



1st/19th Battalion, The Royal New South Wales Regiment Association

Below: Gabro Princip, second from right, being arrested by police after his assassination of Prince Franz Ferdinand of Habsburg in Sarajevo.



FIRST WORLD WAR HISTORY

Background

World War I was a global war centred in Europe that began on 28 July 1914 and lasted until 11 November 1918. It was predominantly called the World War or the Great War from its occurrence until the start of World War II in 1939, and the First World War or World War I thereafter.

It involved all the world's great powers, which were assembled in two opposing alliances: the Allies (based on the Triple Entente of the United Kingdom, France and Russia) and the Central Powers (originally centred around the Triple Alliance of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy; but, as Austria-Hungary had taken the offensive against their agreement, Italy did not enter into the war with the Central Powers and eventually fought for the Allies.

As the war progressed the number of combatant nations expanded as more nations entered the war - mostly on the side the Allies.

Ultimately more than 70 million military personnel, including 60 million Europeans, were mobilised in one of the largest wars in history. More than nine million combatants were killed, largely because of technological advancements that led to enormous increases in the lethality of weapons without corresponding improvements in protection or mobility. It was the sixth-deadliest conflict in world history, subsequently paving the way for various political changes such as revolutions in many of the nations involved.

Long-term causes of the war included the imperialistic foreign policies of the great powers of Europe, including the German Empire, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Ottoman Empire, the Russian Empire, the British Empire, the French Republic, and Italy.

The assassination on 28 June 1914 of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, by a Yugoslav nationalist Gabro Princip in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina was the proximate trigger of the war. It resulted in a Habsburg ultimatum against the Kingdom of Serbia. Several alliances formed over the previous decades were invoked, so within weeks the major powers were at war; via their colonies and the conflict soon spread around the world.

On 28 July, the conflict opened with the Austro-Hungarian invasion of Serbia, followed by the German invasion of Belgium, Luxembourg and France; and a Russian attack against Germany. After the German march on Paris was brought to a halt, the Western Front settled into a static battle of attrition with a trench line that changed little until 1917. In the East, the Russian army successfully fought against the Austro-Hungarian forces but was forced back from East Prussia and Poland by the German army. Additional fronts opened after the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) joined the war in 1914, Italy and Bulgaria in 1915 and Romania in 1916.



Above: The signing of the treaty of peace at Versailles, 28 June 1919

by Joseph Finnemore.

AWM ART 16770



Shoulder patch of the Australian Naval, and Military Expeditionary Force

The Russian Empire collapsed in March 1917, and Russia left the war after the October Revolution later that year.

After the almost successful German spring offensive of 1918 along the Western Front, the Allies drove the German armies back in a series of successful offensives during the Advance to Victory. With the United States forces, albeit belatedly, entering into the conflict in July 1918 the pendulum began to swing back heavily in favour of an Allied Victory.

Germany, having its own trouble with revolutionaries at this point, agreed to a cease-fire on 11 November 1918, later to be known as Armistice Day. The fighting had ended in victory for the Allies.

However the war was not technically over until the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on 28 June 1919 exactly five years after the assassination of Duke Ferdinand and Princess Sophie at Sarajevo.

AUSTRALIAN NAVAL AND MILITARY EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

The Formation

The Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) was a small volunteer force of approximately 2,000 men, raised in Australia shortly after the outbreak of the First World War at the request of the British Government.

Britain requested that Australia and New Zealand destroy the German wireless installations in German New Guinea, Fiji and in the southwest Pacific. These stations were used by the German East Asian Cruiser Squadron of Vice-Admiral

Throughout the war events on the home fronts were as tumultuous as on the battle fronts, as the participants tried to mobilize their manpower and economic resources to fight a total war creating many hardships and economic difficulties, particularly for Great Britain.

By the end of the war, four major imperial powers—the German, Russian, Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires—ceased to exist.

The successor states of the former two lost a great amount of territory, while the latter two were dismantled entirely. The map of central Europe was redrawn into several smaller states.

The League of Nations was formed in the hope of preventing another such conflict. The European nationalism spawned by the war and the breakup of empires, the repercussions of Germany's defeat and problems with the Treaty of Versailles are agreed to be factors contributing to World War II.

Maximilian von Spee to gather information which threatened merchant shipping in the region.

Following the capture of German possessions in the region, the AN&MEF provided occupation forces for the duration of the war. The AN&MEF began forming following a request by the British government on 6 August 1914.

The force was assembled under the guidance of Colonel JG Legge, and was an entirely separate force from the Australian Imperial Force.



Above: Colonel William Holmes
AWM A05789

Below: A mother accompanies her son as he marches through Sydney with the first contingent of the AN&MEF on 14 August 1914 - AWM H11567



The AN&MEF comprised one battalion of infantry of 1,000 men enlisted in Sydney—known as the 1st Battalion, AN&MEF—plus 500 naval reservists and ex-sailors who would serve as infantry. Another battalion of militia from the Queensland based Kennedy Regiment, which had been hurriedly

The Departure

Under the command of Colonel William Holmes (later Major General William Holmes CMG, DSO, VD), the AN&MEF departed Sydney aboard HMAS *Berrima* on 19 August 1914.

The Expeditionary Force halted at Palm Island off Townsville until a New Zealand force, escorted by the battle cruiser HMAS *Australia*, cruiser HMAS *Melbourne*, and the French cruiser *Montcalm*, occupied Samoa on 30 August. The AN&MEF then

Landing at Rabaul

Off the eastern tip of New Guinea, HMAS *Berrima* rendezvoused with HMAS *Australia* and the light cruiser HMAS *Sydney* plus some destroyers. HMAS *Melbourne* had been detached to destroy the wireless station on Nauru.

The task force reached Rabaul on 11 September, finding the port free of German forces. HMAS *Sydney* and the destroyer HMAS *Warrego* landed small parties of naval reservists at the settlements

German resistance

The Australians were resisted by a mixed force of German reservists and Melanesian native police, who forced them to fight their way to the objective.

dispatched to garrison Thursday Island, also contributed 500 volunteers to the force.

The objectives of the force were the German stations at Yap in the Caroline Islands, Nauru and at Rabaul, New Britain.

moved to Port Moresby where it met the Queensland contingent aboard the transport TSS *Kanowna*. The force then sailed for German New Guinea on 7 September but TSS *Kanowna* was left behind when her stokers refused to work.

The soldiers from the Kennedy Regiment were also left in Port Moresby as Holmes felt that they were not trained or equipped well enough to be committed to the fighting that was expected.

of Kabakaul and the German capital Herbertshöhe on Neu-Pommern, south-east of Rabaul.

These parties were reinforced firstly by sailors from *Warrego* and later by infantry from *Berrima*.

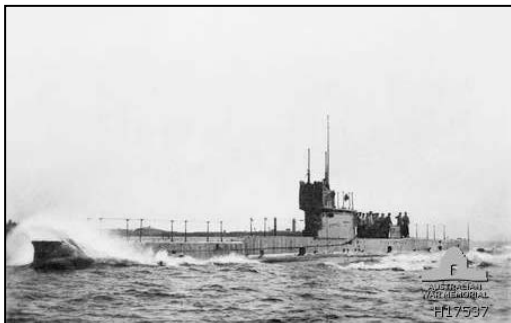
A small 25 man force of naval reservists was subsequently landed at Kabakaul Bay and proceeded inland to capture the radio station believed to be in operation at Bita Paka, seven kilometres to the south.

By nightfall the radio station was reached, and it was found to have been abandoned, the mast dropped but its instruments and machinery intact.



Above: The ferry *Kulgoa* transporting members of the AN&MEF to Cockatoo Island for embarkation onto HMAS *Berrima* on 18 August 1914. AWM H19497.

Below: The Australian Navy Submarine AE1. While on patrol duty with HMAS *Parramatta* off Cape Gazelle, near Rabaul, New Britain the AE1 disappeared with 35 men on board. AWM H17537.



During the fighting at Bita Paka seven Australians were killed and five wounded, whilst the defenders lost one German NCO and about 30 Melanesians killed, and one As a result of this engagement Seaman W.G.V. Williams became the first Australian fatality of the war.

At nightfall on 12 September, the *Berrima* landed the AN&MEF 1st Infantry Battalion at Rabaul. The following afternoon, despite the fact that the German governor had not surrendered the territory; a ceremony was carried out to signal the British occupation of New Britain.

The German administration had withdrawn inland to Toma and at dawn on 14 September, HMAS *Encounter* bombarded a ridge near the town, while half a battalion advanced towards the town, supported by a field gun. The show of Australian

The outcome and occupation

Although successful the operation was not well managed, and the Australians had been effectively delayed by a half-trained native force.

Regardless the Australians had prevailed not least of all because of their unexpected ability to fight in close terrain and their tactic of outflanking the German positions had unnerved their opponents.

The losses of the AN&MEF were light in the context of later operations but were sufficiently heavy given the relatively modest gain. These losses were further compounded by the disappearance of the Australian submarine HMAS *AE1* during a patrol off Rabaul on 14 September, with 35 men aboard.

firepower was sufficient to start negotiations, ending the Siege of Toma. Terms were signed on 17 September and all military resistance ceased, with the remaining 40 German soldiers and 110 natives surrendering on 21 September.

The German colony at Madang on Kaiser-Wilhelmsland (the New Guinea mainland) was occupied on 24 September but the German auxiliary cruiser SMS *Cormoran*, which was lurking nearby, escaped undetected.

Over the next two months the remaining outposts were occupied. The terms of the surrender allowed the colony's governor, Dr Eduard Haber, to return to Germany while German civilians could remain as long as they swore an oath of neutrality. Those who refused were transported to Australia from where they could freely travel back to Germany.

Following the capture of German possessions in the region, the AN&MEF provided occupation forces for the duration of the war. A military government was subsequently set up by Colonel Holmes and continued until 1921 when Australia received a mandate from the League of Nations to govern the territory. Australian administration lasted until 1975 when Papua New Guinea gained its independence.

For its part in this often overlooked and forgotten operation the 1st Infantry Battalion, AN&MEF was awarded the Battle Honour (an Honorary Distinction) HERBERTSHOHE which has been inherited by 1st/19th RNSWR.



Below: Major General Sir William Bridges by artist Florence Rodway.

AWM ART03355



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

The Australian Imperial Force (AIF) was the main expeditionary force of the Australian Army during World War I. It was formed from 15 August 1914, following Britain's declaration of war on Germany.

The AIF was a purely volunteer force for the duration of the war with each recruit signing on for "the duration of the war and four months". The additional four was considered sufficient to repatriate the AIF back to Australia.

In Australia, two plebiscites on conscription were defeated, thereby preserving the volunteer status but stretching the AIF's reserves towards the end of the war.

A total of 331,814 Australians were sent overseas to serve as part of the AIF, which represented 13% of the white male population. Of these, 18% (61,859) were KIA, DOW or disease. The casualty rate (killed or wounded) was 64%.

Forming the AIF

When originally formed in 1914, the AIF was commanded by General William Bridges, who also assumed command of the 1st Infantry Division. Major General Bridges landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. Less than one month later he was mortally wounded by a Turkish sniper.

Originally buried in Egypt his body was exhumed and returned to Australia where after a service in Melbourne and interred on Mount Pleasant, near to Duntroon in Canberra.

About 2,100 women served with the 1st AIF, mainly as nurses.

Close to 20% of those who served in the 1st AIF had been born in the United Kingdom but all enlistments had to occur in Australia (there were a few exceptions). As a volunteer force, all units were demobilized at the end of the war.

Originally the Australian government pledged to supply 20,000 men organised as one infantry division and one light horse brigade plus supporting units.

By the end of the war, the 1st AIF comprised 5 infantry divisions and the best part of two mounted divisions.

The 1st AIF was predominantly a fighting force – the proportion of combat troops to non-combatants (medical, logistical, etc.) was exceeded only by the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

His horse Sandy was also returned to Australia the only horse of the tens of thousands of Australian horses that were sent overseas to be returned.

After Bridges' death at Gallipoli command of the AIF was transferred to General William Birdwood, commander of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

Birdwood was officially confirmed as commander of the AIF on 14 September 1916, while also commanding I Anzac Corps.

The Infantry Formations and Units in Egypt and Gallipoli.

At the start of the Gallipoli Campaign the AIF had four Infantry brigades with the first three making up the 1st Division. The 4th Brigade was joined with the sole New Zealand Infantry Brigade to form the New Zealand and Australian Division.

The 2nd Division was formed in Egypt in 1915 and was sent to Gallipoli in August of that year.

The Australian Infantry formations and units which served at Gallipoli are detailed below:



Above: 1st Australian Division AIF Memorial at Pozieres, France.



1st Australian Division



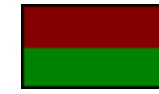
1st Inf Bde



1st Inf Bn



2nd Inf Bn



3rd Inf Bn



4th Inf Bn



2nd Inf Bde



5th Inf Bn



6th Inf Bn



7th Inf Bn



8th Inf Bn



3rd Inf Bde



9th Inf Bn



10th Inf Bn



11th Inf Bn



12th Inf Bn

**Part of New Zealand
and Australian Division**



4th Inf Bde



13th Inf Bn



14th Inf Bn



15th Inf Bn



16th Inf Bn



1st LH Bde



1st LH Rgt



2nd LH Rgt



3rd LH Rgt



4th LH Rgt

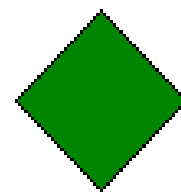


Above: The original 2nd Australian Division Memorial at Mont St Quentin, France depicted an heroic Australian soldier bayoneting a German eagle. It was desecrated by German occupation forces during the Second World War who removed the soldier and the dedication plaques.

A less dramatic soldier and new plaques subsequently replaced the original ones.



2nd Australian Division



5th Inf Bde



17th Inf Bn



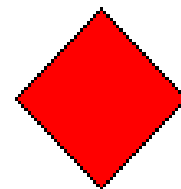
18th Inf Bn



19th In Bn



20th Inf Bn



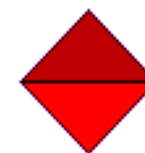
6th Inf Bde



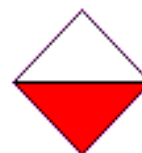
21st Inf Bn



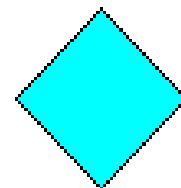
22nd Inf Bn



23rd Inf Bn



24th In Bn



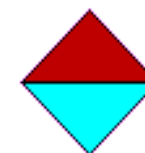
7th Inf Bde



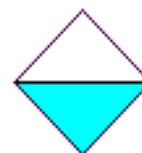
25th Inf Bn



26th Inf Bn



27th Inf Bn



28th Inf Bn

The Infantry Formations and Units after Gallipoli and the expansion of the AIF.

During the reorganisation in Egypt after the withdrawal from Gallipoli from the original Infantry Battalions (1st to 16th) half of the experienced survivors of the Gallipoli Campaign were transferred to the new battalions of 12th and 13th Brigade to make up 4th Division and to 8th Brigade, 14th Brigade and 15th Brigade to make up 5th Division.

The 4th Brigade was placed under command of 4th Division. This ensured that the Battalions of the 4th and 5th Divisions had a core of experienced soldiers.

Meanwhile the 3rd Division was formed in Australia

and sent to England to train prior to being committed to action on the Western Front in France and Belgium.

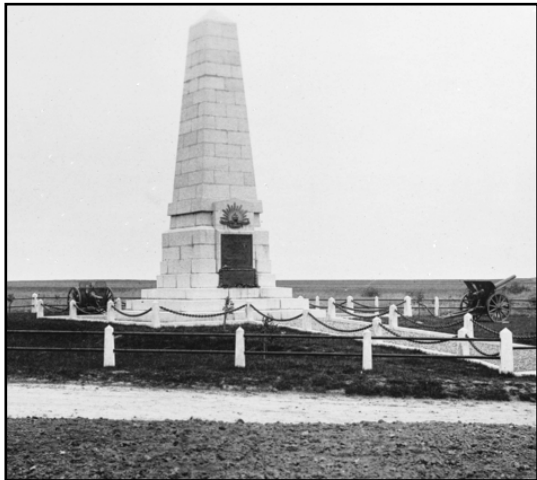
The 3rd Division arrived in France in December 1916. However its first major operation did not take place until the attack on Messines Ridge in Belgium in June 1917.

The organisation of the 1st and 2nd Divisions remained as shown above. The 3rd, 4th and 5th Division Infantry Brigades and Battalions were organised as shown below:



Above: Artist Harold Charles Hinckfuss' impression of the replacement 2nd Australian Division Memorial at Mont St Quentin was painted in 1973. AWM ART19553

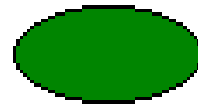
Below: 3rd Australian Division Memorial at Sully le Sec in France.



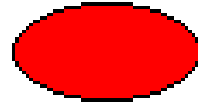
3rd Australian Division



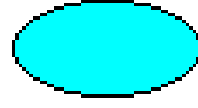
4th Australian Division



9th Inf Bde



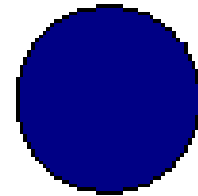
10th Inf Bde



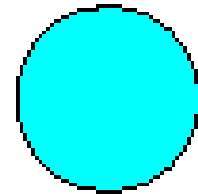
11th Inf Bde



4th Inf Bde



12th Inf Bde



13th Inf Bde



33rd Inf Bn



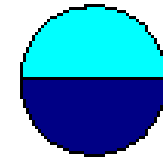
37th Inf Bn



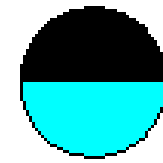
41st Inf Bn



13th Inf Bn



45th Inf Bn



49th Inf Bn



34th Inf Bn



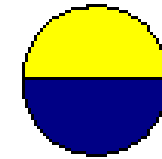
38th Inf B



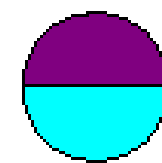
42nd Inf Bn



14th Inf Bn



46th Inf Bn



50th Inf Bn



35th Inf Bn



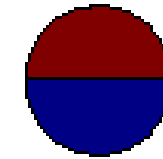
39th Inf Bn



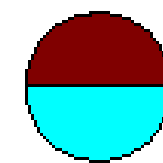
43rd Inf Bn



15th Inf Bn



47th Inf Bn



51st Inf Bn



36th Inf Bn



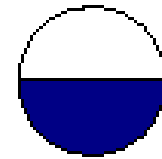
40th Inf Bn



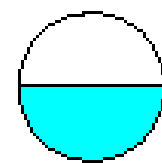
44th Inf Bn



16th Inf Bn



48th Inf Bn

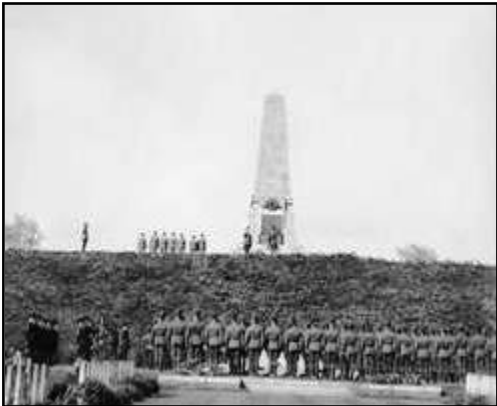


52nd Inf Bn

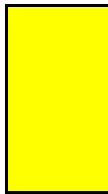


Above: 4th Australian Division Memorial at Bellenglise, France. The dedication plaque has since been installed.

Below: Australian Coronation Contingent for the 1937 coronation of King George VI attending a Commemoration Service in front of the 5th Australian Division Memorial on The Butte at Polygon Wood, Belgium.



5th Australian Division



8th Inf Bde



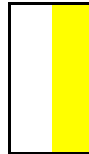
29th Inf Bn



30th Inf Bn



31st Inf Bn



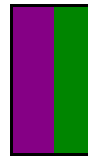
32nd Inf Bn



14th Inf Bde



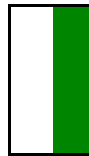
53rd Inf Bn



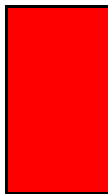
54th Inf Bn



55th Inf Bn



56th Inf Bn



15th Inf Bde



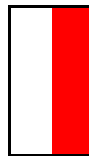
57th Inf Bn



58th Inf Bn



59th Inf Bn



60th Inf Bn

6th Australian Division

A 6th Division was planned and commenced forming in England in February 1917 but due to a

lack of volunteers was disbanded and used as reinforcement for the existing five Divisions.

The Regimental Structure

The AIF Infantry Battalions did not have regiments in the British sense with a number of Battalions for each Regiment. The AIF battalions were a regiment in their own right originating from a geographical region. New South Wales and Victoria, the most populous states, filled their own battalions (and

even whole brigades – 1st Brigade all NSW and 2nd Brigade all Victorian battalions) while the "Outer States" combined to assemble a brigade or battalion. These regional associations remained throughout the war and each battalion developed its own strong regimental and regional identity.



General Sir John Monash GCMG, KCB, VD (27 June 1865 – 8 October 1931) was a civil engineer who became the Australian Corps commander in the First World War.

He continued his commitment to the AIF in the formidable task of organising demobilisation and the return home of Australian personnel.

Field Marshal Montgomery, the famous British army commander in the Second World War later wrote: *I would name Sir John Monash as the best general on the Western Front in Europe.*

John Monash will continue to be remembered as one of the greatest military figures in Australian history.

The Disbandment Mutinies

In the manpower crisis following the Third Battle of Ypres, in which the five Australian Divisions sustained 38,000 casualties, there were plans to follow the British reorganisation and reduce all brigades from four battalions to three. In the British regimental system this was traumatic enough; however, the regimental identity survived the disbanding of a single battalion.

In the Australian system, disbanding a Battalion meant not only the extinction of the unit but the Regimental title as well, all of which had a regional affiliation which in the eyes of the diggers needed to be maintained as a matter of honour.

In September 1918, when the order was made to

Repatriation back to Australia and demobilisation

After the Armistice came into effect on 11 November 1918 all AIF units went into camp and began the process of demobilisation.

In general, while the British appreciated the fighting qualities of the Australian soldiers, particularly the Infantry they were not considered docile enough to act as an occupying garrison. As a result Australian Infantry units were not called upon to be “occupational forces”.

At the close of Great War there were 92,000 Australian soldiers in France and Belgium with a further 60,000 in England, 17,000 in the Middle East plus nurses in Salonica Greece and India, all to be transported home.

disband eight battalions, there followed a series of “mutinies over disbandment” where the Other Ranks refused to report to their new battalions.

The authorities at a loss as to what to do next initially determined that those individual in their units that refused to transfer would be charged with mutiny.

In the AIF mutiny was one of two charges that carried the death penalty, the other being desertion to the enemy. However sanity prevailed instead of being charged with mutiny, the “mutineers” were permitted to remain together in their units for one more battle following which the survivors voluntarily disbanded and joined their new units.

By May 1919, the last troops were out of France, with 70,000 encamped on Salisbury Plain.

By September 1919, only 10,000 remained in England which despite a paucity of shipping was remarkable feat. The last transport vessel organized to repatriate the Australians was the HMT Naldera, which departed London on 13 April 1920.

General John Monash, the senior Australian commander, was repatriated on 26 December 1919.

The 1st AIF officially ceased to exist on 1 April 1921 and on 1 July 1921 the military hospitals in Australia passed into civilian hands.



Above: First convoy at sea by Charles Bryant.

AWM ART00190

The first convoy of thirty-eight troop ships, escorted by four naval ships, with the British cruiser HMS *Minotaur* in foreground leading the convoy.

Below: Emden beached and done for, 9 November 1914 by Arthur Burgess

AWM ART00191



1ST AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION, AIF

Primary source: 1st Australian Infantry Battalion AIF War Diary

On August 4 1914 Great Britain declared war on Germany. Australia quickly followed the Mother Land's call to arms. A rush of volunteers flocked to Victoria Barracks in Paddington Sydney to enlist.

From the city and suburbs clerks laid down their pens, shopkeepers and shop assistants walked out of their shops, solicitors paused with their briefs, workmen downed their picks and shovels and from the countryside bushmen, farmers, graziers, shearers, woodchoppers set out on by horse drawn buggy, by train, by horse and on foot starting their journey to join a new type of army - an all volunteer army - the Australian Imperial Force at Victoria Barracks, Paddington a Sydney inner suburb in NSW.

On 17th August all those that had volunteered and enlisted in the preceding days were called into Victoria Barracks where they were divided into four Battalions.

Thus 1st Battalion came into being alongside the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Battalions forming the 1st Australian Infantry Brigade. The Battalion was then marched to Randwick Racecourse where attestations were completed with the recruits signing on for the duration of the war and four months.

On 29 August the Battalion was moved to Kensington Racecourse to complete equipping and begin training in earnest which continued through September and October with "musketry" training at

the nearby Long Bay Rifle Range being prominent among new skills and disciplines to be learned.

The "Great Adventure" began in earnest on Sunday 18 October 1914 when the 981 Other Ranks and 32 Officers marched along Oxford Street, College Street and Macquarie Street to Circular Quay to be ferried out to the transport ship A19, HMT *Afric*.

On 25 October the *Afric* arrived at Albany Western Australia where the first convoy assembled ready for departure on 1 November. The first leg to Colombo was made all the more exciting when on 9 November HMAS *Sydney* reacting to radio messages hastily left the convoy to engage the German light Cruiser *Emden*. With her superior speed and weapons the *Sydney* inflicted heavy damage on the raider forcing her captain to beach the *Emden* on North Keeling Island part of the Cocos Island group.

The rest of the sea journey was uneventful passing through Colombo (now Sri Lanka), Aden, the Suez Canal, Port Said to arrive at Alexandria, Egypt on 5 December 1914. Island

Following disembarkation the Battalion moved to Mena camp. After further training in Egypt at Mena Camp 1st Battalion entrained for Alexandria on April 3 1915 to embark on HMT *Minnewaska* bound for Mudros Harbor on Lemnos Island. While at Lemnos Island further training including disembarkation practice took place before taking part in the landing at Gaba Tepe on 25 April 1915.



Above: Roll Call by Ellis Silas

AWM ART02436

From recollections by the artist of a roll call on 9 May 1915 at Gallipoli.

After an attack roll call was always the most heart-breaking incident for the survivors. Name after name would be called, the reply a deep silence, which could be heard and felt despite the noise of the incessant crackling of rifles and screaming of shrapnel.

Below: The taking of Lone Pine an oil on canvas by artist Fred Leist

AWM ART02931



43 members of 1st Battalion were KIA on 25 April with several more who were WIA subsequently DOW while being evacuated by hospital ships to Egypt most of them were buried at sea.

While in the firing line on 19 May 1915 1st Battalion was involved in the Defence of Anzac which saw the defeat of a major Turkish attack intended to drive the Australian and New Zealanders back into the sea. The Turkish attacked failed with heavy losses on both sides but significantly more so for the Turkish attackers. With the dead and dying left out in No-Man's land to rot and create a major health problem an armistice was called so that the dead could be recovered and given a decent burial.

The Battalion continued its service at Gallipoli until 29 June when it was taken off Gallipoli for rest on Imbros Island returning to Gallipoli on July 6 1915.

On 6 August it was heavily involved in the 1st Brigade attack on Lone Pine a fiercely defended Turkish stronghold. The Battalion repelled of a number of increasingly ferocious counter-attacks as the bitter, often hand-to-hand battle, continued for five days before the Battalion was relieved by 2nd Battalion. However, it would re-enter the Lone Pine trenches later in August. The Australian attack on Lone Pine was the only "offensive" operation to be successful throughout the whole of the Gallipoli campaign.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion on 7-8 August in the trenches at Lone Pine, Gallipoli, Lance Corporal Leonard Maurice Keyzor of 1st Battalion was awarded a Victoria Cross.

For most conspicuous bravery at Lone Pine trenches in the Gallipoli Campaign on 9th August 1915, Captain Alfred John Shout MC of 1st Battalion was awarded a Victoria Cross.

On 7th September 1st Battalion was evacuated to Lemnos Island for another period of rest and reinforcement returning to Gallipoli on October 29 where it took over Leane's Trench until the final Australian evacuation on 19 December 1915. On 27 December 1st Battalion returned to Egypt via Mudros Harbour on Lemnos Island and Alexandria to eventually arrive at Tel-el-Kebir on 28 December 1915.

During the great re-organisation of the AIF in Egypt in February and March 1916 half of 1st Battalion's survivors of the Gallipoli Campaign, all experienced soldiers, were transferred to its "sister" Battalion the 53rd, along with a large number of reinforcements originally intended for 1st Battalion. During this time 1st Battalion was reinforced back to full strength, re-equipped and after further training on 22 March entrained for Alexandria to embark on HMT *Ivirnia* for service on the Western Front in France and Belgium.

1st Battalion entered the front line in France for the first time on 19 April 1916 at Laventie in the Fromelles Sector and remained in that sector until July 9. During that time the Battalion was visited and addressed by the Australian Prime Minister, William Morris Hughes on 1 June 1916.

On 10 July the Battalion entrained at Bailleul to travel south via train to Doullens then marched through Vignacourt, Warloy, Albert to enter into the



Above: The Australian Memorial at Windmill Hill (Hill 160) near Pozières, France.

Below: Studio portrait of Lieutenant Richmond Gordon Howell-Price MC.



frontline at Contalmaison.

On 23 July 1916 1st Battalion took part in the fiery cauldron that is now known as the battle of Pozieres where the 1st Australian, 2nd Australian and 4th Australian Divisions would endure seven weeks of the heaviest fighting experienced so far and suffer over 23,000 casualties. Each of the Divisions would enter into the front line hell hole of Pozieres on two occasions with the most savage fighting taking place at Windmill Hill and Mouquet Farm.

Of the location known as Windmill Hill, one of the key objectives capture by the Australians, Official Historian, Captain Charles Bean wrote: *"The Windmill site, bought later by the Australian War Memorial Board – with the old mound still there – marks a ridge more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth"*.

On the 5th September the 4th Australian Division was withdrawn from Pozieres and the AIF would venture north to Belgium to take part in the defence of Ypres in the fighting in the Hill 60 Sector part of the Ypres Salient. In October the Battalion would begin the return journey south for the second round of fighting in the Somme Valley.

On November 5 1916 1st Battalion would again suffer heavy casualties in the poorly planned and ill supported attacks by 1st Brigade against the heavily fortified German strongholds of Bayonet, Hilt and Lard trenches all part of the overall strong German defences located in Delville Wood. This operation cost the Battalion 73 KIA with nearly double that number being WIA.

During December 1916 and January, February and early March 1917 the Battalion as did all the combatants suffered one of the coldest winters until then ever recorded in Europe. The Battalion experienced some time in the front line but saw little fighting. Surviving the bitter cold was the hardest task of all.

On March 3 1917 burial parties from the Battalion returned to the battlefield of Hilt Trench to locate the bodies of their comrades that had been left behind on the battlefield and to give them a decent burial.

This quiet time continued until 7 April when the Battalion was involved in operations around Doignies and Demicourt up until 9 April with light casualties. The quiet time then resumed until 3 May 1917 when 1st Battalion was called forward into the front line during the second desperate attack against the German stronghold of Bullecourt, a heavily fortified town which was part of the supposedly impregnable Hindenburg Line defences which stretched almost unbroken from the coast of Belgium to the border of Switzerland.

For his gallantry, fearlessness and initiative on 6 May 1917 at Bullecourt, France Sergeant George Julian Howell MM was awarded a Victoria Cross.

Sadly, during this battle the Battalion lost one of its "favourite sons" the gallant Second Lieutenant Richmond Gordon Howell-Price MC who was WIA on 3 May 1917 and DOW at the Vaulx Dressing Station on 4 May 1917. He was just 20 years of age. He was the second of the three sons of the Howell-Price family to be KIA.



Above: LT John Bruce Buchanan (left) of the 1st Bn, (later MAJ the 36th Bn, KIA on 12 October 1917, age 23) and LT Philip Llewellyn Howell-Price the 1st Bn, later MAJ DSO, MC who was KIA in Belgium on 4 October 1917, age 23. The picture was taken at Gallipoli in 1915.

Below: The first Howell-Price brother to be KIA on 2 November 1916, LTCOL Owen Glendower Howell-Price DSO, MC of 3rd Bn



The next major move for the Battalion occurred on 26 July 1917 when it entrained and headed north for more training and some time for sports and recreation. This relief from frontline duties ended in September when it moved back into the frontline in Belgium east of Ypres where on 20 September it relieved 11th Battalion at Halfway House.

On October 2 1917 1st Battalion took part in the attack against the German defences on Westhoek Ridge in preparation for a further attack on Broodseinde Ridge, a desperate attack in the most appalling conditions of mud, slush, torrential rain and flooded shell holes.

Remaining in the frontline for six days 1st Battalion suffered over 113 KIA including three officers. A further 10 Other Ranks WIA subsequently DOW over the next two weeks.

One of the officers KIA was Major Philip Llewellyn Howell-Price DSO, MC. Noted as MIA at Broodseinde Ridge, Belgium on 4 October 1917 and after a Court of Enquiry on 28 November 1917 it was confirmed he was KIA on 4 October 1917. He was the third son of the Howell-Price family to make the supreme sacrifice for his country.

From late October through the Autumn and Winter months the Battalion endured another winter during which along with the rest of the AIF it was reinforced, re-equipped and retrained with some time off for sports and concerts.

Reacting to the German Spring offensive the Battalion was entrained at Godewaersvelde on April 6 to travel south again to the Somme Valley where the AIF was being massed to counter the German

approaches to Amiens. On arriving at Amiens on the same day it marched to Allonville.

However, within days the 1st Division was ordered north again to help in the defence of Hazebrouck a vital railway communications centre. The Battalion marched back to Amiens and on 12 April entrained again and headed back north for service in the Lys Valley protecting the eastern approaches to Hazebrouck particularly in the Meteren Sector.

In early August the 1st Division was once again headed south to join the newly formed Australian Corps with all five of the Australian Divisions under the Command of Lieutenant General Sir John Monash in time to participate in the Battle of Amiens which commenced on the 8th August 1918.

On the 8 August 1st Battalion took part in the capture of Morcourt and Chippily and 21 August was involved in the capture of Chuignolles, Chuignes and Proyart after which it was taken out of the line for a rest at Morcourt.

Entering the front line again on 17 September the Battalion took part in the operations against the German stronghold at Hagicourt. Called upon to continue the attack on 19th September in company with 3rd Battalion only one member of D Company joined in with the other Companies. The remainder of D Company felt that they had done enough and deserved better treatment.

The Battalion at this stage was well below strength with only 41 members of A company, 18 members of B Company, 19 members of C Company and 1 member of D Company participating in the attack along with more than 21 members of Battalion HQ.



Studio portrait of 5435 Private William Joseph Punch, 1st Battalion. An Aboriginal station hand, he was wounded twice in action. Evacuated to England he died of pneumonia and endocarditis on 29 August 1917 aged 37. He is buried in the East Cemetery, Bournemouth, England. Punch was one of over four hundred Indigenous Australians to fight in the First World War.

The day had been one of the most momentous in the history of the Battalion. All who belonged and loved the 1st Battalion felt that it had suffered a disgrace: but in spite of it numbers so reduced that the attack must have seemed to those taking part in it a last hope, we had come out with flying colours. Nothing finer had been done before. The Battalion had spent its last day in the line, and for us the war was over.

From page 125 FIRST BATTALION AIF 1914-1919.

The recalcitrant members of D Company who refused duty were subsequently court martialled in October 1918 and after being found guilty of being AWOL (instead of desertion mainly due to the intervention of Lieutenant General Sir John Monash the Australian Corps Commander) were sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for varying periods of three years and for NCOs up to ten years.

Casualties

During the First World War 1,165 members were KIA, DOW or from other causes while a further

Commanding Officers

The following officers were formally appointed as Commanding Officers of the Battalion:

Lieutenant Colonel Leonard Dobbin

Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Joshua Bennett CMG, DSO, VD

Lieutenant Colonel James Heane CMG, CB, DSO. Later Brigadier General.

Transferred to civilian prisons in England all their sentences were commuted in April and May in 1919 and the offenders were repatriated back home to Australia and discharged without penalty or loss of war gratuities or service medals.

Finally, the great day arrived. On 11 November 1918 the Armistice was declared and the Great War to end all wars was over. Or was it!

There would be no "Welcome Home Parades" as those that enlisted in 1914 were already being sent home on "Special Leave" followed by those that enlisted in later years.

The return was a piecemeal effort, heavily influenced by available shipping, as individuals were repatriated back home according to a set of rules including length of service, being WIA and/or for family compassionate reasons.

2,363 others were WIA including those who were gassed.

Lieutenant Colonel Bertie Vandeleur Stacy CMG, DSO and Bar.

NOTE: From time to time other officers would "assume" command of the Battalion during the absence of the appointed Commanding Officer due to illness, being on leave or attending schools and courses, etc. Normally the Battalion Second-in-Command would assume command or in his absence the next most senior Major or Captain.



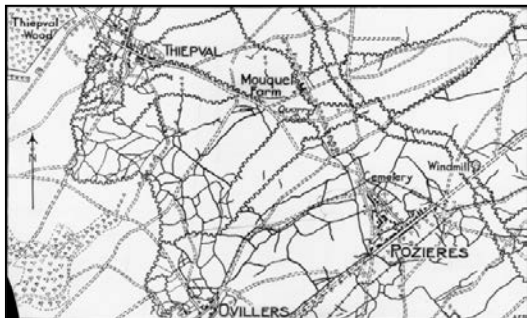
Above: Gibraltar, Pozieres by Fred Leist

AWM ART02881

Gibraltar was a German observation post and strong point, a farm house heavily fortified by reinforced concrete, in the village of Pozieres. It was captured by the Australians after fierce and bitter fighting.

Below: A tracing by 10347 Staff Sergeant Arthur Edward Scammell of Pozieres and Mouquet Farm area.

AWM J00146



The 1st Australian Infantry Battalion was awarded the following WWI Battle Honours.

Somme, 1916, '18

Battle Honour acknowledging involvement in the British Somme Offensive from 1 July to 18 November 1916, the defensive operations against the German 'Spring Offensive' from 21 March to 5 April 1918 and British offensive operations conducted between 21 August and 3 September 1918.

Pozières

Awarded for operations conducted as part of the 1916 British Somme offensive in the vicinity of the village of Pozières, including the battle of Mouquet Farm.

Bullecourt

Awarded for involvement in the Second Battle of Bullecourt: two weeks of bitter trench fighting which eventually, and at the cost of 2,250 Australian casualties, cleared and held part of the Hindenburg Line.

Awarded to recognise involvement in the Third Battle of Ypres, the principal British offensive in Flanders in 1917 (known unofficially as the Passchendaele Offensive).

Menin Road

Awarded for offensive operations, conducted as part of the Third Battle of Ypres, which secured part of the Menin Ridge, and the subsequent defence of this sector in the face of intense German counter-attacks.

Polygon Wood

Awarded for participation in the operations to secure strongly defended German positions in the vicinity of Polygon Wood and to consolidate positions on the Menin Road Ridge. Characterised by bitter fighting and fierce German counter-attacks.

Broodseinde

Awarded for involvement in the successful assault and capture, as part of the Third Battle of Ypres, of the high ground around the village of Broodseinde. This was a significant defeat for the German forces, which allowed for the Allied occupation of the entire ridge south of the Passchendaele sector.

Poelcappelle

Awarded for participation in the broad-front assault, in the most difficult of waterlogged conditions, on the Passchendaele Ridge, centring on Poelcappelle village. An exhausting and only partly successful operation for British and Dominion forces.

Passchendaele

Awarded for participation in the operations mounted against German positions on Passchendaele Ridge.

Lys

Awarded for participation in defensive operations in Flanders between Ypres and La Bassee, during the German Spring Offensive on the Western Front in April 1918.



Above: Basilique d'Albert by Marcel Augis. AWM ART12267

A view of the bomb-damaged church of Notre Dame de Brebieres at Albert, France with the damaged Virgin hanging on its summit. There was a strongly held view by the Germans that when the Virgin fell, the war would be over and the Germans would have won.

Hazebrouck

Awarded for participation in defensive operations around Bethune, Hazebrouck and Meteren during the German "Lys Offensive".

Amiens

Awarded for involvement in operations to the east of Amiens that launched the great Allied offensive of 1918. An "all arms battle", the Allies made effective use of infantry, artillery, tanks and aircraft, which led to an unprecedented advance and vast numbers of German prisoners.

Albert, 1918 (Chuignes)

Specifically acknowledges five Australian infantry battalions' (1, 2, 3, 4 and 7 Battalions) achievement in capturing the ridge of Chuignes on the south side of the River Somme, as part of the Allied counter-offensive known officially as the Second Battle of Albert.

Hindenburg Line

Acknowledges involvement in the offensive operations of late 1918 that culminated in the breaching of the sophisticated fieldworks and linked defences of the German "Hindenburg Line".

Epéhy

Relates to specific involvement in the fierce British and Australian assault on Epéhy area as part of the overall attempts to breach the German Hindenburg Line. In the action elements of the 1st and 4th Australian Divisions seized sections of the "outpost line" of the Hindenburg Line defences.

France and Flanders, 1916-18

An unofficial honour acknowledging specifically the contributions of AIF units in operations mounted in France and Belgium for the duration of their deployment there. The official British battle honour "France and Flanders 1914-18" was amended to reflect the date of arrival of first AIF units on the Western Front in 1916.

Anzac

Awarded for participation in operations within the 'Anzac' area of the Gallipoli Peninsula, which extended from Gaba Tepe in the south, to Fisherman's Hut in the north.

Landing at Anzac

Awarded for participation in the amphibious assault, landing and consolidation of defensive positions at Anzac Cove.

Defence of Anzac

Awarded for participation in defensive operations at Anzac (Gallipoli) between 8 May and 30 June 1915.

Suvla

Awarded for participation in the amphibious landings at Suvla Bay and the subsequent consolidation of positions ashore. Also awarded for participation in operations conducted from the ANZAC area to support the effort at Suvla.

Sari Bair-Lone Pine

Awarded for participation in the assault on, and subsequent defence of, the Turkish trench complex known as Lone Pine. The Lone Pine action was a



Above: Lewis gun in action by Fred Leist. AWM ART02901

Below: Group picture of former members of 1st Australian Infantry Battalion AIF, congregating in Sydney on Anzac Day, 25 April 1938 most likely before or after the Anzac Day March. AWM P07749.001

diversion for a larger operation launched to breakout of the ANZAC position via the heights of the Sari Bair range.

Gallipoli, 1915

A theatre honour acknowledging all contributions to military operations on the Gallipoli Peninsula between the landings on 25 April 1915 and the

Last appearance

The last appearance of the 1st Battalion AIF was at the great parade held on the Sydney Domain on 14th August, 1920, when representatives of the AIF Battalions raised in New South Wales received a King's Banner presented to them on behalf of HM King George V.

The King's Banner was then placed into the custody of the 1st Battalion, AMF, there present with its

evacuation of Allied forces in the period December 1915 to January 1916.

Egypt, 1915-16

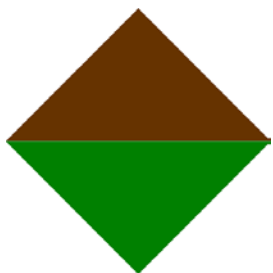
Battle Honour awarded to AIF units who served in Egypt between December 1915 and March/ April 1916.

sister AMF battalions on parade for this purpose.

In 1921 the King's Banner was subsequently converted into a King's Colour for the 1st Battalion, AMF and is currently on display at St Matthias Church, Paddington having been preserved by the parishioners of St Matthias Church.

It is emblazoned with ten Battle Honours of 2/1st Australian Infantry Battalion AIF.





19th Australian Infantry Battalion AIF

Primary source: The 19th Australian Infantry Battalion AIF War Diary

Secondary source: Boldly and Faithfully – The Journal. The Official History of 1st Australian Infantry Battalion AIF

19th Australian Infantry Battalion AIF had some form in February 1915 but there is little detail of its early existence other than in the personal files of those drafted into the Battalion during that month.

On 16 March 1915 the first commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel WR Watson took command. It is also noted in the 19th Battalion War Diary on 29th March “that 19th Battalion (5th Brigade) formed. Lt Col WR Watson in command”.

On 27 April 1915 after commanding for 43 days Lieutenant Colonel Watson relinquished command and was transferred to command 24 Battalion, 6th Brigade. On the same day Lieutenant Colonel W.K.S. MacKenzie, DSO, VD, a Sydney barrister and former Commanding Officer of the 25th Infantry was appointed to command the Battalion.

The Battalion departed for service overseas on 25 June 1915 on A40 HMAT *Ceramic* finally disembarking at Alexandria in Egypt on 23 July 1915.

After training in Egypt, the Battalion after a short sea voyage via Lemnos disembarked at Anzac Cove on 21st August, 1915 and entered the line at Hill 60 the following day. From 18th September until the evacuation, the unit was responsible for the defence of Popes Hill, one of the most critical points in the ANZAC defence system. Over two days,

19-20 December, it took part in the Australian withdrawal from Gallipoli and after resting at Mudros on Lemnos Island arrived back in Egypt on 7 January 1916. After re-organisation in Egypt, and helping prepare defensive positions east of the Suez Canal 19th Battalion was moved to France on the Western Front disembarking at Marseille on 25 March 1916.

The Battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres, which was notable in that according to Australian Historian Captain CW Bean the German shelling was the most intense ever experienced by the AIF during the War. The shelling was in support of numerous German counter-attacks to recover their vital ground. Casualties suffered by 1 ANZAC Corps in this battle amounted to 23,000 over a period of about 40 days.

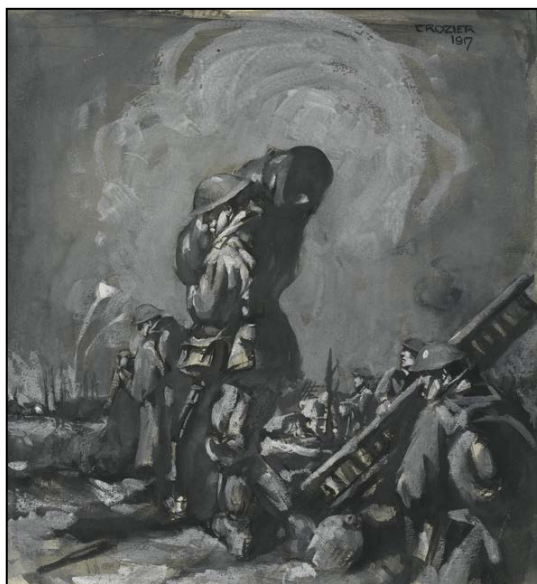
Possibly the most notable action of 19th Battalion was its capture and defence of Gird Trench part of the notorious 'Maze' defence system north of Flers on 14th November, 1916. The failure of the flanking battalions to reach their objectives left the unit out on its own, holding a salient deep within the German lines.

For two days and nights 19th Battalion held this position against counter-attacks and intense shelling, using German weapons so that their own

Below: Fatigue parties in the moonlight near Flers by Frank Crozier.

AWM ART00224

The 19th Battalion attack on Gird Trench part of the notorious German held Maze defence system north of Flers was arguably the Battalion's most notable action of the war.





Above: Lieutenant James Cant of 19th Battalion, AIF, KIA at Bullecourt, France, on 3 May 1917. AWM 15411.

Below: Menin Gate at midnight
by Will Longstaff, AWM ART0980

An iconic painting of the First World War. Reproductions of the painting were displayed in thousands of British and Australian homes after the war in memory of our war dead.



.303 ammunition could be used to maintain their Lewis Guns in action.

Of the 451 all ranks that went into the attack, 381 became casualties of whom more than 100 were KIA, reported as MIA then later confirmed as KIA or were WIA and subsequently DOW.

Another notable action was at Second Bullecourt on 3rd May 1917. Due to heavy enfilading German machine gun fire from Queant the Battalion again suffered heavy losses and barely managed to take the first objective of the three objectives allotted to it before being relieved on the following day. Of the 14 Officers and 550 Other Ranks that took part in this ill conceived and badly planned attack at least 115 members of the Battalion were KIA or reported MIA and later after Courts of Enquiry were confirmed as KIA.

On 20 September 19 Battalion moved back into Belgium where it took part in a series of operations collectively titled The Third Ypres Offensive. During preparations for an attack against Broodseinde Ridge the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel C.R.A. Pye, DSO, was killed in action on 4th October, 1917.

As a result of the great German break through on the Fifth Army front in the Spring of 1918 19 Battalion was moved from Belgium and sent back to The Somme River Valley where it re-entered the front line south of Villers-Bretonneux on 6th April, 1918 west of the Bois de Hangard – Hangard Wood.

The next day in a combined operation by B Company of 19th Australian Infantry Battalion and

C Company of 20th Australian Infantry Battalion, which was commanded by Captain C Wallach of B Company 19 Battalion' a counter attack was launched against German positions in Hangard Wood.

For his gallantry and bravery during the course of this action, Lieutenant Percy Valentine Storkey was awarded a Victoria Cross for a daring series of acts, which enabled the attack to succeed.

19th Battalion was constantly in the line during the period of the great British offensive, which was spearheaded by the Australian and Canadian Corps in the Amiens sector, from the 8th August to the 11th August, 1918. This action was described by the German commander, Ludendorff, as "the black day of the German Army" and on this day and the days that followed as the German Army retreated fighting tenaciously for every position, 19th Battalion played an effective part.

During the great advance to the Hindenburg Line, 19th Battalion, as part of the 5th Brigade, rushed the great fortress area of Mont St Quentin, which was defended by the Prussian Guards. General Rawlinson, commanding the British Fourth Army, described this as the "finest single feat of the War".

The last action fought by the Battalion was the capture of the Beaulieu Switch Line, which breached the great Hindenburg Line on 4th October, 1918.

The Australian Corps was then withdrawn for rest and re-organisation, which involved the disbandment of that battalion in each brigade which was numerically the weakest, in order that



Above: A studio portrait of Captain Cecil Robert Arthur Pye. AWM H19362
Awarded the DSO for his work at Layton Lane near Warlencourt he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and appointed to command 19th Battalion.
He was WIA and DOW on 4 October 1917 during operations at Westhoek Ridge and Anzac Spur, Belgium.

the remaining battalions could be brought up to strength. On 10th October, 1918, 19th Australian Infantry Battalion was one of eleven battalions of the AIF to suffer this unhappy fate.

Through October 1918, Allied troops advanced quickly through a sequence of successful

Casualties

During the First World War 874 19th Battalion members were KIA, DOW or from other causes

The following officers commanded 19th Australian Infantry Battalion:

Lieutenant Colonel (later Colonel) WW Watson DSO, VD
Lieutenant Colonel WKS MacKenzie DSO, VD
Lieutenant Colonel H Beiers MC

offensives, and threatened the last German line of retreat.

Having suffered a series of major setbacks and defeats, the German forces finally collapsed and Germany agreed to an armistice on 11 November 1918.

while a further 2,067 others were WIA including those who were gassed.

The 19th Australian Infantry Battalion was awarded the following Battle Honours:

Somme, 1916, '18

Battle Honour acknowledging involvement in the British Somme Offensive from 1 July to 18 November 1916, the defensive operations against the German 'Spring Offensive' from 21 March to 5 April 1918 and British offensive operations conducted between 21 August and 3 September 1918.

Pozières

Awarded for operations conducted as part of the 1916 British Somme offensive in the vicinity of the village of Pozières, including the battle of Mouquet Farm.

Bapaume, 1917

Awarded for participation in the operations leading to the capture and occupation of Bapaume following the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line.

Bullecourt

Awarded for involvement in the Second Battle of Bullecourt: two weeks of bitter trench fighting which eventually, and at the cost of 2,250 Australian casualties, cleared and held part of the Hindenburg Line at the village of Bullecourt.



Above: The Band of the 5th Australian Infantry Brigade, led by Bandmaster Sergeant A Peagam of the 19th Battalion, passing through Bapaume, playing the *Victoria March*.

AWM E00426

Below: Battle of Menin Road by H. Septimus Power.

AWM ART03327

Troops in a trench moving forward during the Battle of Menin Road, September 1917.



Ypres, 1917

Awarded to recognise involvement in the Third Battle of Ypres, the principal British offensive in Flanders in 1917 (known unofficially as the Passchendaele Offensive).

Menin Road

Awarded for offensive operations, conducted as part of the Third Battle of Ypres, which secured part of the Menin Ridge, and the subsequent defence of this sector in the face of intense German counter-attacks.

Polygon Wood

Awarded for participation in the operations to secure strongly defended German positions in the vicinity of Polygon Wood and to consolidate positions on the Menin Road Ridge. Characterised by bitter fighting and fierce German counter-attacks.

Broodseinde

Awarded for involvement in the successful assault and capture, as part of the Third Battle of Ypres, of the high ground around the village of Broodseinde.

This was a significant defeat for the German forces, which allowed for the Allied occupation of the entire ridge south of the Passchendaele sector.

Poelcappelle

Awarded for participation in the broad-front assault, in the most difficult of waterlogged conditions, on the Passchendaele Ridge, centring on Poelcappelle village. An exhausting and only partly successful operation for British and Dominion forces.

Passchendaele

Awarded for participation in the operations mounted against German positions on Passchendaele Ridge.

Hamel

Acknowledges participation in the limited attack as part of operations to straighten the Allied line. This honour was awarded exclusively to Australian battalions.

Amiens

Awarded for involvement in operations to the east of Amiens that launched the great Allied offensive of 1918. An "all arms battle", the Allies made effective use of infantry, artillery tanks and aircraft, which led to an unprecedented advance and vast numbers of German prisoners.

Albert, 1918

Acknowledges involvement in the two-pronged attack on Bapaume and St Quentin, as part of the Allied counter-offensives on the Western Front in the late summer of 1918. Launched in the mist of the early morning of 21 August, the advance supported by tanks, made swift inroads into German positions and led to the recapture of Albert.

Mont St. Quentin

As part of the Allied counter offensives on the Western Front in the late summer of 1918, the



Above: 8th August 1918 by H
Septimus Power.

AWM ART12208

Part of the Australian Corps advancing in support of the leading assault troops during the Battle of Amiens 8th August 1918. Both 1st and 19th Battalions were involved in this battle.

Below: Taking of Mont St Quentin by
Cecil Percival

AWM ART03291

Depicts Australian soldiers taking a German trench at Mont St Quentin. 19th Battalion played a pivotal role in this major battle.



honour relates specifically to the role played by Australian troops in the storming, seizing and holding the key height of Mont St. Quentin (overlooking Peronne), a pivotal German defensive position on the line of the Somme.

Hindenburg Line

Acknowledges involvement in the offensive operations of late 1918 that culminated in the breaching of the sophisticated fieldworks and linked defences of the German "Hindenburg Line".

Beaurevoir

Relates to involvement in the Allied offensives on the Western Front in early October 1918 against the final systems of the German defence lines immediately behind the Hindenburg Line. Specifically acknowledges the breaching of the Beaurevoir Line and the fighting for and capture of the village of Beaurevoir on 5 October – 6 October 1918.

France and Flanders, 1916-18

An unofficial honour acknowledging specifically the contributions of AIF units in operations mounted in

Last appearance of 19th Australian Infantry Battalion AIF

The last appearance of the 19th Australian Infantry Battalion AIF was at the great parade held on the Sydney Domain on 14th August, 1920, when representatives of the AIF Battalions raised in New South Wales received a King's Banner presented to them on behalf of HM King George V which was

France and Belgium for the duration of their deployment there. The official British battle honour "France and Flanders 1914-18" was amended to reflect the date of arrival of first AIF units on the Western Front in 1916.

Suvla

Awarded for participation in the amphibious landings at Suvla Bay and the subsequent consolidation of positions ashore. Also awarded for participation in operations conducted from the ANZAC area to support the effort at Suvla.

Gallipoli, 1915

A theatre honour acknowledging all contributions to military operations on the Gallipoli Peninsula between the landings on 25 April 1915 and the evacuation of Allied forces in the period December 1915 to January 1916.

Egypt, 1915-16

Battle Honour awarded to AIF units who served in Egypt between December 1915 and March/April 1916.

then placed into the custody of the 19th Battalion, AMF, there present with its sister battalions on parade for this purpose.

The King's Banner was subsequently converted into a King's Colour for the 19th Battalion, AMF.

11 NOVEMBER 1918

SILENCE FALLS

*The echoes die, the smoke-clouds thin and pass,
The cannons are, like statues, dumb and cold:
Silent the crosses wait, and in the grass
The spent shells gleam like gold.
All spent he lay and dreamed till the moment came:
Now, waking with a cry, he looks, all wonder
To see the empty sky hurl down no flame:
To hear no crack of thunder.*

By Henry Weston Pryce, 11 November 1918.



Crowds in Martin Place, Sydney, on Armistice Day, celebrating the end of the war.

AWM H11563