

ARMSTRONG

William Angus Leslie

Service No: 76



BASIC INFORMATION

Name: William Angus Leslie Armstrong

Service Number: 76

Date of Enlistment: 1/8/1916

Age at Enlistment: 23 years 3 months

Civil Occupation: Farmer

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal,

Height: 5 Feet 8 ¼ inches

Weight: 148 Lbs.

Chest Measurement: 38 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Hazel

Hair Colour: Dark Brown

Father: William

Mother: Mary Ann Morey

Siblings: Sarah Francis (1887), Henry George (1888)

Married: Grace Katherine Ellen Johnston

Children: Leslie Bevan (1925), Margaret M (1925)

Life Story

William Angus Leslie Armstrong was born in the Wellington district of South Australia in 1894 to William Armstrong and Mary Ann Morey. His parents married in Nairne, South Australia, in 1886.

By 1910, the family had made their home in the Wickepin district of W.A. William senior and his son, Henry George, were both listed as farmers in the district until William's death in 1915. Henry George and his brother, William, were listed as farmers living at "Hilton Farm," Wickepin, until the end of the War. Mary was living with them but, by the time of her death in 1921, she had retired to the metropolitan area and Henry George had moved to Mount Lawley.

William enlisted as a Private on the 1st August 1916, naming his mother as Next of Kin. He remained in camp for some time before joining the Light Horse Machine Gun Section as a Trooper on the 16th March 1917. In August, William transferred to the Machine Gun Depot in Seymour, Victoria, before embarking from Melbourne aboard HMAT *Commonwealth* on the 2nd November 1917, bound for Egypt.

On the 31st December, William was admitted to hospital in Moascar and diagnosed with epilepsy. He was discharged after a week and joined the 4th Light Horse Machine Gun Squadron at Moascar on the 16th January 1918.

William returned to hospital on the 24th April, suffering again from epilepsy. He was transferred to several hospitals in Egypt before being sent to Moascar Rest Camp.

William marched out to re-join his unit on the 17th June but was returned to hospital on route due to epilepsy. He was hospitalized at Gaza, then Kantara, before spending a week in hospital at Port Said, where he was recorded as suffering "hysterical fits." William was classified B1 which meant he was only able to shoot, carry out guard duty and perform labour roles. William moved to the hospital at Moascar where he remained until the 29th July 1918.

Upon his discharge on the 29th July, William was given lighter duties and, on the 4th August, he was sent to the 14th Australian General Hospital (A.G.H.) at Moascar, where he served as a guard.

William appears to have coped better in his new role and there are no more records of him suffering from epilepsy. However, on the 9th June 1919, he was readmitted to hospital in Abbassia with ear trouble. William was reaffirmed Class B1 and returned to guard duties at the A.G. H. but was struck off strength with disability on the 19th June and returned to Australia on the 17th July 1919.

After the War, William moved to Palmerston Street in North Perth. He went into partnership with Charles William Pearn and, together, they ran the Pearn & Armstrong Motor Garage in Newcastle Street, Perth.

In 1921 the partnership was dissolved, and William took over the business.

He married Grace Katherine Ellen Johnston in Perth in 1924, and the couple had twins, a boy and a girl, before Grace's death in 1925 at the age of twenty-five.

At some point, William entered another business partnership, with Ronald William Smythe, to run The Advance Retreading & Vulcanising Works in Murray Street, Perth, but the business went bankrupt in 1932.

In 1941, William was fined seventy-five pounds with costs for using premises for betting. His occupation at the time was listed as clerk.

William died in Perth in 1958. There is no evidence that he ever remarried.

Acknowledgements

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Heather Harvey

References

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