

WAR YEARS OF JAMES CARROLL (Sr Marjorie Carroll's FATHER)

My Dad, James, enlisted for World War One from Enoggera, Brisbane in May 1915 when he was 22. He had worked for a number of years in the Foundry in Toowoomba and was delighted when I was appointed there in 1980, the year he died. He never spoke much of his war years, too painful for a man of Dad's sensibilities. We do know his only brother Joe was wounded while ON ACTIVE SERVICE IN FRANCE in May 1917 and taken to England where he died. While on Tertianship in Rome, I was able to visit his grave in BROOKWOOD, ENGLAND.



Dad was not one of the original ANZACS but part of the reinforcement. His 15th Battalion had taken heavy losses at the battles over Hill 60 and by the end of August were down to 170 out of 1000 troops, so landing in November, his contingent were a welcome addition.

Dad himself sustained very painful war injuries – a bullet going through his jaw and his right leg leaving him with permanent scars from the shrapnel and a bad limp. He would have sustained his fractured jaw holding the line at Pozieres Ridge. His Battalion alone with the 14th were sent in to hold the newly captured ridge. He suffered this injury in what was described as “the worst shelling of the war”. He was lucky to survive as three quarters of the men were “ripped to shreds”. (Cameron, D 2011,

Gallipoli: The Final Battles and Evacuation of Anzac) His leg and foot were injured on the first day of the Battle of Polygon Wood near Zonnebeke, Belgium. His Battalion were trying to capture German pillboxes, concrete machine gun shelters. (Carlyon, L. 2006, The Great War)

BELOW IS A SUMMARY OF HIS WAR YEARS:

Landed in Gallipoli November 2nd 1915, served until evacuation December 20th 1915

Wounded at Pozieres, France August 8th, 1916

Returned to France from England, May 1917

Wounded Zonnebeke, Belgium, September 16th, 1917

Returned to Australia, April 1918

He received A MILITARY MEDAL ON MAY 2nd 1918 FOR HIS WAR EFFORTS.

I am so proud of you MY DAD, both Mother and Father to his three children after the sudden death of his beloved wife Hazel.

Researched by my niece, Joanne Howlett

Marjorie Carroll O.S.U.



Photos: Top: Sister Marjorie Carroll osu - War Cemetery, Brookwood, England

Bottom: James Carroll (with crutches), among other war injured - Military Hospital in England.