

1st Battalion
 1st Brigade
 1st Division
 Also 53rd Bn, A Company



Name, rank & number	2175 Sgt Frank Merriot CHAPLIN
Reinforcement batch	6
Date & place of enlistment	18 th April 1915, Liverpool, NSW
Age on enlistment	21yrs 10mths
Year & place of birth	1895, Croyden, England
Occupation	Butcher
Religion	Church of England
Physical Description	5' 10" fair, blue eyes, light brown hair
Marital status	Single
NOK & address	Mother, Mrs Hannah Chaplin, Sydney
Embarkation date and ship	16 Jun 1915, Karoola
Repatriation date & ship	19 Apr 1919 HMAT Marathon
Date of discharge	9 Aug 1919
Total service	4 yrs 2mths
Overseas service	3yrs 11mths
Fate	Died 3 July 1966 aged 73yrs

Sicknesses: 6-12 Jun 1916, 5 Dec 1916 -16 Jan 1917 VD, 21 Jul 1918 debility

Crimes: AWL 23 Jan 1916 two days. 29 Sep 1916 AWL one day

Battle honours: Egypt 1915, Gallipoli 1915, Fromelles, France & Belgium 1916-1918, Ypres 1917, Polygon Wood, Menin Road, Passchendaele, Ancre 1918, Villers Bretonneux,

Service outline:

18 April 1915 Enlisted in the AIF in 6th reinforcements 1st Bn
 6-8 Aug 1915 Wounded in Action, bomb wound buttocks
 23 Aug 1915 Rejoined battalion
 16 Feb 1916 Transferred to 53rd Bn
 16 Mar 1916 Promoted Corporal
 8 May 1916 Promoted Sergeant
 19 Jul 1916 Wounded in Action at Fromelles, SW to legs
 1 Aug 1917 Rejoined 53rd Bn in France
 21 Jul 1918 Evacuated with debility

Frank Chaplin was a young butcher when he answered the call in April 1915. He was posted as a reinforcement to the 1st Bn AIF. Within days of arriving on Gallipoli he was thrown into one of the most bloody battles in Australian history – Lone Pine. Sometime in the period 6-8 August 1915 when the battle raged Frank was wounded in the buttocks by a grenade fragment. It must have been a slight wound as he was back with the battalion two weeks later and then saw out the Gallipoli campaign.

He must have had good leadership potential as by May 1916 he was a 22 year old sergeant, being transferred to the newly formed 53rd Bn. The battalion shipped to France and in quick time the 5th Division was hurled into the infamous battle of Fromelles on 19 July 1916. This time he was wounded again and took shrapnel wounds to the legs. The wounds took a long time to heal and he didn't rejoin the battalion until August 1917, just in time for the butcher's picnic of Passchendaele. By

July 1918 Frank had been in the thick of it and had fought in many of the most savage battles of the war. He had been wounded twice, promoted to sergeant and must have seen comrade after comrade had their life snuffed from them in all sorts of violent deaths. Frank, after serving magnificently for three years of frontline fighting was evacuated with debility. He returned to civilian life as a butcher and married Lillian in 1938. In 1966 the old soldier faded away to the other side, aged 73.