the construction of the Great Ocean Road*

On 18 March 1922, the first section of the road, from Eastern View (where the ANZAC soldier sculpture can be viewed today) to Lorne, was officially opened with due pomp and ceremony.

It would be another ten years before the section from Lorne to Apollo Bay was finished, officially marking its completion. The road was officially opened in November 1932 with Victoria's Lieutenant-Governor Sir William Irvine holding a ceremony near Lorne's Grand Pacific Hotel.

Harry worked on the road during the period from 1919 to 1923. Whilst not totally conclusive I have assumed that on the basis that he married Winifred Orchard on the 22<sup>rd</sup> June 1923.

This period in Harry's life developed a lasting bond with the Road and Lorne as he returned to Lorne in the 1930's working as a builder. My mother Barbara, Winifred and Harry's father George made a trip to visit him around Christmas 1933. The trip from Melbourne took them a week in a baker's cart with two horses and they travelled via Geelong, Winchelsea and Deans Marsh camping at Lorne during their stay.



*Harry, my mother Barbara and Grandfather George, Teddy's Lookout 1933.*



*Barbara, Harry, Winifred and George campsite Lorne 1933.*



*Building operations Lorne 1933. Harry rolled up sleeves.*

## **Marriage and Family**

Returning to Melbourne Henry and Winifred Orchard married on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1923 and settled in Nepean Rd Brighton. His parents George and Sarah had moved to Black Rock with his older brother Ambrose relocated to Corowa in NSW and sister Grace married to George Jones and raising their four children and moving around Melbourne from Coburg to Elsternwick to East Melbourne.

Times were still challenging with a combination of droughts, influenza epidemics and the beginning of the “Great Depression” of the 30’s looming large.

Harry was doing well as a builder, he loved his motorbike and enjoyed a punt on the races. He and Winifred had tried to have a family but unfortunately she endured a number of miscarriages.

They appeared to enjoy life owned a Car and were able to enjoy holidays to Sydney in 1929 and spending time with their family.

When the depression struck Harry was forced to find work in Lorne as previously mentioned building homes some of which still exist today.



*Henry and Winifred 1923*



*Henry (Harry) Phillips at the beach, at work, at the races.*

## **Parenthood and Disaster**

Barbara Phillips my mother was born in her own words to:

*“Winnie and Harry Phillips on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 1932 after many years of marriage and several miscarried pregnancies. It was a difficult birth, and I have been told that I wasn’t a pretty sight.*

*However, they now had a family and settled down hoping to enjoy a long life.*

*I remember little about my mother and even less about my father as they both died while I was quite young.*

*I have vague memories, or then I may have heard from my father’s sister Grace tell stories of me riding on the petrol tank of my father’s bike. Sometimes he would even take me on the bike from our home on the Nepean Rd in Brighton to his parent’s home in Black Rock”*



*Wedding of Frances and Ian Marshall 1934.*

L to R: Ian Marshall (whom I was named after), Frances Marshall (nee Jones) daughter of Grace Jones (nee Phillips), Sarah Phillips, Barbara Phillips, George Phillips, Harry Phillips. This photo featured in the Sun News Pictorial as it was Sarah and George Phillips Golden Wedding Anniversary they were 75 and 78.



*Harry Phillips and Car late 1920's early 30's*

Henry (Harry Phillips) was killed in a motorbike accident on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 1936. He was returning from the races on his motorbike and crashed 100 meters from his home and died later at the Alfred Hospital. My mother Barbara had not yet turned 4 years of age.



*Henry (Harry) Phillips Death Notice*

## **Life after Harry's Death**

Losing her husband Harry, in the middle of the depression, was extremely difficult for Winnie and young Barbara. They had few assets and moved to a small cottage that Sarah Phillips owned in Sydney Rd Coburg. Winnie worked as a dressmaker and eventually re-married a man by the name of Bob Allen and the family moved to Bon Beach where they ran a small mixed business.

Unfortunately, Winnie died during childbirth in 1940, leaving Barbara a double orphan with no siblings and not yet 8 years of age. A legal battle endured and Bob Allen relinquished custody of Barbara who went to live with Winnie's sister Gertie in Preston. In my mother Barbara's own words:

*"Then came a series of shifts from Aunt Gertie to Aunt Grace, my father's sister backwards and forwards from Coburg to Preston for many years. My mother (Winnie) had spoilt me so I was pretty hard to control."*

Barbara attended Coburg State School in Bell St, Merlynston State School, another State School in Preston and eventually Coburg High School. She also became an active member of "Legacy" all of her life. Legacy commenced in 1923 to support the families of service men and women who lost loved ones in the first world war and is still operating today with 44 legacy clubs looking after the interests of thousands of people.






*Grace Jones (nee Phillips) 98 years with Kal Pittaway, Harry Phillips Great Grandson in 1984.*

Unfortunately, due to the circumstances following his death, Harry's war service medals were lost and never recovered. His digital service records show that his father George wrote a letter in 1940, and his sister Grace wrote a letter in 1944 requesting new medals be issued.

The AIF records department whilst stating his next of kin were entitled to have them could not really help any further in the matter.

Transferred to  
 W 1187 *22/4/1916* *trans after discharge (W.M.O.)* D *944*  
 AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE. *50*  
 No. *2917*  
 Rank *Private* Name *Phillips Harry J.*  
 Unit *1st Div Saw S. 8th Battalion*  
 Casualty *Bronchitis mediocris, non-ans a G.H.*  
*Sept 8.1.16. P.I.B.E. 387/48100*  
*8.1.16. Bronchitis Admitted 27 A.C.H. 117, M47749, 24.1.16. am.*  
*10.2.16. Discharged by Hosp. Helouen to Amb. 1st/17th/108 Cairo D. 12. 24.2.16.*  
*25.2.16. Rejoined Bn in France. R.D. 578, Helouen. 2.9.16.*  
*Reg. to Unit from H.P. "City of Panama" disembark 23/1/16*  
*6.8.16. L. 285/15000. 21st London 21st/10. R.D. 101/100*  
*Transferred to Australia for A. 3.11.16. 10.1.19*  
*24/11* *Demobilized.* *A.*

DATE	PURPORT.	REF. No.
<i>19/1/16</i> <i>11/7-16</i>	<i>W.O.K. advt in hospital Bronchitis</i>	
<i>APR 1916</i>	<i>W.O.K. advised returning to Australia, Egan 1. 2nd 1916</i>	
<i>6.7.19</i>	<i>Discharged M.D. 100</i>	
<i>3/7/19</i>	<i>"WILL" to 3 M.D. N. 21, 22</i>	
<i>1014/1916 Star Issued B.M. 48/1000</i> <i>1021/108 - BRITISH WAR MEDAL 1916</i> <b>WAR HISTORY INDEX</b> <i>WILL" to Reg 400 52, 6, 72 Page 777</i>		

LIST  
 National Archives of Australia NAA: B2455; PHILLIPS, HJ

Harry Phillips War Medal Records.

Star Medal 12334

British War Medal 19234

Victory Medal 19108

## **Henry (Harry) Phillips Legacy**

Being 65 years old myself, I am pleased I have been able to unearth some facts about my grandfather's life albeit as a result of my sister Noel's sad and untimely passing and me unearthing a lot of information passed on from my mother to Noel.

I am sure Harry's own daughter and granddaughter had no idea about a lot of his life as it was never discussed by anyone, as the only people I met who knew him that well were his sister Grace and niece Francis.

I am unsure whether they knew of his movements during WW1 as often returned soldiers were reticent to talk too much about the atrocities of war.

From afar a man of such short physical stature appeared to have an adventurous and positive attitude about life and obviously had the respect of his colleagues and family. I am sure I would have enjoyed his company and picked up some nuggets of wisdom along the way.

His legacy of surviving the horrors of war is that he has two great grandsons in Kal and Patrick to carry on his bloodline and tell his story.

Having had a somewhat ambivalent attitude to ANZAC Day, I am now determined to recover the replicas of his war medallions and march proudly in his honor.

Harry Phillips was an "ANZAC" in the truest sense of the word, and I am proud to call him my Grandfather.