

CLIFFORD (NED) SMALL

By Natasha Small

2018 Ron Rathbone Junior Local History Prize

CLIFFORD (NED) SMALL (1895 – 1916)

Service Number - 3918

Rank – Private

Unit – 45th Australian Infantry Battalion

Place of Birth - Sydney NSW

Place of Enlistment - Holdsworthy (Holsworthy) NSW

Next of Kin – George Edward Small (Father)



Private (Pte) Clifford Small, known as Ned, of the 45th Battalion, was born in 1895. Ned was a local soldier who lived with his family on Booth Street in Arncliffe. He was an engine cleaner prior to enlisting for service on 15th August 1915 at the young age of 19 years old.

It wasn't until I came across Clifford (Ned) Small while researching WW1 Anzac soldiers via the Bayside Website that I realised that he could possibly be a distant relative. After some research and to my family's surprise, we discovered that his parents (George Small and Rose Hannah Small) are a Great Uncle and Aunt. This made the search all the more interesting and personal.

Ned embarked from Sydney on 20th December 1915 on HMAT Suevic with the 12th Reinforcements of the 13th Battalion. He proceeded to join the 45th Battalion on 6th March 1916.

The 45th Battalion, after completing training in Egypt, was transferred to the Western Front in France in mid-1916. It's first major battle came at Pozières in August 1916 against the German army.

In the afternoon of 5th August 1916, while approaching the front line at Pozières, France, Ned was wounded. His unit had gone up a wrong trench and as they were coming back to get into the right one, a piece of metallic shell hit him between the calf and the ankle.

Due to the heavy shelling coming from the German side, all that could be done for him was to bandage him up and to leave him in the trench for the stretcher-bearers. The next day a runner came across Ned in the trench and from there he was taken to the dressing station.

Unfortunately, Ned died of his injuries at the 5th Australian Field Ambulance, in France, on 10th August 1916 at the age of 21. He was buried at Becourt Military Cemetery in Somme, France.

His next of kin (his father George) was notified of Ned's death and personal effects were forwarded to him. They consisted of a few simple items which included a ring, wallet, letters, photos, a fountain pen and a coin. A headstone was erected on his last resting place. Ned was also issued with the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

While viewing all the correspondence and information available on record, it was apparent how affected Ned's family was by his tragic death. It must have been so hard on his family receiving news of his

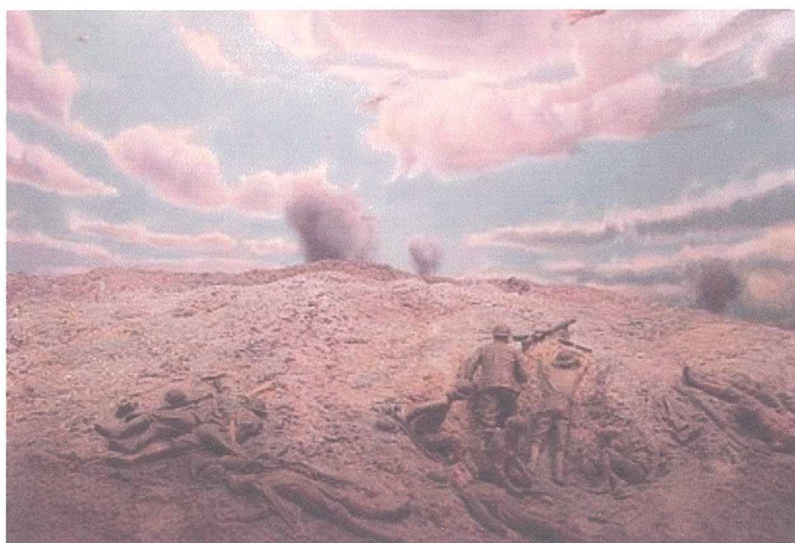
passing. The thought of this young soldier being wounded and left in a trench overnight must have been heart breaking.

Even though Ned was not a decorated soldier, nor did he have a landmark, a street or a building named after him, he is one of the 61,720 courageous and dedicated Australian military men who fought and died in WW1.

Finding Ned was a great coincidence. It was interesting finding out about his short life and about his family and knowing this is also part of my family history. The fact that he was a local soldier growing up in Arncliffe with his family and that I now live a few streets away from where he grew up is amazing.



Clifford (Ned) Small



Pozières diorama at the Australian War Memorial

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AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 3918
46th Bn.

Name Clifford Small
Unit 46th Bn. A.I.F.
Joined on 15.8.15

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? Clifford Small
2. In the Parish of Marionville in the County of Cumberland
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalised British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, please state above.) Yes
4. What is your age? 19 yrs 10 months
5. What is your trade or calling? Engine driver
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? No
7. Are you married? No
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) George Small, 140th St, Ameliff Sydney
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 Insubordinate and Mutinous, or as a result of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been discharged 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 Reserves, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge. Commonwealth War Forces
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. 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 instruction against swagging and serious crime? Yes

I, Clifford Small, 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 abstain from 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 under 16.



Date 15/8/15 Clifford Small
Signature of person enlisting.

*This declaration is essential where necessary and should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 16 years of age.

In Memory of
Private
C Small

3918, 46th Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F. who died on 10 August 1916

Remembered with Honour
Beaumont Military Cemetery, Beaumont-Becourt

Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

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