

# A Soldier of the Great War

## Edward Benjamin Rake 7112



**Service Number:** 7112

**Rank:** Private 49<sup>th</sup> Battalion

**Conflict:** First World War, 1914-1918

**Date of embarkation:** 2 March 1918

**Place of embarkation:** Sydney

**Ship embarked on:** *SS Ormonde*

RAKE Edward Benjamin : Service Number - 7112a : Place of Birth - Adelaide SA : Place of Enlistment - Rockhampton QLD : Next of Kin - (Father) RAKE Albert

Edward Rake was only 18 years old when he enlisted in the AIF on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 1917.

Born in 1899 in Adelaide, he lived in Marlborough just outside Rockhampton.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1918 he departed Sydney on the Ormonde bound for Southampton arriving on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 1918. Initially assigned to the 21<sup>st</sup> Reinforcements 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion he was reassigned to the 49<sup>th</sup> Battalion upon arrival in England and after training at Codford and Forvant.

He then was finally assigned to duty overseas in early August 1918 arriving in France and then being sent to the front line on the 24<sup>th</sup> August.

He was to arrive just in time to participate in a major offensive at Villers Brettoneux .

His battalion was to play an ongoing support role being based at Rivery on the outskirts of Amien.

Here training was carried out as well as supply missions to the front line. The Germans were all the time shelling the front areas as they prepared what was to be their final offensive . The battles of Peronne and Mont St Quentin while fierce with Australian victories leaving the Germans to fall back to the Hindenberg line.

The 49<sup>th</sup> battalion moved to Jeancourt where they were billeted and training took place at Clairly not far from Peronne. Here at Clairly just 8km west of Amiens they would hear the news of the Armistice in early November. Young Edward was to survive the Great War and return to Australia aboard the Ulysses on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1919, finally to be discharged on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 1919.



Members of the 49<sup>th</sup> Battalion in Peronne.



Peronne Cathedral

Source- Australian War memorial

## 49th Battalion

The 49th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 27 February 1916 as part of the “doubling” of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 9th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 9th, the 49th was predominantly composed of men from Queensland. The battalion became part of the 13th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division.

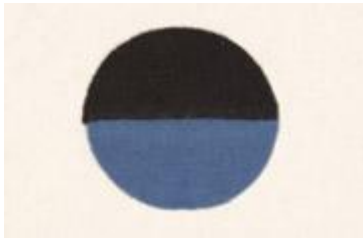
Arriving in France on 12 June 1916, the 49th moved into the trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 21 June. It fought in its first major battle at Mouquet Farm in August and suffered heavily, particularly in the assault launched on 3 September. The battalion saw out the rest of the year alternating between front-line duty, and training and labouring behind the line. This routine continued through the bleak winter of 1916-17.

Early in 1917, the battalion participated in the advance that followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, supporting the 13th Brigade’s attack at Noreuil on 2 April. Later in the year, the focus of the AIF’s operations moved to the Ypres sector in Belgium. There the battalion fought in the battle of Messines on 7 June and the battle of Polygon Wood on 26 September. Another winter of trench routine followed.

With the collapse of Russia in October 1917, a major German offensive on the Western Front was expected in early 1918. This occurred in France in late March and the 4th Division moved to defend positions around the Dernancourt on the River Ancre. The 49th Battalion assisted in the repulse of a large German attack on 5 April, launching a critical counter-attack late in the afternoon. The German threat remained until late April, and in the early hours of ANZAC Day 1918 the 49th participated in the now legendary attack to dislodge the enemy from Villers-Bretonneux.

When the Allies launched their own offensive in early August, the 49th Battalion was among the units involved and played an active role until the middle of that month, before moving to duties in the rear area. The battalion was ordered forward for its last major operation of the war in September and provided part of the 4th Division’s reserve for the attack on the Hindenburg “outpost line” on the 18th. The 49th Battalion was disbanded on 9 May 1919.

## Colour Patch



Source- Australian War Memorial

HAS HAD HOME LEAVE.

From 27/1/17 to 11/2/17

1968

A 197092

AUSTRALIAN



J. B. Hermann 2/10  
MILITARY FORCES.

# AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

## Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 71120

13

Name { Surname RAKE

in full { Christian Name Edward Benjamin

Unit 21<sup>st</sup> Regt. 26<sup>th</sup> Batta. 149<sup>th</sup> Batta Detl.

Joined on 26. 9. 17

### Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

You are hereby warned that if after enlistment it is found that you have given a wilfully false answer to any question set forth in this Attestation Paper, you will be liable to be tried for the offence.

1. What is your Name? ... Edward Benjamin Rake
2. In or near what Town were you born? ... Esfield  
In or near the Town of Adelaide  
In the State or Country of South Australia
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... Natural Born
4. What is your Age? (Date of birth to be stated) ... 18 years 3 Months  
3. 6. 1899
5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... Farmer
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... No
7. Are you married, single, or widower? ... Single
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address and relationship to be stated) ... Albert Rake  
Maryborough  
North Coast Line Queensland
9. What is your permanent address in Australia? ... Maryborough  
North Coast Line, Queensland
10. 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 ... No (Exempt) Peckhampton
11. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ... Yes
12. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ... No
13. (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 in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach ten shillings per day? ... Yes
14. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever? ... Yes

I, Edward Benjamin Rake, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife,\* †

Date 26. 9. 17

Edward Benjamin Rake  
Signature of Person Enlisted.

\* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 16 years of age.  
† Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

B103 13/9/18  
26639

Statement of Service of No. 7112 a Name Edward Benjamin Rake

Unit in which served.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Period of service in each rank.		Remarks.
		From--	To--	
No. 7 DEPOT Coy unallocated Reserve Unit	Pls RW 1811	7.11.17 26.9.17 5/12/17	4.12.17 16.12.17	CERTIFY NO 1 DEPOT CO DETAILS CORRECT R.P.B. (d)
21/26 Ordnance	Pls K-barker Sydney Miss barked	17.12.17 2/3/18	15.5.18	L407
	Pte. M/In from Aust to the 5th Eng Bn	15.5.18	30.5.18	4043 1043/E 1534
	Pte. Transfd. to 119th Batten (12th Eng Bn. Bodford) ex 5th Eng Bn.	3.6.18	15.6.18	6.R. 37475 1047/E 1501
	49th Pte. T.O.S of 49th Bk Bk from 26th Bk Bk, ex 5th Eng Bn	3.6.18	20/6/18	Lub. 8 8049/1897
	49th Pte. Proceeded w/ seas to France. ex 12th Eng Bn. Bodford	10.8.18	19/8/18	26639 1044/2404
	49th Pte. M.I.A.I.B.D. for U.K. -EX Reinf's orig 21/26th Bn	10.8.18	22/8/18	1044/0701
	49th Pte. Reallocated Reg No 7112 A	10.47	5563	4.9.18
	Pte. Taken on strength 49th Bn ex Rfls. Orig 2/26th Bn ex A.I.B.D.	1.8.18	31.8.18	40459
				1044/0562. 19/8
	RETURN TO AUSTRALIA FOR WIVES	22/1/19		104780. 2/1/19 1197092, L16713

Discharged 1 MP (TPE) 29/9/19 M46/807

I have examined the above details, and find them correct in every respect.

7112 A

CASUALTY FORM - ACTIVE SERVICE.

Army Form B. 103.

49<sup>th</sup> BATTALION A.I.F.

Regiment or Corps 21<sup>st</sup> Light ~~26<sup>th</sup>~~ Battalion 49<sup>th</sup> Bn 8th Co.

Serial No. 7112 A Rank Private Name RAKE, Edward Benjamin

Listed (a) 26.9.17 Terms of Service (a) Duration of War Service reckons from (a) 4 months

Date of Promotion to present rank } Date of appointment to lance rank } Numerical position on roll of N.C.O.'s }

Extended Re-engaged Qualification (b) Aggravated METH 18 3/32

Report.		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place.	Date.	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
Date.	From whom Received.				
7/7/18	CO Troops	Embarked 21 <sup>st</sup> Bn	Sydney	7/7/18	B. 213
7/9/18	CO Troops	Disembarked 21 <sup>st</sup> Bn	Russ	7/9/18	B. 213
7/4/18	CO Troops	Taken on Strength 21 <sup>st</sup> Bn	Campden	7/4/18	B. 213
4/5/18	O.B. Troops	Transferred to Port Sepulch for embarkation overseas	Port Sepulch	30/4/18	B. 213
4/5/18	O.B. Troops	Re-embarked T. 15.	Port Sepulch	30/4/18	B. 213
		Disembarked	Southampton	10/5/18	L4079.
16.5.18	5 <sup>th</sup> Coy Bn	Went on from Aus	Toulon	15.5.18	DO 42/1534 E 30.5.18.
9.6.18	do	Went Trans to 49 <sup>th</sup> Bn 8th Co. T. Bn Campden	do	3.6.18	DO 42/1534 E 30.5.18.
u.6.18	83.12 <sup>th</sup> Coy Bn	Pl. T. 01 of 49 <sup>th</sup> Bn 8th Co. from 26 <sup>th</sup> Bn to 5 <sup>th</sup> Coy Bn	Campden	3.6.18	DO 42/1534 E 30.5.18.

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into section D. Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.  
 (b) e.g., Signaller, Shoeing Smith, &c., &c., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties. [P.T.O.]

D.902/6.16 - C.7516 - 50M

Report.		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place.	Date.	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
Date.	From whom Received.				
10 7.8.18	O.B. 12 <sup>th</sup> Coy Bn	Pl. Proceeded to sea to France	Toulon	8.8.18	L 6629 E 19/8/18
11 10/8/18	A.I.B.D.	Marched in	Short	10/8/18	DO 42/1534 E 30.5.18.
12 14/8/18	A.I.B.D.	Pro: to Join Unit	-	12/8/18	- 182
13 24/8/18	O. 49 <sup>th</sup> Bn	Taken on Strength	Field	17/8/18	DO 42/1534 E 30.5.18.
14		Allocated to 1 <sup>st</sup> A to France. 13.1.19	Ref No		DO 42/1534 E 30.5.18.
15 1/4/19	A.I.B.D.	Pl. Proceeded to Eng.	Haul	1/4/19	4975/29/11.
16 29/3/19	21 <sup>st</sup> Bn	Pl. To 11 <sup>th</sup> Coy for 11m Metyl employ	France	22/3/19	DO 42/1534 E 30.5.18.
17 2/2/19	11 <sup>th</sup> Coy	Pl. Discharged Southampton in France to report 1 <sup>st</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> Coy	Southampton	2/2/19	DO 42/1534 E 30.5.18.
18 4.4.19.	B. 213. No 1. B. 102.	Pl. Om. 1 from 1 <sup>st</sup> T. Bn. 8. 11 <sup>th</sup> Coy.		2.4.19.	L 8. 21102.

RETURN TO AUSTRALIA  
 For Ulysses

eng

MP

Soldier records Source- National Archives and Australian War memorial