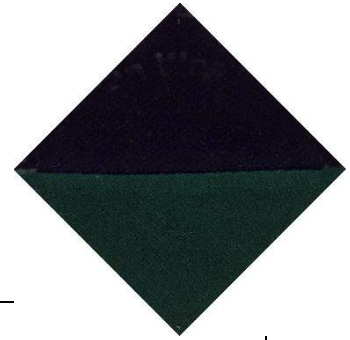


B Company 17th Battalion 5th Brigade

2nd Division

Mainly 5th MG Coy 2nd Machine Gun Battalion



Name:	CLARKE, Leo Alexander
Rank:	A/Sgt
Number:	2349
Reinforcement batch:	5th
Place of enlistment:	Liverpool, NSW
Date of enlistment:	20 Jul 1915
Age on enlistment:	25 years 1 month
Year & place of birth:	1890, Newtown NSW
Occupation:	Plate layer
Religion:	Catholic
Marital status:	Single
NOK:	Father Henry Clarke
NOK address:	Bairnsdale, Vic
Embarked:	Early Oct 1915
Repatriation date:	13 Apr 1919
Ship:	Castatia
Date of discharge:	About Jul 1919
Total service	4 yrs
Overseas service:	3 yrs 8 months
Fate:	Perhaps died in 1932 aged 42

Wounds: Wounded 5 times.
Sicknesses: 3 Dec 1915 Slight fever
29 Jun 1918 Influenza
Crimes: AWL 19 Nov 1917 for 3 days
Battle honours: Egypt 1915, Pozieres, Flers, Somme 1916, France and Belgium 1916-1918, 3rd Ypres, Passchendaele, Menin Road, Amiens, Mont St Quentin, Hindenburg Line

Service Outline:
20 Jul 1915 Enlisted in the AIF
Oct 1915 Set sail for Egypt
2 Nov 1915 Arrived in Egypt
Jul 1915 Commenced training in Egypt
23 Mar 1916 Landed in Marseilles with the AIF
Apr -26 Jul 1916 In the field with 17th Bn
26 Jul 1916 **Wounded 1st time.** GSW scalp at Pozieres
9 Aug 1916 Commenced training as a machine gunner after hospital
10 Sep-8 Nov 1916 In the field with 5th MG Coy
8 Nov 1916 **Wounded 2nd time.** Shell shock, wounds & trench feet near Flers
13 Nov 1916 Transferred to England for recuperation
21 May 1917 Sailed for France
9 Jun-21 Sep 1917 In the field with 5th MG Coy
21 Sep 1917 **Wounded 3rd time.** Shrapnel wound to right arm and shoulder

27 Oct 1917	Transferred to England for recuperation.
1 Jan 1918	Sailed for France
8 Jan-10 Mar 1918	In the field with 5 th MG Coy
10 Mar 1918	Wounded 4 th time. Gassed
28 Mar-15 May 1918	Rejoined 5 th MG Coy in the field and promoted to corporal
15 May 1918	Wounded 5 th time. Gassed
24 May-29 Jun 1918	In the field with 5 th MG Coy
29 Jun 1918	To hospital sick with influenza
12 Jul-3 Sep 1918	In the field with 5 th MG Coy
3 Sep 1918	To hospital sick with exhaustion
10 Sep-2 Nov 1918	In the field with 5 th MG Coy
2-19 Nov 1918	To England on leave
6-25 Dec 1918	School of instruction
14 Dec 1918	Promoted temporary sergeant
2 Feb 1919	To England for repatriation to Australia
13 Apr 1919	Repatriated to Australia
Jul 1919	Discharged from the AIF, MU

Remarks: A most amazing career. Leo Clarke saw action with the AIF in France and Belgium throughout 1916, 1917 and 1918. Initially he was with 17th Bn and his first major action was with the bombing platoon at Pozieres. Early in the battle he was wounded by a bullet grazing his scalp. He was evacuated and after recovering was trained as a machine gunner and was transferred to the 5th MG Coy 2 MG Bn where he stayed for the duration of the war. Near Flers in Nov 1916 he was again wounded with shell shock, trench feet and minor wounds. One can only imagine the state of his health at this stage. This time he was out of action for quite some time. He arrived back at the front in time for Passchendaele where again in the opening days he was wounded for the third time, being hit by shrapnel to the arm and shoulder. He was out of action until New Years Day 1918. During 1918 he was almost continuously in action and was gassed twice. He fought in the epic battles of Amiens and Mont St Quentin and was evacuated once for sheer exhaustion. Leo survived the war and was promoted to temporary sergeant. He was in action: 1916 7 months, 1917 3 months, 1918 10 months and he was there at the start and there at the finish. Perhaps the rigours of war and the gassings affected his health because in the middle of the Great Depression in 1932 this 5 times wounded AIF hero passed away at the young age of 42.