A Soldier of the Great War Charles Albert Rake 1181



Service Number: 1181

Rank: Private

Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918

Date of embarkation: 5 June 1916

Place of embarkation: Sydney

Ship embarked on: HMAT Borda A30

Charles Albert Rake was born in Adelaide on the 5th September 1893 and was a farmer and grazier from South Australia who enlisted on the 8th February 1916 at the age of 22 years and 3 months.

Initially he was trained at No 1 depot squad and later he joined the 41st Battalion. During Training in March 1916 it appears that he was to become part of a Machine Gun Company of the 42nd Battalion and as he departed Australia he was deployed as a member of the 42nd Battalion.

After final training he embarked for England on the 5th June 1916 aboard the HMAT Borda A30. Finally arriving at Southampton, he was involved in more training around the Salisbury plains area before he finally arrived in France on 25th November 1916.

Winter of 1916-17 was horrendous with the battalion spending much of its time on the front line and the remainder being spent alternating between training and labouring in the rear areas.

It was around Abbeville that he was initially station about 45km north west of Amiens on the Somme River.

It was near here that on the 21st January 1917 he was to be wounded with severe gunshot wounds to the legs.

He was repatriated to Boulogne on the coast to hospital and then back to Weymouth in England to recover from his wounds.

After recovery he was to rejoin his battalion on the 23rd July 1917. Much of the action seen at this time was to be around the Ypres area.

During this time he would have taken part as reserves in the major battles at Messines Ridge, Warneton, Broodseinde, and Passchendale. Even though the battalion was in reserve for Passchendale it proved costly with over a third of its strength lost due to gas attacks and trench foot caused by the sodden condition of the battlefield.

Charles was to succumb to gas attack on the 26th May 1918 and spend another stint in hospital finally rejoining his battalion again in late August 1918. He was fortunate to miss major battles at Hamel during this time but was to remain on active duty until the Armistice in November 1918.

He finally embarked for Australia in May 1919, arriving back in Australia on the 1st July 1919.



Photo courtesy Australian War Memorial

Here some of the 42nd Battalion recover at an aide station after suffering gas attack near Passchendale.

Could Charles be one of these men?

Q 1271



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Person	ns Enlisted for Service Abroad.
No. 1181 Name Charen	Stoere Hake
17, Unit 42 ND B	ATTALIEN 4/14 B.
12 Joined on 15 - 12	- 15
	erson Enlisting before Attestation.
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2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born ?	near the Town of Paulacae
	in the County of South Australia
3. Are you a natural born British Subjector a Naturalized British Subject (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be	4
shown.)	3. /2.
4. What is your age!	1.22 1/12
5. What is your trade or calling !	starme & Trajus
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice! If so, where, to whom, and for what period!	6.00
7. Are you married 1	1.00
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8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated)	Carlonough Vien tant
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power !	9Cro III Sen : Invitation
 Have you ever been discharged from any part of His- Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incorrigible and 	and the state of t
Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed	10.00
with Disgrace from the Navy†	
Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial	11.00
Forces 1 If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge	H
 Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's; 	11./80
Service? If so, on what grounds?	1300
14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)— Do you understand that no separation allowance will be issued	14.
in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach eight shillings per day?	y veh
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox- and enteric fever?	15. /2
3 Chances Aller Rake	do solemnly declare that the above answers made
by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the	hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the
And I further agree to allot not less than three lifth	of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service
As the support of my the and children	

*This clause should be struck out in the case of summeried men or widoners without children under 18 years of age.

†Two fifthe must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifthe must be allotted.

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Nothing to be written in this Margin.	(9) Age on Enlistment	22 Years 3 Months	Any subsequent claim as to age after veri- fication of Birth Certificate	Years Auth. C.R.	Months /
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Records Courtesy Australian War Memorial and National Archives Personal Records WW 1 collection

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