

# Samuel Hancock



Nº124

1<sup>st</sup> Company Australian Mining Corp

Nº1 Australian Tunnelling Company

1<sup>st</sup> ANZAC Entrenching Company

37<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalions

Samuel Hancock was Born in 1891 in Kelloe, Durham to John and Mary Hancock. He was their 6<sup>th</sup> of 10 children. His father was a Coal Miner. By 1901 Samuel was aged 11 and one of 5 children in the family home 38 Viceroy Street Seaham Durham. (demolished)

Administrative County <u>Durham</u>		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the										Page 50	
Civil Parish <u>Seaham</u>		Ecclesiastical Parish <u>Seaham</u>		County Borough Municipal Borough or Urban District		Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District		Rural District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Town or Village or Hamlet	
ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE		HOUSES		Name and Surname of each Person		RELATION to Head of Family		Age last Birthday or (Widow, Person)		PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION		WHERE BORN	
38 Viceroy St		1		John Hancock	Head	M	56	Coal Miner - Colliery	Looker	Seaham, Durham		(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lame (4) Insane, feeble-minded	
				Mary Hancock	Wife	M	49	Coal Miner - Colliery	Looker	Seaham, Durham			
				Conneling	Son	S	22	Coal Miner - Colliery	Looker	Seaham, Durham			
				Mary Alice	Daughter		14			Seaham, Durham			
				Samuel	Son		11			Seaham, Durham			
				Marjorie	Daughter		8			Seaham, Durham			
				John George	Son		6			Seaham, Durham			

In 1911 Samuel is aged 20 and working as a Coal Worker, his father and 2 brothers also Miners. The family are living at 83 Victoria Street Shotton.

1 John Hancock	Married	58	Married	3.6	14	10	4	Coal Miner	Shifts	100	Coal Miner	Shotton	Seaham, Durham	49	-
2 Mary Hancock	Married	50	Married	3.6	14	10	4	Coal Worker	Shifts	100	Coal Worker	Shotton	Seaham, Durham	47	-
3 Samuel Hancock	Single	20	Single					Coal Worker	Shifts	100	Coal Worker	Shotton	Seaham, Durham	20	-
4 John George Hancock	Son	11	Single					Coal Worker	Shifts	100	Coal Worker	Shotton	Seaham, Durham	11	-
5 Marjorie Hancock	Daughter	8	Single					Coal Worker	Shifts	100	Coal Worker	Shotton	Seaham, Durham	8	-
6 Martha Hancock	Daughter	12	Single					Coal Worker	Shifts	100	Coal Worker	Shotton	Seaham, Durham	12	-
7 Julia Hancock	Daughter	7	Single					Coal Worker	Shifts	100	Coal Worker	Shotton	Seaham, Durham	7	-

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the original as submitted to me by the person named in the column headed "Name of Person".

Signature John Hancock Postal Address 83 Victoria Street Shotton Cheshire

3 rooms

83 Victoria Street Shotton and Father John



In January 1914 aged 23 Samuel Emigrated to Australia sailing from London on the SS Demosthenes, he was noted a farm labourer. He may have left for economic reasons seeking work opportunities. He was destined for Fremantle.

Name of Ship "Demosthenes"				9	Date of Departure 8th January 1914			
Steamship Line—THE ABERDEEN LINE.				Where bound Brisbane.				
NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF <b>BRITISH</b> PASSENGERS EMBARKED AT THE PORT OF London.								
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	
Contract Ticket Number.	NAMES OF PASSENGERS.	CLASS (writing in full or init.)	Port at which Passengers have contracted to land.	Profession, Occupation or Calling of Passengers.  In the case of First-Class Passengers this column need not be filled up.	AGES OF PASSENGERS. Except for First-Class Passengers state the age last birthday.	Country of last Permanent Residence.†	Country of Intended Future Permanent Residence.†	
					Adults of 12 years and upwards.  Aged 12 years and upwards by last birthday or with.			Between 1 and 12.  Infants.
					Males Females Males Females Males Females Males Females English Welsh Scottish Irish British Possession Foreign Country.			
5th Hancock	Mr. Lamb		Fremantle.	Farm labor.	23	England	Australia	

A black and white photograph of the S.S. Demosthenes, a large steamship, sailing on the water. The ship is viewed from a side-on perspective, showing its dark hull, white superstructure, and a single large smokestack. It has two masts with complex rigging. The ship is moving towards the right. The water is choppy. The sky is overcast. The text "S.S. DEMOSTHENES" and "W.L." is visible in the bottom right corner of the image.

5 months later on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 1914 he boarded the German liner the SS Seydlitz bound for Sydney where they arrived on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1914. (just days later on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August the Seydlitz left Sydney for South America)

NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF PASSENGERS. - Continued.													
Port of Embarkation.	No. of Cabotage Tickets.	NAMES OF PASSENGERS.	Age of each Adult of 15 years and upwards.				Children between 1 & 15 years.		Infants.		Profession, Occupation, or Calling of Passenger.	State whether English, Scotch, Irish, or Foreigners.	Port at which Passengers have Contracted to Land.
			Married.		Single.								
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
Freemantle	7/10	James Hancock			24						Irish Engl.	Sydney	






Having landed in Australia and settled in New South Wales Samuel found work as a Miner, possibly his reason for heading overseas having been a farm labourer in prior to leaving and in search of high pay and more stable work, opportunities offered in Australia.

When war was declared on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914 Samuel had only been in Sydney 13 days and even though he was starting a new life thousands of miles from his homeland he, like many including his brother's would serve.

His Brother Cornelius, also a Miner enlisted in March 1915 in to the Gloucestershire Regiment (Pioneers) but was discharged after just 29 days unlikely to become an efficient soldier.

Samuel would enlist on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 1915. His attestation papers noted his parents address in the UK and his occupation as a Miner. He was 25 years 10 months old, 5 foot 6 inches with a dark complexion, brown eyes and dark brown hair.

 <b>AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.</b> Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.	
No. <u>124</u>	Name <u>HAWCOCK S.</u> Unit <u>No 1 Mining Corps</u> Joined on <u>18.11.15</u>
<b>Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.</b> 1. What is your Name? <u>Samuel Hancock</u> 2. In the Parish of <u>St. James</u> in or near the Town of <u>Sunderland</u> in the County of <u>Durham</u> 3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) <u>Yes</u> 4. What is your age? <u>25</u> 5. What is your trade or calling? <u>Miner</u> 6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? <u>No</u> 7. Are you married? <u>No</u> 8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) <u>John Hancock, 11, Victoria Road, Durham</u> 9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? <u>No</u> 10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces with ignominy, or as Insolvent and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been discharged with Disgrace from the Navy? <u>No</u> 11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge. <u>No</u> 12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? <u>Yes</u> 13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? <u>No</u> 14. Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach eight shillings per day? <u>Yes</u> 15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculations against smallpox and Asiatic fever? <u>Yes</u> I, <u>Samuel Hancock</u> , do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and desirous voluntarily to agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth. Date <u>18.11.15</u> Signature of person attested <u>Samuel Hancock</u> Date <u>18.11.15</u> Signature of person called <u>Samuel Hancock</u>	
<b>DESCRIPTION OF PERSON</b> Description of <u>Samuel Hancock</u> on Enlistment. Age <u>25</u> years <u>10</u> months Height <u>5</u> feet <u>6</u> inches Weight <u>125</u> lbs Measurement <u>52</u> inches Complexion <u>Dark</u> Eyes <u>Brown</u> Hair <u>Dark Brown</u> Religious Denomination <u>Ch. of E.</u>	
<b>CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.</b> I have examined the above-named person, and find that he does not present any of the following conditions, to-wit: Scrofula; phthisis; syphilis; impaired constitution; defective intelligence; defects of vision, voice, or hearing; scurvy; hemorrhoids; varicose veins, beyond a limited extent; marked varicose veins with unusually pendulous testicles; inveterate cutaneous disease; chronic ulcers; traces of corporal punishment, or evidence of having been marked with the letters D. or B.C.; contracted or deformed chest; abnormal curvature of spine; or any other disease or physical defect calculated to unfit him for the duties of a soldier. He can see the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs; and he declares he is not subject to fits of any description. I consider him fit for active service. Date <u>18.11.15</u> Place <u>Sydney</u> Signature of Examining Medical Officer <u>Capt. H. H. M. C.</u>	
<b>CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.</b> I CERTIFY that this Attestation of the above-named person is correct, and that the required forms have been completed with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to <u>No 1 Mining Corps</u> Date <u>18.11.15</u> Place <u>Casula</u> Signature of Commanding Officer <u>C. B. No 1 Company</u>	

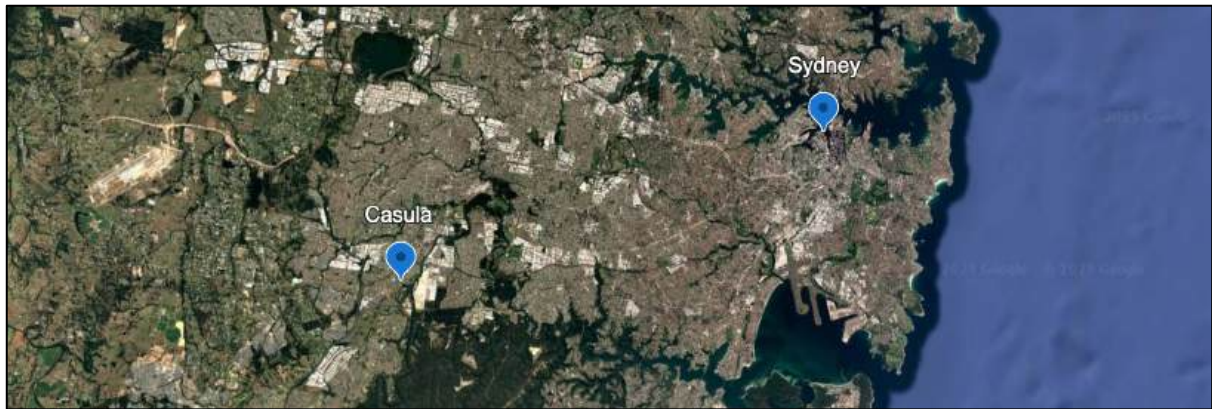
He was posted as a Sapper on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1915 to No1 Mining Corps at Casula a suburb of Sydney with a service number 124.

10103  
 27.6.18. Emb. from Aust.  
 26.2.16.  
 25-282.  
 Ledger Card  
 P.B. No 283530

Statement of Service of No. 124 Name Samuel Hancock

Unit in which served.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Period of service in each rank.		Remarks.
		From—	To—	
<u>No 1 Mining Corps Sapper</u>		<u>28/11/15</u>		





Mining Battalion at Casula



The Australian Mining Corps was raised within the Australian Imperial Force in August/September 1915. The manning of that unit specifically included men from the mining industry and allowed enlistment up to the age of 50 to capture the experienced men.

Men of No1 Company 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Mining Corps November 1915. Samuel may be in this picture.



Sams papers signed by the Officer Commanding No1 Company

Statement of Service of No. <u>124</u> Name <u>Samuel Hancock</u>				
Unit in which served.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Period of service in each rank.		Remarks.
		From—	To—	
<u>No 1 Mining corps Saffr</u>		<u>28/11/15</u>		

I CERTIFY that this Attestation of the above-named person is correct, and that the required forms have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to .....

No 1 Mining corps

Date ..... W. MacLaggan Major

Place Casula B. O. No. 1 Company.  
Commanding

Photo of Samuel in uniform date and location not known.



The 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Mining Corp remained at Casula training and recruiting through the end of 1915 in to 1916 when they received orders to proceeded overseas.

The Australian Mining Corps embarked from Sydney on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 1916 comprising of 3 Tunnelling Companies, a Headquarters and the 1st and 2nd Reinforcements.



Before embarking they Parade thorough Sydney.



On the 20<sup>th</sup> February 1916 the 1300 officers and men of the Australian Mining Corp boarded His Majesty's Australian Transport ( HMAT) Ulysses A38 at Woolloomooloo, Sydney and steamed through the Heads of Sydney Harbour.

Samuel's record shows him embarking on the 20th February 1916.

Report		Embarked from Australia		Remarks
Date	From whom received	Place	Date	Taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
			20 2, 16	

The men waiting to board.



HMAT Ulysses A38



En route to France the men of the Mining Corp stopped off at Malta where they paraded through Valetta.



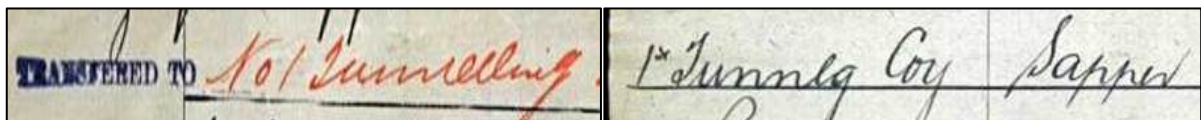
The Corps arrived at Marseilles on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1916, and immediately entrained for Hazebrouck, arriving on the morning of 8<sup>th</sup> May, shown on Samuels Records.

MAY 5 - 1916	Disembarked Marseille	—	5/5/16	} A.C. 349 19/5/16
MAY 8 - 1916	Detraigned Hazebrouck	—	8/5/16	

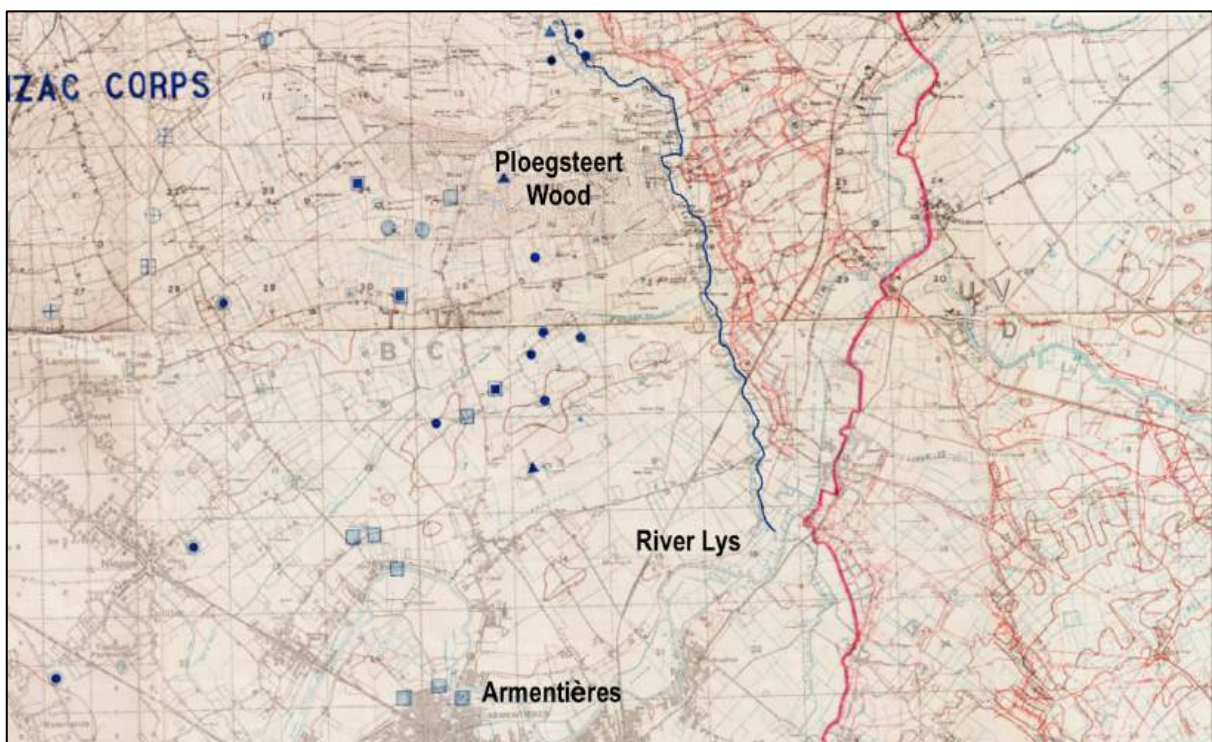




On arrival in France the Australian Mining Corps was disbanded and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Australian Tunnelling Companies were raised from the original 3 Companies. Samuel was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Tunnelling Company (ATC).



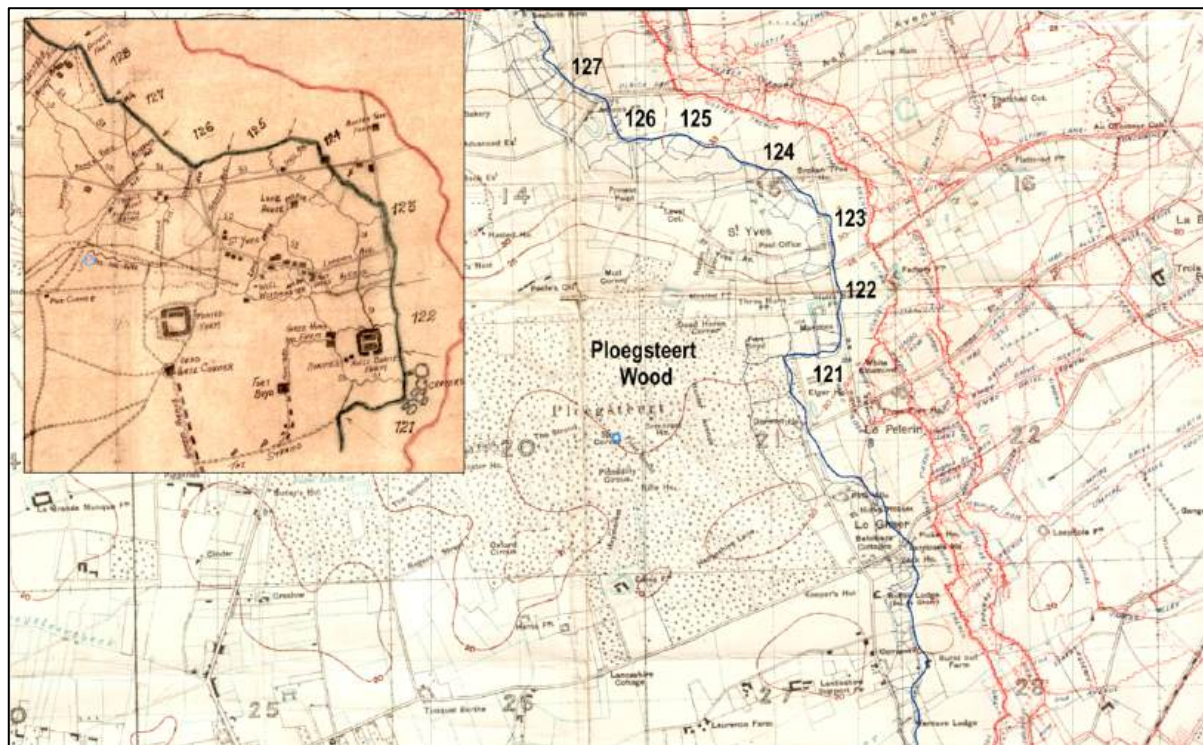
The Tunnelling Companies (TC) dispersed from Hazebrouck into their respective army and mining sectors in the third week of May 1916. 1st TC took over operations from the 171st Tunnelling Companies Royal Engineers extending north from the River Lys outside Armentières to Ploegsteert Wood.





Throughout June the men were working around trenches 88 & 96 to 101 & 123, digging, laying charges and listening for German tunnellers. Trenches 121 to 127 were to the north east of the Ploegsteert Wood suggesting trenches 88 to 96 further south towards Armentières (Eg diary entry)

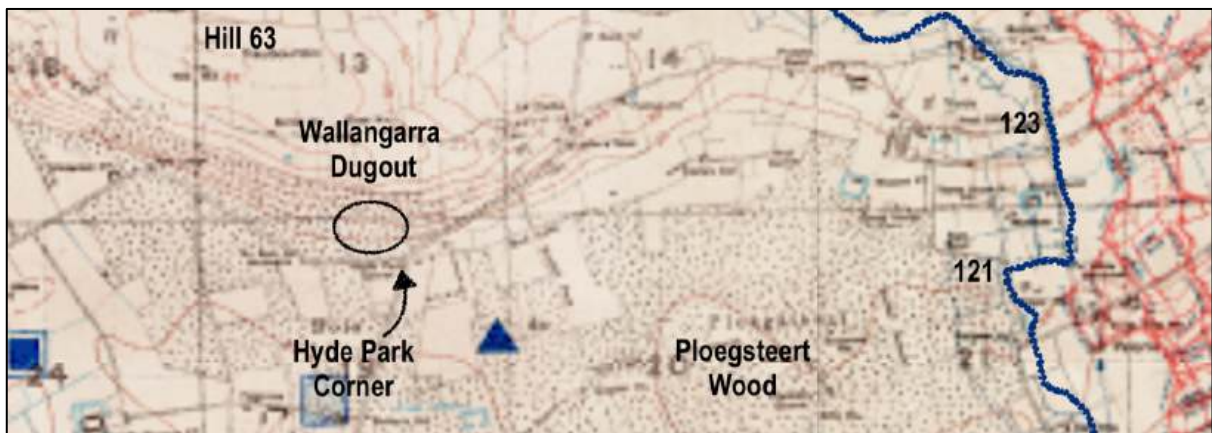
JUNE							
ARMENTIERES	6 <sup>th</sup>	3pm	Trench 88	12' 0"	Trenches 95 to 101	11' 3"	charge laid Trench 88: Coll. Amm. sent
Do.	7 <sup>th</sup>	3 "	do.	18' 0"	do.	21' 10"	"
Do.	8 <sup>th</sup>	3 "	do.	15' 0"	do.	23' 11"	"
Do.	9 <sup>th</sup>	3 "	do.	14' 0"	do.	17' 0"	"
Do.	10 <sup>th</sup>	3 "	do.	14' 2"	do.	12' 0"	"
Do.	11 <sup>th</sup>	3 "	do.	6' 8"	do.	11' 5"	"
Do.	12 <sup>th</sup>	3 "	do.	12' 9"	do.	11' 11"	"
Do.	13 <sup>th</sup>	3 "	do.	18' 0"	do.	Pumping & listening all quiet	
Do.	14 <sup>th</sup>	3 "	do.	12' 0"	do.	7' 0"	"
Do.	15 <sup>th</sup>	3 "	do.	12' 0"	do.	8' 8"	"
Do.	16 <sup>th</sup>	3 "	do.	12' 0"	do.	10' 8"	"
Do.	17 <sup>th</sup>	3 "	do.	14' 11"	do.	9' 11"	"
Do.	18 <sup>th</sup>	3 "	do.	14' 0"	do.	12' 2"	"
Do.	19 <sup>th</sup>	3 "	do.	12' 10"	do.	11' 9"	"
Do.	20 <sup>th</sup>	3 "	do.	15' 0"	do.	10' 8"	2 men killed, 1 wounded
Do.	21 <sup>st</sup>	3 "	do.	16' 0"	do.	5' 5"	Threaten T. 123 5' 0"
JULY							
ARMENTIERES	22 <sup>nd</sup>	3pm	Trench 88	12' 1"	Threaten (123)	2' 2"	100m north House (96) 4' 0"
Do.	23 <sup>rd</sup>	3 "	do.	6' 0"	do.	9' 0"	all quiet 4 men wounded
Do.	24 <sup>th</sup>	3 "	do.	10' 9"	do.	8' 9"	Pumping & listening
Do.	25 <sup>th</sup>	3 "	do.	11' 9"	do.	9' 3"	all quiet
Do.	26 <sup>th</sup>	3 "	do.	15' 0"	do.	11' 3"	Pumping & listening
Do.	27 <sup>th</sup>	3 "	do.	10' 11"	do.	9' 8"	7' 3" 100m from 250yds
Do.	28 <sup>th</sup>	3 "	do.	11' 8"	do.	11' 10"	5' 0"
Do.	29 <sup>th</sup>	3 "	do.	11' 0"	do.	11' 0"	7' 10"
Do.	30 <sup>th</sup>	3 "	do.	all quiet	do.	all quiet	L. T. SMITH - Killed
Do.	31 <sup>st</sup>	3 "	do.	Pumping & listening	do.	Pumping & listening	2 men wounded





During the autumn of 1916, 1st ATC was engaged in the construction of one of the largest dugouts in the British held sector of the front. 'The Catacombs', or as it was known to the tunnellers, the 'Wallangarra' dugout, was excavated at Hill 63 near Hyde Park Corner, Ploegsteert Wood. The Australian tunnellers worked on it during September and October 1916. Once complete, it accommodated a full battalion of infantry (over 1,000 officers and men).

Do.	29 <sup>TH</sup>	do	24' 0"	do	10' 0"	<i>Progress for week: - 1544 footage Adib 1: 476 footage, Adib 2: 500 footage, Adib 3: 1544 footage</i>	
Do.	30 <sup>TH</sup>	do	27' 4"	do	8' 8"		
Do.	31 <sup>ST</sup>	do	23' 8"	do	6' 0"	<i>Dugout Hill 63: 11' 6"</i>	
Do.	1 <sup>ST</sup>	do	23' 0"	do	1' 6"		
Do.	2 <sup>ND</sup>	do	20' 6"	do	5' 6"	do	28' 0"
Do.	3 <sup>RD</sup>	do	24' 0"	do	10' 12"	<i>Handed over to 171<sup>st</sup> Coy.: Hill 63: 26' 0": 1000 ft from 171<sup>st</sup> Coy.</i>	
Do.	4 <sup>TH</sup>	do	22' 6"	do	1121 taken over from 171 <sup>st</sup> Coy.	<i>Dugout Hill 63: 25' 2"</i>	
Do.	5 <sup>TH</sup>	do	25' 0"	do	do		
Do.	6 <sup>TH</sup>	do	19' 6"	do	1121 indistinct sound of enemy heard	do	23' 2"
Do.	7 <sup>TH</sup>	do	20' 3"	do	Dugout Hill 63: 26' 11"	do	do
Do.	8 <sup>TH</sup>	do	21' 4"	do	do	27' 10"	<i>Ellen 2 ladheads damaged by shell fire</i>



Miners of the 1st Australian Tunnelling Company excavating dug-outs in the Ypres sector 1917 (1916 would have looked similar) and the entrance to 'Wallangarra' dugout.



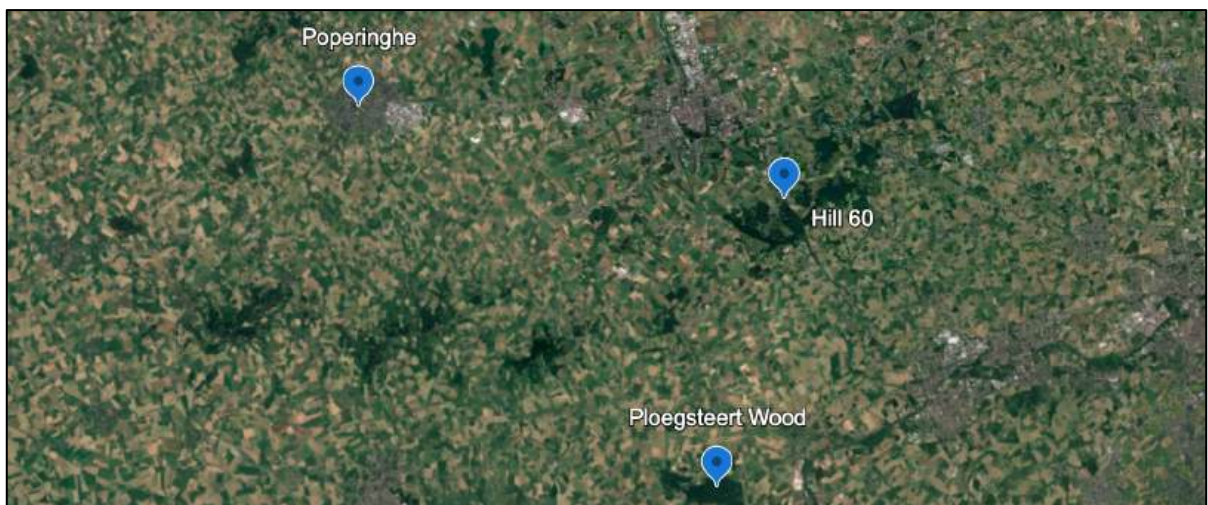


Men of the 1<sup>st</sup> ATC excavating September 1917. (1916 would have looked similar)



In early November 1916 1<sup>st</sup> ATC replaced 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Tunnelling Company at Hill 60. Headquarters was established at 'Ridge Camp' outside Poperinghe and advanced billets were established in the ramparts near the Lille Gate in Ypres.

*Handwritten notes on a piece of paper:*  
Poperinghe 9<sup>th</sup>  
G: 11 A 6.3  
do 10<sup>th</sup>  
do 10<sup>th</sup>  
Hill 60. Berlin Shaft 3' 1/2' 'B' Left 3' 'D' Left 4' 1/2' Shaft Gallery to  
6' Direction Gallery 4' 4" x 2' 3" Gallery 4' 4" x 2' 3" Anzac Shaft 4' 4" x 2' 3" 3'







At Hill 60 the 1st ATC took over the task of protecting two enormous mines placed 30m below ground by the Canadian tunnellers known as the 'Hill 60' and 'Caterpillar' mines. The three-level mining system at Hill 60 were in poor shape and the Australians set about improving drainage and ventilation as well as expansion of the deep mine galleries.

Protecting the mines from the Germans involved the Diggers in ferocious underground fighting. The work was arduous and exhausting and six months' service in the tunnels of Hill 60 was regarded as the limit of strain any troops could stand. The Australian listeners often reported that enemy miners were so close that their tools were shaking the earth in the Australian tunnel. (e.g War Diary Entries for November and December)

NOVEMBER		Appr.
POPERINGHE 22 G.II.A63	Footage for week: 'B' left 3'0", 'D' left 45'0", 'N' 13.25'0" Note Apparatus Chamber etc. 16'0"; Berlin Shaft 17'3" No gas - slight noises at 'N' 1 & 4 & L. posts probably surface 1 man killed, 1 man wounded.	
23 Nov.	Anzac: 'N' 3 & 6 a posts reports sounds of working & walking.	
24 Nov.	A right officer reports distant sounds unidentified Anzac: sounds of pumping from 'N' 2 Post. 'G' & 'L' slight noises posts 14 & 15. Remainders all quiet.	
26 Nov.	Report for 36 hours. Anzac: 'G' & 'L' situation normal 15 & 19 New noise reported from L.P. 25	

DECEMBER		Appr.
POPERINGHE 19 SHEET 28 G.II.A63	7 am 'B' left chamber completed & charge of 2500 lbs. Ammonal placed in position. while charging enemy working was very distinct with naked ear. At 2 am. the charge was detonated with apparently every effect, a cloud of smoke was seen to issue from locality undermined.	
20 Nov.	The enemy blew a camouflaged at 12.30 am. affecting 'D' right slightly and crumpling in shallow for about 20ft. No gas has appeared in the galleries. 1 man wounded. Footage for week: Berlin shaft 6'0" 'B' left 19'0" Infantry tunnel 15'6" Australian dugouts 56'0"	



Samuel spent Christmas 1916 and New Year 1917 in the Hill 60 area and On the 14<sup>th</sup> January he was sent 'To Hospital' 'Sick' this may have been a result of the appalling conditions the men worked in underground.

2	20/1/17	1 <sup>st</sup> Aust Inf. Coy.	To Hospital. Sick.	Field	20.1.17
---	---------	--------------------------------	--------------------	-------	---------

On the 15<sup>th</sup> he was admitted to 4 London Field Ambulance at Brisbane Dump H24b1.7 via Railway Dugouts I21c and Woodcote Farm I20c4.2. Then on the 20<sup>th</sup> he was admitted to 47<sup>th</sup> Divisional Rest Station at Remy Siding with Bronchitis.

3	20.1.17	4 Lon. F. A.	Adm. 15.1.17. To 47 <sup>th</sup> DRS. Bronchitis	"	20.1.17
---	---------	--------------	---	---	---------

<u>HILL 60 SUB-SECTOR</u>	From A.D.S. RAILWAY DUGOUTS by wheeled stretcher to WOODCOTE FARM, thence by trolley to BRISBANE DUMP.
Casualties on arrival at BRISBANE DUMP will be transferred to motor ambulances and conveyed direct to C.C.S. or H.D.S. as ordered.	
<u>DIVISIONAL REST STATION</u>	REMY SIDING ... L. 23.a.4.3.



On the 27<sup>th</sup> he was Discharged and admitted to NM CCS (North Midland Casualty Clearing Station No53) at Bailleul

10.2.17	47 DRS.	Disch <sup>d</sup> to N.M.C.C.S.	"	27.1.17
6	27.1.17	N.M.C.C.S.	Adm. Bronchitis	" 27.1.17





On the 4<sup>th</sup> February Samuel re-joined his unit, the 1<sup>st</sup> ATC in the field. They were still working maintain and extending the mines and tunnels around Hill 60, listening for the German tunnels and trying to avoid being found.

10.2.17	1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. Tunn. Coy.	Rejoined from Hospital	4.2.17	Br 13. C 61/11 L20. 8/581	22.2.17
---------	----------------------------------	------------------------	--------	------------------------------	---------

On the 20<sup>th</sup> February 1917 the men blew several charges in the mines.

FEBRUARY					
POPERINGHE SH. 28 G11A63	24 Jan.	at 4.45 p.m. on 20 <sup>th</sup> inst. 600 lbs. Ammonal blown at 81.9, cratered to surface wrecking enemy lines, no severe damage to our workings. at 4.48 p.m. on 20 <sup>th</sup> inst. blew camouflaged at 5 L.P. of 200 lbs. of ammonal in torpedo. slight damage to shallows & D.D. Both of these charges blown effectively to schedule. Enemy disposition at intervals rather lively. Leads tested: all normal. Footage for week: Melbourne gallery, 61' 0", Berlin Adit gate, 80' 0", Larchwood Junction, 89' 1", No. 6 gallery, 47' 0", Infantry subway, 67' 0", Australian dugouts, 14' 9".			

March 24<sup>th</sup> 1917 enemy blew underground charges 2 places

POPERINGHE SH. 28 G11A63	24 Jan.	'Beta' quiet but gaseous again. Surface noises only reported at other posts.			
	25 Jan.	Enemy blew in two places at 6.30 p.m. on 25 <sup>th</sup> crumpling 15 ft. of gallery estimated that blow was too short. Working sounds reported from 'Bright': 60 ft. reports facework, audible to ear. 2 men wounded.			

9<sup>th</sup> April 1917 a very heavy bombardment and enemy raid with much damage to the dugouts and multiple casualties.

10 Jan.	Very heavy bombardment on 9 <sup>th</sup> inst: enemy raided at 7 p.m.: many exits from dugouts and shallow sap-heads crumpled. 1 man killed: 5 wounded: 4 missing (now reported P.O.W.)				
---------	--	--	--	--	--

On the 24<sup>th</sup> April Samuel was reprimanded for the crime of Drunkenness whilst on active service. he was awarded 14 days field punishment No2 and forfeit £3 10 shillings in pay.

Spc Crime When on Service Field Drunkenness.		24-4-17	
Award 14 days F.P. No 2 by D.C. 1 <sup>st</sup> Tunnelling Coy		25-4-17	
Total forfeiture £3/10.		D.O 19/1584 10/5/17	

On the next day, the 25<sup>th</sup> April 1st ATC suffered its largest single day of casualties at Hill 60 with 12 killed instantly and 6 wounded when an explosion ripped through the front line officers' dugout and tore through an adjoining one.

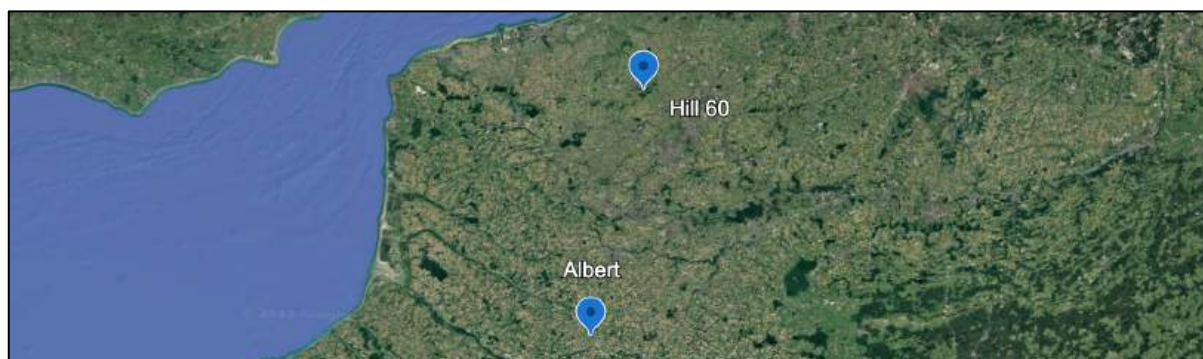
25 Jan	Fairly heavy shelling : underground normal 6 all ranks wounded : 11 killed
--------	---

On the 6<sup>th</sup> May 1917 Samel left the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Tunnelling Company (ATC) and joined the 1<sup>st</sup> ANZAC Entrenching Battalion (AEB) noted 'unfit for tunnelling' this could be due to the Bronchitis he was hospitalised with earlier in the year. He joined them on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 1917

12.5.17	1st Anzac Coy.	Marched out to 1. A.E.B. - A.H.G. H.F. 70/16-39/3/17	Field	6/5/17	C61/24	20
9.5.17	1st Anzac Ent. Bn.	Marched in (unfit for tunnelling)	Field	9.5.17	Revs. 170/416/19. B213 A65/19.	

The units war diary noted 40 men passed unfit for tunnelling joining. They were at Albert.

ALBERT.	9	40%	passed as unfit for Tunnellers marched in & taken on strength.
---------	---	-----	--



Samuels time with the Entrenching Battalion was short lived, and very little is written about their activities in the war diary they seem to have been a holding battalion for Tunnelling Company reinforcements. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1917 he was one of 25 men deemed unfit for Tunnelling Company reinforcements sent to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Division Base Depot at No20 camp Rouelles Valley near Le Harve where he arrived on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and from there onto the 37<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion

22.6.17	25%	unfit Tunn. Coy Rfls 15	3 <sup>rd</sup> A.D. B.D. for transfer to Infantry.
---------	-----	-------------------------	---

22.6.17	1st Anzac Ent. Bn.	Marched out to join 37 <sup>th</sup> Bn. from 1st Tunn. Coy. ex 1st Anzac Ent. Bn. (with D.O. 61782 dated 7/1/17)	Field	22.6.17	D.O. 28/2227	12/1/17
---------	--------------------	---	-------	---------	--------------	---------

23.6.17	1st Anzac Ent. Bn.	Marched out to join 37 <sup>th</sup> Bn.	Field	23.6.17	A.63/25. 170/413/84.	D.O. 28/222
23.6.17	3 <sup>rd</sup> A.D.B.D.	Revs in to 3 <sup>rd</sup> A.D.B.D. ex 1st Anzac Ent. Bn.	Harve	23.6.17	AX. 9429.	

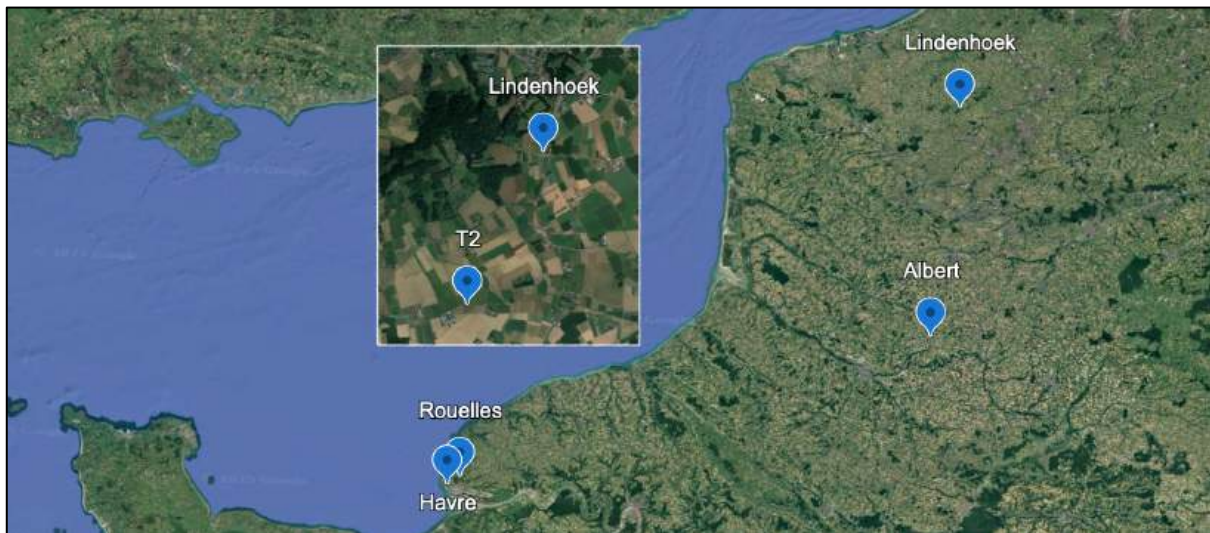


On the 28<sup>th</sup> he was medically classified 'A' at Rouelles.

28.6.17	3rd D.B.D.	Classified A. by Board.	Ronellis!	28.6.17	170/413/84.
---------	------------	-------------------------	-----------	---------	-------------

On the 4<sup>th</sup> July 1917 he marched out and on the 6<sup>th</sup> joined the 37 Battalion in the field in T2 Central near Lindenhoeck.

7. 7. 17	3rd AFB	Marched out to front	Rouelles	6. 7. 17	PK 1477/412
6. 7. 17	6037 Br	Taken on strength of 37 Br.	Kula.	6. 7. 17	C18/32
		from 1st Aust Tunnelling Coy.			RD. 31/4038 17.7.



When he joined the battalion they were in reorganising with training in the morning and sports in the afternoons.

MAP:- PLOEGSTEERT	1-7-17	Battalion engaged in reorganisation and specialist training. Each afternoon at completion of parade trials in preparation for Battalion and Brigade Competition sports
20,000	To	
T2: Central	5-7-17	are being held by 5 Platoon from 8 boy leaders selected to represent Battalion in the Brigade Competitions (Platoon in attack and its tactical handling)
	9-7-17	Brigade competition (Platoon) by 5 Platoon under Hunt P. Nicholson obtained 2 <sup>nd</sup> place. Platoon were inspected in @ Close Order drill @ Tactical movements @ Specialist training.
		Lieut. Col. W.S. Smith was transferred to the GENERAL LIST, AIF LIST No 201 10-7-17
		Major E. Knox-Knight was appointed to command the Battalion with the temporary rank of Lieutenant Colonel as from 1-7-17 AIF LIST 201 10-7-17
		Order received to relieve the 33 <sup>rd</sup> BATTALION 9 <sup>th</sup> INF BRIGADE as F. SUPPORT BATTALION in the area West of MESSINES
	10-7-17	Brigade Sports held. The 37 <sup>th</sup> BATTN won both collective and individual championships obtaining 27 points. The 40 <sup>th</sup> BATTN obtained 2 <sup>nd</sup> place with 18 points, Lt. J. Frew of No. 4 Company won the individual championship and the Cup presented by BRIGADIER GENERAL W. Ramsay M. Nicoll DSO GOC 10 <sup>th</sup> INFANTRY BRIGADE.
	11-7-17 9.30pm	The march to the forward area commenced, the strength of the Battalion



Having been with the 37<sup>th</sup> Battalion just 5 days, on the 11<sup>th</sup> July Samuel was taken sick with influenza. He was admitted to 11<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance (FA) at Kandahar Farm T10b8.7 On the 13<sup>th</sup> July he was admitted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Division Rest Station (ADRS) at L'Estrade A24c8.6

10.7.17	6037 Rev	To Hospital Sick	Julia	10.7.17	CR/25 do 32/496 24.7.17
11.7.17	11 <sup>th</sup> FA Amb	Admitted (Influenza)	do	11.7.17	FK 147/51
- do -	- do -	Trans to 3rd ADRS.	do	13.7.17	
12.7.17	3rd ADRS.	Admitted	do	13.7.17	FK 147/53
21.7.17	18 NZ 3rd Amb				



On the 19<sup>th</sup> July he was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> New Zealand Field ambulance at ..... On the 23<sup>rd</sup> July he was transferred and admitted to NZ CCS (New Zealand Casualty Clearing Station) at ..... and on the 25<sup>th</sup> to No38 Ambulance Train (AT) and taken to No4 General Hospital (GH) at Camiers.

21.7.17	1st NZ 3rd Amb	Admitted	do	13.7.17	FK 147/53
21.7.17	3rd ADRS	Trans to 1st NZ 3rd Amb	do	17.7.17	FK 147/104
15.7.17	11 <sup>th</sup> Gen Hosp	Admitted (Influenza)	do	19.7.17	FK 147/105
28.7.17	1 NZ 3rd	Trans to 2nd CCS	do	25.7.17	FK 147/109
28.7.17	2nd CCS	Adm Influenza	do	23.7.17	FK 152/16
4.8.17	4th Gen Hosp	Trans to 38 AT	do	23.7.17	FK 152/125
			do	25.7.17	

38 AT War Diary shows it loaded 217 men at Steenwerck, less than a mile from the Divisional Rest Station at L'Estrade A24c8.6 and almost certainly where Samuel was loaded. It then loaded 108 men at Hazebrouck and headed to Camiers. Its arrival time is not noted but it was there at 5am on the 26<sup>th</sup> having unloaded and reloading.

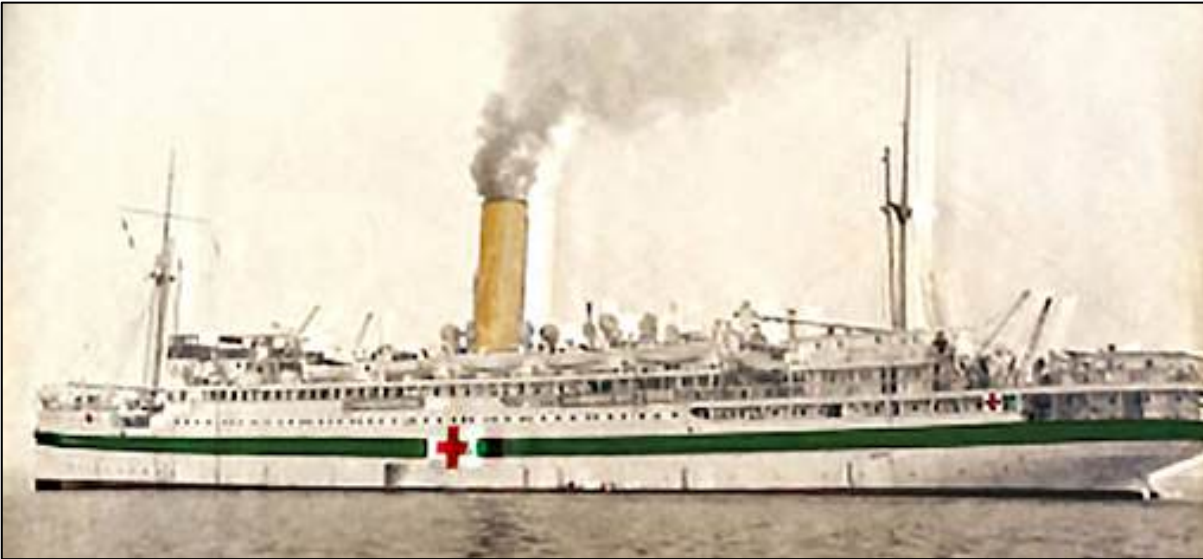
24/7/17	6:55 AM	Left latter place at 8:24 pm for HAZEBOUCK.	
		Left for STEINWERCK arriving there at 8:10 am. Commenced loading at 8:30 am.	
		Carrying 30 officers - 214 OR, proceeded HAZEBOUCK arriving there 11:5 am.	
		Loaded on board Officers 8, OR 100. Left at 1:30 pm for HAZEBOUCK.	
CAMIERS	26/7/17	5:30 AM	Loaded officers 2. OR 250 left for Camiers 7:25 am arriving there 11:10 am.





After nearly 2 weeks at the Camiers Hospital, on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 1917 Samuel was evacuated to the UK for further treatment on the Hospital Ship Warilda.

7.8.17.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Gen Hos.	Trans to England.	do	15.7.17	AK 1527/112.	
9.8.17.	515 <sup>th</sup> "Warilda"	Embarked for England (Influenza)		17.8.17	AK 1527/112.	
				19.8.17	AK 1527/112. 70. 36/4694	23.8.17
	Pt	Embarked for England				
		on "Warilda" (Influenza)	"	19.8.17	DO 36/4694	23/8/17



On arrival in the Uk on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 1917 he was admitted to the Military Hospital at Bethnal Green.

Spr.	Pt	Adm Milly Hos.	Bethnal Green	10.8.17	36/4694	23/8/17
		Influenza. 70.			H.R. 546	25.8.17
					DO 36/4694	



On the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1917 he was transferred to 3<sup>rd</sup> (Australian) Auxiliary hospital at Dartford and on the 25<sup>th</sup> was given Furlough.

*Trans to 3<sup>rd</sup> Quessy 24.8.17*  
*25.8.17 o/c Hosp. The Disch. to Furlough Dartford 25.8.17*



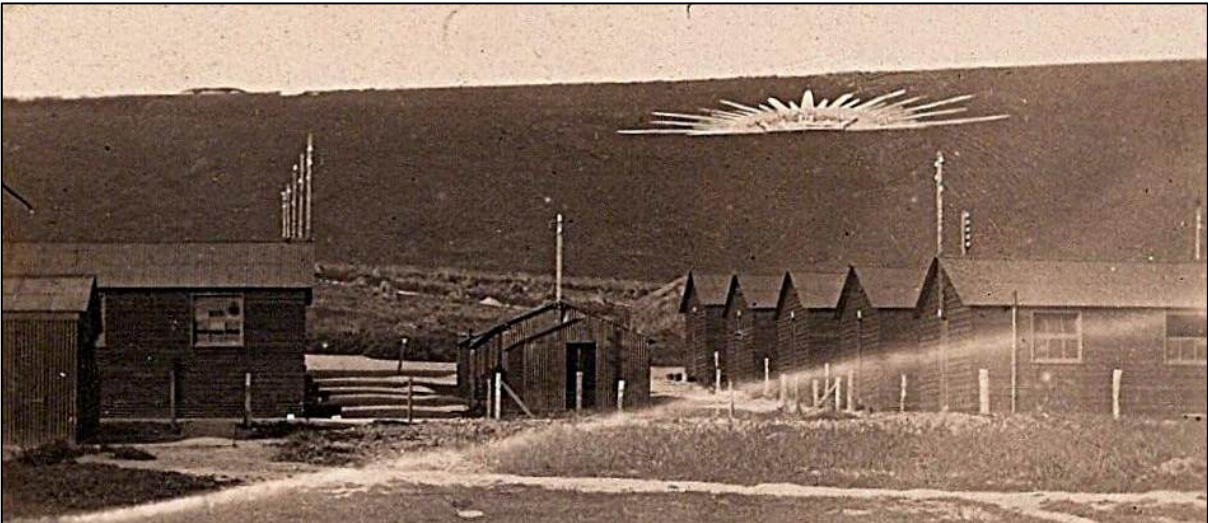
It appears he was late back from his furlough, his record showing no action taken AWL (Absent Without Leave) on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 1917. He possibly visited his family.

*No action taken re A.W.L. 8.9.17 (action notified)*  
*Letter to 04093 3<sup>rd</sup> Coch. based dismissed on grounds of ill health 2149/3/13.*  
*AFB/1836 recommended 2149/3/13*  
*Pl. 4/6. 1. 18. 17*

Through October the entries on Samuels record are a little trick to decipher but on the 10<sup>th</sup> October he was at No4 Command Depto at Codford moving to join the Tunnelling Brigade Porton Down on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

*21.10.17 o/c 4<sup>th</sup> Regt Eng Bde. Pte. A. W. L. P. D. Davis 17.10.17*  
*14.10.17 4<sup>th</sup> Regt Eng Bde. Pte. G. P. 9 from Bodford 10.10.17*  
*14.10.17 o/c No 4 Comd Dep Pte. T. P. 10 to 4<sup>th</sup> Regt Eng Bde Bodford 10.10.17*

Part of Codford Camp with the Australian imperial force badge carved in to the hillside behind.



By the end of November 1917 Samuel was deemed fit enough to head overseas to France once more.

*He proceeded Overseas to France Eng*  
*in Longbridge Deverill via Southampton 29.11.17*  
*20.11.17 1095 H.R.14*  
*2. R 10973 3.12.17*  
*20.11.17 385*



On the 30<sup>th</sup> he arrived back at the AGBD (Australian General Base Depot) at Rouelles.

30/11/17 A.G.B.D. Sp. Marched in from Eng. Rouelles 30/11/17



On the 6<sup>th</sup> December 1917 Samuel marched out from the AGBD and the same day March in, re-joined his old unit, the 1 Australian Tunnelling Company (ATC). The company were at Dranoutre at this point though how far Samuel made it towards rejoining them is questionable.

Sp. M/Out to AGBD ex 1st Tunnelling Coy (France)	France	6.12.17	D051/3642	19.12.17
Sp. M/In to 1st Tunnelling Coy from AGBD France	France	6.12.17	D051/3641	19.12.17

Just 3 days later on the 9<sup>th</sup> December he returned to the AGBD at Rouelles from the 1<sup>st</sup> ATC.

A.G.B.D.	Sp. Marched in from Unit	Have	9-12-17
----------	--------------------------	------	---------

On the 16<sup>th</sup> December he Marched Out to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Division Base Depot also at Rouelles where he spent Christmas 1917 and new year 1918.

Marched out to 3 <sup>rd</sup> A.D.B.D.	16.12.17	AK.2011/58.
---	----------	-------------

4 weeks later on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 1918 he was again evacuated to the UK for health reasons. On arrival he 'marched into' No2 (Australian) Convalescent Depot at Weymouth.

12.2.18 C.D.-A.I.B.D. Sp. Marched out on P.B. Drap for England	Have	15.1.18
--	------	---------

Sp. M/In to No 2 Conv Depot Weymouth from France.	Eng.	16.1.18	L. 8594 ✓ D08/2525	22.1.18
---	------	---------	-----------------------	---------





A few days later on the 24th January 1918 he moved to No4 Command Depot at Hurdcott.

24.1.18	o/c No4 Com Dep. Rte. In/4 from No 2	Hurdcott. 24.1.18
	Com. Dep. Weymouth	
28.1.18	o/c No 2 Com Dep. Rte. In/0 to No 4 Com	Weymouth 24.1.18.
	Dep. Hurdcott.	

On the 15th February 1918 Samuel was declared AWL (Absent Without Leave) from Hurdcott.

✓	Rte. AWL 15.2.18.	15.2.18	JA 1133. ✓
✗	Declared an illegal	Eng.	20.3.18
	absence by C. of I.		Do 28/947E
	held at Hurdcott		11.4.18
	No 4 Com Dep.		

On the 20th March he was declared Missing Absent (M Abs)

20.3.18	o/c No 4 Com Dep. Rte. Declared M. Abs.	20.3.18
	by C. of I. held at Hurdcott.	

It appears he returned on the 28th March 1918 after 5 weeks missing.

✗	Spr Ref Do 28/947E of		RA 2170
	11.4.18. shows AWL		✓
	15.2.18. Ill. Abs 20.3.18		Do 31/1051E
	Later report shows Rtd.	28.3.18.	22.4.18
	from all abs 28.3.18. to		
	No 4 Com Dep. Hurdcott.		

It appears he handed him self in at Dinton, a station on the way to Hurdcott. He pleaded guilty to being absent. He appeared before a court martial trial and was sentenced to 67 days detention and forfeit 31 days pay. Total forfeit 72 days pay

Rte	Do. In held at Toward 8.4.18	Eng.	23.4.18	CR 4304/8/11
	Charge Hurdcott 15.2.18. Rte			20.5.18
	Do. W.L. 15.2.18 till surrendering			Do 39/13836
	at Dinton 28.3.18. Pleading			20.5.18
	guilty. Finding guilty (except			
	death period 18.3.18 - 23.3.18.			
	Sentence to undergo 67 days detn			
	8.4.18. Confirmation computed			
	to forfeiture tot 31 days pay by			
	Mag. then the Court let off 10 days pay			
	Rte. In. L.B.V.D. L.O.C. A.I.F. Depot			
	in, UK 23.4.18. Period under			
	charge 10 days. Total forfeiture 72 days pay			
	arrested 28.3.18			



PROCEEDINGS OF COURT MARTIAL HELD FOR TRIAL OF				
Regimental Number.	Rank.	Initials.	Name.	Unit.
124	Sapper	S.	Hancock	37882

Sentenced to— Detn 67 days

Dated 8/4/1918

Filed in Attorney-General's Department and numbered 12856

On the 18<sup>th</sup> May he marched in from the isolation Hospital at Hurdcott to No4 Command Depot. On the 27<sup>th</sup> he marched in to over seas tunnelling Brigade at Longbridge Deverill.

18.5.18.	o/c	No 4 Com	Pte. G. I. from Camp Isol	Hurdcott	18.5.18.
	Dep.				
27.5.18.	o/c	of seas Ling	Pte. G. I. from No 4 Com. Dep	Longbridge	27.5.18
	Bde			Deverill	
27.5.18.	o/c	No 4 Com	Pte. G. I. to of seas Ling Bde	Hurdcott	27.5.18
	Dep.			Longbridge Deverill	

On the 14<sup>th</sup> June 1918 he was absent again from Longbridge Deverill for 10 days from Midnight on the 15<sup>th</sup> to 11:15am on the 24<sup>th</sup> June. he was awarded 22 days Field Punishment No2 and forfeit 32 days pay.

Pte. Hancock England 14.6.18 absd from M/N. 15.6.18 till 11-15 am 24.6.18 Award 22 dys. F.P. No. 2 by Capt. G. H. Smith C/O. 24.6.18 Total Forfeiture 32 dys Pay. (Forfeiture for 24.6.18 concurrent 25675.	"	D032/5347 11/6/18
---	---	----------------------

23.7.18.	Adm. H/O. London.	" A.W.E. from M/N. 13.6.18 till 11.15 AM. 24/6/18. AWARD. 22 days F.P. No 2 by Capt. G.H. Smith C/O. 24.6.18. (SANDHILL 14.6.18) Total. Forfeiture 32 Days Pay (Forfeiture for 24/6/18 concurrent) E. 5676.	England
----------	-------------------	---	---------

The absence may be due to prior knowledge he was soon to proceed overseas and may have been visiting family



On the 26<sup>th</sup> June 1918 2 days after retuning from being absent he headed back to France from Folkstone, for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time.

25-6-18	Pte of seas Longbridge	Proceeding Overseas FRANCE.	26-6-18
	Bdr	sa Longbridge Durrill via Folkstone	

He was again sent to the Base Depot at Rouelles as a reinforcement for the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Tunnelling Company. He left to join the company on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 1918.

Pte M/Ln to Base Depot	France 27-6-18	N.O 30/5168
ex H. H. ex Transfer Coy		18-7-18
1st Tunn Coy B.E.F.		

27-6-18	AIBD	Pte Marched in ex England Rouelles.	27-6-18
5-7-18	-do-	Marched out to unit	5-7-18

Instead of heading to the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Tunnelling Company he retuned to the 37<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, where he had been posted earlier as unfit for tunnelling. He was taken on strength on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 1918.

37 <sup>th</sup> Bn.	Pte Taken on strength	France 6-7-18	N.O 34/5262
	of 37 <sup>th</sup> Bn from Rpt		
	37 <sup>th</sup> Bn (Orig 1st Tunn Coy)		
	B.E.F. (ex Eng)		

The 37<sup>th</sup> Battalion were at Querriu H11d10.10 north east of Amiens when he joined them, at rest training with a brigade sports meet that day.

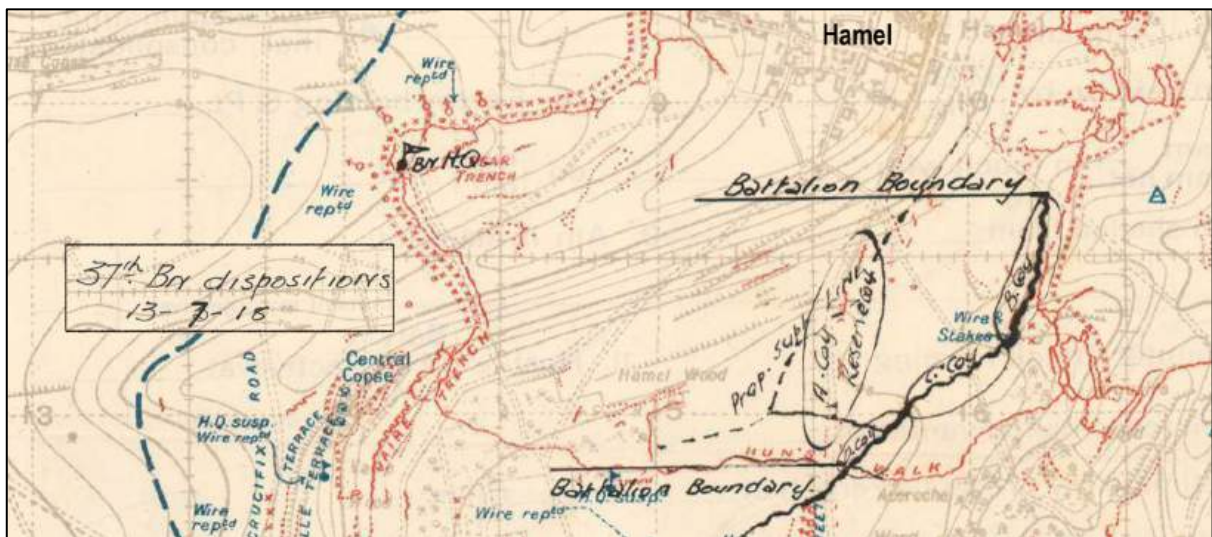
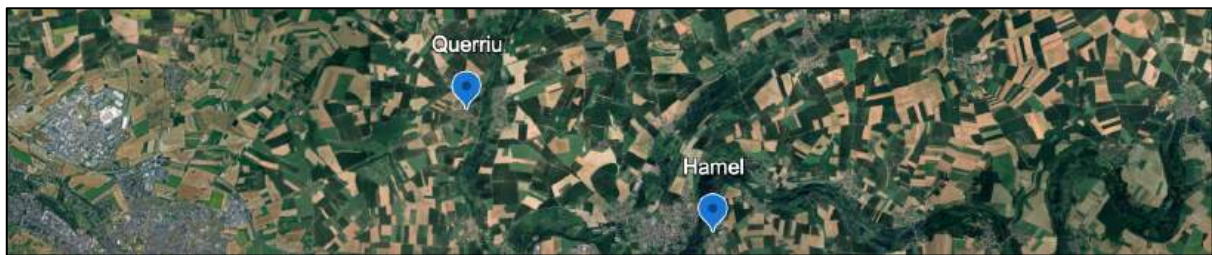
62 D	July	Tenth Infantry Brigade Sports Meeting was held to-day at H.17.d.central.
H.11.d.	6th.	The weather was perfect and competition amongst the various units of the Brigade very keen.
10.10	1918	Amongst numerous visitors, was Lieut.-General Sir JOHN MONASH, K.C.B., V.D., Corps Commander, Australian Corps.
		37th. Battalion secured second place in the maximum points scored for the champion unit -
		the said competition being won by Tenth Field Ambulance.
		Sports Programme attached.



July 1918		In Trenches K = Killed W = Wounded			Billets	
1 <sup>st</sup> Rouelles	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rouelles	3 <sup>rd</sup> Rouelles	4 <sup>th</sup> Rouelles	5 <sup>th</sup> in transit	6 <sup>th</sup> in transit	7 <sup>th</sup> joined 37 <sup>th</sup> Battalion at Querriu H11d10.10
8 <sup>th</sup> training & sports	9 <sup>th</sup> training & sports	10 <sup>th</sup> training & sports	11 <sup>th</sup> moved to forward area	12 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup> moved up to front line and became D battalion	14 <sup>th</sup> at night the line moved forward - working parties for digging and wiring then moved back to positions in P8 3W



Positions on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1918 south of Hamel in front line



Battlefield around Hamel



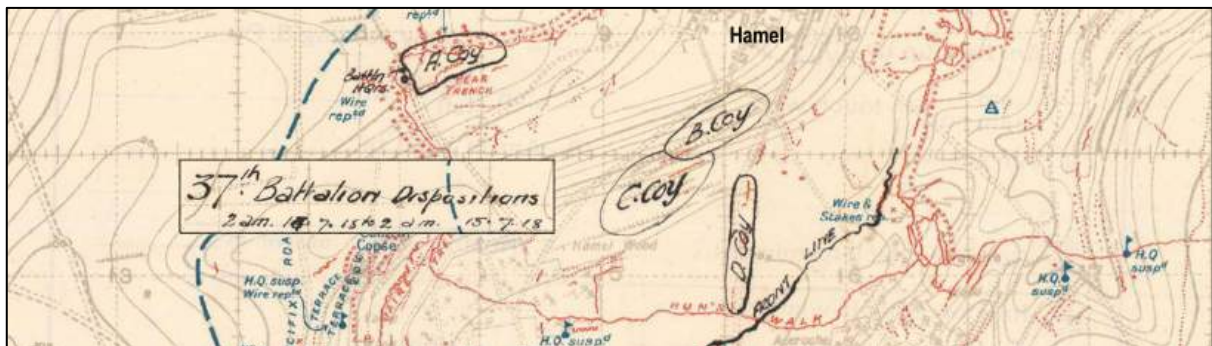
Australian troops in trenches near Hamel July 1918





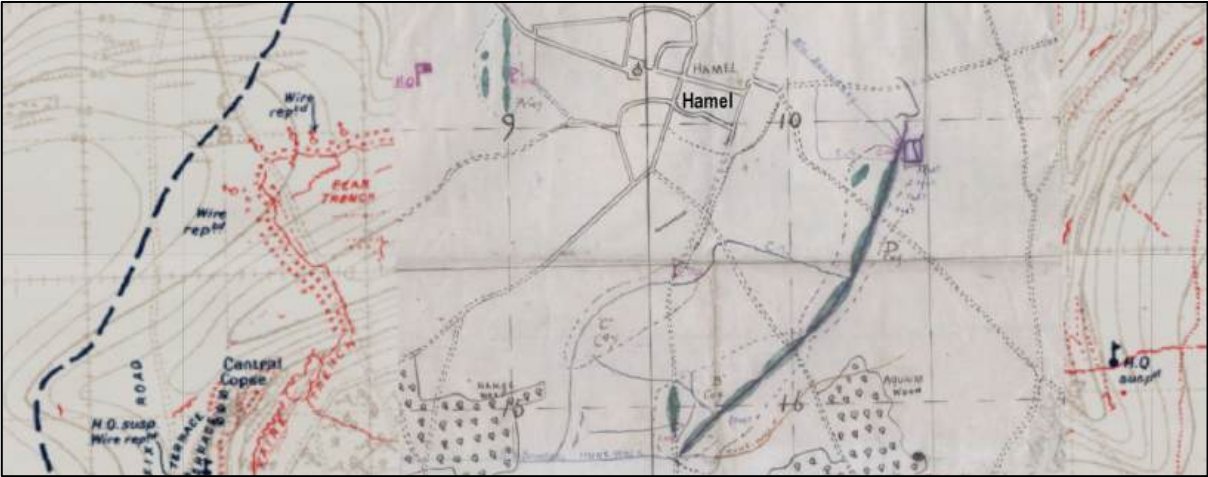
July 1918 cont ....		In Trenches K = Killed W = Wounded			Billets	
15 <sup>th</sup> ½ battalion bathed at Corbie & given clean clothing the rest employed building shelters	16 <sup>th</sup> remainder of battalion bathed. Salvage work	17 <sup>th</sup> salvage work & Working parties constructing dugouts on P14 & P15	18 <sup>th</sup> relived 40 <sup>th</sup> Battalion in Hemel Sector - HQ at P9a4.4	19 <sup>th</sup> quiet day improving trenches	20 <sup>th</sup> 2K 1W	21 <sup>st</sup> quiet day improving positions
22 <sup>nd</sup> quiet day	23 <sup>rd</sup> harassing fire 7W 1K	24 <sup>th</sup> light shelling in P10	25 <sup>th</sup> light shelling in P10	26 <sup>th</sup> relived to positions as of 15 <sup>th</sup> July	27 <sup>th</sup> 90 men bathed Corbie & given clean underwear. The rest in the Somme river.	28 <sup>th</sup> 90 men bathed Corbie & given clean underwear. Working party on forward trenches in P15
29 <sup>th</sup> 90 men bathed Corbie & given clean underwear. Working party on forward trenches in P15	30 <sup>th</sup> 90 men bathed Corbie & given clean underwear. Working party on forward trenches in P15	31 <sup>st</sup> Moved to trenches in P14 & P15.				

Positions 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July 1918 back from the front line





Front line positions 19<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> July 1918 in-front of Hamel with A company in reserve behind the Village



Reserve positions 26<sup>th</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1918



August 1918		In Trenches K = Killed W = Wounded			Billets	
1 <sup>st</sup> in reserve behind Hamel	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> to the front line Hamel sector	4 <sup>th</sup> quiet day	5 <sup>th</sup> quiet day – aircraft very active	6 <sup>th</sup> quiet day – aircraft very active	7 <sup>th</sup> relieved to the rear Accroche Wood line with an offensive pending
8 <sup>th</sup> relieved 2am - 4:20am barrage & assault in reserve - Accroche Wood 1pm ordered to withdraw and rest. 6:30pm ordered forward in artillery formation.	9 <sup>th</sup> reconnaissance of line	10 <sup>th</sup> battalion move forward for operation to Susan Wood	11 <sup>th</sup> enemy planes and artillery active  Moved - R20c5.0 R19b25.20	12 <sup>th</sup> moved forward & took village of Proyard digging in on eastern side at dusk. Bombed by 5 hostile aircraft - Relieved to Katewood	13 <sup>th</sup> to new positions in Q14 & Q20 Half battalion bathed in Somme River and received clean clothing	14 <sup>th</sup> remainder of battalion bathed in river and received clean clothing Bombing by hostile aircraft 2W
15 <sup>th</sup> hostile aircraft active and bombing	16 <sup>th</sup> heavy hostile shelling Reorganising and refitting	17 <sup>th</sup> Reorganising and refitting	18 <sup>th</sup> Reorganising and refitting Samuel to hospital	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>

7<sup>th</sup> August to Accroche Wood (far left of picture)



# 8th August advance to Susan Wood

At 6-30 p.m., we moved from our shelters in ACCROCHE STREET in artillery formation skirting the southern edge of ACCROCHE WOOD and then East till we eventually reached the banks of the valley near SUSAN WOOD. Then it was seen that the battalion had been completely surprised for German guns of every calibre were faced towards German territory firing shells of every description at extreme ranges.

It was in this valley that the enemy had much of his artillery concealed. The surprising effect of the operation may be gathered from the fact that when the assaulting waves had reached the valley the German gunners had not fired a single shot. The artillerymen knew nothing of the attack until they saw the tanks and infantry appear through the mist on the top of the valley. It was too late - the gunners were taken prisoners and the captured guns were soon re-set and were firing at a quick rate ~~xxxxxx~~ over the still advancing columns into Hun territory. After arrival at this position, the necessary reconnaissances were made to maintain touch with units on our right and left.

## 8th to 10th Accroche Wood to Susan Wood.



Valley near Susan Wood with German prisoners 8th August 1918





10<sup>th</sup> August 1918 advance toward Proyard

On the 10/8/1918, the battalion was still located in the valley near SUSAN WOOD. At 5-30 p.m., on this day, the Commanding Officer called a conference of all officers when detailed operations to take place that night were outlined. The Brigade was to move along the WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT ROAD in the following order :-  
37th. Bn., 38th. Bn., 40th. Bn., 39th. Bn.

The 37th. Battalion with three tanks formed the Advanced Guard and "A" Company of the 37th. Battalion the Vanguard. "B" and "C" Coys. furnished left and right flank guards respectively. It was intended to move from LA FLAQUE at 9-30 p.m. (zero hour) to AVENUE CROSS thence due NORTH to ROBERT WOOD and TRIANGLE WOOD, then due EAST to the main road running NORTH EAST from PROYART and along the road to a point opposite the northern end of LUC WOOD. From this point patrols were to be sent out by "A" Coy. to the canal to secure touch by means of Verey Light signals with the 50th. Bn. on the NORTH of the SOMME.

When the 10th. Brigade was in position, the 9th. Brigade was to advance from the OLD AMIENS DEFENCE LINE towards our position firing VEREY light signals to be answered by us. The position to be taken up by the 37th. Battalion extended from FORKED ROAD, SOUTH WEST to of CHUIGNOLLES, to the end of LUC WOOD.

The artillery was to co-operate as under :-  
(1) Heavies firing 1000 yards over the proposed battalion positions.  
(2) Field guns firing over the 9th. Brigade and in rear of us.

Armored cars were to create a diversion by moving east along the WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT ROAD. The battalion moved in artillery formation along the WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT ROAD reaching the hospital at 8 p.m.

At 9-15 p.m., the advance continued and the VANGUARD passed LA FLAQUE front line with the tanks at 10 p.m.

The tanks were led by Lieut. N. G. McNICOL, M.C., with a tank officer and three scouts. Immediately on entering NO MAN'S LAND, anti-tank gun fire was opened down the road and m.g. fire was opened from both flanks. At this stage, the Commanding Officer was in front of the tanks where he remained until the tanks had gone 300 yards into NO MAN'S LAND when he returned to his former position in the rear of "A" Company.

As the advance continued, the Boche sent up numerous lights of varying colors and descriptions and the hurricane machine gun fire increased in intensity.

Some 800 yards forward from our front line, Lieut. McNICOL, M.C., and the tank officer were both wounded with the result that the tanks immediately stopped.

At this point, machine gun fire from every direction even from the rear was concentrated in the vicinity of the tanks which were clearly illuminated by the numerous enemy flares. 50% of the platoon immediately in rear of the tanks became casualties, the remainder of the platoon extended on the right flank of the road and engaged the enemy machine guns. The tanks also opened fire with their six-pounders and Hotchkiss guns.

The Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel E. KNOX KNIGHT was sitting on the side of the road, was killed by a fragment of an anti-tank shell.

"C", "B", and "D" Coys. were extended to the right of the road to dig in.

At this juncture, Major W. F. H. ROBERTSON, assumed control of the Battalion.

Later on, a message was received from Brigade Headquarters instructing the 37th. Battalion to press on. Major PAYNE of the 40th. Battalion, the senior officer present, however, decided to get in touch with Brigade before doing so.

In the meantime, the 37th. Battalion reorganised their dispositions in preparation for a second move forward with companies in the following order :-  
"D" Coy., "C" Coy., "B" Coy., "A" Coy.

In conference with the Commanding Officers of the 38th. and 40th. Battalions, it was decided that - as the position of the Brigade would be impossible at daylight - to withdraw and occupy the OLD AMIENS DEFENCE LINE. This was accordingly done and the battalion occupied the support trenches of the OLD AMIENS DEFENCE LINE to the NORTH of WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT ROAD. The casualties for this operation were particularly heavy, it being estimated at the time at 3 officers and 100 other ranks.

10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> move forward and attack on Proyard





## 12<sup>th</sup> Attack on Proyart

### REPORT ON THE OPERATION OF THE 37TH. BATTALION ON THE 12TH. AUGUST 1918.

At 6 a.m. on the 12th. August 1918, Brigade Headquarters reported that the situation represented that the enemy was evidently retiring from the village of PROYART and the Brigadier-General ordered that patrols be immediately sent forward to ascertain the exact movements of the enemy. The Battalion was holding a line slightly in advance of the OLD AMIENS DEFENCE LINE in the following order :-

"A" Company	R.19.b. 7. 0 to R.19.b. 7. 2.
"B" Company	R.20.c.20.55 to R.19.b. 7. 0.
"D" Company	R.20.c. 5. 0 to R.20.c.20.55
"C" Company	Q.30.b.85.20 to R.19.c.50.40 (support).

Reconnaissance. Reconnoitring pat-rols were accordingly sent out by "A", ~~XXXXXX~~ "B" and "D" Companies at 7-15 a.m. and were able to advance to the outskirts of PROYART on the WEST side. It was reported by "A" Coy. patrols that they were fired on by a very small calibre gun probably an anti-tank gun. The 40th. Bat talion, A.I.F., was operating on the right flank and the 42nd. Battalion, A.I.F. put out a patrol to cover the left flank.

Intention. The 37th. Battalion intended to take up a position on the spur on the east side of PROYART.

Order of Attack. "D" Coy. under Lieut. P. L. AITKEN on the right.  
 "B" Coy. under Capt. W. L. ALLEN in the centre.  
 "A" Coy. under Capt. P. G. TOWL on the left.  
 "C" Coy. under Lieut. A. M. MURDOCH, M.C., in support.  
 Major W. F. H. ROBERTSON went forward and established a signal station at R.20.a.50.05 in order to ensure the carrying into effect of all orders issued from Bat-talion Headquarters.  
 Major C. B. STORY commanded the 37th. Battalion.

The Advance. "D" Coy. moved forward and were obliged to take up a position at approx. R.21.a.8.5. owing to resistance from a machine gun, firing from a position near the road in R.21.d.

Lieut. J. KERSHAW, "D" Coy., was killed about 2-30 p.m. while making a reconnaissance on the left flank of "D" Coy. with a view to attacking with his platoon. He was co-operating with Lieut. G. R. LONG of "D" Company, operating on the right flank of "D" Coy. - Lieut. Long attained his objective but was unable to advance further owing to enfilade fire from which ~~the~~ <sup>he</sup> suffered four casualties.

"B" Coy. took up a position in the bank extending from R.21.a.65.65 to R.15.d.60.58. While proceeding through the village along the CHUIGNES ROAD, Corporal W. C. MC CROHON, "B" Coy., captured a machine gun and crew of six men belonging to the 243rd. German Division. "A" Coy. reached a position near the CROSS on SHRINE in R.15.a. Two machine guns, approx. R.9.c.2.0. and R.9.c.2.4. rendered further advance for the time being difficult. During the advance, "A" Coy. had two men killed and two men wounded by a machine gun firing from the direction of R.2.d.

Fire Fight. Owing to the activity of the enemy, machine gun and artillery fire, it was decided to take up a position running approximately from R.21.a.8.5. to R.15.c.2.9. with a view to beating down the enemy's fire before ultimately securing the objective. During this stage of the operation, the 37th. Battalion was very active with Lewis Gun fire and sniping. Many casualties were inflicted on the enemy. It might be mentioned here that Lieut. KENLEY's platoon ("A" Coy.) practically exhausted all their ammunition on the enemy. "A" and "B" Coys. caused many casualties on portions of the enemy running back from the huts in rear of ST GERMAIN WOOD. Apart from casualties inflicted on the enemy by Lewis Gun fire, "A" Company claimed 20 casualties as the result of sniping.

The Attack. Prior to making the attack, "C" Company relieved "D" Company. The attack was launched against the centre of the objec-tive by "C" and "B" Companies. Nine (9) shell holes were mopped up and eight (8) machine guns were captured. "C" Coy. occupied the objective by 8-30 p.m. The left platoon of "A" Company crept to its objective under cover of Lewis gun fire from R.15.c. The casualties in the attack resulted in 4 killed and 12 wounded.

When "B" Coy. stormed the trench, they captured the objective killing the garrison and took one wounded prisoner.

Exploiting Suc-cess. Sergeant H. C. LINCOLN, and Sergeant TOOGOOD, and two other ranks were casualties while mopping up shell hole positions in front of the objective.

Consolidation. Four (4) platoon posts were dug under cover of listening posts consisting of Lewis Guns.



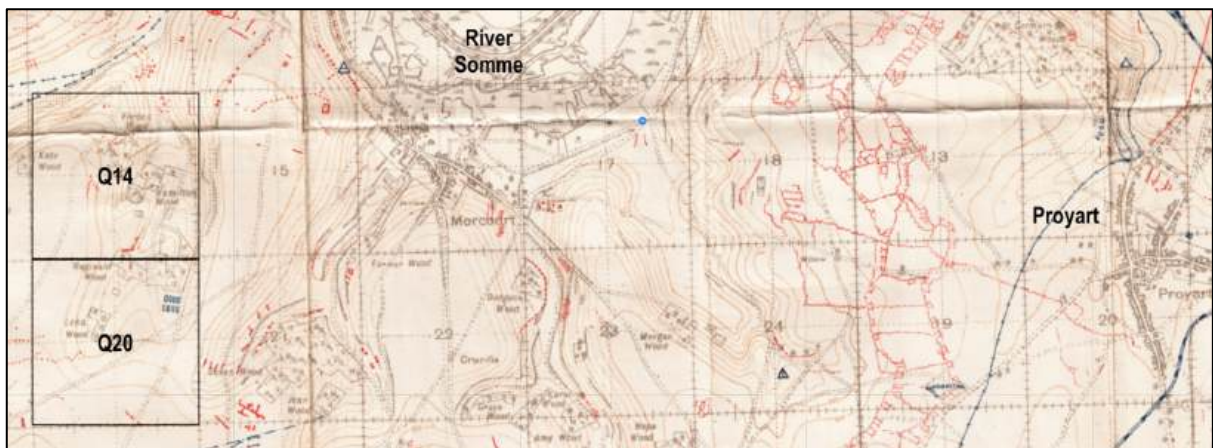
View of Proyart with shells falling in to the rear of the village



Australian troops digging in at Proyart



13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> August relived back to Q14 & Q20





On the 18<sup>th</sup> August, whilst at rest in Q14 & Q20 Samuel was again taken ill with epididymitis ( Epididymitis is an inflammation of the coiled tube at the back of the testicle. Epididymitis is most often caused by a bacterial infection, can be sexually transmitted and can be with antibiotics). He was admitted to No14 Field Ambulance (FA) who had just taken over the Main Dressing Station (MDS) at Hamel P5c5.1 and on the 19<sup>th</sup> he was transferred to No12 CCS (Casualty Clearing Station) at Longpre. On the 21<sup>st</sup> August he was admitted to No1 Stationary Hospital 'Venerial' at Rouen.

24-8-18	6.0 37 <sup>th</sup> Bn	PE	To Hospital Sick		18-8-18
19-8-18	14 <sup>th</sup> F Amb.	"	Adm Epididymitis	✓	18-8-18
19-8-18	12 CCS	"	Adm NYD	✓	19-8-18
21-8-18	No1 Sty Hosp	"	Adm Venerial.		21-8-18

On the 25<sup>th</sup> August he was admitted to No39 General Hospital at Le Havre NYD ( Not Yet Diagnosed) where he remained for 5 day. On the 30<sup>th</sup> August he was transferred 'to base' (AIBD at Rouelles – Convescent Depot) with 'Orchitis NV' (Orchitis – inflammation of the testicle)

25-8-18	39 <sup>th</sup> G Hosp	"	Adm NYD	Havre	25-8-18
30-8-18	-do-	"	To Base Orchitis NV		30-8-18
30-8-18	AIBD	"	16/17 in ca Con Dep		30-8-18



On the 6<sup>th</sup> September 1918 Samuel left the Convalescent Depot at Rouelles for the Front. He arrived back at the 37<sup>th</sup> Battalion on the 11<sup>th</sup> September.

6-9-18	-do-	"	To Front		6-9-18
11-9-18	6.0 37 <sup>th</sup> Bn	"	Rejoined Bn from Hosp Field		11-9-18

He rejoined the battalion at J13a near the ruined village of Bussu. They had just come out of the front line and were at rest.





Sept 13th	Men still resting. Efforts were made to make the men as comfortable as possible. The village of BUSSU is very much destroyed. In the cemetery the vaults <del>were-evidence</del> have been opened and the coffins robbed of the lead by the enemy. Two traps were found in one of the dugouts in the village. The men are feeling much brighter. Weather continued to be very wet.
-----------	---

For the next few days the men were resting and training.

4 days after rejoining the 37<sup>th</sup> Battalion, on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 1918, Samuel was again taken sick. He was admitted to the 10<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance at Mount St Quentin I16c7.2 with VD 20 (Venereal Disease). The same day he was transferred to No41 Stationary Hospital at Pont Remy with Gonorrhoea.

21-9-18	-do-	To Hospital Sick	✓	15-9-18
20-9-18	10 <sup>th</sup> F Amb	Adm VD 20.	✓	15-9-18
		Co 41 Stry Hosp	✓	15-9-18
15-9-18	41 S. Hosp	Adm Gonorrhoea	✓	15-9-18



On the 19<sup>th</sup> he was admitted back at 39 General Hospital at Le Havre and on the 26<sup>th</sup> back at the Base Depot at Rouelles with VDG (Venereal Disease Gonorrhoea) (Gonorrhoea is a sexually transmitted infection caused by a bacteria that can affect the genital, rectal and oropharyngeal (throat) areas of both men and women. Symptoms typically emerge within two weeks after sexual contact with an infected person). How and where Samuel contracted the Disease is not known, it seems to be a prolonged issue.

19-9-18	39 <sup>th</sup> G. Hosp	Adm NVD	Havre	19-9-18
26-10-18	-do-	To Base Depot VDG	✓	26-10-18
26-10-18	AIBD	M/In ex 39 <sup>th</sup> Gen Hosp	✓	26-10-18



Samuel remained at the Base depot convalescing until the 8<sup>th</sup> November 1918 when he was transferred and left to join the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion.

	Pte. Trans to 8 <sup>th</sup> Bn. ex A.I.B.D.	✓	8-11-18.	2/03/393.	4-1-19.
A.I.B.D.	Re: M/Out to Unit				8-11-18



It wasn't until the 5<sup>th</sup> December 1918 that Samuel 'Marched In' and joined the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Somewhere on route to them, on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918 he saw the war come to an end.

C.O. 8 <sup>th</sup> Bn	4213	He 2.O.S. from 37 <sup>th</sup> Bn	Field	5.12.18
8 <sup>th</sup> Bn. B213		or A.I.B.D.		
Mazincien		M/in from base		5.12.18

The 8<sup>th</sup> battalion were at Mazincien when Samuel joined them.



On the 8<sup>th</sup> December the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion moved to Favril where the men undertook training education and sports in the afternoons, especially Australian rules football. On the 18<sup>th</sup> they moved to Avesnes and 19<sup>th</sup> to winter quarters in Beugnes.



On the 20<sup>th</sup> December the battalion was inspected by HRH the Prince of Wales. On the 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas dinners were served to the men. The battalion remained at Beugnes through January, February in to March 1919.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> March 1919 Samuel 'Marched Out' to the AIBD at Rouelles for 'RTA' Return To Australia'. On the 20<sup>th</sup> March he 'Marched out' of the AIBD for the UK. He 'marched in' to RBAA (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Heytesbury.

do	Infant for R.T.A.	..	5.3.19
A.G.B.D.	Went for RTA. (1915-16 personnel)		20.3.19
R.B.G.A.	M/in	Heytesbury	21.3.19





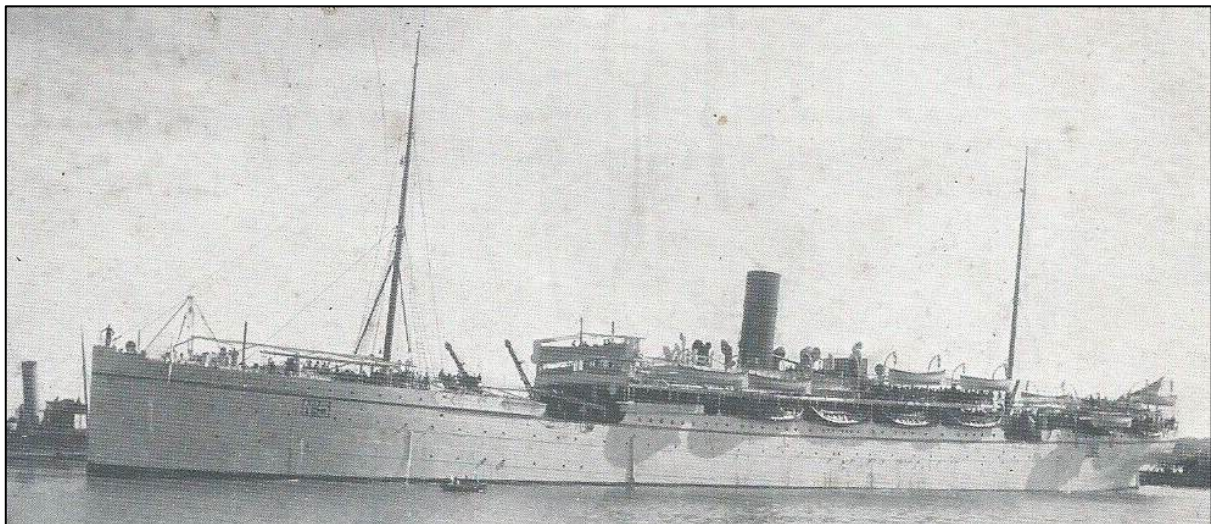
On the 10<sup>th</sup> April 1919 Samuel was noted AWL (Absent Without Leave) from Heytesbury. He returned 4 days later on the 15<sup>th</sup> after being apprehended by Military Police. He was forfeit 8 days pay.

do.	A.W.L.	10.4.19
do	Retd. from A.W.L.	15.4.19

8 <sup>th</sup> Btn	Pte.	Offence. Heytesbury. 11.4.19 A.W.L.	
		10.4.19 until apprehended by M.P.	
		15.4.19 Award. Forfeits 3 days pay	
		26.4.19. Total Forf. 8 days pay	R.O. 107/145/19 1449469 mrs

On the 12<sup>th</sup> May 1919 Samuel finally left for Australia sailing on the SS Soudan.

Relg. to Aust. per H.F. "Soudan" embarked 12/5/19	
C.I.B.L. 3458/6096	Uld Lon. 16/5/19 Rec.B.R. 26/5/19



Back in Sydney in July 1919 Samuel declared no disability despite his service illnesses. He was finally discharged from service on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 1919.

<p>THE DISEMBARKATION MEDICAL BOARD, ANZAC BUFFET, 2nd MILITARY DISTRICT.</p> <p>A.M. Form D2. (For use in Australia) Revised 1.4.19.</p> <p><b>MEDICAL REPORT ON AN INVALID</b></p> <p>1. Number <u>124</u> 2. Rank <u>Pte</u> 3. Name <u>HANCOCK, Samuel</u></p> <p>4. Unit <u>8 Bn</u> 5. Age <u>21</u> 6. Trade or Occupation <u>Printer</u></p> <p>7. Place of Enlistment <u>Cardinal</u> 8. Date of Enlistment <u>23.11.15</u></p> <p>9. Date and place of origin of disability <u>See</u> 10. Date and place where disability first caused man to become a Casualty <u>See</u></p> <p>11. Essential facts of Medical History (including operation) <u>See</u></p> <p>12. Is the man fit for work or for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>13. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>14. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>15. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>16. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>17. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>18. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>19. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>20. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>21. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>22. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>23. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>24. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>25. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>26. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>27. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>28. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>29. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>30. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>31. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>32. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>33. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>34. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>35. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>36. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>37. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>38. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>39. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>40. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>41. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>42. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>43. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>44. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>45. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>46. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>47. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>48. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>49. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>50. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>51. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>52. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>53. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>54. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>55. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>56. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>57. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>58. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>59. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>60. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>61. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>62. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>63. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>64. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>65. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>66. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>67. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>68. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>69. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>70. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>71. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>72. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>73. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>74. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>75. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>76. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>77. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>78. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>79. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>80. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>81. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>82. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>83. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>84. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>85. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>86. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>87. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>88. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>89. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>90. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>91. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>92. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>93. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>94. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>95. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>96. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>97. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>98. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>99. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>100. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p>		<p>20. Is the man fit for work or for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>21. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>22. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>23. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>24. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>25. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>26. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>27. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>28. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>29. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>30. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>31. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>32. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>33. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>34. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>35. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>36. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>37. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>38. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>39. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>40. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>41. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>42. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>43. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>44. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>45. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>46. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>47. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>48. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>49. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>50. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>51. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>52. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>53. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>54. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>55. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>56. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>57. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>58. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>59. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>60. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>61. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>62. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>63. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>64. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>65. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>66. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>67. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>68. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>69. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>70. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>71. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>72. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>73. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>74. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>75. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>76. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>77. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>78. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>79. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>80. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>81. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>82. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>83. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>84. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>85. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>86. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>87. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>88. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>89. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>90. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>91. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>92. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>93. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>94. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>95. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>96. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>97. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>98. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>99. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p> <p>100. Is the man fit for noncombat training? <u>See</u></p>
--	--	---



For his wartime service Samuel was awarded the British War and Victory Medals.



RECORD OF MEDALS, ETC.

Surname.	Christian Names.	Regtl. No.	Unit.
HANCOCK,	S. . . Pte.	124.	1s. tun. Coy.

Enlisted at \_\_\_\_\_ Posted Camp \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address *40 Post Office Clifton South Coast*

Town \_\_\_\_\_ Area \_\_\_\_\_

Date Embarkation \_\_\_\_\_ Transport \_\_\_\_\_ Sailed From \_\_\_\_\_

Decorations. 1914-15 Star. British General Service Medal. Victory Medal.

ISSUED \_\_\_\_\_ ISSUED \_\_\_\_\_ ISSUED \_\_\_\_\_

PLAQUE \_\_\_\_\_ PLAQUE \_\_\_\_\_ PLAQUE \_\_\_\_\_

D.H.Q.'s PRINT, SYDNEY.

Registered *4449* Book *4* Folio *66/91* Date *4-NOV-1921*

Registered *32775* Book *3529* Folio *4* Date *1 SEP 23*

Two medals are shown hanging from ribbons. The left medal is the British War Medal, featuring a profile of King George V. The right medal is the Victory Medal, featuring a winged figure. Both are awarded to Samuel Hancock.

Back in civilian life Samuel returned to Mining in New South Wales (NSW) .

On the 28<sup>th</sup> August 1926 he married Lottie Maud Crook. His occupation noted a Miner living in Wombarra on the coast of NSW south of Sydney

REGISTER BOOK for the use of Ministers authorized to celebrate Marriages under the Acts Nos. 15 and 17, 1899.

MARRIAGES Solemnized in the District of *Swyng Hills*, in the State of New South Wales, by *Arthur J. Morris*, at *St. Michaels*.

No.	When and Where Married	Name and Residence of the Groom	Residence of the Bride	Place of Birth of Groom	Place of Birth of Bride
525	Aug. 28 <sup>th</sup> 1926 St. Michaels Clifton	Samuel Hancock Lottie Maud Crook Wombarra NSW	Miner Cook Wombarra NSW	Wombarra NSW	Wombarra NSW

This Council of \_\_\_\_\_ being the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Belligerents, was given in writing to the Marriage

The Council of \_\_\_\_\_ being the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Bride, was given in writing to the Marriage

According to the Act of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

This Marriage was solemnized between us \_\_\_\_\_

In the presence of \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_ Officiating Minister.





In 1927 Samuel wrote asking for copies of his discharge papers as he had lost his. His address was Main Road Clifton NSW just north of Wombarra

<p style="text-align: right;">Main Road Clifton 10 Aug 1927.</p> <p>To Victoria Barrack. Oxford Street. Darlinghurst.</p> <p>Dear Sir,</p> <p>Kindly send by return Post the Duplicate of my Discharge as I have lost mine or if you could let me have the date that I enlisted &amp; the date of my Discharge.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Yr Obleg Sapper. S. Hancock.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Reg No 124 1<sup>st</sup> Gen Coy. A.I.F.</p> <p><i>Mrs. Pagan</i></p> <p>RECEIVED 18 AUG 1927 Supt. Dist. Registrar</p> <p>BASE RECORDS AUG 28 1927 RECEIVED</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25 AUG 1927</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>ISSUED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES IN LIEU OF LOST DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE.</u></p> <p>THIS IS TO CERTIFY that, according to the records at this office ex-No. 124 Private Samuel HANCOCK, 8th Battalion, ent:-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>23.11.15</td> <td>Enlisted in the A.I.F. at Casula, N.S.W.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25. 2.16</td> <td>Embarked for active service abroad.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31. 6.19</td> <td>Returned to Australia.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17. 8.19</td> <td>Discharged from the A.I.F. at Sydney - Termination of period of enlistment.</td> </tr> </table> <p>Signature of soldier.....</p> <p><u>PERSONAL DESCRIPTION:-</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Height.....</td> <td>5 ft. 6 ins.</td> <td>Weight.....</td> <td>124 lbs.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chest measurement.....</td> <td>32 3/4 ins.</td> <td>Complexion.....</td> <td>Dark.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eyes.....</td> <td>Brown.</td> <td>Hair.....</td> <td>Dark Brown.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Age on enlistment.....</td> <td>25 years.</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: right;">Captain, Officer i/c Base Records.</p>	23.11.15	Enlisted in the A.I.F. at Casula, N.S.W.	25. 2.16	Embarked for active service abroad.	31. 6.19	Returned to Australia.	17. 8.19	Discharged from the A.I.F. at Sydney - Termination of period of enlistment.	Height.....	5 ft. 6 ins.	Weight.....	124 lbs.	Chest measurement.....	32 3/4 ins.	Complexion.....	Dark.	Eyes.....	Brown.	Hair.....	Dark Brown.	Age on enlistment.....	25 years.		
23.11.15	Enlisted in the A.I.F. at Casula, N.S.W.																								
25. 2.16	Embarked for active service abroad.																								
31. 6.19	Returned to Australia.																								
17. 8.19	Discharged from the A.I.F. at Sydney - Termination of period of enlistment.																								
Height.....	5 ft. 6 ins.	Weight.....	124 lbs.																						
Chest measurement.....	32 3/4 ins.	Complexion.....	Dark.																						
Eyes.....	Brown.	Hair.....	Dark Brown.																						
Age on enlistment.....	25 years.																								

At some point Samuel and Lottie had a son named Samuel after his father.

Samuel passed away on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 1933 aged 42. He was fishing with two other men in a small boat off Pebbly Beach Coalcliff when large wave capsized the boat.



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MAN DROWNED.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Boat Capsized by Wave.</b></p> <p>An unemployed man named Samuel Hancock was drowned off Pebbly Beach, Coalcliff, at 5.45 a.m. yesterday, when a heavy wave capsized the small boat from which he was fishing.</p> <p>With two other unemployed men, Jack Grant and Jack Yonker, Hancock left the beach in a rowing-boat to fish near the headland enclosing the beach. The sea was heavy, but the men managed to get beyond the line of breakers and had almost reached the open sea when a wave capsized the boat.</p> <p>The men were thrown into the water, and their struggles to keep afloat in the rough sea were noticed by three of their companions named Kerr, Collins, and Patmore, who put out in a small open boat to their assistance. These men had refused earlier to go fishing owing to the rough nature of the seas. Grant and Yonker were hauled into the boat, but Hancock could not be found.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MAN DROWNED</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BOAT CAPSIZED.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TWO COMPANIONS RESCUED.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SYDNEY, March 17.</b></p> <p>An unemployed man, Samuel Hancock, was drowned off Coalcliff Reach early this morning, when a heavy sea capsized the small boat from which he was fishing.</p> <p>There were two other men in the boat, and when they were thrown into the sea their plight was noticed by two companions on shore, who put out in a boat, and rescued them. Hancock, however, could not be found. He was a married man with one child.</p>
---	---



## TWO MATES RESCUED

### DRAMA OF THE SEA

SYDNEY, March 18.

A drama of the sea, in which one fisherman was drowned and his two mates rescued by friends who had not accompanied them on account of the heavy sea, was enacted at Coalcliff, on the South Coast, shortly after dawn to-day.

The victim was Samuel Hancock, 46, a returned soldier, of Wombarra, and the rescued were Jeffrey Yonker, of Wombarra, and Harold Grant, of Clifton.

Shortly before 5.30 a.m. the men set out in the boat for a day's fishing. Two others, William Kerr and Joe Collins, both of Clifton, decided not to go out on account of the heavy sea which was running.

The small boat was tossing like a

cork, and had just reached a point called "Second Rock," about 100 yards from the shore, when it was lifted on the crest of a huge wave and swept back towards the shore.

The current, however, drove it back again, and then it suddenly overturned, throwing the three into the sea. The waves soon swept the men apart.

Regardless of the risk, Kerr and Collins manned their boat and gallantly rowed to the rescue. They were buffeted by the waves, and their boat frequently threatened to capsize, but they kept on.

Yonker had been carried to within 15 yards of the shore; but, despite his frantic efforts, the current was drawing him back to sea. The rescuers dragged him into the boat and rowed back. When they set out again Grant was about 100 yards out, and was being rapidly carried farther; but Hancock, who had been fighting in a place known as the "Whirlpool," had disappeared.

### Caught in Whirlpool

In the meantime Hancock had been swept along to a point known as "The Whirlpool" and was drowned. The body was nowhere to be seen, and Collins and Kerr set out for the beach, which proved to be an exceptionally difficult task, and at times it appeared that the rescued and rescuers would be drowned.

Waves crashed into the tiny boat, which was swept towards the rocks, but Kerr and Collins succeeded in keeping it clear. Then a huge sea struck the craft, and hurled it against a rock, and it became half-full of water. Grant was in danger of being drowned, but he was lifted into an upright position.

A considerable time elapsed before the boat was beached, and after dragging it to safety Kerr and Collins collapsed from exhaustion.

A man who had witnessed the struggle applied artificial means of respiration to Grant, but an hour elapsed before animation was restored. Kerr and Collins were given stimulants and later left for their homes.

Police, who had been told of the tragedy, made a search of the vicinity for Hancock's body, but it had apparently been swept to sea. The overturned boat had also been carried out a considerable distance and drifted towards Wollongong.

It is not known if Samuel's body was ever recovered



The Coroners Inquest noted 'accidental drowning the result of a fishing boat capsizing and throwing deceased in to the sea'.

No.	Date Proceedings received at Department.	Name of Deceased (or Description of Property damaged by fire).	Date when held.	Where held.	Verdict.	Coroner or Magistrate before whom held.
3		Glancok, Samuel	25.3.27	Willingong	Accidental drowning the result of a fishing boat capsizing and throwing deceased into the sea.	J. Keir J.P.

Locality of Death.	Age of Deceased.	Where Deceased Born.	Cash or Property possessed by Deceased.	Medical.	Remarks.
Willingong	46	Dorchester, England	Nil	—	R.G. 12/11/27. Case 204411.

In 1941 Samuels widow Lottie (now remarried Lottie Smith) wrote to the Authorities to try and get Samuels medals for his son as she wished him to have them. She appears to have 1 medal but with no ribbon at this point. Then letter noted in reply 'medals not in store' Whether any medals made to Samuels son is not known.

Master Samuel Glancok,  
5 young St  
Boledale  
South Coast

*Medals not in store*  
*are medals in store*  
*Not mine*

Office in charge  
base records Office  
Canberra  
Dear Sir.

BASE RECORDS  
14 NOV 1941  
RECEIVED

I wish to know if you have any service medals belonging to private Samuel Glancok No 124 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He was in the last War for three years and 135 days. if you have any would you kindly send them to his son, as his father is dead, and I wish him to have the medals that belong to his father. Also can you let me have a piece of Ribbon to go with the only medals I have the number of that medal is 155245. & you would Oblige me

Mrs J Smith.  
(I was Samuel Glancok. Widow)