

**Tribute to 39848 Gunner George Charles Duperouzel, 14th Field Artillery Brigade, (FAB)  
Based on extracts from his Service Record held with the NAA: B2455, SERN39848 Bar Code  
Series 3529605 and supplemented with material from other sources, duly acknowledged.**

39848 Gunner George Charles Duperouzel, was born at the family farm at Qualen, near York, in Western Australia, on 2 October 1899. He was the third child of George Charles Duperouzel and Sarah Jane (née Willey).

George was raised on the family farm and attended the Qualen School with his older brother Jim in the early 1900s and was working as a farm hand for his father by the time he volunteered to join the Australian Imperial Force, AIF, in late 1917. It is well known within the family that when Jim was killed in action in August 1916 George was so angry that he wanted to enlist straight away and go and kill a few Germans himself, but he was too young.

His formative years must have been a difficult time for him and his parents as four of his siblings had died young by the time George submitted his application to enlist at the age of 18 years, 3 months: Elsie Maud died in 1905, aged 9; John Aimable died in 1908, aged 5 months; Thomas Frederick died in 1911, aged 19 months, and Jim was killed in action in France in 1916, aged 19. At the time George enlisted his younger surviving siblings were Alexander, aged 16; Julia Maud, aged 13; Anna Ruby, aged 11; Louisa Alice, aged 4 and Lindsay Clarence, aged 21 months.

George was single and aged 18 years 3 months when he completed his application form to join the AIF on 22 December 1917. His Attestation Paper for Persons Serving Abroad shows his date of birth as 30 August 1899 although his official birth date is recorded as 2 October 1899. He is described on enlistment as being 5'9" tall; weight 153lbs; chest 34"; with a fair complexion; green eyes; fair hair; religious denomination, C of E; marks, T shaped scar, thumb; scar right cheek and trade calling, farm hand – the form also shows that George required minor dental treatment. In his Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad, dated 8 January 1918, George's father, George Charles



**Studio photo of Gunner George Charles Duperouzel, 39848.**  
Courtesy of his daughter, Joan Eunice Stephens

Duperouzel, is noted as his next of kin.

George's Nominal Roll shows his enlistment date as 8 January 1918. His parents, George and Sarah, signed George's Application Form on 22 December 1917 to give their consent as George was under the age of 21 years. This consent may have come with a heavy heart knowing that George was now heading for France to also fight on the front line where Jim was killed in action two years earlier.

On the 9 January 1918 39848 Private George Charles Duperouzel, went to Northam to have a medical examination which was undertaken by a Medical Officer from the Blackboy Hill Camp. On 8 March 1918 George was passed fit for service at Blackboy Hill and confirmed a Gunner.

Between 11 January 1918 and 19 March 1918 he underwent dental treatment on six occasions requiring the extraction of 5 teeth and 7 fillings before being declared '*dentally fit*' at Blackboy Hill.

Following his initial training at the Blackboy Hill Camp, 39848 Gunner Duperouzel, Field Reinforcement, 35th Reinforcements, embarked on board the troopship, H.M.A.T. PORT DARWIN, and set sail from King George's Sound, Albany, Western Australia for the AIF Training Camp at Tel-el-Kebir, Egypt, on 8 May 1918.



**H.M.A.T. PORT DARWIN**  
State Library of Victoria QR006378

39848 Gunner Duperouzel disembarked from H.M.A.T. Port Darwin at Suez, Egypt on 7 June 1918. After one month of training he was transferred from the AIF Training Camp at Tel-el-Kebir to Alexandria for embarkation overseas on 3 July 1918. There is no record of which troopship he travelled on from Alexandria. George disembarked at Southampton, England, on 16 July 1918 and on the same day he was attached to the Royal Brigade Australian Army, R.B.A.A. at the Heytesbury Camp, in the Wylde Valley, about 3 miles from Warminster, Wiltshire.



**Australian soldiers of the Royal Brigade Australian Army, R.B.A.A.**  
AWM J06315

At the conclusion of his training in Heytesbury George proceeded overseas, with the 5th D.A.C. on 2 October 1918 via Dover, to Rouelles in France. Rouelles is situated about 50 miles north of Dijon in central France. On 6 October 1918 he arrived in Rouelles and 'marched out' on 8 October to take up his position in 'the field' on 11 October 1918 as part of the 5th Divisional Ammunition Column, D.A.C. The 5th D.A.C. was a supply train, usually of horse drawn wagons and motor trucks which hauled the shells up to the artillery units at the front.



**Australian Soldiers at Heytesbury Camp**  
AWM J06316

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE—NOMINAL ROLL—continued.

Rec'd. No.	Pay Book No.	Names (in full)	Rank	Age	Trade or Calling	Married Single	Address at Date of Enlistment	Religion	Date of Joining A.I.F.	A.M.P. Unit at Date of Enlistment	Pay				Remarks
											Daily Rate, including Pay and Allowance (if any).	Differed per Diem.	Allocation per Diem.	Net Rate as per Pay Book.	
39844	802708	BOURKE, Frederick	Gunner	21	Farmer	S.	Northam, W.A.	R.C.	31.12.17	89th Inf.	6 0	1 0	3 0	2 0	
39845	802709	COLQUHOUN, Charles Melrie	"	19	Laboratory	S.	West Hill, W.A.	R.C.	17.3.17	"	6 0	1 0	3 0	2 0	
39846	802710	DAGLISH, Henry William	"	19	Bank officer	S.	Sabbaco, W.A.	C. of E.	16.10.17	"	6 0	1 0	3 0	2 0	
39847	802711	DERRY, Brian Mansfield	"	19	Clerk	S.	Perth, W.A.	C. of E.	6.2.18	"	6 0	1 0	3 0	2 0	
39848	802712	DUPEROUZEL, George Charles	"	19	Farm hand	S.	York, W.A.	C. of E.	9.1.18	"	6 0	1 0	2 0	3 0	
39849	802713	FENN, Reginald Manville	"	20	Farmer	S.	Broon Hill, W.A.	C. of E.	15.12.17	"	6 0	1 0	3 0	2 0	
39850	802714	GIBBS, Frederick George	"	19	Teamster	S.	East Cannington, W.A.	C. of E.	18.10.17	"	6 0	1 0	3 0	2 0	
39852	802716	JONES, Herbert William	"	23	Clerk	S.	Perth, W.A.	C. of E.	2.7.17	89th Inf.	6 0	1 0	4 0	1 0	Acting Bombardier
39853	802717	MANNSBRIDGE, Franklin Owen	"	18	Fitter	S.	Chamont, W.A.	C. of E.	25.12.17	"	6 0	1 0	3 0	2 0	
39854	802718	RIEGERT, Johannes Martin	"	25	Farmer	S.	Yalloop, W.A.	C. of E.	26.2.17	"	6 0	1 0	3 0	2 0	
39856	802720	VERHAN, Joseph Harold	"	25	Miner	S.	Albany, W.A.	Meth.	19.2.18	"	6 0	1 0	2 0	3 0	
39857	802721	WILKINSON, Harvard Wensell	"	20	Wool export	S.	Perth, W.A.	C. of E.	23.2.18	37th BATTERY A.F.C.	6 0	1 0	3 0	2 0	Acting Bombardier
39858	802722	WILSON, Albert Henry	"	18	Clerk	S.	South Perth, W.A.	C. of E.	4.1.18	"	6 0	1 0	3 0	2 0	
39859	802724	HARRIS, Thomas William	"	18	Horse driver	M.	Perth, W.A.	C. of E.	13.12.17	"	6 0	1 0	4 0	1 0	
39861	802419	DAVIES, John Angus	"	18	Fitter's assistant	S.	East Fremantle, W.A.	Wes.	9.7.17	"	6 0	1 0	3 0	2 0	
39863	802701	ELANAGAN, Edward Richard	"	29	Farmer	M.	Kopoupa, W.A.	R.C.	17.3.17	"	6 0	1 0	4 0	1 0	Acting Lance Sergeant
39864	802702	HOPKINS, Ronald Kenneth	"	20	Produce salesman	S.	Victoria Park, W.A.	C. of E.	19.11.17	38th BATTERY A.F.C.	6 0	1 0	3 0	2 0	Acting Bombardier
39865	802707	AECHEE, Walter Lawry	"	22	Traveller	S.	South Fremantle, W.A.	C. of E.	11.7.17	"	6 0	1 0	3 0	2 0	
39866	802703	IVES, Darcy Percival	"	18	Storekeeper	S.	Mount Lawley, W.A.	C. of E.	28.11.17	"	6 0	1 0	2 0	3 0	
39867	802704	RAMSAY, Harold Osborne	"	18	Farmer	S.	Mount Lawley, Western Australia	C. of E.	9.6.17	"	6 0	1 0	3 0	2 0	
39868	802705	STOW, Basil Randolph	"	19	Station hand	S.	Claremont, W.A.	C. of E.	22.11.17	"	6 0	1 0	3 0	2 0	
39869	802706	SYMONS, Frederick Claude	"	18	Farmer	S.	Candiotin, W.A.	C. of E.	23.8.17	"	6 0	1 0	3 0	2 0	

FIELD ARTILLERY, 35th REINFORCEMENTS—continued.  
 (EMBARKED AT ALBANY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, PER S.S. "PORT DARWIN," 8th MAY, 1918.)

Pay Book commences 8th May, 1918.

(EMBARKED AT SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, PER R.M.S. "ORONTES," 5th JUNE, 1918.)

Pay Book commences 5th June, 1918.

511268	RAPER, William Randall	2nd Lieut.	23	Overser	S.	Upper Hawthorn, Victoria	C. of E.	26.10.16		21 0	3 0	10 0	8 0	
51128	ALLEN, Walter Victor	Gunner	26	Draughtman	S.	Upper Hawthorn, Victoria	C. of E.	4.2.18		6 0	1 0	3 0	2 0	
51129	ALWIN, Alfred Campbell	"	25	Cash painter	S.	Perth, W.A.	C. of E.	22.12.17		6 0	1 0	3 0	2 0	
51130	BLACKMAN, Gordon	"	19	Bank clerk	S.	Baggabri, N.S.W.	C. of E.	29.1.18		6 0	1 0	3 0	2 0	
51131	BOLGER, Edward Andrew	"	20	Station manager	S.	Wellandbeen, N.S.W.	R.C.	4.2.18		6 0	1 0	3 0	2 0	

C.16002.—E.A., R.—5

Embarkation Roll: H.M.A.T. PORT DARWIN Departed 8 May 1918, King George Sound, Albany. 39848 Gunner George Charles Duperouzel, Roll Title FAB 27 to 35 Reinforcements (November 1917 – June 1918).

The men of the FAB experienced appalling road and weather conditions and as they came close to the front line often came under long-range enemy fire. It must have been unnerving for 39848 Gunner Duperouzel to sit on a truck, or wagon, full of ammunition whilst shells were exploding all around him.



**A horse drawn general service wagon at the entrance to an A.I.F. Artillery Camp, Heytesbury, England.**

AWM H16027

On 4 November 1918 Gunner Duperouzel transferred into the 14th FAB from the 5th D.A.C. Some stories told by George to his family about his time in France and in England are recalled here by his daughters, Joy Murphy and Joan Stephen, and his daughter-in-law, Dorothy Duperouzel:

Whilst in France a gun emplacement was positioned in a field of liquid mud criss-crossed by wooden planks that enabled the soldiers of the 14th F.A.B. to move about without becoming bogged down. The gun ran out of ammunition so George was sent back behind the lines to find some more. He zigzagged his way through the mud fields, obtained more ammunition and worked his way back to the gun and his mates – only to discover that in his absence the gun position had scored a direct hit and was now a big crater in the mud.

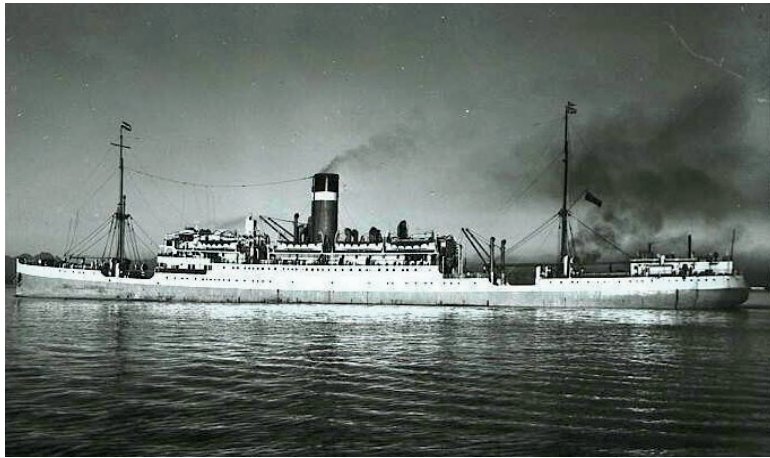
On a more relaxed occasion away from the action George and his mates would enjoy the company of some of the local people. George, who loved to play the accordion, was playing his accordion for a local dance attended by French people and WWI soldiers, including Australians. They were having a grand old time and the party was in full swing with George working his way through his repertoire of play-by-ear favourites, when he started playing 'La Marseillaise', not realising it was the French national anthem. The dance came to a sudden end, everybody stood to attention for the song then packed up and went home. George said it did not worry him too much as he had had enough by then anyway then packed up and went home himself.

On 14 April 1919 George received his last payment on 2 May 1919. On 13 May 1919 he '*marched out*' for his Return to Australia, (RTA). On 22 May 1919 the FAB left France for Weymouth, England. On 23 June 1919 he was charged with an offence, '*neglect of duty*', by Lt. Col. H.R. Caddy and required to forfeit one day's pay.

George and his fellow FAB troops embarked on board the H.M.T.S. CITY of EXETER on 12 July 1919 for the return sea journey to Fremantle, Western Australia. Whilst on the high seas his father, George Charles, as next of kin, was notified on 1 August 1919 that his son was returning to Australia. George disembarked at Fremantle on 16 August 1919, exactly three years after his brother, Jim,

had been killed in action. Following his disembarkation the 'Medical Report on an Invalid' for 39848 Gunner Duperouzel, dated 17 August 1919, described his condition as *'very good'* and his trade or occupation as *'farmer'*.

The H.M.T.S. CITY of EXETER survived the Second World War and was scrapped in 1950.



**H.M.T.S. CITY of EXETER**  
Courtesy of David Cornforth.

39848 Gunner George Charles Duperouzel, 14th Field Artillery Brigade, (FAB) was officially discharged on 28 October 1919.

After leaving the Australian Army George returned to work on the family farm at Qualen. He married Edith Eunice Violet Brand in the Holy Trinity Church in York in 1928. Edith, who was known as Eunice, also came from York. George and Eunice began their married life on a farm in York and had three children: James George, born in 1929, and named after his late Uncle Jim; Joan Eunice, born in 1930 and Joyce Ada, born in 1933. However, Australia's post war depression meant falling produce prices, very little income and impossible living conditions. As a result George and Eunice walked off the farm in York in 1934 and settled in Marvel Loch, near Southern Cross, where work was available in the gold mining industry. Soon after their arrival in Marvel Loch their fourth child, William George, was born in 1935. Sadly William died soon after his birth.

During the early 1920s 39848 Gunner George Charles Duperouzel, 14th FAB received two war medals: the British War Medal 1914-1920 and the Victory Medal 1914-1919.

Uncle George died in Perth on 23 July 1980, aged 81 years.

The name G. C. Duperouzel is shown on the Methodist Honour Board in York, Western Australia alongside the name of his brother, Jim – see chapter 10, In Memoriam.