William Abraham Crane

Service number: 4758

Rank: Private

Roll title: 9 Infantry Battalion - 13 to 23 Reinforcements (January-November 1916)

Date of embarkation: 28 March 1916 Place of embarkation: Brisbane

Ship embarked on: HMAT Commonwealth

Ship number: A73

William Abraham Crane was born in Bundaberg Qld in 24th October 1897. He enlisted in the AIF on September 10th 1915 and was a member of the 9th Infantry Battalion that served between January and November 1916. He joined in Brisbane and embarked on the HMAT Commonwealth from Brisbane on the 28th March 1916.

After time in Egypt he was taken on strength for training at Perham Downs on the 9th August 1916 and finally proceeding to France on the 16th September 1916. He was took part in action in the field during September and October in France and acquired influenza that put him into a field hospital in Amiens in October 1916. He remained in poor condition and was eventually discharged to Base Depot duties at Etaples in January 1917. Due to sickness he returned to Weymouth in England for convalescence and finally returned to Australia on the 28th October 1918



William Abraham Crane



World War I

Born in Bundaberg and educated at Central School from 1905 through to 1910. Don't know any more about his childhood, but was a Shop Assistant when he enlisted in Brisbane in the army in World War I on 10.9.1915, just before turning 18. Embarked from Australia on board *Arcerdian* on 28.3.1916 to Egypt and then to France with the 15th Reinforcements to the 9th Battalion on 16.9.1916 to fight in the field. He was hospitalised with Influenza in November and transferred to hospitals at Amiens, Havre, Etretat, and Etaples before embarking from Calais to a hospital in England in February 1917.

He later worked in the A.A.M.C. depot in Weymouth as he was unfit for fighting. Here he met and married his first wife Elsie Gilchrist, who lived in Weymouth, London, where a daughter Marie Jessie was born in 1918. The marriage was registered in September, 1917. He was stationed here at the Depot till he returned to Australia on board *H.T.Borda*, departing London on

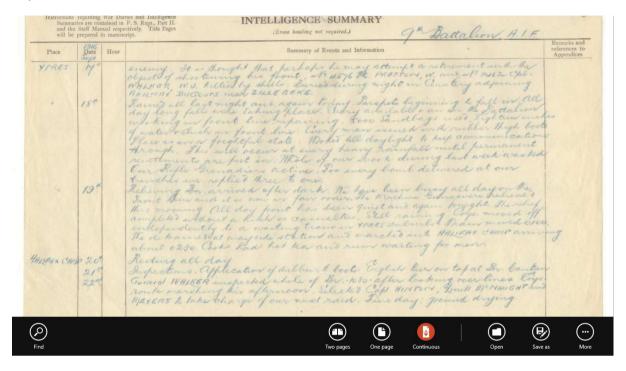
31.10.1918, arriving in Australia 19.12.1918. William worked with the nursing staff on the boat home and was discharged medically unfit on 3.3.1919 as a Private. He was a very slightly built, small in stature man.

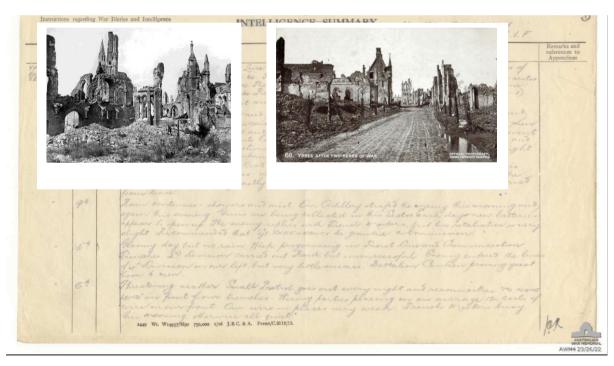
Haven't found out how or when either Elsie or their daughter Marie came to Australia, but Marie was raised by her Grandparents, Joseph William and Jessie, at Barolin Street, Bundaberg, attending the Central School from 1926 to December, 1931. She started working as a domestic in Bundaberg, but moved away soon after.

William Abraham returned to Bundaberg after the War, living at the Palace Hotel 1922/3, Commercial Hotel 1924/5, and in Glenmorris Street 1927/8, listing his occupation as a Groom. He was now with his cousin, Florence Pearl Wilkinson, whom he married in Bundaberg in 1928, their address being Electra Street on the Marriage Certificate. The Marriage Certifiate also stated he was a "Widower by Presumption".

Their first three children were born in Bundaberg and another four in the Brisbane area, having moved there in 1929. He was on the Committee of the Richlands School in 1937 where the children attended. He was on Relief Work for a while and the family lived in Amberley for about twelve months before living in Smith Street, North Ipswich, where he worked in the Railway Workshops until 1940.

William spent time with his Battalion around the Ypres area as described in this Diary entry of September 1916





William also was involved in the Hill 60 actions during early October 1916.



9th Infantry Battalion

In March 1916 the battalion sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozières in the Somme valley. The 9th Battalion attacked on the extreme right of the line. Later the battalion fought at Ypres, in Flanders, before returning to the Somme for winter. In 1917 the battalion moved back to Belgium for the advance to the Hindenburg Line, and in March and April 1918 helped stop the German spring offensive. The battalion participated in the great allied offensive of 1918 and fought near Amiens on 8 August. The 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. The November armistice was followed by the peace treaty of Versailles, signed on 28 June 1919.

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

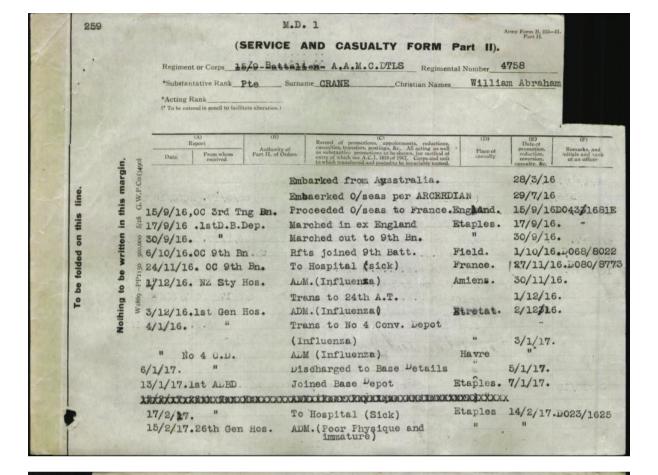


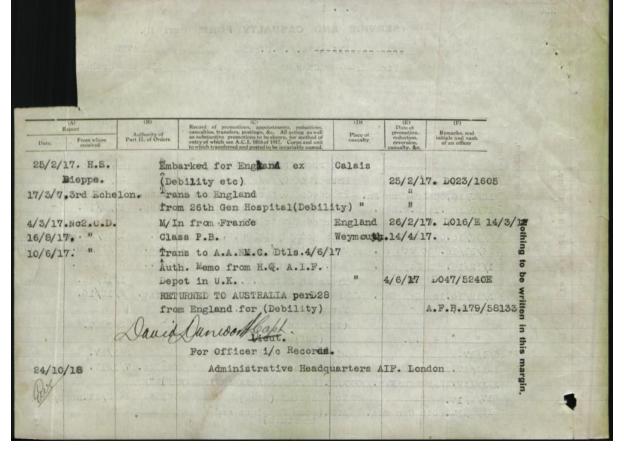
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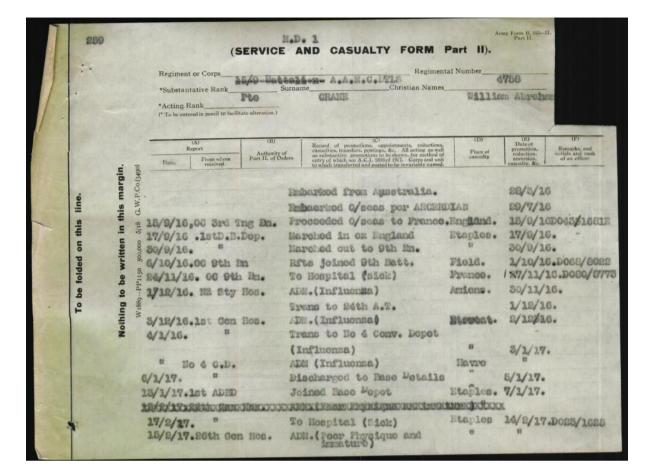
Attestation Paper of Person	s Enlisted for Service Abroad.
No. 4470 Name	all of his months universe guiceron at t
1//	The second secretarians
Unit 13/918	9/504/2
Joined on SEP 1	0 1915
Questions to be put to the Pe	rson Enlisting before Attestation.
1. What is your Name ?	I. WILLIAM ABRAHAM CRANE
	2. In the Parish ofin or
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born ?	near the Town of
	in the County of QUE HS LAND
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized	V VIII IIS LAID
British Subject (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)	3
SCHOOL BUTTED FALLS TORS	ONTH TO BE TAKEN BY P
4. What is your age!	1. 10 Years
5. What is your trade or calling!	5. PASSISTANT
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice 1 If so, where,	6.
to whom, and for what period 1	the land the same that has the
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45 Franklin Rd Willy with Eng Warneton (8. 111 21
8. Who is your next of kin ! (Address to be stated)	WOONGAMEA TEATRA
69 alkest St. Blemstony Lander	QUI NSLAND
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power!	9.2
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of Hisy Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incorrigible and	
Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed	10.
with Diagrace from the Navy†	
11. 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 1 If so, state which, and if not now serving,	11. T.A.4.A. NO.
state cause of discharge	
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service?	12. YES
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's, Service? If so, on what grounds?	13.
14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who)	
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?	
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox	15.
	YES
3, WILLIAM ABRAHAM CRANE	do solemnly declare that the above answers made 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 three-fifths	of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service
for the support of my wife and children	

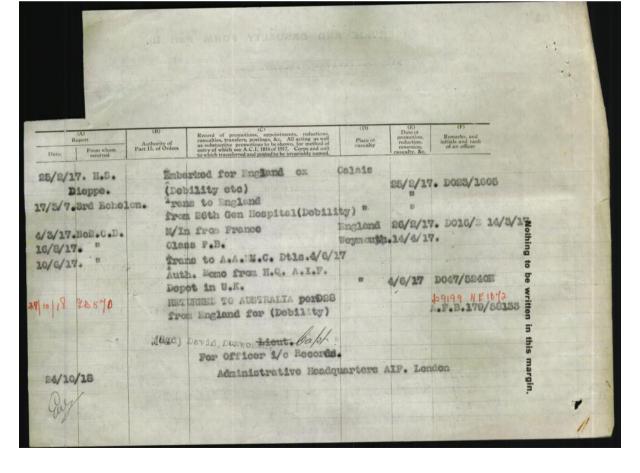
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I have examined the above details, and find them correct in every respect.









Date	From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, cascalities, &c., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213. Army Form A. 30, qc in other afficial documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Pince	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B, 218, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
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