

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 Certificate 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

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.			INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (Erase heading not required.)		Remarks and references to Appendices
Place	DATE Sept	Hour	Summary of Events and Information		
YPRES	17 th		enemy. It is thought that perhaps he may attempt a retirement with the object of shortening his front. - P. 11576 P. PRESTON, W. and 1 st 11512 Cpl. WALKER W.S. killed by shells. Buried during night in Cemetery adjoining HALLUAT DUGOUTS with ZIEBEKE.		
	18 th		Raining all last night and again today. Baromet. beginning to fall in. All day long falls were taking place. Enemy available near in the Battalion working in front line repairing. 5000 Sandbags used. Eight new inches of water struck in front line. Every man issued with rubber thigh boots. Place is now a frightful state. Worked till daylight to keep communications through. This will occur at every heavy rainfall until permanent improvements are put in. Those of our work during last week wasted. Our Rifle Grenadiers active. For every bomb delivered at our trenches we replied three to one.		
	19 th		Relieving Bn. arrived after dark. We have been busy all day on the front line and it is now in fair order. The Machine Gunners have been busy all day. All day front has been quiet and again tonight. The relief completed without a hitch or casualties. Still raining. Corps moved off independently to a waiting train in YPRES suburbs. Trains moved 0100. The de train at wayside station and marched into HALLEUX CAMP arriving about 0230. Chats had hot tea and were waiting for men.		
HALLEUX CAMP	20 th		Resting all day.		
	21 st		Inspection. Application of dubbin to boots. English bus on top at Br. Canton.		
	22 nd		General WALKER inspected whole of Bn. 1030 after looking over lines. Corps route marching this afternoon. Selected Cpl. MINTON, Quirk McNAUGHT and MEYERS to take charge of our road raid. Fine day. ground drying.		

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence			INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY		Remarks and references to Appendices
Place	DATE	Hour	Summary of Events and Information		
YPRES	23 rd				
	24 th				
	25 th		from leave.		
	26 th		Rain continues - showers and mist. Our Artillery strafed the enemy this morning and again this evening. Guns are being collected in this sector each day. New batteries appear to be put up. The enemy appears with tanks to enter, but his retaliation is very slight. Recommends that Lt. SUPERVISOR be granted a commission.		
	27 th		Stormy day but no rain. Work progressing in front line and communications trenches. 3 rd Division carries out Raid but unsuccessful. Enemy entered the lines of 4 th Division on our left but very little success. Battalion Chubbis proving great boon to men.		
	28 th		Threatening weather. Small patrol goes out every night and reconnoitres. We have 1000 in front four trenches. Throwing parties placing on an average 12 coils of wire in our front. Our wire in places very weak. French & others busy this morning otherwise all quiet.		

2449 Wt. W14957/Mgo 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Form/C.2118/12.

AWM4 23/26/22

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.

A 76705

AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 4470

Name

CRANE WILLIAM ABRAHAM

Unit

15th Bn 9th Batt

Joined on

SEP 10 1915

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? ... WILLIAM ABRAHAM CRANE
2. In the Parish of ... in or near the Town of BUNDABERG in the County of QUEENSLAND
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... YES
4. What is your age? ... 18 YEARS
5. What is your trade or calling? ... TRUCK ASSISTANT
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... NO
7. Are you married? ... Yes
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ... Wife Mrs. Elsie Crane, 89 Highgate, Richmond, Victoria, Australia
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? ... NO
10. 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? ... NO
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? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge ... T.A.F.A.
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ... YES
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ... NO
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 in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach eight shillings per day? ... YES
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever? ... YES

I, WILLIAM ABRAHAM CRANE, 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 and children.

Date SEP 10 1915

W.A. Crane

Signature of person enlisted.

B103 Engr.
15/3/17
4.2.19

4758

4

Statement of Service of No. ~~4758~~

Name *Wm Abraham Crane*

Unit in which served.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Period of service in each rank.		Remarks.
		From	To	
<i>15th Regt 9th Batt</i>	<i>Embarked from Aust</i>	<i>29.3.16</i>		
<i>Taken on strength from</i>	<i>Egypt to 3rd Tng Batt</i>	<i>9-8-16</i>		<i>Pt 25/7/13E 29-8-16</i>
	<i>Perham Down</i>			<i>Pt 30/12/11E 7-9-16</i>
	<i>PROCEEDED OVERSEAS FRANCE</i>	<i>16-9-16</i>		<i>Pt 44/1681E 23-9-16</i>
	<i>Taken on strength of 90th from</i>	<i>1.10.16</i>		<i>Pt 64/8225 17/10/16</i>
	<i>Mt 90th. In the field</i>			
	<i>To Hospital Sick, In the Field, France</i>	<i>11/11/16</i>		<i>D.O. 30/8773 .5 12 16</i>
	<i>In Hospital Sick, 1st Aust (Reg. Dep. Dep. Dep.)</i>	<i>14/12/17</i>		<i>Pt 23/1220 1/3/17</i>
	<i>Embarked from 1st Dep.</i>			
	<i>at Calais for England</i>	<i>23/1/17</i>		<i>Pt 23/1605 1/3/17</i>
	<i>Heavily</i>			
	<i>(Pte) Marched in to 402</i>	<i>56.3.17</i>		<i>L.R. 384</i>
	<i>Com. Depot Weymouth from</i>			<i>Pt 16/2388E 10.3.17</i>
	<i>Caerulho (France) 26.2.17</i>			
	<i>Pte Trans to A.A. M.B.</i>	<i>4-6-17</i>		<i>BR 17413663</i>
	<i>Dlt Auth Memo from</i>			<i>R. 4/6/17. 1R3964</i>
	<i>Hdgs A.I. & depots in</i>	<i>Weymouth</i>		<i>do 4/5220E 8-6-17</i>
	<i>M.H.</i>			
<i>A.A. Co. b. Details</i>	<i>The Res to Aust per 1928 from</i>	<i>Eng.</i>	<i>26.10.18</i>	<i>A.F.B. 179-578133</i>
	<i>Eng for</i>			<i>88570 NEH 1072</i>
	<i>Seabirdy</i>			<i>29199</i>
	<i>Discharged</i>	<i>2 M.D.</i>	<i>M.O.</i>	
		<i>133</i>	<i>19</i>	

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

Wm Morris O/O.
15th. Reinf. 9th. Batt.

(SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM Part II).

Regiment or Corps 15/9-Battalion- A.A.M.C.DTLS Regimental Number 4758*Substantive Rank Pte Surname CRANE Christian Names William Abraham

*Acting Rank

(* To be entered in pencil to facilitate alteration.)

Nothing to be written in this margin.

W/1889-PP1130 500,000 5/18 G.W.P.Co (4499)

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(A) Report		(B) Authority of Part II. of Orders	(C) Record of promotions, appointments, reductions, casualties, transfers, postings, &c. All acting as well as substantive promotions to be shown, for method of entry of which see A.C.I. 1816 of 1917. Corps and unit to which transferred and posted to be invariably named.	(D) Place of casualty	(E) Date of promotion, reduction, reversion, casualty, &c.	(F) Remarks, and initials and rank of an officer
Date.	From whom received.					
			Embarked from Australia.		28/3/16	
			Embarked O/seas per ARCERDIAN		29/7/16	
15/9/16.	OC 3rd Tng Bn.		Proceeded O/seas to France. England.		15/9/16.	D043/1681E
17/9/16.	1st D.B. Dep.		Marched in ex England	Etaples.	17/9/16.	
30/9/16.	"		Marched out to 9th Bn.	"	30/9/16.	
6/10/16.	OC 9th Bn.		Rfts joined 9th Batt.	Field.	1/10/16.	D068/8022
24/11/16.	OC 9th Bn.		To Hospital (sick)	France.	27/11/16.	D080/8773
1/12/16.	NZ Sty Hos.		ADM. (Influenza)	Amiens.	30/11/16.	
			Trans to 24th A.T.		1/12/16.	
3/12/16.	1st Gen Hos.		ADM. (Influenza)	Etretat.	2/12/16.	
4/1/16.	"		Trans to No 4 Conv. Depot			
			(Influenza)	"	3/1/17.	
	No 4 C.D.		ADM (Influenza)	Havre	"	
6/1/17.	"		Discharged to Base Details	"	5/1/17.	
13/1/17.	1st ALBD.		Joined Base Depot	Etaples.	7/1/17.	
15/2/17.	"		To Hospital (Sick)	Etaples	14/2/17.	D023/1625
17/2/17.	"		To Hospital (Sick)	Etaples	14/2/17.	D023/1625
15/2/17.	26th Gen Hos.		ADM. (Poor Physique and immature)	"	"	

(A) Report		(B) Authority of Part II. of Orders	(C) Record of promotions, appointments, reductions, casualties, transfers, postings, &c. All acting as well as substantive promotions to be shown, for method of entry of which see A.C.I. 1816 of 1917. Corps and unit to which transferred and posted to be invariably named.	(D) Place of casualty	(E) Date of promotion, reduction, reversion, casualty, &c.	(F) Remarks, and initials and rank of an officer
Date.	From whom received.					
25/2/17.	H.S.		Embarked for England ex	Calais		
	Bieppe.		(Debility etc)		25/2/17.	D023/1605
17/3/17.	3rd Echelon.		Trans to England	"	"	
			from 26th Gen Hospital (Debility)	"	"	
4/3/17.	No 2 C.D.		M/In from France	England	26/2/17.	L016/E 14/3/17
16/8/17.	"		Class P.B.	Weymouth.	14/4/17.	
10/6/17.	"		Trans to A.A.M.C. Dtls.		4/6/17	D047/5240E
			Auth. Memo from H.Q. A.I.F.			
			Depot in U.K.	"		
			RETURNED TO AUSTRALIA per D28			
			from England for (Debility)			A.F.B. 179/58133
			David Danvers Capt.			
			Lieut.			
			For Officer i/c Records.			
24/10/18			Administrative Headquarters A.I.F. London.			

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N.D. 1
(SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM Part II).

Army Form B, 103-11.
Part II.

Regiment or Corps 15/9 Battalion A.A.M.C. 1715 Regimental Number 4759
 *Substantive Rank Pte Surname CRANE Christian Names William Abraham
 *Acting Rank _____
 (* To be entered in pencil to facilitate alteration.)

(A) Report		(B) Authority of Part II. of Orders	(C) Record of promotions, appointments, reductions, casualties, transfers, postings, &c. All acting as well as substantive promotions to be shown, for method of entry of which see A.C.I. 1816 of 1917. Corps and unit to which transferred and posted to be invariably named.	(D) Place of casualty	(E) Date of promotion, reduction, reversion, casualty, &c.	(F) Remarks, and initials and rank of an officer
Date.	From whom received.					
			Embarked from Australia.		28/3/16	
			Embarked 0/sons per ARCELDIAN		29/7/16	
15/9/16.	00 3rd Tng Bn.		Proceeded 0/sons to France, England.		15/9/16	D043/16818
17/9/16.	.1st D.D. Dep.		Marched in ex England	Etaples.	17/9/16.	
30/9/16.	"		Marched out to 9th Bn.	"	30/9/16.	
6/10/16.	00 9th Bn		Rfts joined 9th Batt.	Field.	1/10/16.	D069/8022
24/11/16.	00 9th Bn.		To Hospital (sick)	France.	18/11/16.	D080/8773
1/12/16.	NE Sty Hos.		ADM. (Influenza)	Amiens.	30/11/16.	
3/12/16.	1st Gen Hos.		Trans to 24th A.T.		1/12/16.	
4/1/16.	"		ADM. (Influenza)	Streat.	2/12/16.	
			Trans to No 4 Conv. Depot			
			(Influenza)	"	3/1/17.	
	No 4 C.D.		ADM (Influenza)	Havre	"	
6/1/17.	"		Discharged to Base Details	"	5/1/17.	
13/1/17.	1st ADHD		Joined Base Depot	Etaples.	7/1/17.	
15/2/17.	26th Gen Hos.		To Hospital (sick)	Etaples	14/2/17.	D023/1628
17/2/17.	"		ADM. (Poor Physique and immature)	"	"	

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W1889-PP1150 500,000 5/18 G.W.P.Co.(3499)

(A) Report		(B) Authority of Part II. of Orders	(C) Record of promotions, appointments, reductions, casualties, transfers, postings, &c. All acting as well as substantive promotions to be shown, for method of entry of which see A.C.I. 1816 of 1917. Corps and unit to which transferred and posted to be invariably named.	(D) Place of casualty	(E) Date of promotion, reduction, reversion, casualty, &c.	(F) Remarks, and initials and rank of an officer
Date.	From whom received.					
25/2/17.	H.S.		Embarked for England ex	Calais	25/2/17.	D023/1605
	Bieppe.		(Debility etc)		"	
17/3/17.	3rd Echelon.		Trans to England		"	
			from 26th Gen Hospital (Debility)	"	"	
4/3/17.	No 2. C.D.		M/in from France	England	26/2/17.	D016/14/3/17
16/2/17.	"		Class P.B.	Weymouth.	14/4/17.	
10/6/17.	"		Trans to A.A.M.C. Dtls.		4/6/17	D047/5240E
			Auth. Memo from H.Q. A.I.F.	"		
			Depot in U.K.			
29/10/18	25570		RETURNED TO AUSTRALIA per 288		29/10/18	NE 1072
			from England for (Debility)			A.F.B. 179/50133
24/10/18			(Sgd) David Dwyer			
			Lieut. Col.			
			For Officer i/c Records.			
			Administrative Headquarters A.I.F. London			

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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	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				
11 4.1.16	Nav. Base Depot	Influenza admitted	Barre	3/1/17	AK669/25
12 6.1.17	do	Discharged to Base Details	do	5.1.17	AK669/34
13 13.1.17	AK669	Joined Base Depot	Etaples	7.1.17	AK669/67
14 17.2.17	do	To Hospital Sick		14.2.17	AK797/53 2022/1628 9.3.17
15 13.2.17	26th Hosp	Returned from Hospital		14.2.17	AK797/52
17 14.3.17	and 26th Hosp 9th B.F.F.	Trans to England 25.2.17 from 26th Hosp. Etaples to 26th Hosp. Balais	"	25.2.17	A.R. 225/13 L.P. 223
16 25.2.17	M.S. Drapper	Embarked for England in hospital, etc.	Balais	25.2.17	AK 723/9 (W3083) 30-33/110.5 9.3.17
19 4.3.17	has been Dept Weymouth	to 1 from France	England.	26.2.17	L.P. 244. 30.14. 14.3.17 1/16
20 10/6/17	R213	Pl. Transf. to A.C.M.B. Also H/6/17. Auth. - memo from the O.S. A. 94 depots in U.K.	Weymouth	4.6.17	L.R. A. 94 13463. R 4/6/17 2R 3467 2044E 4.7.17 5240E
17 16.8.17	and 26th Hosp 26th C.O.	to 26th Hosp. Balais	Weymouth	14.4.17	AK 6740
19 1.9.18	has been Dept	Pl. sent to keep class B33		1.9.18	AK 7394
29 10/18	3B570	Pl. sent to Dept per 1028 from Reg. for Reentry			A.F.B. 179/58133 NE 102 1072 25.9.19
19 9.9.18	10th B.F.F.	in In from Hosp.		17.9.18	AK 7886