

ALFRED ARTHUR PARKER

At 21 years of age, your life is only just beginning; you are only just becoming an adult, but that was soon going to change for Alfred Arthur Parker.

Standing at 5 foot 10, Alfred was a prime candidate for the war. He had a fair complexion, blue eyes and brown hair. Alfred was single and had no reason to stay at home other than for his Mother and Father that loved him dearly. Alfred was not in a trade; his occupation was a Clerk.

Originating from Salisbury West, Alfred later lived in South Street, Inglewood, Victoria. Inglewood was better to live in as there was more supplies and it was not as far away from his father's job. Alfred's job meant he himself had moved to East Prahran by the time he had enlisted.



In this photo, Alfred looks very young, but he enlisted on the 7th of January 1916 at the age of 21.

Alfred was to be a sapper (he was to be in charge of clearing all the mines and digging all the trenches.)

He embarked from Melbourne aboard the HMAT Ascanius on the 27th of May, 1916. Unfortunately, he became "dangerously ill", never making it to the battlefield.

From the Ascanius, Alfred was admitted to City Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa on the 18th of June, 1916. When it was determined that he had Meningitis, he was sent home to Melbourne.

Alfred embarked on the HMAT Marathon to go back to Australia on the 31st of June, 1916.

He spent time in the number 11 Australian General Hospital in Caulfield before recovering from his illness. He was declared invalided and unfit for active service on the 4th of December, 1916. He requested discharge from active service on the same day.

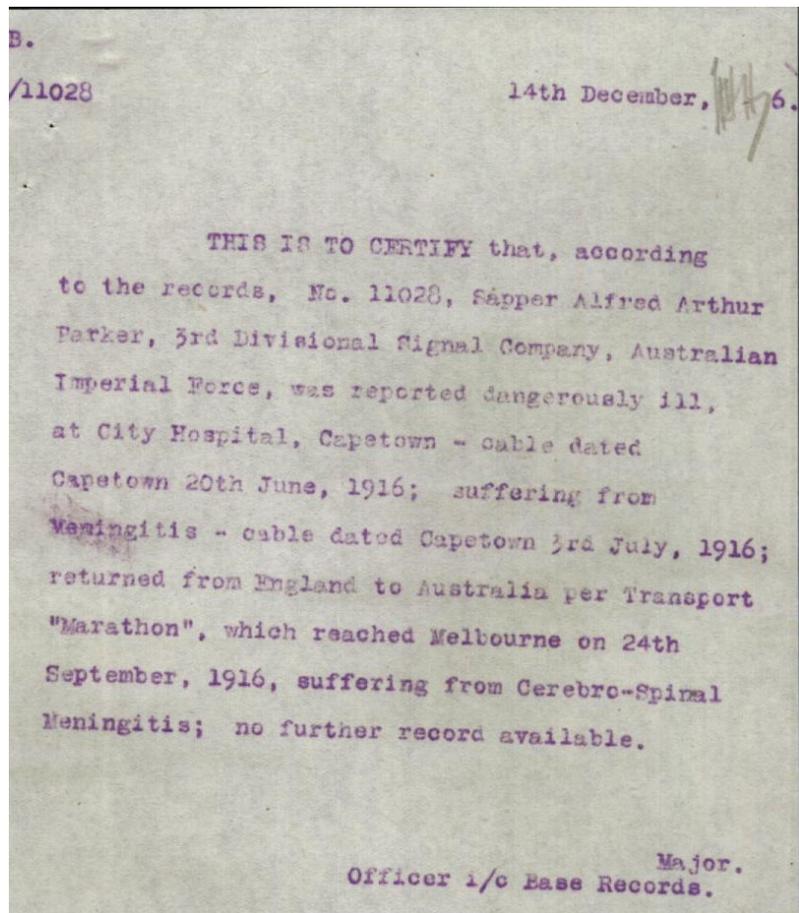
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Despite his lack of active service, Alfred was issued the British War Medal in 1921.

After coming back to Australia Alfred became an accountant at the local bank, at the administration.

Alfred worked for many years in the bank. He passed away in 1970 at age 75. He was prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice for his country, but illness prevented him from doing so.

This is the certificate recording Alfred's dangerous illness.



Sources:

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/DA15417>

<https://bgc.smct.org.au/deceasedsearch/?cemeteries=Bunurong+Memorial+Park&cemeteries=Springvale+Botanical+Cemetery&cemeteries=St+Kilda+Cemetery&ReferenceNumber=&Surname=Parker&GivenNames=Alfred+arthur&HasReadTerms=true&HasReadTerms=false&Submit=Search>

<https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/records/387559>