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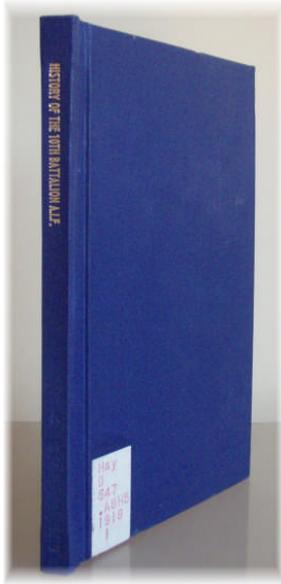
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History of the 10th Battalion

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History of the 10th Battalion A.I.F.



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History of the 10th Battalion A.I.F.

CONTRARY to the expectations and hopes of Germany, Australia did not seize the apparently golden opportunity, which the war presented, of casting herself free from British rule, but instantly decided that where the mother country was threatened there Australia must be represented.

England declared war on the 4th of August, and by the 5th many men had already offered their services; and when, by the 16th, the machinery for enrolling and attesting had been set in motion, there was a great rush to join up.

**1914
August
5—16**

The medical test was too stringent to allow many who wished to come away, and hundreds of men not quite up to the standard were turned down, most of them to reappear shortly for further attempts.

Medical test

On the 19th, Lt.-Col. Weir, having been chosen to command the 10th Infantry Battalion, which was to be South Australia's quota to the Australian Expeditionary Force, and having previously selected his staff, proceeded to Mr. Hawke's estate at Morphettville, and commenced enrolling and attesting.

The next few weeks were busy ones spent in equipping, organising, and training men of all ages, occupations and dispositions into something like a fighting unit.

By the middle of October arrangements were sufficiently completed for transferring the force to its unknown but much conjectured destination, and, after one or two false alarms, the 10th Battalion, 1,001 strong, embarked on s.s. *Ascanius* on 20th October, and at 4.30. P.M. the same day left the Outer Harbour.

**October 20
Ascanius**

Those who saw them, South Australia's first contri-

the line as they were permitted to go, the men of these institutions, cheery and tireless, served out hot drinks of tea, cocoa or coffee, and biscuits to men utterly exhausted, putting fresh life and hope into them.

**Christmas
1916**

On the 24th December the Christmas parcels were distributed, and the next day the men spent an enjoyable Christmas on fatigues.

January saw the men looking forward to the Spring. First, because the sun would begin to have a little warmth ; secondly, because it was hoped that the Spring Offensive would go a long way towards finishing what the Somme offensive had begun, and perhaps a break through obtained.

This, however, to a certain degree, was avoided by the enemy. Knowing that the position he now occupied was much inferior to one but a few kilometres in the rear, and ground being no object to him ; besides hoping to postpone the Allied offensive in the Spring by causing disorganisation, towards the end of February, having made his preparations, he quietly evacuated his old line and retired, fighting a rear-guard action the while, to a line afterwards known as the Hindenburg Line.

It was some time before his withdrawal was noticed. Patrols sent out by this battalion, which at the time happened to be in the line, returned and reported, " No signs of enemy—appears to have evacuated the front line."

On the 25th February the battalion, moving forward in extended order, attacked and occupied Le Barque Switch.

It was not at all an unopposed advance, however. Fritz had left behind many surprises in the shape of cleverly concealed strong posts, which often did not fire until the men had passed, taking them in rear and causing many casualties before they could be silenced.

Le Barque

Three days after congratulations were received from the Army Corps and Divisional Commanders for the excellent work done at Le Barque.

The retirement undoubtedly upset slightly the plans for the Spring, but these were not forgotten.

In the meantime the whole of March was spent in the vicinity of Shelter Wood and Bresle in training, competitions and salvaging.

April 4th saw the battalion again on its way forward

and, no matter how good a modern army may be, it is impossible for it to go on for long without its transport.

That was the last glimpse the battalion had of that sector, nor were they sorry to leave it. Later on the battalion occupied sectors some distance further South, but never returned to that spot.

After this the whole division spent the best part of a month in the Boulogne area, and, with the rest and change, with much keen rivalry in sport, the battalion was soon itself again.

As usual all sorts of rumours were afloat—"No more line work till the Spring," "South of France," but on the 13th the battalion was again on the move East, and on the 16th relieved the 31st battalion in the line at **December**
Messines

In this area (though not always the same sector) the battalion remained until the beginning of April—sometimes out, but more often in the forward zone—and, though the sector was a quiet one, the fatigues which were long and tiring gave little rest for either officers or men.

On Christmas morning (25th December) the battalion was relieved in the line by the 12th, and the men, trudging wearily back into their dugouts and shelters at Wulverghem, were glad to pass their Christmas day in rest and sleep.

January passed away in this area, though during the month the battalion was transferred to another sector **Wytshaete**
Wytshaete, which was very quiet and even better than the last.

On January 31st the battalion proceeded to Alder-shot camp, reaching it in the early hours in the morning, chilled to the bone by an ice-cold journey in open trucks, but not too cold to make caustic remarks about the engine driver and the military in general.

At this camp, though the fatigues were still fairly **February**
constant, the battalion enjoyed a month's spell, and boxing and football were organised. Cinemas, dinners, and concerts were frequent, and on the 16th February the Battalion celebrated its Christmas day, which it had been unable to do before on account of being in the forward area. Prizes were given for the best decorated huts, and keen was the competition.

Men sat up practically all night in order that their

Appendices

APPENDIX I—DIARY

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1914			
Aug. 4		Adelaide	War declared.
16	09.00	„	Lt.-Col. Weir informed to take command 10th Battalion.
17	10.00	„	Lt.-Col. Weir proceeded to Keswick to select officers (Maj. Hurcombe, S.M. ; Capt. Lorenzo, Adj. ; Capt. Minigal, Q.M.).
19	10.00	Morphettville	Mr. Hawkes' estate: commenced enrolling and attesting.
Oct. 20	4.30 P.M.	OUTER HARBOUR S.S. <i>Ascunius</i>	Sailed. Total embarked, 31 officers 969 other ranks, 1 Y.M.C.A. man, 2 sister nurses, 1 man excess. Transport under command Lt. F. Owen Smyth and 22 other ranks embarked in <i>Saldanha</i> . 108 horses.
25	8 A.M.	Fremantle	Arrived Fremantle: Lt.-Col. Johnston, 26 officers and 759 men of 11th Battalion, 2 sisters, and 2 chaplains.
Nov. 2	..	„	Left Fremantle and joined main convoy on 4th.
9	7.15	At sea	H.M.A.S. <i>Sydney</i> steamed west. 11.15 A.M., message, " <i>Emden</i> beached and done for."
15	12.00	Colombo	Arrived Colombo. Left on 17th. Collision with <i>Shropshire</i> .
25	..	Aden	Arrived Aden.
26	..	„	Left Aden.
30	..	Suez	Arrived Suez.
Dec. 1	..	„	Left Suez.
2	..	Port Said	Arrived Port Said.
4	..	„	Left Port Said.
7	7 P.M.	Alexandria	Arrived Alexandria.
6	4 P.M.	„	Reached wharf.
7	..	Mena	Disembarked and entrained to Cairo. Mena Camp.
1915			
Feb. 7/28	..	Alexandria	Left Mena, marched to Cairo. entrained to Alexandria.
..	..	<i>Ionian</i>	Embarked with 9th Battalion.
Mar. 1	8 A.M.	„	Left Alexandria.
2	..	„	

APPENDIX II—HONOURS AND AWARDS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Honour awarded</i>
1915					
April	Gallipoli		Pte.	Rule, C.	M.M.
25	Landing	456	Pte.	Weatherall, J.C.	D.C.M.
	"	121	"	Green, C. P.	D.C.M.
	"		Sgt.	Leane, B. B.	M.i.d.
	"		Maj.	Hurcombe, F. W.	M.i.A.C.R.Ors.
	"		Capt.	Lorenzo, F. M.	"
	"		"	Jacob, R. B.	"
	"		"	Herbert, M. J.	"
	"		Lt.	Hancock, F. H.	M.i.d.
	"		S.S.V.	Sawer, E. G.	"
	"		2nd Lt.	Heritage, F. A. G. N.	"
	"		C.S.M.	Henderson, I. J.	"
	"	1157	R.S.M.	McDonald	"
	"		Lt.	Rumball, C.	"
May	"		Capt.	Giles, F. G.	"
19	"		S.S.M.	Sawer, E. G.	"
	"	931	L.-Cpl.	Pritton, R. H.	"
Nov.	"		Maj.	Lorenzo	D.S.O.
	"	547	Sgt.	Montgomery, W.	M.M.
	"	1157	Cpl.	MacDonald, I.	D.C.M.
	"	882	Pte.	Baker, G. E. A.	"
	"	617	C.S.M.	Ebborn, W. H.	M.M.
1916					
May-June			Col.	Price Weir, S.	D.S.O.
July	Pozieres I.		Capt.	McCann W. J.	M.C.
	"		Lt.	Blackburn, A. S.	V.C.
	"	3041	L.-Cpl.	Jacob, D. G.	M.M.
	"		Maj.	Shaw, G. D.	M.i.d.
	"	2566	L.-Cpl.	Barr, D.	M.M.
	"		Capt.	Magenis, G. C.	M.i.d.
	"	2593	Pte.	Bonython, R. L.	D.C.M.
	"	1342	"	Foote, G. F.	M.M.
	"	2948	"	McKenzie, D. H.	D.C.M.
	"	3210	"	Bosna, W. E. J.	M.M.
	"	2761	"	Pike, G. L.	M.M.
	"	2745	"	MacMillan, J.	M.M.
Aug.	Mouquet		Capt.	Campbell, G. C.	M.C.
19/23	Farm		"	Magenis, G. C.	D.S.O.
	"	324	Sgt.	Mead, F. J. L.	D.C.M.
	"	890	Cpl.	Edwards, H. J.	M.M.
	"		L.-Cpl.	Turpin, R.	"
	"	333	Cpl.	Coffey, S. C.	"
	"	771	Pte.	Straney, P.	"
	"	1474	"	Russell, J.	"
Sept.	Ypres,		Lt.	Montgomery, W.	M.C.
	" Hill 60 "				
1917					
Jan.	Pozieres	403	C.S.M.	Holland, E. A.	M.M. (F.)
Feb.	Le Barque		Capt.	Rumball, C.	M.C.
24/25	"	3970	Pte.	Witte, R. F.	M.M.
	"	4472	"	Glanville, J. V.	"
	"	1456	L.-Cpl.	Davey, C.	"

APPENDIX III

ROLL OF HONOUR (DEATHS IN FRANCE)

The *figures* only for Gallipoli are available at present. The *names* of deaths in France are given below.

TOTAL CASUALTIES

		DIED				
		<i>Officers</i>		<i>Other Ranks</i>		<i>Total</i>
Gallipoli	Peninsula	9	..	208	..	217
France	48	..	701	..	749
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
		57		909		966
		WOUNDED				
		<i>Officers</i>		<i>Other Ranks</i>		<i>Total</i>
Gallipoli	6	—	283	..	289
France	285	..	1,969	..	2,254
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
		291		2,252		2,543
		<i>Officers</i>		<i>Other Ranks</i>		<i>Grand Total*</i>
Total casualties	348	..	3,161	..	3,509

FRANCE

(K.i.A., killed in action ; D.o.W., died of wounds ; D.o.D., died of disease.)

<i>No.</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Record</i>	<i>Date</i>
2704	Pte.	Kindler, R. G.	K.i.A.	20/4/16
2784	"	Schroeder, S. H.	D.o.W.	"
..	Capt.	Bates, C. J.	K.i.A.	19/5/16
..	2nd Lt.	Shaw, H. B.	"	"
3750 <i>b</i>	Pte.	O'Malley, T. C.	"	"
2583 <i>b</i>	"	Barry, J. J.	D.o.W.	24/5/16
418	"	Watherston, C. A.	K.i.A.	26/5/16
2675 <i>b</i>	"	Heath, C. R.	"	7/6/16
2612	"	Cole, S. J.	D.o.W.	8/6/16
3941	"	Trevilyan, H.	K.i.A.	10/6/16
2819 <i>b</i>	"	Weitsb, W.	"	11/6/16
3779	"	Humm, S. E.	"	"
3068	"	Hayes, R.	"	13/6/16
3539 <i>b</i>	"	Marcus, D. R. S.	"	19/6/16
2357	"	Dadliff, H. J.	"	"
3630 <i>b</i>	"	White, F. E.	"	"
2150	"	Francom, R. C.	"	20/6/16
2753	"	Symonds, W. E.	"	21/6/16
1941 <i>b</i>	"	Jones, E. V.	"	26/6/16
3963	"	Williams, N. L.	"	28/6/16
2599 <i>b</i>	"	Brown, W. H.	"	29/6/16
675	"	Bradley, C. E.	"	25/7/16

* Not including sickness.

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