

A Soldier of the Great War

Private Harry Dalziel VC



Hamel

Henry DALZIEL

Regimental number	1936
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Fireman
Address	Atherton, Queensland
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	22
Next of kin	Mother, Mrs E M Dalziel, Atherton, Queensland
Enlistment date	22 January 1915
Date of enlistment from Nominal Roll	16 January 1915
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	15th Battalion, 5th Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/32/2
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Brisbane, Queensland, on board HMAT A55 <i>Kyarra</i> on 16 April 1915
Rank from Nominal Roll	Private
Unit from Nominal Roll	15th Battalion
Recommendations (Medals and Awards)	Victoria Cross

Fate

For action during the battle for Hamel in the attack on Pear Trench on 4 July 1918. Recommendation date: 8 July 1918. Returned to Australia 5 January 1919

Medal

Victoria Cross

'For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when in action with a Lewis gun section. His company met with determined resistance from a strong point which was strongly garrisoned, manned by numerous machine guns, and undamaged by our artillery fire, was also protected by strong wire entanglements. A heavy concentration of machine gun fire caused many casualties, and held up our advance. His Lewis gun having come into action and silenced enemy guns in one direction, an enemy gun fire opened from another direction. Private Dalziel dashed at it, and with his revolver killed and captured the entire crew and gun, and allowed our advance to continue. He was severely wounded in the hand, but carried on and took part in the capture of the final objective. He twice went over open ground under heavy enemy artillery and machine gun fire to secure ammunition, though suffering from considerable loss of blood. He filled magazines and served his gun until severely wounded through the head. His magnificent bravery and devotion to duty was an inspiring example to all his comrades, and his dash and unselfish courage at a most critical time undoubtedly saved many lives, and turned what could have been a severe check into a splendid success.'

Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 191
Date: 12 December 1918

Other details

Medals: Victoria Cross, 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Date of death

24 July 1965

A soldier of the Great War -

Henry Dalziel (1893-1965), soldier, locomotive fireman and farmer, was born on 18 February 1893 at Irvinebank, Queensland, son of James Dalziel, miner, and his wife Eliza Maggie, née McMillan, both of whom were native-born. He was educated at Irvinebank and became a fireman on the Cairns-Atherton railway.

Dalziel enlisted as a private in the Australian Imperial Force on 16 January 1915 and embarked with reinforcements for the 15th Battalion. Joining his unit at Gallipoli in July, he served in the battle of Sari Bair in August and was eventually evacuated with his battalion to Egypt. On 31 May 1916 he sailed for France, going into the line at Bois Grenier and from July serving on the Somme, at Pozières and Mouquet Farm. In 1917 Dalziel saw action at Gueudecourt, Lagnicourt, Bullecourt and Messines before being wounded by shrapnel at Polygon Wood on 16 October. He resumed duty on 7 June 1918, first as a driver and then as a gunner.

For valour during the battle of Hamel on 4 July 1918 Dalziel won the thousandth Victoria Cross awarded. When his battalion's advance met with strong resistance from a heavily armed enemy garrison at Pear Trench, Dalziel as second member of a Lewis-gun team helped his partner to silence machine-gun fire. When fire opened up from another post he dashed forward and, with his revolver, killed or captured the crew and gun, thus allowing the advance to proceed. During this action the tip of his trigger-finger was shot away; he was ordered to the rear, but instead continued to serve his gun in the final storming of Pear Trench. Although again ordered back to the aid-post he began taking ammunition up to the front line, continuing to do so until he was shot in the head.

Dalziel's wound was so severe that his skull was smashed and the brain exposed. He received extensive medical treatment in England before returning to Australia in January 1919. While travelling home by train, he received a hero's welcome at every station from Townsville to Atherton. On 8 April 1920, at the Congregational manse, South Brisbane, he married Ida Maude Ramsay, a nurse who had served with the 17th Australian General Hospital. They took up a soldier-settlement block, which they named Zenith, on the Tolga railway line. As Dalziel was unable to cope with the day-to-day duties of a small mixed farm his wife assumed most of the work-load.

His interest in farming waned after a few years and Dalziel left her to run Zenith and moved south. He worked in a Sydney factory in the late 1920s but by 1933 had settled in Brisbane where he was out of work for some time; he later received a war pension. In the early 1930s he joined the Citizen Military Forces, becoming a sergeant in the 9th/15th Battalion. He developed an interest in song-writing, cultivated at first during long periods of hospitalization; some of his songs, such as A Song of the Tableland and Love Time, Merry Love Time, were published in England. In 1956 he went to London for the V.C. centenary celebrations.

Dalziel died of a stroke on 24 July 1965 at the Repatriation General Hospital, Greenslopes, Brisbane, and was cremated with military honours.

Remembering Harry Dalziel:

(source courtesy Q WEEKEND)

It's been a long time since the booming cannons drowned out the birdsong of the quaint villages and verdant fields of northern France. Yet, in outer western Brisbane in the mid-1950s, the reminders are constant as old "Two Guns" Harry Dalziel shuffles off the train at Oxley station.

Harry is a small, quiet, nondescript suburban dad now in his early 60s. He's been a disability pensioner for years. He can't work or drive because of his fierce headaches, but dressed in his neat suit, thick glasses and dark fedora hat, he makes the most of his lifetime train pass, catching up with mates whenever he can.

But 60 years ago, as Harry ambles home across the bitumen to his modest fibro house in Ardoyne Rd at Oxley, which he shares with his partner Elsie and their three young children, none of his fellow passengers – the office workers with their briefcases, the skylarking students or the housewives with their beehive hairdos – gives him a second look, even though he's been in *The Courier-Mail* lately endorsing a popular analgesic.

Every day, as the advertisements say, Harry puts his headaches to rest with a Bex powder and a good lie-down. Elsie always tells the kids to be quiet when Harry's tired, which is pretty much all the time since he came home from France with the Victoria Cross, the British Empire's highest award for courage, and a hole in the left side of his skull.

When Harry takes the bandage and wadding off his head, you can still see straight down through the thin shield of skin to his brain. At home he just lets his hair cover the hole and sometimes Elsie will take a toothbrush and clean around the wound to guard against infection.

King George V presented Harry with his medal at Buckingham Palace a few weeks after World War I ended. It was a real shindig for a young bloke born in a remote mining camp southwest of Cairns.

"Dad was so nervous he was bowing to everyone he met – even the waiters," says Harry's son David, 73, a retired music teacher from Karana Downs, 20km southwest of Brisbane CBD.

"Dad was an ordinary man who did something extraordinary when real courage was called for. His friends called him 'Two Guns Harry' but Dad always said it should have been 'Four Guns' because he went into battle with a revolver in each hand, two in his belt and a dagger in his boot."

David Dalziel is sitting in the leafy idyll at Camp Warrawee, a YMCA retreat at Joyner, 25km northwest of Brisbane. Sixty years ago he was with his dad when Harry was a guest at the grand opening. On July 4 this year, the 98th anniversary of Harry's heroics in the Battle of Hamel in northern France, the YMCA invited David and his sister Ann Salisbury, 72, to the naming of an accommodation wing as Dalziel Lodge. At the same time their brother Frank, 70, from Goondiwindi, west of Toowoomba, was at a function at the Australian War - Memorial in Canberra, where Harry's VC is housed in the Hall of Valour.

"Dad never had any money his whole life, but he loved giving back to the community and to his country," David says.

“He was very proud of receiving the VC but he never made a big issue of it. He would give it to me to take to school for show and tell. When Prince Charles was about to be born in 1948, Dad sent the medal – the medal he almost died for – to Princess Elizabeth as a gift for her baby.”

David produces a letter from the soon-to-be queen, neatly handwritten on two pages of Buckingham Palace stationery. It says:

“Dear Sergeant Dalziel,

“I was most touched to receive your letter of 1st November and the Victoria Cross which you won on American Independence Day 1918. I know that it must be a very treasured possession, and I am deeply grateful for the honour of being offered this Victoria Cross as a gift.

“However, after consulting the King, and after much thought, I do not feel that it is right that I should accept such a present on behalf of my son. I do not wish you to think that I do this through any lack of appreciation, but it is because I feel most strongly that you should retain this mark of the King’s, and the Commonwealth’s, esteem for supreme valour in battle.

“In returning your Victoria Cross, I do so with profound understanding of the depth of loyalty and affection which prompted your action.

“I am yours sincerely, Elizabeth”

Henry (Harry) Dalziel was born at Ragged Camp, A TIN mine 120km southwest of Cairns, in 1893. He was a local high-jump champion and worked as a locomotive fireman on the Atherton Tableland. He enlisted, like so many other young men, for the Great War in January 1915 and shipped out of Brisbane, bound for Egypt, on April 16, nine days before the Australians invaded Gallipoli. He arrived on the Turkish Peninsula in July and, with the 15th Battalion, was part of Brigadier General John Monash’s failed offensive on Hill 971, a few miles from Anzac Cove, that ended with the 15th trapped in an oat field, virtually defenceless against Turkish machineguns.

Harry survived, though many of his mates are buried there. He arrived in France a month after the beginning of the Battle of the Somme and the disaster at Fromelles in which 2000 Australians were killed on July 19, 1916, the worst 24 hours in Australian military history and the focus of 100-year commemorations last Tuesday.

At the Battle of Messines in Belgium in 1917, he saw the Allies detonate 19 massive underground mines that killed 10,000 Germans in a few seconds with ear-splitting blasts that were heard in Dublin, 900km away. At Passchendaele, a few weeks later, he was wounded in the arm by shrapnel and invalided to England but on July 4, 1918, he was back – hiding in a yellow wheat field outside the French village of Le Hamel at 3.10am with 7000 other Australians and 1000 Americans waiting for Monash’s signal to begin the first combined military operation between the two countries.

The black sky lit up as hundreds of cannons roared, hiding the low rumble of 60 tanks. The noise was so loud no one could hear their own screams. Soon the tanks were beside the infantry as cover, a vast line of soldiers rising as one, lighting cigarettes, slinging rifles over their shoulders and beginning the march that would turn the tide of war.

Harry was part of a two-man Lewis machinegun team that encountered fire from a German machinegun at a position called Pear Trench. Armed with a revolver in each hand, Harry charged.

“I dashed at (the machinegun),” he wrote later, “killing seven Germans.

1936, Private Henry Dalziel VC

15th Battalion

Recommended Victoria Cross – 8th July 1918

Awarded Victoria Cross – 12th December, 1918

'For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when in action with a Lewis gun section. His company met with determined resistance from a strong point which was strongly garrisoned, manned by numerous machine guns, and undamaged by our artillery fire, was also protected by strong wire entanglements. A heavy concentration of machine gun fire caused many casualties, and held up our advance. His Lewis gun having come into action and silenced enemy guns in one direction, an enemy gun fire opened from another direction. Private Dalziel dashed at it, and with his revolver killed and captured the entire crew and gun, and allowed our advance to continue. He was severely wounded in the hand, but carried on and took part in the capture of the final objective. He twice went over open ground under heavy enemy artillery and machine gun fire to secure ammunition, though suffering from considerable loss of blood. He filled magazines and served his gun until severely wounded through the head. His magnificent bravery and devotion to duty was an inspiring example to all his comrades, and his dash and unselfish courage at a most critical time undoubtedly saved many lives, and turned what could have been a severe check into a splendid success.'

(courtesy Australian War Memorial)

Driver Henry Dalziel VC, 15th Battalion AIF, and Sister Elizabeth Mosey RRC, possibly after their award ceremony. Dalziel was awarded the VC following his actions attacking and capturing a German machine gun post at Hamel Wood on 4 July 1918, where he continued to fight and supply the Lewis gun team in his company, despite being wounded twice. Dalziel returned to Australia on 5 January 1918 while Sister Mosey returned almost a year later on 14 January 1919.



The Battle of Hamel 1918

Tanks, pigeons and bullets 'by air'



A British tank in Le Hamel, 5 July 1918. [AWM E02864] ...

Watching the Battle of Hamel unfold an observer would have seen some interesting innovative aspects of a World War I battlefield. There was the sheer number of tanks supporting the advance of the infantry, helping them overcome enemy machine gun nests and strong points. A good example of the cooperation with the tanks was the overpowering of enemy positions in and around Hamel village itself. As the men of the 43rd Battalion (South Australia) worked their way towards a small well-defended wood to the north of the village they came under heavy machine gun fire. As they tried to deal with it, another gun opened up from the village. An Australian platoon sergeant, spotting a tank with little to do, went over to it and pulled the bell handle at the back of the machine. A door opened and the Australian showed the tank crew the position of the gun operating from the village. The tank obligingly 'went straight over and rubbed it out', although Charles Bean later surmised that the crew had most likely already fled before the tank arrived. German machine gun crews, however, were among the elite of the German army and the British tank commander at Hamel reported that the crews 'showed extraordinary courage and tenacity'.



Australian beside one of the three British tanks which were put out of action on 4 July 1918 at the Battle of Le Hamel. [AWM E03843] ...

For the first time on a battlefield the tanks were also used to bring up supplies rapidly behind the advancing infantry. Normally, these would have to be carried up by support battalions and some units used this system at Le Hamel. The colonel of the 13th Battalion, however, reached

the position where the unit's forward dump was to be established only to find it already covered by stores. 'Why, what's this?' he asked. A soldier jumped from behind a pile and replied, 'It's from our tank, sir'. Their carrier tank, in a number of journeys, had delivered 134 coils of barbed-wire, 180 long and 270 short screw-pickets for placing the wire, 45 sheets of corrugated iron, 50 petrol tins of water, 150 trench-mortar bombs, 10,000 rounds of ammunition, and 20 boxes of grenades. Charles Bean concluded that 'never had supplies reached the front with the swiftness with which they were delivered that day' and one battalion commander felt that 'in this achievement lay the outstanding lesson of the battle'.



A British aircraft diving earthwards during the Australian attack at Le Hamel on 4 July 1918. [AWM E03912] ...

An even more innovative method of supply to the front involved aircraft. Twelve planes of No 9 Squadron RAF appeared over the battlefield about 6.30 am carrying ammunition while a host of other British planes appeared and engaged enemy ground positions well to the German rear. The ammunition carriers dropped their loads of two boxes of 1,200 rounds by parachute from about 800 metres. In all, 93 boxes were delivered to the infantry in this way and many units reported the experiment useful. One pilot and his observer were killed in these operations when a parachute caught in the wing. The pilot climbed out and managed to clear the chute but at 30 metres from the ground something else went wrong and the aircraft crashed.

Aeroplanes were also used to plot the extent of the advance. Contact aircraft of No 3 Squadron AFC (Australian Flying Corps) flew over the infantry and 'tooted' at them to light concealed flares to mark their positions. The Australian observers in the planes then marked these positions on maps and dropped them ten minutes later at 4th Australian Division Headquarters.



An R.E.8 aircraft of 3 Squadron AFC, France, November 1917. [AWM E01359]



A carrier pigeon carrying information being released from a British tank, France, 1918.
[AWM H09572]

Another, less successful experiment, was sending messages by rocket. Some of these were recovered with the message burnt; others landed a fair way away from their destination in fields of crops; and many flew off undetected because of the enormous amount of smoke put up by the smoke screens. Wireless sets were also in use, as well as the tried and true method of dispatching a carrier pigeon. Many of the tanks carried a pigeon and sent messages back in this way. Two and a half hours after the opening of the attack signallers had telephone lines through to the front and thereafter spent the day repairing any breaks in the lines from enemy shell fire.



A mobile pigeon loft of the Australian Corps Signal Company, Australian Corps Headquarters, Bertangles, July 1918. The pigeons were used to deliver messages to and from the front line. [AWM E02672]



Sleeping Australian stretcher-bearers, Le Hamel, 4 July 1918. [AWM E02701] ...



German weapons captured in AIF operations at Ville-sur-Ancre and Le Hamel, on display during an address by Lieutenant General Sir John Monash, 13 July 1918. [AWM E02732] ...

Hamel was the first battle fought by the Australian Corps in which an Australian general – Lieutenant General Sir John Monash – was in command. An engineer in civilian life, Monash was one of those who in the British Expeditionary Force in 1918 embraced technical innovation and grasped that it could have a real effect on restoring mobility to the battlefield, a mobility that had been lost for nearly four years in defensive trench warfare. Monash and his staff meticulously planned every aspect of the Hamel attack and made great efforts to ensure that all sections of the Corps – tanks, infantry, artillery, aircraft, signals etc – worked together. Although by Western Front standards Hamel was a small operation, the lessons of the battle, principally the efficacy of careful planning, clear objectives, and effective coordination of different arms, were circulated in a report to all commanders in the BEF. Individual aspects of the Hamel plan had been used before but it was Monash's achievement to bring them all together at the one time.

(courtesy Dept of Veteran's Affairs- Australians on the Western Front 1914-1918)

15th Australian Infantry Battalion

The 15th Battalion AIF was raised from late September 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. Three-quarters of the battalion were recruited as volunteers from Queensland, and the rest from Tasmania. With the 13th, 14th and 16th Battalions it formed the 4th Brigade, commanded by Colonel John Monash.

The Queensland and Tasmanian recruits were united when the battalion trained together in Victoria. They embarked for overseas just before Christmas. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving in early February 1915. Australia already had an AIF division there, the 1st. When the 4th Brigade arrived in Egypt, it became part of the New Zealand and Australian Division. The 4th Brigade landed at ANZAC late in the afternoon of 25 April 1915.

From May to August, the battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the front line of the ANZAC beachhead. In August, the 4th Brigade attacked Hill 971. The hill was taken at great cost although Turkish reinforcements forced the Australians to withdraw. At the end of the month, a detachment from A Company reinforced the 14th Battalion's unsuccessful attack on Hill

60. The 15th Battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. While there, the AIF was expanded and was reorganised. The 15th Battalion was split and provided experienced soldiers for the 47th Battalion. The 4th Brigade was combined with the 12th and 13th Brigades to form the 4th Australian Division.

In June 1916 they sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bloody trench warfare. Its first major action in France was at Pozieres in August 1916. Along with most of the 4th Brigade, the battalion suffered heavy losses at Bullecourt in April 1917 when the brigade attacked strong German positions without the promised tank support. It spent much of the remainder of 1917 in Belgium, advancing to the Hindenburg Line.

In March and April 1918, the battalion helped stop the German spring offensive. In July 1918, as a result of his valorous actions during the fighting near Hamel, Private Henry Dalziel was awarded the battalion's only Victoria Cross. The battalion participated in the great allied offensive of 1918, fighting near Amiens on 8 August 1918. This advance by British and empire troops was the greatest success in a single day on the Western Front, one that German General Erich Ludendorff described as "...the black day of the German Army in this war...".

The battalion continued operations until late September 1918. At 11 am on 11 November 1918, the guns fell silent. In November 1918, members of the AIF began to return to Australia for demobilisation and discharge.

National Archives of Australia Records for Henry.

W 21842 AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE. D
Transferred to.

No. 1936
Rank Pte Name Dalziel H. (VC)

Unit 15th Battalion

Pneumonia 29.8.15. Emb. for Eng. for "Devon" A.S. Memo. No 39552.

Casualty Sick Admitted Hos. London 11/10/15 - 23965. Dat 16/9/15
12/9/15 Admitted King George Hosp Stamped 21/10/15
Back Severe 14/1/54/58 14 Com 16/9/15

16th Returned to duty Capt 29/2/16. VC GR69/563210 D. 30/2/16
Returning to report to 15th B. Staff 28.7/15/13 16 Com. Rec 10.5.16

369th Wounded 1959/226 K. dated London 26.10.17. 5th.
Spw Left arm severe Adm 30.10.17. Colchester General Hospital
Wound 576/325th D London 2.11.17. Rec 20.11.17

Convalescent. 45.4.1917. 1463th dated London 11.2.17

DATE.	PURPORT.	REF. No.
	Form B. 103. Received	
27.9.15	N.O.K. Admitted to Hosp. London. Sick.	
21.10.15	James Dalziel asking to be wired re health of above	27/10
22.10.15	Reply sent to wife dated 21.10.15.	
-5 APR. 1916	N. O. K. Advised Returned to Duty	
19 NOV 1915	N. O. K. Advised Wounded	
28.11	N. O. K. Advised in Hospital	
DEC 7 1917	N. O. K. Advised Convalescent	
11/19	WOUNDED 2 occ	BIBL 2641 / 1964 th dated London 15.7.18 Received B. 17.7.18 P
JUL 17 1918	N. O. K. Advised Wounded. S.C. & ad. Occasion. G.S.N. Temple	Danger. Adm 6/7/18 to 12 Gen. Hospital WSML 768 2008 th dated London - Received B. 24/7/18 ag
JUL 25 1918	N. O. K. Advised in Hospital	
	Stationary.	WSML 778/2064 th dated London - Received B. 31.7.18
AUG 5 1918	N. O. K. advised Condition stationary.	
	Pronounced out of danger	WSML 796 2150 th dated London - Received B. 20/7/18
AUG 22 1918	N. O. K. Advised Pronounced out of Danger	
	Pronounced from seriously ill list	WSML 813/2232 th dated London 20/9/18 Received B. 10/10/18
SEP 3 1918	N. O. K. Advised removed from seriously ill list	
	G.S.W. Head. Skull Fracture ADMITTED	20/9/18 to 4 London
	General Hospital	WSML 835 2864 dated London - Received B. 14/10/18 R16
10 OCT 1918	N. O. K. Advised in Hospital 20.9.18 transf	
	Progressing favourably	WSML 843/307 th dated London 5.10.18 Received B. 17.10.18
OCT 19 1918	N. O. K. Advised progressing favorably	
	Convalescent	WSML 855 13280 dated London 10/10/18 Received B. 28/10/18
31 OCT 1918	N. O. K. Advised Convalescent	
	Transferred to Australia per H.S. Kanowna Embk 5.1.19	
JAN 23 1919	018-1 3145/5198 th dated London 14/1/19	Invalid 378
	Advised Returning to Australia, Form	
	Returned to Australia per A.	
	Arrived 7/3/19	3 M. D. Proceeded by boat to 1 st M.D. W
	16.6.19	

LIST 98

S & Med. Pay. Ltd. - No. 746

A

96860

AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.**Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.**

1936

87

Name

Unit

Joined on

Datzel Henry "VC"
15th Baltn. H^q Infy Bgde
16. 1. 15

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

What is your Name?

1. Henry Datzel

In or near what Parish or Town were you born?

2. In the Parish of in or
near the Town of Trumbank
in the County of Queensland

Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)

3. yes

What is your age?

4. 21 yrs 11

What is your trade or calling?

5. Farmer

Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period?

6. no

Are you married?

7. no

Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated)

8. Arthur W. Datzel
Atkinson

Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power?

9. no

Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy?

10. no

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

11. no

Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service?

12. yes

Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds?

13. no

(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 to you after embarkation during your term of service?

14.

3. Henry Datzel do solemnly declare that the above answers made 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 the support of my wife.*† and children.

Date

16 /H. Datzel

Signature of person enlisted.

Description of Neway Dalziel on Enlistment.Age 21 years 11 monthsHeight 5 feet 7 inchesWeight 136 lbs.Chest Measurement 34 1/2 inchesComplexion FairEyes GrayHair Br BrownReligious Denomination CRC

DISTINCTIVE MARKS.

irregular scar at root of nose

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I HAVE examined the above-named person, and find that he does not present any of the following conditions, viz. :—

Scrofula; phthisis; syphilis; impaired constitution; defective intelligence; defects of vision, voice, or hearing; hernia; hæmorrhoids; varicose veins, beyond a limited extent; marked varicocele with unusually pendent testicle; 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 16 1 11Place Cann

Philip S. Clarke.
Signature of Examining Medical Officer.

CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.

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

Date

Place

Commanding

B. 103 Eng 9-10-18
List 250.

Embarked. 16.4.15.

Statement of Service of No. 1936

Name

Dalziel H. VC

Unit in which served.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Period of service in each rank.		Remarks.
		From—	To—	
15 th Battalion	Reverts to ranks 12/7/15 Rheum. Adm. 40 th F.B. 7 trans to sick Convoy. 27/8/15 Emb ^d Devonham at Malta for England 29/8/15 Rheum. Adm 3 rd London 9. Nos 10/9/15 Proc. of seas 15 join Unit from 4 th Inf. Bn 14.8.16 Do A.F.B 213 " 6 th Draft P.M. O.C. 7. joined 15 th Bn A.F.B. from 4 th Aust. Div. Base Depot Etaples France 4.9.16 Rt/ appt. Dir. vice Dir. Remaden 40 th E. Trans. Co. com. this entry has not previously been promulgated 15 th Bn. Lt. Int. Gen. Mil. Adm. (Lt. 2. Adm. sec.) Pk. Dir. Wounded in Action Pk. Dir. Transferred to England Ex 11 th Gen. Hosp. Danvers S.H. Arm Dir. Proc of seas. France via ex of seas Inf Bde S. Beveill. Pk. Dir. M/ into A.D.B. Dep. from U.S. ex wounds. Pk. Defence 15. 12.15. 1 Breaking Prisoners of A.W. 2 from 15. 12.15 to 16.12.15 Insolence Award Forfeit 5 days pay B.O. Total forfeiture 5 days pay B.R. 432/19/45. 216.			Part 2-2418 29/9/15 Part 2-2568 4/10/15 Part 2-3543 14/10/15 Part 2-3864 16/10/15 P923-4455 5.9.16 P926-467E 8.9.16 P2/73-8978 12.9.16 Rt 2/47/5948 10.9.17 Do 47/6039 3/10/18 Do 47/6039 3/10/18 Do 47/6039 3/10/18 Do 47/6039 3/10/18 Do 25/3086 11.6.18 7 R list 17.

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

STATEMENT OF SERVICE OF No. 1936. NAME: Walziel. H. "VC"

Unit.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, etc.	Place.	Date.	Remarks.
15 th Bn	Don Wounded in Action. 2nd Occ.		4.7.18	DO33/3597. 13/7/18
"	Don Adm to 50 th Bn. from 3 rd Unit: Wounded.		6.7.18	DO34/3502. 16.7.18
15 th Bn	Don Awarded the "Victoria Cross" A.D. Sist 40342. dated 20.8.18.			DO42/5116. 4.9.18
15 th Bn	Don Reverted to P ² at own request. (not prev. promulgated)		31.7.17.	DO43/5470. 11.9.18.
15 th Bn	Don Adm 4 th Gen Hosp S.S.W. Head. Trans. Skull	Denmark Hill S.E.	20-9-18	W.S. 505 HR 735
15 th Bn	Don Invalided to U.K. War.	France.	19-9-18	DO47/6021 3/10/18
"	2/047/5021 (1918) RETURN TO AUSTRALIA Per <u>Don</u> For <u>S.W. Head</u>	England	5-1-19	2X1298 2B.R. 618/496860 14/19.

EMER CORONATION
MEDAL MS412/62

Army Form B. 103. *Sheet 3*Regimental Number *1936*

Casualty Form - Active Service.

Regiment or Corps *15th Battalion A.I.F.*
 Rank *No* *Private* Surname *Dalziel* Christian Name *Henry* "V.C."
 Religion Age on Enlistment years months
 Enlisted (a) Terms of Service (a) Service reckons from (a)
 Date of promotion to present rank Date of appointment to lance rank
 Extended () Re-engaged () Qualification (b)
 or Corps Trade and Rate
 Occupation Signature of Officer

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c., 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 of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B.213, Army Form A.36, or other official documents
Date	From whom received				
		Embarked ...			
		Disembarked...			
<i>21.8.18</i>	<i>4th Bde R.O.</i>	<i>awarded the</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>AX 17898</i>
<i>18.8.18</i>	<i>4th Div R.O.</i>	<i>Victoria Cross</i>	<i>do.</i>		<i>AK 2973/38</i>
<i>20.8.18</i>	<i>A.I.F. List</i>	<p>For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when in action with a Lewis gun section. His company met with determined resistance from a strong point which was strongly garrisoned, manned by numerous machine guns, and undamaged by our artillery fire, was also protected by strong wire entanglements. A heavy concentration of machine-gun fire caused many casualties and held up our advance. His Lewis gun having come into action and silenced enemy guns in one direction, an enemy gun opened fire from another direction. Private Dalziel dashed at it, and with his revolver killed or captured the entire crew and gun and allowed our advance to continue. He was severely wounded in the hand, but carried on and took part in the capture of the final objective.</p> <p>He twice went over open ground under heavy enemy artillery and machine-gun fire to secure ammunition, and, though suffering from considerable loss of blood, he filled magazines and served his gun until severely wounded through the head. His magnificent bravery and devotion to duty was an inspiring example to all his comrades, and his dash and unselfish courage at a most critical time undoubtedly saved many lives, and turned what would have been a severe check into a splendid success.</p>			
	<i>No 372</i>				
	<i>Unit Comd. H.Q.</i>				
	<i>Unit H.Q. 17/8/18</i>				
<i>20.9.18</i>	<i>4th Bde Gen. Hosp. Gen. H.Q.</i>	<i>S.W. Head Post Bull 460</i>	<i>Campbell Hill</i>	<i>20-9-18</i>	<i>W. 2055</i> <i>AR 735</i>

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted in Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.
 (b) Signaller, Shoeing-Smith, &c.

(17591.) Wk. W 1287-P 124. 1,000,000, 6/18. D & S. Form B/103. (E. 1256.)

(P.T.O.)

X X X X

AWARDED THE VICTORIA CROSS

" HIS MAJESTY THE KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Victoria Cross to the undermentioned soldier :-

No. 1936 Driver HENRY DALZIEL . 15^B

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when in action with a Lewis-gun section. His company met with determined resistance from a strong point which was strongly garrisoned, manned by numerous machine guns, and undamaged by our artillery fire, was also protected by strong wire entanglements. A heavy concentration of machine-gun fire caused many casualties, and held up our advance. His Lewis gun having come into action and silenced enemy guns in one direction, an enemy gun fire opened from another direction. Private Dalziel dashed at it, and with his revolver killed and captured the entire crew and gun, and allowed our advance to continue. He was severely wounded in the hand, but carried on and took part in the capture of the final objective. He twice went over open ground under heavy enemy artillery and machine-gun fire to secure ammunition, though suffering from considerable loss of blood. He filled magazines and served his gun until severely wounded through the head. His magnificent bravery and devotion to duty was an inspiring example to all his comrades, and his dash and unselfish courage at a most critical time undoubtedly saved many lives, and turned what would have been a severe check into a splendid success. "

X X X X

The above has been promulgated in Commonwealth of
Australia Gazette, No. 191, dated 12th December, 1918.

JHE.

1 FEB 1935

Dear Sir,

With reference to your communication of 22.1.1935, I am appending for information as requested particulars relating to your service in the Australian Imperial Force as No. 1936 Private Henry DALZIEL, V.C., 15th. Battalion, viz:-

- 16. 1. 15 Enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force at Cairns, Queensland.
- 16. 4. 15 Embarked for active service abroad.
- 13. 7. 15 Joined 15th. Battalion, Gallipoli.
- 29. 8. 15 Invalided to England.
- 14. 8. 16 Proceeded overseas to France.
- 4. 9. 16 Rejoined 15th. Battalion in the Field.
- 9. 9. 16 Appointed Driver.
- 1. 4. 17 Joined School of Farriery for course of instruction.
- 31. 7. 17 Reverts to rank of Private at own request.
- 16.10. 17 WOUNDED IN ACTION.
- 29.10. 17 Invalided to England.
- 30. 5. 18 Proceeded overseas to France.
- 7. 6. 18 Rejoined 15th. Battalion in the Field.
- 4. 7. 18 WOUNDED IN ACTION - 2nd. occasion.
- 19. 9. 18 Invalided to England.
- AWARDED THE VICTORIA CROSS.
- 5. 1. 19 Embarked for return to Australia.
- 7. 3. 19 Arrived Melbourne, Victoria, and proceeded by boat to 1st. Military District.
- 16. 6. 19 DISCHARGED from the A.I.F. at Brisbane, Queensland, Medically Unfit.

Apropos of the foregoing, it should be noted that Departmental instructions preclude me from disclosing reports of a confidential nature (i.e. Crimes, etc.) in the case of ex-members of the Australian Imperial Force.

Postage stamp booklet to the value of two shillings returned herewith.

Yours faithfully,

(T. ROBINSON)
Officer i/c Base Records.

Mr. H. Dalziel, V.C.,
c/- Mr. Napier
37 Railway Terrace,
Milton, Brisbane,
QUEENSLAND.

Enc: 1.

