Arthur Robertson LANG

Maternal Great Grand Uncle



World War 1

Enlisted in World War 1 on 6/9/1916

Service Number 2920

Rank Private

Unit 52 Infantry Battalion - 2 to 9 Reinforcements (April 1916 - January 1917)

Ship Name HMAT Marathon

Ship number A74

Date of embarkation 27 October 1916

Place of embarkation Brisbane

Arthur's brothers, Alexander and Donald were also aboard the same ship 'Marathon' in 1916.

Arthur's unit was stationed in the front close by his brother Alexander's Unit, the 49th Battalion. Both Battalions were heavily involved in the battle of Messines in Belgium between June 7th and 12th, 1917. Arthur and Alexander had been together only minutes before a shell exploded in a trench wounding Alexander, who died several days later from these shrapnel wounds.

Following Alexander`s death in June, on August 23 rd, 1917, Arthur received gunshot wounds to the right leg and left buttock. He was treated at the 4th Army Field Ambulance before being transferred to the 2nd. Army Casualty Clearing Station. On August 27th, he was embarked on H.S. Stadt Antwerpen for England. From there, he was admitted to the 2/1st. Southern General Hospital, Dudley Road, Birmingham. This was part of the same hospital complex where his brother Hector was later admitted in June, 1918. This wound was to be the end of the war for Arthur. When he had recovered sufficiently, he was transferred from the 2/1st General Hospital to the 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield, Middlesex on October 6th, 1917.

Once sufficiently recovered, Arthur was returned to Australia on the Euripides, discharged from the Army on June 6th, 1918. (Source: Alan Isles)

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