

ANZAC DAY 2013 – MEMORIES OF A “DIGGER”

On 10 September 1917, my Grandfather, Arthur Moore Vaughan, single, Stockman, aged 27 years and two months, voluntarily enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force at Charters Towers, Queensland, as a Private Soldier, Service Number 7833. He served in the 15th Battalion in France, commencing on 1 April 1918 and returned to Australia as a Veteran a year and a half later, receiving an Honourable Discharge on 14 September 1919.

He was twice wounded in action, being gassed once on 8 June 1918 and again on 25 August 1918. With medical treatment in hospital, he recovered and returned to active duty. He fought in the decisive Battle of Amiens (8 August-3 September 1918) – with the Allies defeating six German divisions, advancing nine full miles (13 kilometres) into enemy territory and taking 16,000 German prisoners – all on the first day of the campaign.

My Grandfather was decorated with the medals THE 1914/15 STAR, THE BRITISH WAR MEDAL and THE VICTORY MEDAL. Being an expert horseman and a marksman, he was offered a Battlefield Commission at the Rank of Captain, but refused on the grounds that promotion would mean leaving his mates behind at the Front.

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