

World War 1 1914 - 1918

Diary of 11476 – Gunner William Michael George

2nd Battalion, 5th Brigade Australian Field Artillery 1 to 5 Reinforcements (Nov 1915 to April 1916 17th January, 1916 to 25th December, 1918

> Enlisted: 26th September, 1915 WIA: France 17th September, 1918 Discharged: 12th April, 1919

(Italic wording appearing throughout the text are an attempt to identify locations and personnel by the researcher and is not information found within the diary written by William M. George..)

Born: Heathcote in or near the town of Castlemaine in the Country of Victoria.

Occupation: Farmer

Age: 25 years

Mother: Mrs Kathleen George of Kitchener Street, Oakley. NSW Australia

Father of Catherine Anne Hilkemeijer George

Also: World War 2 Service

N70543 L/c W. M. George Recruited 15th October 1939 – Discharged Australian Water Transport Base (S/Cft) T/CTR & STR RAE.

Diary of 11476 - William Michael George 2nd Battalion, 5th Brigade Australian Field Artillery

Prayer found in the World War 1 Diary of William Michael George.

I WISHTO LIVE AND DIE IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH.

I SHALL THY AND HECEIVE THE SACRAMENTS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE I SHALL TRYTO REMEMBER MY MORNING AND NIGHT PRAYERS, AND SHOULD I BE PREVENTED FROM SAYING THEM, SHALL EACH DAY COMMEND MYSELF TO GOD,

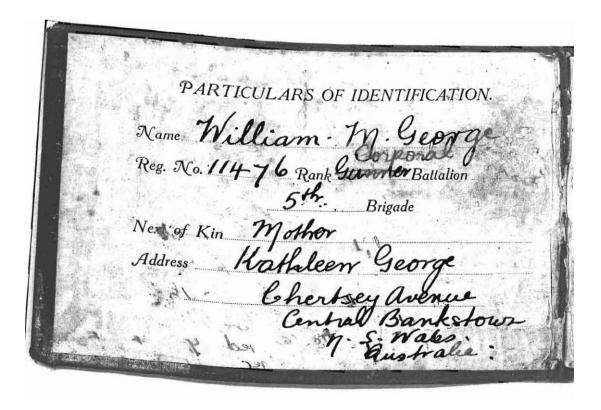
I PLACE MYSELF UNDER THE PHOTECTION OF MARY, JOSEPH AND MY GUARDIAN ANGEL THAT I: MAY BE PRESERVED FROM DANGERS TO SOUL AND **BODY**

TRY AND SAY THREE HAIL MARY'S DAILY. IN MOMENTS OF PERIL. COMMEND YOURSELF TO GOD, AND MAKE AN ACT OF CONTRITION. IF I HAPPEN TO BE DANGEROSLY WOUNDED, TO ASK THE HELP OF A PRIEST I SHALLWEAR A MEDAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN, AND PLACE MYSELF DIRECTLY UNDER HER PROTECTION.

SHOULD I BE KILLED, I BEG FORTHE PRAYERS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, AND A CHRISTIAN BURIAL

SHOULD THIS NOTE BE FOUND ON ME, I DESIRE IT TO BE REGARDED AS THE DELIBERATE EXPRESSION OF MY DEAREST WISHES IN LIFE AND DEATH.

AMEN SAINT ANTHONY GUIDE HIM.



January 17th, 1916

Left Sydney today on Orion Company Liner, "Osterley" (*RMS Osterley*), 500 artillery and about 900 infantry on board. Got off at every port and had a good time. Had rides in Rickshaws all over Colombo. Arrived at Suez on Sunday, 13th February, at 6am and disembarked at 2.30pm. Caught train for Zeitoun Camp, Helliopilis, (*Heliopolis*, *Cairo*) where we arrived at 1015 pm.

Walked about a mile to the camp and had to sleep out as there were no tents ready for us. Big camp full of horses, mules and camels. Went into Cairo first day and went all overtown. Good camp and food.

Eleven men. in a tent – Jack King - Bill Dow – Alf Allingham, Vincent, Clarke - Cobber Reilly- Les Massey - Oscar Stephenson _.Glad Clarke and T. Bird - the same as at the Warren. Helliopilis (*Heliopolis, Cairo*) about

a mile and a half from Camp and Cairo about five miles. The Egyptians are great rogues - Good place for silk. Camp is something like Holdsworthy - very cold at night and warm in the day - similar to the Australian winter.

Friday 18th February 1916

On guard today on the lines around the camp, Met Nelligan from Canterbury - got extra allowance from the Egyptian government such as condensed milk, goats butter, jam, cheese, salmon once every day. Get very little meat and very bad at that. Niggas do all the dirty work around the camp. Can't get Australian or English cigarettes or tobacco - all Egyptian stuff. We'll have all day off tomorrow.

21st February, 1916

Went into Cairo to a play and had a good time. We get our first pay today in Egypt.

25th February, 1916

Big Consignment of Christmas presents just arrived - preserved fruits jam - treacle and cake to be distributed amongst us. Aeroplanes flying above us all day long. We go for long route marches out into the Sahara desert

27t11 February 1916

Went to Cairo Zoological gardens today. It is twice as good as Sydney. It is botanical as well as zoological. All the animals under the sun in their natural rendezvous. The Egyptians made a grotto one of the finest things in the world. Two boats that were used by the Turks twelve months ago, to cross the canal, are here now, riddled with shells and bullet holes. They are built with galvanised iron about 20ft long by 5 ft wide. There are about 500,000 troops here in Egypt.

1st March 1916

First mail from Australia arrived today, received nothing.

5lh March 1916

Went out on Friday to the Pyramids- great sight. Was built by King Cheeps of Kaffa ~ five thousand years before Christ. Had 3000 slaves at work every day and took thirty-three years to build it; it is a four sided structure, four hundred and fifty feet each side, and the same height. It goes to pretty well a point :at the top. Before you can go in you have to take off your boots; the causeway you go in is about 3 feet square. There are little holes in the floor of the causeway about every yard or so. You go down 50 feet and then you go up another 50 feet to where you get to the tomb of the wife of King Cheeps. About 150 feet further up is the tomb King Cheeps. The Sphinx was hewn out of solid rock. It stands 66 feet high. The face is 4 feet wide and the nose is broken off, when Napoleon hit it with a shell. It was built 2000 years before Christ. The bank of the Nile is covered with gardens of all sorts. Had our photos taken on camels by the Sphinx and Pyramids. Met a mate of Joe Tudors, named Sissons - had a great opinion of Joe; he says that Joe had been sent back to Australia. Wrote the fourth letter home today. Rumoured that the 5th brigade is going to England.

We left Zeitoun (*Zeitoun*, *Egypt*) by cattle trucks - a 30 mile ride to Telekebir (*tel el kebir Egypt*)-had to sleep out - no food - fell in next day and caught the train at 110 ' clock to Ismalia. Joined the 5th brigade and saw Jack McHugh. He is now Corporal Farrier in the 20th battery. Nearly all our tent mob are in the Brigade Ammunition Column. I am a Bombardier. We leave here shortly for Flanders with the 5th brigade. No water to be got here at all have to wash ourselves with the dew off the tent. Bully beef and dog biscuits is our food. Jack King is acting Corpora - Bill Dow is Bombardier - Clarke is acting Sergeant. We are about half a mile from the Canal. They say that no letters will be sent from here to our homes for six weeks. Haven't received a letter from home yet. Wrote a card yesterday.

Leaving here today for Alexandria, to embark for France. All the second division going. Got letter from Mother, my sister Marie, also Mother Ferg and M. Kelly - wrote home.

20th March 1916

Arrived at Alexandria (*Alexandria Egypt*) and embarked at the wharf for Marseilles, (*Marseille*, *France*) by the 'Minnawasha" (*SS Minnewaska*). About 3000 troops and 800 horses on board. Have to wear life belts all day long. Bad food and little of it. Lights out at 6 0 'clock no smoking after that hour - nearly everybody seasick but I am alright so far. We passed the Minnegaels??? Near Malta, just as she was submarined.

24th March 1916

Arrived at Marseilles (*Marseille, France*) at 3pm- took the horses off today - will leave for Havre (*Le Havre, France*) tonight at 730pm. Great coast all the way into Marseilles. Saw the big jail at Monte Christo (*Monte Cristo, France*), in the distance. Embarked at Marseilles for Havre at 730pm Saturday and arrived Havre at 5am Tuesday. Got a great welcome from the French all along the

lime-green fields and vineyards. Big crowds waiting for us on the station and cheered till they were hoarse. Was in a truck with 8 horses and a lively time going through a tunnel about 4 miles long. 8 of them were down at once and we were knocked from pillar to post. We were lucky to get out alive. Havre is right on the Channel. You can see the mast of 3 ships that were torpedoed by the Germans. Food is scarce - *only* had dog biscuits and bully beef. It is the coldest place I had ever been in my life. You would absolutely freeze. Only one blanket for each man. We leave here soon for nearer the firing line.

2nd Apri11916

We left Havre today, en-route for the front at Ypres (*Ypres, Belgium*). We are quartered in an old barn about 16 miles from the front. You can hear the guns booming all day and night.

17th April 1916

We are now in the line - terrible weather - cold, ice - snowed 2 days running - when not snowing we are wet through all day. Aeroplane duels every day. Zeppelins dropped a bomb near our bungalow last night.

16th June 1916

The Germans sent out gas last night - called up at one in the morning and had to put our helmets ona lot of Australians were gassed. Have been Corporal since 1st April. My mate Harry Mathias was sent to hospital with a gash in neck on 14th June - kicked by Mule. Expecting to leave this front shortly for a hotter front, near Ypres. Australian artillery and infantry doing good work around here. Nelligan in the same mob as me - expecting big fighting on both sides soon.



18 Pounder Gun

8th July 1916

Now at Ploegst (*Ploegstreet Wood, Belgium*), part of the front, near Ypres. German guns pretty hot big 12 inch guns around here. Met Joe Tudor the other day and he is still in the 17th battalion. Food bad and little of it - not enough for a mosquito. Plenty of bombarding on our side. The Germans getting a hot time.

10th July 1916

On our way to the Somme (Somme, France) Front, along the road.

23rd July 1916

Our men captured three lines of trenches on the Somme (*Somme*, *France*) – terrible fighting day and night-lots of wounded. Poziers (*Pozieres*, *France*) taken.

4th August 1916

Been in action here for over a fortnight - Germans pushed back three miles by the Australians _. we gave the Fritz (Germans) a great welcome from our guns tonight. Great sight- guns everywhere. Boches surrendering in hundreds. Took 2000 prisoners last night. Big casualties on our side. Fritz is pretty busy with his artillery - met Joe Holman. He used to work with me at the GPO - now in 4th division. Our division will soon pull out for a spell.

7th August 1916

Boshes about beat on this part of the front - they don't like the Australian infantry man. Australians captured their last ridge and we now have a chance of driving the Huns back on a clear run of 15 miles. Fritz not able to put his observation balloons up. On a night the place is lit up all over with the flashes from our guns. We have got hundreds of them - also plenty of ammunition. 17th, 18th and up to 25th battalion have-suffered pretty badly, but mostly wounds. The Australian kills 10 Fritz for every one he takes prisoner. Fritz trenches were mostly 100 feet deep and fitted out like palaces - with pianos and every luxury in it. Our men had to bomb them out off all these. Big church at Albert (*Albert*, *France*) knocked to pieces by the Huns and all that remains is part of the tower and an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary hanging right over the road way. It must be providence that it can still hang. Our artillery smashed the German's first line of trenches and never left one Hun alive. They pounded it to dust.

9th August 1916

Poor old Joe Tudor got killed. He was right through all the fighting and was killed just 2 days before they drew out. His mates say he was the gamest man in the battalion - he was a white man and a good man may he test in peace.

(Possibly Ernest Tudor Died of Wounds 30/07/1916. 20 years) Research: AWM Service Records

20th August 1916

Just came back from a few days supposed-spell to have another bog in.

26th August 1916

Our 5th brigade infantry captured 400 more yards of trenches and are now in the outskirts of Thiepval (*Thiepval*, *France*). Heavy bombarding on both sides. Expect to be leaving this front soon for somewhere up north. Our 4th division relieves us. Two of the chaps that came over with our reinforcement got wounded the other day in the 20th Battery. One of our old officers got wounded badly (Sherrington). Jack McHugh was sent to blighty just before the Aussies come up to this front. Our 3rd division have been in England for a couple of months, having a good time, white all the rest of us have been hard at it. We bivouac in the open has been the same for about 3 months - pretty cold at night – no blankets.

15th September 1916

Left the Somme (*Somme, France*) on 5th September and entrained two days later at Doullens (*Doullens, France*) to a station near Poperinglse"? (*Poperinge, France*). We are now on the Ypres (*Ypres, Belgium*) front- pretty quiet- not much doing. We are now in our winter quarters with the British and the French still advancing on the Somme.

Somme. 1917

New Year's Day 1st January 1917

We are now out for a spell - being in at the Somme, just behind Bapaune?? (*Bapaume, France*) for nine weeks. My good old cobber, Ted Bird got wounded with a shell - had his arm and shoulder blown off on the afternoon of November 6th He died the next day. He was a white man and good mate, May he rest in peace. Terrible place - over one's knees in muck. Fritz used to put over plenty over of kill me deads. Bring ammunition up to pits with packs on their donkeys - roads too treacherous for ammunition wagons. Had one day's trip to Amiens (*Amiens, France*) and had bonza time (Jack McCue) was with us for a fortnight but is now over at the Queens Hospital, Birmingham, England. We are camped about 15 kilometres from Amiens at a place called Naors?? (*Naours, France*). Expect to leave shortly. Third division now at Armontions?? (*Unknown*) Trench feet is playing up with a lot of the Aussies. Had a look at the underground city here (*Grottes de Naours, France*). It was built about 850 and all the refugees flock there, when the Normans were on the war path. Great Cathedral at Amiens.

(11440 Edgar Rayner Bird Died of Wounds 07/11/1916) AWM Service Records

22nd January 1917

Left here today with Dave Ripp and Harry Matthias on 10 days leave for England. Caught train on the morning of the 2rd at Amiens for harbour. Had a rotten 2 hours in a cattle truck. Stopped at leave camp and embarked on the Antrim at 4pm and arrived at South Hampton 8 hours later. Got a good reception from the English, especially the women. Dave Ripp and Istopped at the War Chest Club. Went through the tower of London, West Minister Abbey and the Kings Stable at Buckingham palace. We were at all the historical places in London, such as Dirty Dicks - the only house that was saved in the great tire of 1660. We met 2 nice girls, Lily Spicer and Lily Forster at St

James St Standford Hill. Had the best times in our lives with them. They brought us everywhere. Left Waterloo Station on Sunday 4th February for South Hampton. Our 2 young ladies saw us off sad parting- we finished up in London in Petticoat Lane on Sunday. Embarked at South Hampton at 6pm on 4thFebruary and was on the road till the next night at 9pm, without anything to eat. Marched 5 miles that night till rest camp. 2 died of exposure on the way – 1 snuffed it in a sentry and one committed suicide. It was deadly cold - 15° below zero and 35° of frost. All the snow, 2 feet deep, was frozen into ice. We were slipping all the way. We were at that camp for 2 days and then went for a 10 mile march to the Docks Camp, Havre (*Havre, France*). Been here now three days – terrible cold and little food. No more men gone on leave and so ends the happiest time I had in my life in England. Went and saw Ted Bird's mother. Met Monty Young-hall from Bankstown at Havreferry road (*Havre Ferry Road, France*). Left Havre on the morning of the 11th and arrived next day at Albert (*Albert, France*) rotten trip - no food. Our column now all split up. We are in for the fourth time on the Somme. Mick Parfoot, and Tatham and Westwood got killed a couple of days ago. Handcock was wounded.

(11547 Walter Frederick Tatham Killed in Action 07/02/1917) AWM Service Records (11523 Michael Robert Parfitt Killed In Action 07/02/1917) AWM Service Records) (11549 Wilfred Ivan Westwood Died 07/02/1917) AWM Service Records)

17th March 1917

The Germans evacuated on an 11 mile front, to a depth of 3000 yards. Officers making things unbearable for the men - treated worst than the convicts.

26th March 1917

We are now in Bapaume??' (*Bapaume, France*). Germans driven back to near Cambre?? (*Cambrai, France*) Not a house left standing. Town Hall here blown up by spies - 20 got out alive and 50 died - all Australians.

May 4th, 5th and 6th 1917

Fritz counter attacking in mass formation. Our guns and infantry cut him to pieces. Boche put his strongest forces against the Australians but the cornstalk is too good for him. Oscar Stephenson wounded twice. Good weather the last fortnight.

June 7th 1917

We are now out for a spell at Avaloy (*Abloy, France*) near Albert. The 3rd and 4th divisions played a big part in the capture of Messimes (*Battle of Messines, France*), up north. Especially mentioned were the Anzacs and the Irish. The whole of the Second division artillery had a review and a march past General Birdwood. Plenty of swimming in the lakes near Albert.

June 16th 1917

Went from Albert to Amiens yesterday with H Hall and Jimmy Saunders and had a good time.



June 28th 1917

Had a sports meeting at Aveluy (*Abloy, France*), was in tug of war. 1came second.

July 9th 1917

Left Avuloy (*Abloy*, *France*) by road for somewhere up north - camped first day Santjoy??. Went all the way by road and arrived at Dickie Bush near Ypres.

July 15th 1917

Bokoo bombard on both sides. (Definition: Bokoo means many)

(Photograph) Somme, France 1917.

July 28th 1917

Poor old Bill Dow - one of our old tent mates was killed yesterday (May he rest in peace) and Jack King got gassed. One of our chaps named Jim Smith - a white man ~ was killed yesterday - we buried him today. Angus McDonald and Jim Sully were wounded.

11462 William George Dow Killed In Action 23/07/1917) AWM Service Records July 29th 1917

Fritz put over gas last night - kept our helmets on all night. This is the hottest place we have yet been in for shells.

August 15th 1917

We are having another big push against Fritz today. Terrific artillery bombardment by both sides day and night.

September 22nd 1917

The big battle has started. Polygon Wood?? (*Polygon Wood, Belgium*) taken. Terrible weather, mud, slush everywhere. Pretty heavy casualties. Fritz wouldn't stand up to our men, 5000 prisoners taken. Big artillery casualties on our side. Lieutenant Verso - our old Sergeant Major killed – also Thompson who used to work at Grafton city bank. 4th and 5th division hopped the bags and pushed the Fritz back further. Our men going day and night bringing shells to the guns. Fritz over every night dropping bombs all round us. The Aussies have taken what the Pommies were unable to take

on 3 occasions in July. Fritz was bombed out of his concrete pill boxes by our men. Guns in a bad position – a lot of our guns knocked out and our 1st, 2nd and our 3rd division. Next objective will be Zonnebeke Ridge (*Zonnebeke*, *Belgium*).

(25552 Bernard Rudd Thompson Killed In Action 18/05/1917) AWM Service Records) (Lt Cyril Linton Verso Died 19/09/1917 Belgium.) AWM Service Records

7th October 1917

Fritz given another doing -- 5000 prisoners taken by our lads and all objectives taken by first, second and third divisions. Our guns shifted up a couple of miles. Bad weather stops operations. We shifted up to our advanced positions on 19th October. Tommy Denham killed-Mick Livingston killed - Tommy Pettle and a lot our chaps wounded. Fritz dropping bombs all night long. Glad Clarke killed early in October - and our old D.C., Captain Campbell. Canadians here now expect them to take over from us, dug out alongside moat, around Ypres Square, our guns now at Zonnebeke (Zonnebeke, Belgium).

(1345 Tommy Francis Denham Killed In Action 20/10/1917) AWM Service Records (32949 William Clarkson Killed In Action 29/10/1917) AWM Service Records (11535 Gladstone Slarke Died 05/10/1917) AWM Service Records (Douglas Gordon Campbell Killed In Action 21/10/1917) AWM Service Records (Unable to locate Mick Livingston in AWM Service Records)

5th Army- Australian 3rd and 4th division to the rescue. Great charge of the third division. Australians stopped his advance on Amiens – left Messimes (*Messines, France*) on 8th April- arrived just out of Albert on 12th. Tommies demoralized - our infantry drives the Fritz back 5 miles and stems his advance. Fritz hops the bags up north nearing Baliaul (*Baileul, France*) - Australian first division left the Somme for north and get straight at Fritz and drives him straight back from Shazelle (*Chazelles, France*) to the other side of Steenwenke (*Steenwerck, France (Flanders)*), Portuguese and some Tommie divisions squib it. Terrible fighting both here and up north. Australians and French are the only troops fighting well. Fritz shells Paris with. a gun range of 75 miles. My old cobber Jack King killed also Gardiner and Charlie Leahy wounded badly. Uncle Jim died on the 11th April. Good weather expect big attack shortly on 5th and 6th brigade.

(32398 Alfred Outtrim Gardner Killed In Action 19/10/1917) AWM Service Records (11493 Raymond Marsh King Killed In Action 24/04/1918) AWM Service Records (31158 Charles Russell Leahy Died of Wounds 19/04/1918) AWM Service Records

20th May 1918

Captured Ville Sur Anere (*Ville-sur-Ancre, France*) -- 500 prisoners. Fritz had the wind up enemy bombing planes - very active night time. Fritz broke through on a big scale up on the Rheims (*Rheims, France*) front. Our 5th brigade stopped the Fritz here last night. Lionel Patterson came away with us as gunmen killed Tomkin and Skelton, two of our old hands, wounded severely. 7th brigade captured La Boselle Ridge (*La Boisselle, France*) - advanced over half a mile – 300 prisoners taken- great success on 8th June. Fritz attacking on big scale between Noyon (*Noyon, France*) and Monte Decor on June 9th. Slight success – big German offensive started July 15 for

Paris, bloodily repulsed everywhere. French and Yanks attack his flanks from Soudons (*Soustons, France*) to Manne (*Mane, France*) on 20th and have caused Fritz to retire right back to Aisne (*Aisne, France*). Paris safe.

April 13th 1918

Australians capture Bapaume (*Bapaume*, *France*). Bivouacing ?? (*Bivouacing*) out in the open – Bad weather, little if any food. Now in 1st Section - 4 more places blown up by spies. 3 miles the other side of Bapaume (*Bapaume*, *France*) 12000 prisoners and 150 field guns taken between Avans Sens??. Germans blow the town of Fontain (*Fontaine*, *France*) today. Australians great work, took a lot of villages near Cambran?? (*Cambran*, *France*).

May 3rd 1918

Our lads took part of the Hindenburg line. Boches smashed by our artillery - Bullecourt (*Bullecourt*, *France*) in our hands. Our lads too good for the Prussian guards.

8th August 1918

No push here to send him back Amiens (Amiens, France) across the old Somme battlefield.

12th August 1918

Great success of Australian and Canadians - we advanced 10 mile, 17000 prisoners and 300 guns so far, still going. Tommies on left flank. - useless holding us back till left flank, go forward. 1st, 2nd, 3rd 4th and 5th division of Aussies in this push. Terrible bombing and aerial activity. So far light casualties on our side. Tanks take great part in this battle. Dead Fritzes everywhere - no match for Aussies. Guns got intact. Moore, Dickson and Joyce killed. Kempston, Bill Mooney wounded.

(1896 Walter John Moore Killed In Action 08/08/1918) AWM Service Records (1611A William Donald Dickson Died of Wounds 09/08/1918) AWM Service Records (29301 Ernest Daniel Joyce Killed In Action 10/08/1918) AWM Service Records

13th August 1918

Now 28000 prisoners 700 guns. Tommies still held back on the left flank.

September 1st 1918

Peronne (*Peronne*, *France*) now in our hands. Mont St Quentin captured by the 5th brigade, greatest feat in history – now near St Quentin (*St Quentin*, *France*).

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Page: 11 of 24

September 7th 1918

Charlie Leahy died of wounds (may he rest in peace). Canadians over the Hindenburg line at Quentin (*St Quentin, France*). Fritz retiring all along the Front.

September 8th 1918

We are now out for a few days spell. Went to Mass in a ruined church at Bray, just captured from enemy guards and New Zealanders do well now, past Bulle Court (*Bullecourt, France*).

September 18th 1918

I am evacuated to England with a smashed foot in stunt for Hindenburg Tine at St Quentin in Reading Hospital for 2 weeks - transferred to Harofield A.A. hospital (*London, England*).

7th October 1918

Now at Littlemore camp, Weymout (Weymouth, England).

17th October 1918

First day spell in 3 years of war - can now go about crutches. Germans crying for peace. Fritz skies the towel.

11th November 1.918

The slaughter is over at last.

December 10th 1918

Snowy Collins and 1had a stoush on with 9 Greasy Jacks at Dorchester (Dorchester, Britain).

December 25 1918

Left Plymouth today for dear old Aussie's shores on the S.S Takartaw?? (H.M.A.T. Takada) – all invalided and wounded men on board. Good trip and got off at every port, given a great reception in West Australia and a still better one in Adelaide. Met Bill Donnan from Osborne's Flat on boat. Saw his sisters in Melbourne. Arrived in Sydney without any sickness onboard and disembarked on Sunday 18th February J919 at Woolemoloo Wharf, from where we were driven in motor cars to the Anzac buffet in the Domain and got a great welcome home. Was met at the buffet by my dear mother, my brother Bob, my sister Marie, May Gallaher, Gus Johnson and L.Peddle. Also got a great welcome home to Mortdale. Got my discharge on 27th February 1919 and finished my 45 days

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Page: 12 of 24

leave on 12thApril 1919 up at my cousins at Coolac (*Coolac*, *NSW*). So endeth my adventures at the dame they call soldiering.

Diary entries of those killed In Action during 1916 - 1918. 5th Brigade Australian Field Artillery

11476 - William Michael George 2nd Battalion, 5th Brigade Australian Field Artillery

Service Details:

Total service 3 years 18 days Service abroad 3 years 46 days France 2yrs 10mths England 2mths Egypt 7 months Enlisted 25th September 1915 Embarked 15th January 1916 Returned 18th February 1919 Discharged 12th April 1919

Awards: 11476 Cpl William Michael George 5th Brigade Australian Field Artillery





Anzac Day photograph. Date Unknown.

Page: 14 of 24 Document prepared by Tony Cox (0412377884)

Diary of 11476 – Gunner William Michael George

2nd Battalion, 5th Brigade Australian Field Artillery

1 to 5 Reinforcements (Nov 1915 to April 1916

17th January, 1916 to 25th December, 1918

Returned Servicemen Anzac Day March Sydney



William Michael George (Centre)

Page: 15 of 24 Document prepared by Tony Cox (0412377884)

BOX 16 S/S Bfel.



AUSTRALIAN IN	IPERIAL FORCE.
Attestation Paper of Persons	Enlisted for Service Abroad.
No. 11476 Name Gunit Joined on	FORGE W. M
Questions to be put to the Per-	son Enlisting before Attestation.
1. What is your Name?	Millian Michael George
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born?	2. In the Parish of Heath coti in or near the Town of . Castle main
2. III of leaf what I have of I own word you boxes	in the County of Victoria
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject† (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)	3 Jes 400
4. What is your aget	, 1 25
5. What is your trade or calling t	5. Farrer
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period?	6 yes Ferguson Delmore
7. Are you married?	1. 10
8. Who is your next of kin† (Address to be stated)	Chertsey were Ther long ark
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Powert	9 NO Syanu
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incorrigible and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy?	10No.
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge	11. No.
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service?) 12. Yes
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service† If so, on what grounds†	} 13 N.O
14. Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with Pay would reach eight shillings per day.	14. Yes
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever?	15. YES
by me to the above questions are true, and II am willing	and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military

*And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife three-fifths

Date .!! | 10. | 15. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |

CERTIFICATE OF ATTESTING OFFICER.

The foregoing questions were read to the person enlisted in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to by him.

I have examined his naturalization papers, and am of opinion that they are correct. (This to be struck out except in the case of persons who are naturalized British Subjects.)

Signature of Attesting Officer.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY PERSON BEING ENLISTED.

I, ... swear that I will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lord the King in the Australian Imperial Force from . 11 th October 1915 until the end of the War, and a further period of four months thereafter unless sooner lawfully discharged, dismissed, or removed therefrom; and that I will resist His Majesty's enemies and cause His Majesty's peace to be kept and maintained; and that I will in all matters appertaining to my service, faithfully discharge my duty according to law.

SO HELP ME, GOD.

W. George. Signature of Person Enlisted.

Taken and subscribed at

Signature of Attesting Officer.

*A person enlisting who objects to taking an oath may make an affirmation in accordance with the Third Schedule of the Act, and the above form must be amended accordingly. All amendments must be initialed by the Attesting Officer.

a GEODG'	- William Michael on Enlistment.
Description of GLOAGL	William Wichael on Enlistment.
Age years years months	DISTINCTIVE MARKS.
Height	
Weight	
Chest Measurement	
Complexion . A	
Eyes Mull	
Bair Demoissin	
Religious Denomination	
CERTIFICATE OF ME	DICAL EXAMINATION.
Control of All	
I have examined the above-named person, and find that	t he does not present any of the following conditions,
viz.:-	
Scrofula; phthisis; syphilis; impaired constitution	defective intelligence; defects of vision, voice, or hearing;
inveterate cutaneous disease; chronic ulcers; traces of co	tent; marked varicoccle with unusually pendent testicle; rporal punishment, or evidence of having been marked
with the letters D. or B.C.; contracted or deformed chest	; abnormal curvature of spine; or any other disease of
physical defect calculated to unfit him for the duties of	his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of
his joints and limbs; and he declares he is not subject	to fits of any description.
I consider him fit for active service.	
Date 16 161.18	
Place My Sury	/+ Chilams
	A
	Signature of Examining Medical Officer.
	eaph ocurred
CERTIFICATE OF COM	MANDING OFFICER.
I CERTIEV that this Attestation of the shove	-named person is correct, and that the required forms
have been complied with. I accordingly/approve, and	
0/7 5	A H
Date 13.1.16 20 1 al	all boule, he
Manual Burth	
Place	Commanding 3.7
	FA

	End from		5/1/16	
11/13 Sug 100	13/281. 6.10.18			
	i1476 *			
Statement of Serv		GEORG	E Will	ain michael
		Period of service	e in each rank.	
Unit in which served.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	From-	То-	Remarks.
D Coy		" "		
11 th Balt	Private	11/10/15	26/10/15	
Holdsworthy	God:	19-2-16	/	12/1/822 13:3-16
	TRENGTH FROM 4 2 a. a. c.	19.2.10		
JRANSFEREND ZO	ON STRENGTH FROM 2000 AC	83/6	4	6/1520 16316
Stoppage	dhalist tolar one	9016	1	11/08/2 10/5/16
fan her	2 nd B. a. C.	13.5.16	7/	14/1549. 146.16
TAKEN ON STRENGTH	TON of 2 Dac. From 5 7ab.	2		
interior the part	Assed to No 2 Section	\$13.516	-	Ju353 Granistalle
	Dave from Thance	- Fri	3.318	ERichor.
	S/Smill (1) along Reacting Was	lag.	21.9.18.	11.5. 805. MD 805.
	SShip Wounded in action	France.	14.9.18	20 3824 136 0.18
-	SISh Ch! Envolided to			and to a control of
	England Wounded	41	20.9.18	20 38-11. 26,9.18
	2 Dac.		20	10 29/3848 (1918)
gpac.	3/2- Car Returned to and	t from .	Ring year	10R 409 a 94 951.
	2000000	# HA 15-10		f=1120 61.19
	Drukennels.	THE REAL PROPERTY.		Do 31/1222. 1919.
	Odmonisted by Lt. Col. D.A	Lane 1	6/12/18.	Do 31/1222 1919
	Entry weiwed subsequent	to dispatch	JB103)	
		- Table		
			1	
			1	
			The Rock of the Land	
	Discharged 2 M.D.	(NU)	12/4/19.	
	The state of the s			NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY.

I have examined the above details and find them correct in every respect.

al bou LAM

	MILITARY FORCES.
2nd MILITARY	DISTRICT.
	Victoria Barracks,
	Sydney, b 5 19.
OFFICER IN CHARGE,	syuney, 0 3 19.
Base Records,	
Victoria Barracks,	
MELBOURNE.	
11476. bpl George	W.h. gna Do O Australia per H.M.A.T. Laka
	,
The above mentioned Soldier who returned to	o Australia per H.M.A.T. Jaka
	as discharged from the Australian Imperial
Force in consequence of medical unfitness on	12 4. 1919.
Documents relating to this man's discharge	
	(Spo) W. TAYLOR Captain,
	S.O. Invalids & Returned Soldiers,
	2nd Military District.

A.I.F. 199 Ay Form 8103 Part I. vice and Casualty Form.	PRESENT	2nd D.A.C.			Regtl. No. 11476
PART I.	Present Rank	S/SmikCpl -	- + .	SURNAME	GEORGE.
	(5) Decorations	H		Christian Names.	William Micheal
Ė			Parti	culars. P.B.	No 61214.
Marg	(7) Date of Enlistment	11.10.15.		(8) Place of Enlistment	Holdsworthy. N.S.W.
in this 7	(9) Age on Enlistment	25 Years	Months	Any subsequent claim as to age after veri- fication of Birth Certificate	Years Months
itten	(11)			(12) Religion	R.C.
× 0	Birthplace	Castlemaine.	Vic.	(13) If Married	No.
to b	(14) Trade or Calling	Farmer.		(15) If an Apprentice	(6 years) yes
Nothing to be written in this Margin.	Date of Embarkation from Australia	15.1.16.		Whereabouts of Next of Kin, i.e.	Aust.
	(19)			Australia or Abroad	
4 6	(20)			(2t) Special Notification	
Joseph Joseph	(22)			Card No.	

Regim Enliste Date o	ental No od (a) of promotion resent rank	Terms of Service (a)	Name Ger	orge vice recko	Army Form B. 103. 1114/6 The form B. 103. 114/6 The form B. 103. 114/6 The form B. 103. 114/6
Date	From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, cacualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 215, Army Form A. 35, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Piace	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
20.2.16	0.C. W.a.C.	Jaken on strength of and W. O. C. from sking.	Zietoun	19-2-16	B/313 (7.9/475/) 7822
11-3-16	0.C 5FAB.	Jaken on strength of SFHB & posted to B/a C	Moascar	10.3.16	B/213 AP/5349 6/442
25-3-16	Minnewasfa	Proceeded to join B. 6 f.	A lescandria Marselle	19-3-16	1
6-5-16	6.0.	Promoted S. S. Corporal	France	1-4-16	5/213 Hg 241 D.O 1/1083
6-5-16	6.0	Fined 3/- for loss of	France	3-5-16	3613 AGAYI "/1288
20-5-16	6.0	Transfé to and 10.AG		13-5-16	Bajo Ages AC1243,44/1549
20/	IN ZEBAZ	TRAKEN OR STRENGTH	Field	13. 5-16	AC1273 D.O. 14/4363
3 may 200	-06-	with wind		19.10.17	55/614/42
22. 2. 18	do.	(5/5 cpl) Leave to England.	do	16. 2. 18	R 30/bo
7. 3. 18	do .	66 CAD Rejoined from Jeave	do	5. 3. 18	B 30/62
20 -9- 18	-do	" Wounded in Action	d	18.9.18	\$30 90 Do refered (1918)
65	(a) In the case (b) s.g., Sign	e of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section I aller, Shoeing Smith, etc., etc., also special qualifications i), Army Reserve, particular n technical Corps duties.	s of such re-enga	general or enlistment will be entered. [P.T.O.

Date	From whom received	Record of premotions, reductions, transfers, escualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 215, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B, 213, Army Form A, 36, or other official documents.
	12th ccs.	SW. Leg R. Hac. Admitted F. AT 3)	Harre	19 01 B	MK 3060/166 MK 3060/1841 VL 843 22/9/18 10 39/39/48 (19/3)
7.9 18 20. 9 19 21.9 19	Gen Hosp	5'SM Col. Shell Con Foot: L Engle	un d.		M3060/159 20. 39/3891 (1918)
21.9.11.	Auding War. Hop.	LAND TO LAND TO BUILD TO	Egg.		J W. S 836. WR 835.
16.10.18.	16.	War Hop Pendbrig. S/Snill Stal) Dischool to No. 2. Con Dep. Wysboath Dep. Wysboath Dep. Wysboath Dep. Wysboath Dep. Wysboath	do.		1 HA 194
6.1.19.	102 609	sphepe Returned to aug			1 294931 - 2+1120
admin	tralice	date	La de	inse	smelt hiert freezeds
fore	110	(all Dorchester	1		surface le secon
Copl.	2/D.a.	Drunkenness. Quand admonished	16/19/18	1	DO31/174 Mulla62
					Jan
			AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON AND	The same	

	WILL.
Name I. full.	1, H. FA GEORGE Milliam Mitchell
Unit.	Regimental Number 11476 Serving in 2 nd D. A. C.
	of the Australian Imperial Force do hereby revoke all former Wills
	made by me and declare this to be my last Will.
Name and Address of person or persons	1 DEVISE and BEQUEATH all my real estate unto
to whom it is to go	OVER .
	absolutely, and my personal estate I bequeath to
Name and Address of	
person or persons to receive personal estate. (See Note)	
Fill in Date.	IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand this
	day ofA.D. 191
	(Signature).
All alterations to be initialled by Testator and Witnesses.	Signed by the said Testator as his last Will and Testament the same having been read over and explained to him, in the presence of us both present at the same time who at his request and in his presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses.
FIRST WITNESS.	Signature of Witness
Jak	Address and Occupation
SECOND WITNESS.	Signature of Witness
	Address and Occupation
	N.BPersonal Estate includes Pay, Effects, Money in Bank,

82241 1ST SECTION - D.A.C. mother mrs Kakler. 1476. Wm. George 9. In huir lead.

Document prepared by Tony Cox (0412377884) Page: 26 of 24