Andrew Scott MM

Service Number: 808

By Isabella Hudson

<u>Part A</u>

(1468 words)



Figure 1, Image of Andrew Scott, C. 1914. (Virtual War Memorial, Unknown)

Andrew Scott (Figure 1) was born on the 29th of May 1895¹ in the small town of Delamere, South Australia. He was the ninth child of ten children, born to Jessie and Robert Scott. Andrew lived on the family's farm, known as 'Tree Hill' (Figure 2), on the outskirts of the township.² He completed primary-level schooling at Delamere School³ (Figure 3), alongside his younger brother and best friend, Wylie Scott. They played many sports together, including, tennis,

football, and cricket. Andrew was a highly regarded horseman and a farm labourer, working on the family farm.⁴ Andrew and his family, were members of the Delamere Anglican Church and frequently

<image>

Figure 2, Image of Tree Hill farmhouse in 2015. (June Hudson, 2023)

attended church services.⁵



Figure 3, Image of Andrew and his brother Wylie school photo. 1906. Andrew 2nd to back row, 4th from the left. Wylie back row, 2nd from the left (June Hudson, 2023)

¹ <u>https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/127866</u>

² WW1 ANZACS of the Fleurieu; Stories from Pioneer Families. Page 148

³ <u>https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/127866</u>

⁴ June Hudson

⁵ June Hudson

Andrew was one of only three people to enlist and serve in World War One from Delamere.⁶ Andrew's service began on the 18th of December 1914,⁷ when he enlisted into the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), at Oaklands Park, South Australia (Figure 6 & 7). Andrew was only 19 years and 9 months old (not yet 21).⁸ Therefore, his father, who was also his next of kin, Robert Scott, needed to give approval for his son to join the force (Figure 5). Before his enlistment,

Figure 5, Robert Scott's written consent for his son Andrew to join the force, December 17th 1914. (June Hudson)

Andrew travelled to the nearby town of Second Valley for a medical examination, performed by Dr Sydney. W. Verco.⁹

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Figure 6, Andrew Scott's enlistment paper, 18th of December 1914. (National Archives, 1997)

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Figure 7, Andrew Scott's medical examination, 16th of December 1914. (National Archives, 1997)

⁶ <u>https://www.awm.gov.au/advanced-</u>

search/people?roll=Roll%20of%20Honour&facet_related_places=Delamere
'https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/127866

⁸ WW1 ANZACS of the Fleurieu; Stories from Pioneer Families. Page 148

⁹ June Hudson

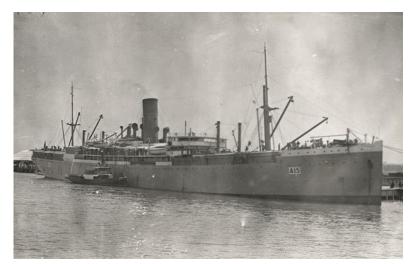


Figure 8, HMAT Armadale A26, 1915 (Cooeemarch 1915, 2018)

Andrew was assigned to be part of the 2nd Reinforcements of the 9th Light Horse regiment.¹⁰ After a short time training in the Morphettville Camp in South Australia¹¹ and in Melbourne,¹² Andrew embarked off the coast of Port Melbourne, Victoria aboard the HMAT A26 Armadale (Figure 8) on the 11th of February 1915, headed for Egypt¹³. Andrew and his fellow regiment members often played games aboard the ship, such as pillow fighting on a greased pole (Figure 9).¹⁴



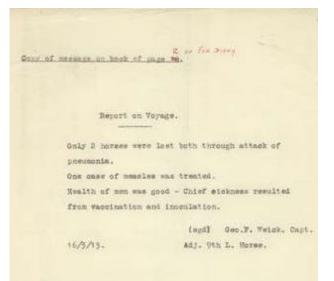


Figure 10, Voyage Report, Melbourne Port to Egypt, 16th of March 1915. (The Australian War Memorial, Unknown)

Figure 9, Two soldiers pillow fighting aboard the HMAT Armadale A26, February 1915. (The Australian War Memorial, Unknown)

¹⁰ <u>https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/127866</u>

¹¹ <u>https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/SearchScreens/NameSearch.aspx</u>

¹² WW1 ANZACS of the Fleurieu; Stories from Pioneer Families. Page 148

¹³ https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/127866

¹⁴ https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1142832

After 31 days at sea, Andrew arrived in Egypt on the 14th of March 1915 in good health (see Figure 10).¹⁵ After a long and tedious boat ride, he would have been relieved to once again be on solid ground.

However, Andrew was only in Egypt for about two months, because on the 22nd of May 1915, he arrived at ANZAC Cove.¹⁶ Initially, the Light Horse were considered unfit for the Gallipoli Campaign, but they were subsequently sent without their horses.¹⁷ Andrew's diary was lost after the war, so there is no personal record of what Andrew endured during his time in Gallipoli. But, along with his fellow regiment members Andrew served on Walker's Ridge. Celebrating his 20th birthday in an active war zone must have been terrifying. A day most often associated with happiness and cake would have been spent in a trench walking amongst his fallen friends.

Not long after his arrival in Gallipoli, Andrew was wounded in the hand and arrived in Malta to heal on July 13th, 1915, and later was diagnosed with Bronchitis.¹⁸ In early October 1915, during his time in Malta, he was sentenced to 14 days 'field punishment number 2' for gambling¹⁹, meaning he was placed in handcuffs but still able to move around²⁰. After many pain-filled days in hospital, with little knowledge of current action in the field, in December the same year Andrew was again fit for active service and returned to Egypt.²¹

In April 1916 Andrew was transferred to the 15th Field Artillery Brigade (FAB) as a driver²², leaving his friends behind and departing for England on May 9th aboard the SS Lake Manitoba.²³ In England, Andrew stayed in the Boynton Army Camp, Wiltshire.²⁴

There is little record of what Andrew did in England, other than several more 'run-ins' with the law. His first 'offence' committed in Europe was reported on the 28th of August 1916, when he "overstayed leave from Military District". This resulted in the punishment of forfeiting 4 day's pay. On the 7th of September he was "absent from parade", resulting in 7 days of Confinement to the Barracks (CB) and was ordered to forfeit 1 day's pay.²⁵

¹⁵ WW1 ANZAC's of the Fleurieu; Stories of Pioneer Families. Page 149

¹⁶ WW1 ANZACs of the Fleurieu: Stories of Pioneer Families. Page 149

¹⁷ <u>https://vwma.org.au/explore/units/68</u>

¹⁸ June Hudson

¹⁹ June Hudson

 $^{^{20}\} en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Field_punishment#:~:text=In\%20Field\%20Punishment\%20Number\%20Two$

 $^{^{\}rm 21}$ WW1 ANZACs of the Fleurieu: Stories of Pioneer Families. Page 149

²² WW1 ANZACs of the Fleurieu: Stories of Pioneer Families. Page 149

²³ https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/127866

²⁴ https://www.naa.gov.au/

²⁵ June Hudson

Shortly after that he was in trouble again. On the 25th of November, Andrew was found drunk on Castle Street in Bristol.²⁶ He once again was given 2 days 'field punishment no.2' as punishment.²⁷

Finally, on March 20th, 1917, Andrew left Wiltshire bound for France, now with the 1st Field Artillery Brigade as part of the 101st (Howitzer) Battery.²⁸ Whilst in France, Andrew was promoted to gunner²⁹, but there is little record of where he specifically served and what he did in France. However, it is known that he did participate in the battle of Passchendaele in October 1917. What Andrew saw during this time is close to unimaginable. It's cruel to think about how many times he must've walked through the ruins Ypres. All during the wettest autumn in years.³⁰

Fortunately, Andrew's bravery was awarded. On the 9th of October 1917, Andrew was nominated for a Military Medal (Figure 11) in a citation (Figure 12) signed by the Brigadier General.³¹ The citation read;



Figure 11, Military Medal, date not given. (Virtual War Memorial Australia, Unknown)

"On the 7th and 8th of October 1917 the road leading to the Batteries of the 1st Field Artillery Brigade near ZONNEBEKE was heavily barraged with all calibres of Howitzers. T/Bombardier Andrew SCOTT fearlessly led his ammunition pack train to his Battery which at the time was urgently in need of it. His courage and devotion to duty set a magnificent example to all ranks under him and is worthy of special recognition."³²

Figure 12, Citation for Military Medal, 9th of December 1917. (The Australian War Memorial, Unknown)

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²⁶ https://vwma.org.au/explore/units/2128

²⁹ https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/127866

³¹ https://www.naa.gov.au/

²⁷ June Hudson

²⁸ https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/127866

³⁰ WW1 ANZACs of the Fleurieu: Stories of Pioneer Families. Page 150

³² https://www.naa.gov.au/

The citation states he was ranked as a Temporary (T/) Bombardier, but he received his official promotion to Bombardier on the 27th of October 1917.³³ Unfortunately, this promotion was short lived.

On the 1st of November 1917, Andrew was severely injured in the field, not far from Zonnebeke,³⁴ during a mustard gas attack. He was brought back to the '2nd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station'³⁵ where he passed away the next day, the 2nd of November 1917, at the age of 22³⁶.

Sadly, it is possible Andrew never learnt that he'd been awarded a Military Medal. He died in the village of Lijssenthoek and is buried there amongst 10,000 others. His family had the message 'His Duty Done' engraved onto the headstone.³⁷

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After the news of his death, Andrew's parents communicated with the Military Base records in Melbourne to find more information about his passing (see Figure 13). They later received his medals; the Military Medal, the 1914-15 Star and the Victory Medal. They also received a jumble of personal items: a wallet; pipe; a gold ring; and a notebook. However, none of these personal items can be found today.³⁸

Andrew is commemorated in War Memorials in Yankalilla, Adelaide, Canberra and his hometown Delamere.³⁹

What Andrew Scott witnessed during his service is almost inconceivable. I am proud to call him my Great, Great Uncle and have undying respect for him and everyone who served in World War 1. I will always remember him.

Figure 13, Letter from Jessie Scott (mother) to Army Base Records in Melbourne, C. 1918. (June Hudson, 2023)

³³ WW1 ANZACs of the Fleurieu: Stories of Pioneer Families. Page 150

³⁴ https://www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search

³⁵ WW1 ANZACs of the Fleurieu: Stories of Pioneer Families. Page 150

³⁶ https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/127866

³⁷ WW1 ANZACs of the Fleurieu: Stories of Pioneer Families. Page 150

³⁸ WW1 ANZACs of Fleurieu: Stories of Pioneer Families. Page 150

³⁹ June Hudson

The ANZAC spirit is to embody qualities of mateship, perseverance, ingenuity, courage and good humour. Andrew chose to join the force at a very young age, in doing that he showed incredible courage. Very early on in his service, Andrew wrote to his family expressing feelings of loneliness and disconnection, even telling his younger brother, who was thinking of joining the force, to stay and help their family "you're just a number here". Despite this he continued with his commitment to his country. He showed high levels of perseverance after being shot in the hand at Gallipoli and needing to travel from Gallipoli to Malta to heal. He showed great strength and a determined spirit after being diagnosed with Bronchitis and with a recovery period returned to good health and recommenced his active service. He was transferred between regiments three times and showed mateship making new connections with his fellow regiment members, which would have been daunting and hard. The most obvious example of Andrew showing the ANZAC spirit would be earning his Military Medal. Leading his ammunition train through a road full of Howitzer calibres would have been scary and risky yet he still showed courage, initiative, perseverance and mateship in risking his life to get ammunition to his battery for the welfare of his mates. Andrew was a young man with his life ahead of him and yet he gave his life for his country.

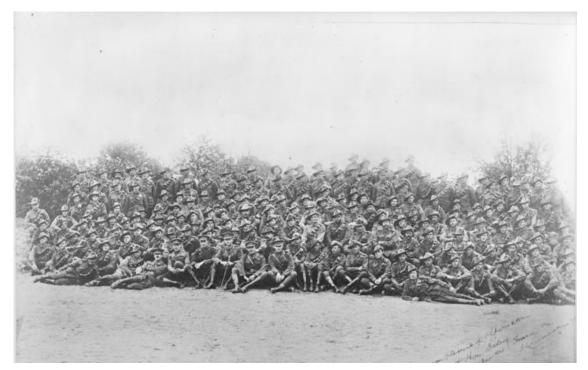


Figure 14, Image of 101st Howitzer Battery, 1st of June 1917. (The Australian War Memorial, Unknown)



Figure 15, Photograph of Andrew Scott, 1914. (Virtual War Memorial Australia, Unknown)



Figure 16, Andrew's parents Jessie and Robert Scott, Year taken unknown. (June Hudson, 2023)

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<u>Part B</u>

(498 Words)

For my ANZAC Prize, I knew I wanted to investigate a family member of mine who had fought in World War 1. My father referred me to June Hudson (my grandmother) who told me about my Great, Great Uncle Andrew Scott.

For my project, I used a mix of primary and secondary sources to conduct my research. I used many websites, books, and original war documents which include: The National Archives of Australia; The Virtual War Memorial Australia; my personal interview with Andrew's niece June Hudson; and the book: "WW1 ANZACs of the Fleurieu; Stories of Pioneer Families." All the sources I used are credible and I verified all the information I found.

To begin my research, I travelled to my grandparents' house and spoke to June Hudson about my Great, Great Uncle, Andrew Scott's War service. She told me a lot about his life before the War, such as where he grew up, in Delamere, how he loved horses and showed me a picture of his parents. In 2015, she had been to the family farm in Delamere and showing me some photos. Furthermore, she also showed me digital photocopies of letters from his family to the (then) Base Records Office in Melbourne for more information on his death. June also gave me a copy of his enlistment paper and other documents, such as the Army forms detailing his offences and punishments.

For a large portion of the project, I used the Virtual War Memorial. Which gave me a great start in my research, providing me with a summary of his service by outlining each transfer he made. I also found portrait images of Andrew that I was able to use. This website also gave me a basic summary of his life before the war, such as his occupation, schooling and informing me where he was buried.

Some things, however, weren't as useful as I'd hoped. I tried the State Library of South Australia online. After an extensive search, I was unable to find any new information that particularly benefited to my research. Neither could I locate any of Andrew's personal diary entries or letters exchanged between him and his family.

Throughout my research, I have used the Army records June provided me with. Which helped me a lot. I used his enlistment paper which helped me find his first unit, the 2nd Reinforcements for the 9th Light Horse and the date he enlisted. I was also able to find his medical record which provided me with details of his examination such as the place it was performed and I found he trained in the Morphettville Camp. I used these Army Forms to discover his committed offences and the punishments he received for his wrongdoings.

Therefore, throughout the entirety of this project, it is clear my interview with June Hudson, The Virtual War Memorial Australia, The Australian War Memorial and WW1 ANZACs of the Fleurieu; Stories from Pioneer Families were the most beneficial sources for this piece.