

BERNARD FLEMING

Being at war often resulted in poor health. This was the case for Bernard Fleming.

Bernard Fleming was born in Milloo but at the time of his enlistment, he was living in North Melbourne with his wife Annie. At 34 years of age, he was working as a clerk. He was of average height and weight with a fresh complexion, blue eyes and fair hair.

Like many soldiers of his time, he may have viewed the war as a chance to prove himself and see the world at the same time.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

PS0374

The Anglo Egyptian unloading at Alexandria. Date unknown

Although Bernard enlisted on the 21st of July, 1915 when news of Gallipoli was fresh in the minds of all Australians, he did not embark for the battlefront until the 31st of January, 1917. He travelled on the HMAT A25 Anglo-Egyptian and arrived on the 3rd of March. Soon after arriving at the isolation camp in Moascar, Egypt, Bernard became ill and spent time in the hospital.

Bernard was part of the 8th Light Horse Regiment, 23rd Reinforcement. Suffering again from a nasal obstruction, Bernard was admitted to the 14th Australian General Hospital at Abbassia, Egypt on the 6th of July, 1917. From there, he was admitted with Myalgia before returning to his unit on the 1st of August.

On the 31st of August, Bernard was appointed Driver of the Number 4 Company of the Mounted Division Train. Bernard must have been a versatile man as he served in a few different units during the war. He was temporarily detached to the AIF Band and 2nd Light Horse Brigade.

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In between duty, Bernard spent time at the Port Said Rest Camp for nine days in October, 1917 and in March 1918. He was admitted to hospital on the 8th of March 1918 with an old wrist injury before being discharged on the 12th.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J05767

The rest camp at Port Said where Bernard spent time. In the rest camp, Bernard would have been constantly drilled so he didn't lose his skills while away from the battlefield.

Bernard was invalided and returned to Australia aboard the Port Darwin on the 15th of November, 1918. The cause of his disability was Myalgia (muscle fatigue).

Little is known about Bernard's life after he returned to Australia. It is certain that he would have lived with constant reminders of the stresses of war.

Resources:

'A25 HMAT Anglo-Egyptian unloading at Alexandria.' Accessed from:

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1061340>

'AN AUSTRALIAN REST CAMP FOR COMBINED UNITS, PORT SAID, ON 1916-01-23. (DONATED BY CAPTAIN J.D. CRAMB.)' Accessed from: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C3822>

<https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/records/88917/1>

<https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=99240>