

**James (Dennis) Mahony (No. 4252)**

**59<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

**15<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Division**

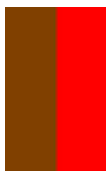
Enlisted at Melbourne Vic, aged 26 years 11 months.

Embarked 29 December 1915 at Melbourne on HMAT *Demosthenes* A64 (below)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

PB0350



Colour patch of the 59<sup>th</sup> Battalion

Encamped 26 February 1916 with 2<sup>nd</sup> Training Battalion at Serapeum Camp, on the Suez Canal, Egypt (below)



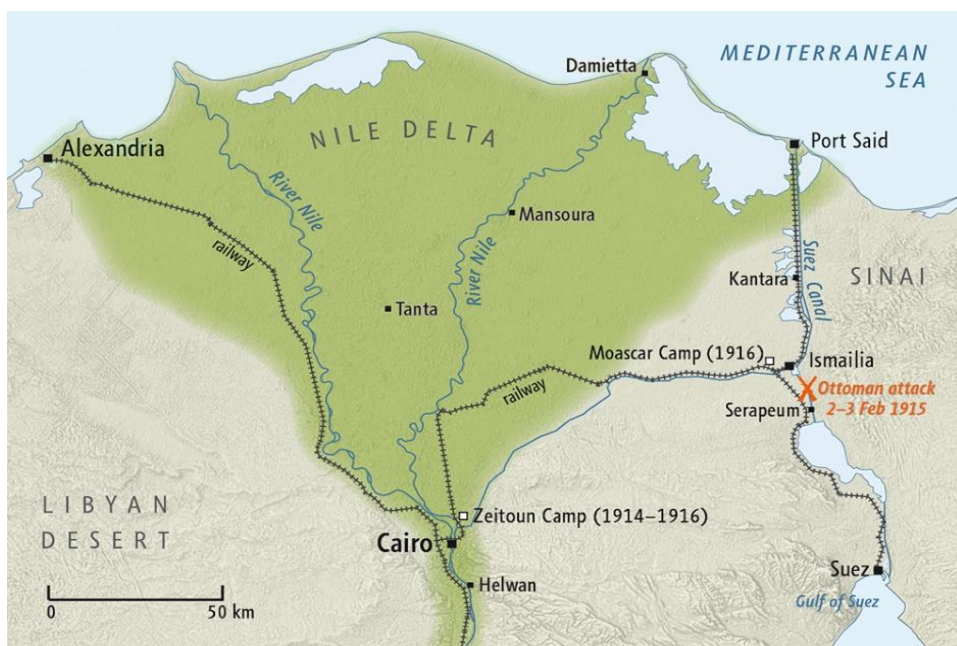
Promoted to Corporal 8 March 1916

Taken on strength of 59<sup>th</sup> Battalion 3 April 1916

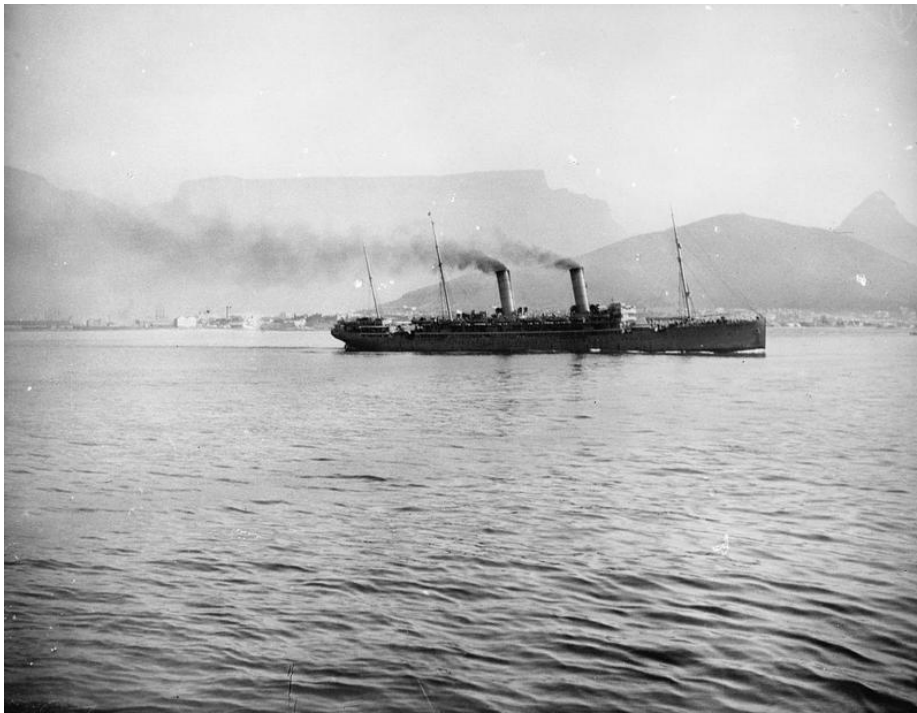
Admitted to 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Stationary Hospital, Ismailia, Egypt (sick) 21 May 1916

Re-joined unit from hospital 15 June 1916

Entrained at Moascar Camp for Alexandria 17 June 1916



Embarked for France 18 June 1916 on HMT *Kinsfauns Castle* (below)



Arrived Marseilles, France 28 June 1916

Battalion moved into front line trenches at Fleurbaix, France 10 July 1916 (below)



Battalion attacked German front line positions at Fromelles, France 19 July 1916, taking heavy casualties (25 killed, 394 wounded and 274 missing (killed/captured) out of 900 original strength).



*No mans land at Fromelles 1916 (above) and Pheasant Wood Cemetery, Fromelles today (below)*



Given the scale of losses incurred at Fromelles, the Battalion is sent into reserve to reinforce and retrain, and is in and out of front line trenches and reserve camps (at Saily, Estaires, Montauban, Dernancourt, Flesselles, Ribemont, Vignacourt and Delville Wood) between August 1916 to February 1917.

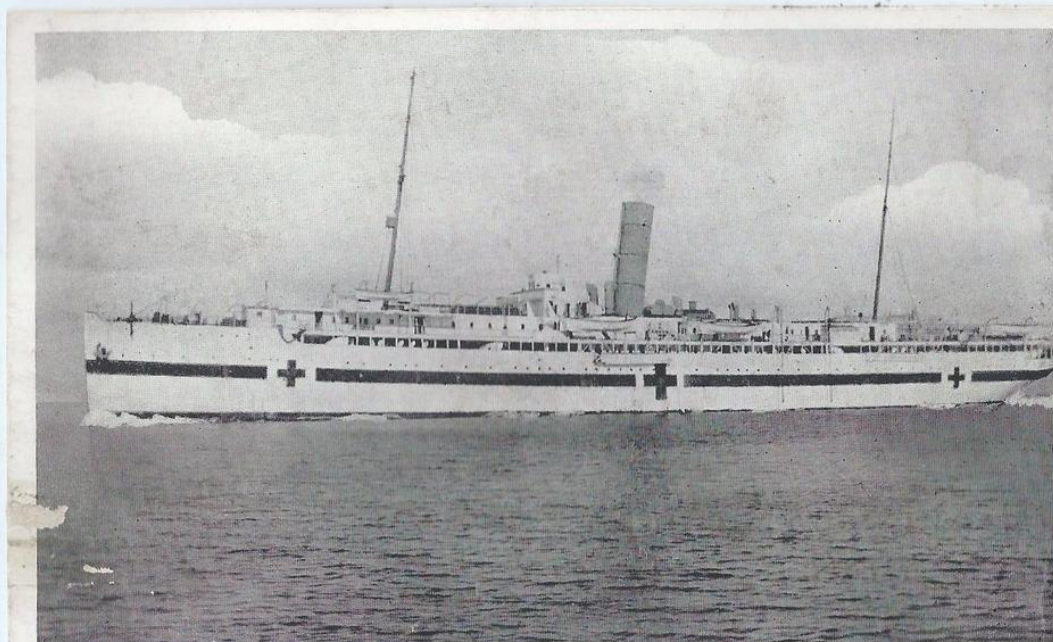
Invalidated to 6<sup>th</sup> General Hospital, Rouen (below) 8 February 1917 (septic toe and trench feet)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E03422

Embarked for England on HMHS Panama (below) 28 February 1917



H.M. HOSPITAL SHIP "PANAMA." (Publication Officially sanctioned by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty)

Admitted to 3<sup>rd</sup> Southern General Hospital, Oxford, England (below) 28 February 1917



Transferred to 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent (below) 2 April 1917



Transferred to Overseas Training Depot, Perham Downs, Salisbury Plain 20 June 1917

Embarked England for France 6 August 1917 and returned to unit 25 August 1917

Wounded in action (shrapnel wound to back) at Polygon Wood 26 September 1917



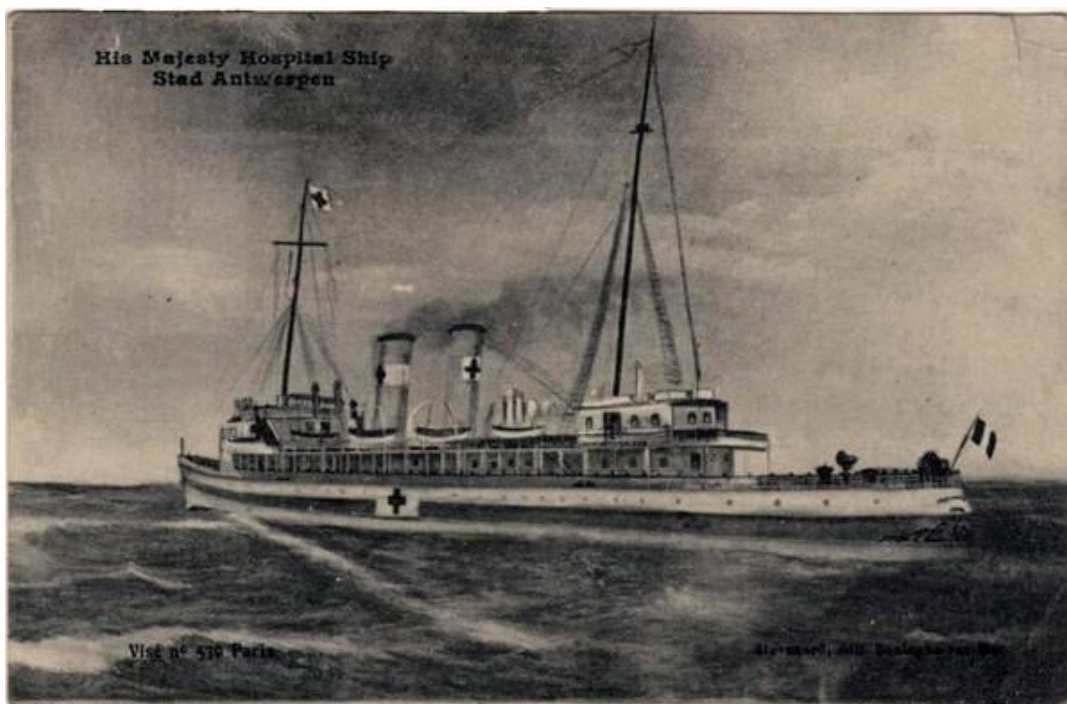
*Polygon Wood battlefield (above) and a captured German pillbox after the battle (below)*



Admitted to No 1 Canadian General Hospital, Etaples (below) 28 September 1917



Embarked France for England on HMHS *Stad Antwerpen* (below) 1 October 1917



Transferred in and out of various hospitals and camps (Dartford, Hurdcott, Weymouth, Southall and Deverell) between October 1917 and April 1918.

Embarked England for France 1 May 1918, arriving 2 May and re-joined unit 2 June 1918.



Battalion moved back into the front line trenches at Morlancourt (below) 14 June 1918 for two weeks, undertaking active patrolling and raiding of German trenches and capturing prisoners



Appointed temporary company Quarter Master 30 June 1918 (reverting to Corporal 2 August 1918)

Battalion involved in the successful attack on Ville-sur-Ancre on 4 July 1918 (part of the overall attack on Hamel by Monash) capturing 60 German prisoners, 15 machine guns and killing an estimated 200 Germans for the loss of only 76 Australian casualties.

Battalion involved in the attack on Harbonnières (below) on 8/9 August 1918 (part of the wider Amiens offensive) capturing the town for the loss of 34 killed/missing and 76 wounded.



After being relieved the Battalion left the front line and moved to Daours, where they were billeted at the Chateau & grounds (below)



Battalion returned to the front line 30 August 1918 and attacked the German defences in and around Peronne (below) 31 August 1918



Wounded in action (gun shot wound to left leg and arm) at Peronne 1 September 1918



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E03183

*59<sup>th</sup> Battalion troops resting in Peronne after taking the town (above)*

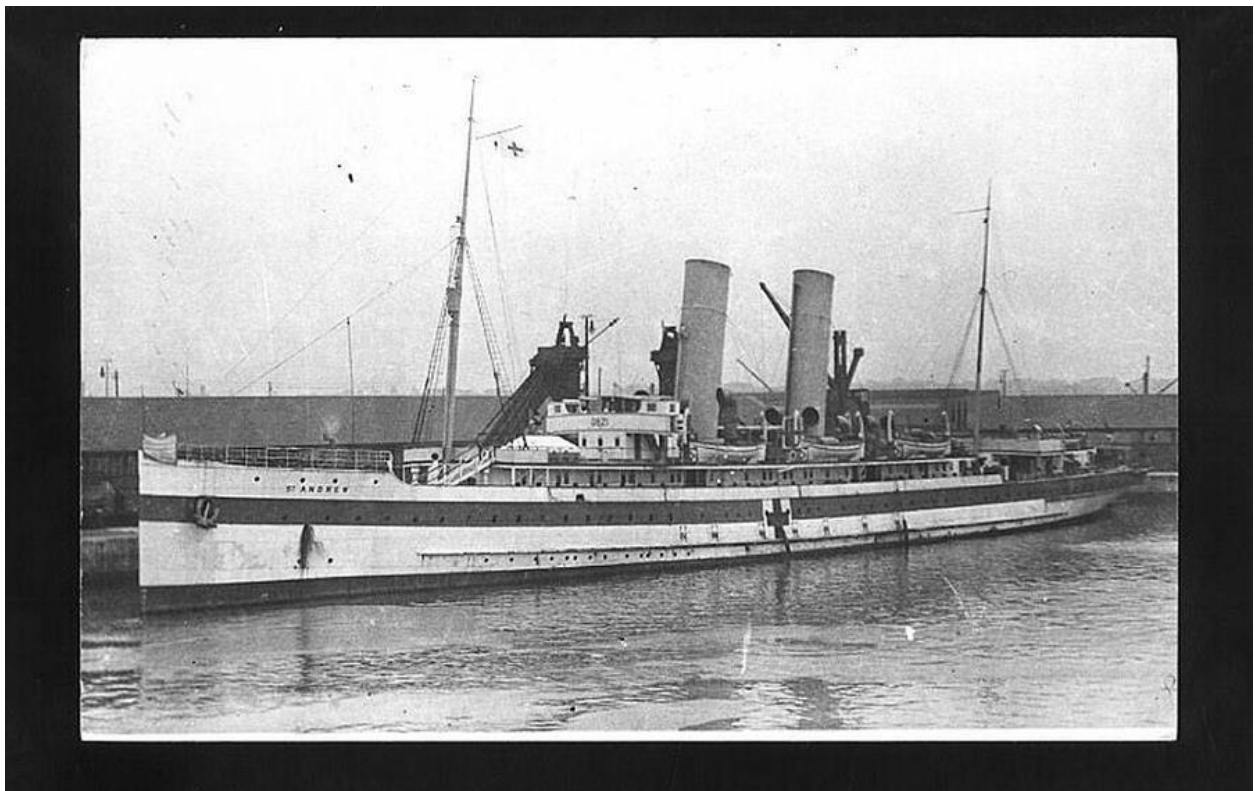


AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

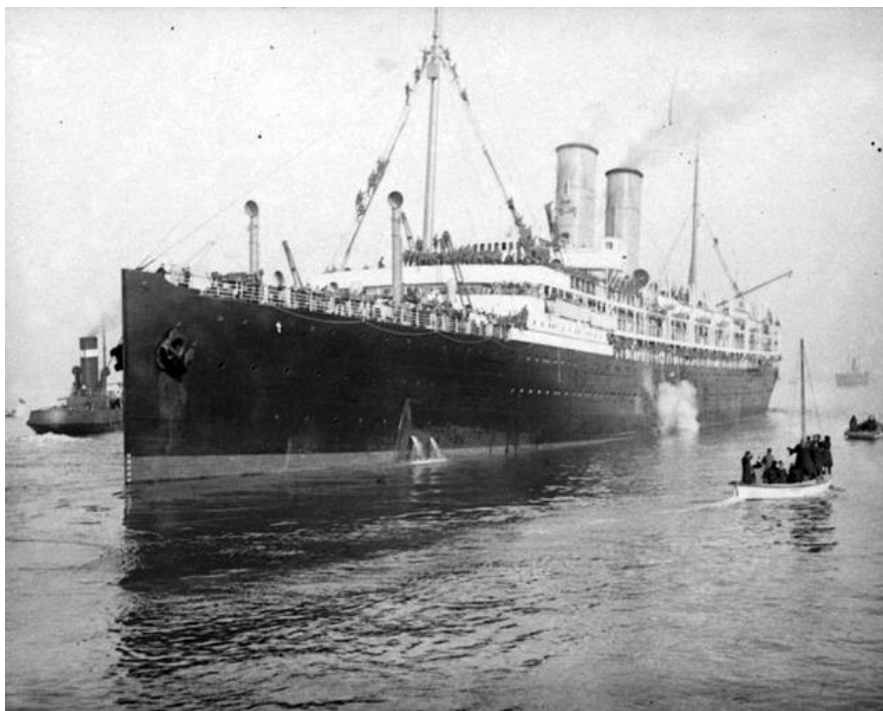
E03127A

*A panorama showing Mont St Quentin and the high ground north of Peronne (above)*

Evacuated to England on HMHS *St Andrew* (below) 6 September 1918



Embarked England to return to Australia on HMAT *Orsova* A67 (below) 8 January 1919



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P80715

Discharged 13 April 1919