Ralph Lewis smith biography

Post war and about Ralph

Ralph previously served in the military when he lived in Deal, Kent, England. He served in the Royal Marines light infantry for three years while he lived in England. He migrated over to Adelaide. He was religious and followed the Church of England. Before Ralph enlisted to go war he worked as a tram conductor. Ralph was married to Mrs Jessie Malcolm Smith and with her they had three children and Ralph. His family lived in a nice house at 19 Alfred Street, Norwood, South Australia. He left all these great things behind to go and fight for his country at the age of thirty-four. He enlisted to go to war on the 17th of April 1916.

Life on the western front

He was enlisted into the 32nd battalion 8th reinforcement and became a private. A private is the lowest rank in the war. Ralph embarked over to Hurdcott England to train. Ralph embarked on the 12th of August 1916. Ralphs unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAT A70 *Ballarat.* Ralph disembarked in Hurdcott England on the 30th of September. He marched into the training battalion with the other men in his battalion. He went to army school on the 20th of November 1916 in Tidworth in England. He learnt about the war and the rules of war. Ralph completed school and then went to 8th training battalion from school.

Ralph proceeded overseas to France on the 28th of February 1917, Ralph was taken on strength to the 32nd battalion. When ralph was taken on strength he went to war on the 6th of march 1917. Unfortunately, Ralph was detached and transferred to the supply dump. Ralphs new job in the supply dump was to sort and distribute the equipment and food to the different battalions. Ralphs other job he was assigned was to be the coal guard, Ralph was appointed this job on the 14th of October 1917.

Ralph was fighting in his battalion with the other men and he was unfortunately wounded by gas. He was promptly omitted to the 15th Australian field ambulance he was then taken to the 61st casualty clearing station his gas was daubed lethal. Ralph was later transferred from the 4th Casualty Clearing Station to the Ambulance Train number 5 on the 25th of April 1918. Ralph was then omitted to the 6th General hospital, Rouen in France and on then went on back to England for treatment, 26th of April 1918. This wound was extremely serious as he then went on to two more hospitals.

Once Ralph had gotten the all clear and was ready to go back and fight for his country he was discharged from the hospital and went to the number 4 Command Depot in Hurdcott, 29th of May 1918. He then embarked back to France to fight.

Ralph embarked over to the Overseas Training Brigade in Longbridge Deverill in England on the 27 August 1918. Ralph then returned back to 32nd battalion and re-joined back in France to fight, on the 4th of October 1918. Early in the next year Ralph was promoted and appointed the job of a Lance corporal. His new job was to lead a small group of privates. He was now higher up than a private which was higher up than his previous job.

Ralphs fighting in Europe was up and it was time to go back to his family and friends. Ralph happily embarked back to England to commence return back to Australia. Ralphs journey back to Australia had begun and on the 2nd of April 1919. He arrived in Weymouth England and marched back into where he arrived three years ago into the number two Command Depot on the 10th of April 1919. He then proceeded to board the board HT 'Durham' back to Australia. He left from Liverpool England to cruise back to Australia on the 22nd of May 1919. He finally arrived and disembarked in Adelaide on the 16th of July 1919.

After the war

After the war once he had returned Ralph he was discharged from the war and his time fighting for Australia was up, He was discharged on the 1st of September 1919. Ralph Lewis Smith was awarded a medal. Ralph was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal. Ralph sadly passed away on the 8th of November 1935. His death was not an attributed war service because he didn’t die fighting. He died at the age of fifty-four which is fairly young.

The ANZAC spirit

The abbreviation ANZAC stands for Australian New Zealand Army Corps. The qualities an Anzac should have are to be loyal and fight till the end of the war. Obviously another very important thing is for them to be in the army corps. An ANZAC will stay loyal and not flee the war they will stay loyal to their men and a fight to the death. Ralph showed the ANZAC spirit by fighting to the end and trying his hardest. He lived to the end so he fought to the end was. One way he didn’t show the ANZAC spirit was when he left for a day and he was punished for this.

Bibliography

*AIF project* n.d., Website, UNSW, accessed 28 March 2018, <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=281390>.

*Your story our history* n.d., Website, Australian National Archives, accessed 28 March 2018, <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=1787386>.

*Ralph Lewis Smith* n.d., Website, SLSA, accessed 28 March 2018, <http://images.slsa.sa.gov.au/sarcib/SRG76\_1\_5890.pdf>.

*Private Ralph Lewis Smith* n.d., Website, Australian War Memorial, accessed 28 March 2018, <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P11006869>.