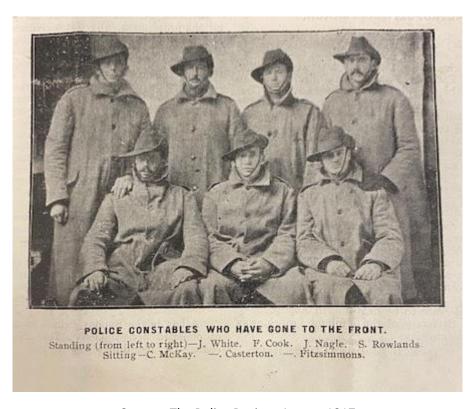


# WA Police Force officer enlistment in World War One

August 2023

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Source: The Police Review, August 1917

### **Executive Summary**

This research paper attempts to provide the WA Police Union (WAPU) with an overview of WA Police Force officers who enlisted for military service during World War 1 (WW1). This includes a statistical overview of enlistees as well as a brief military service history of individual enlistees where possible.

At least 84 serving or former WA Police Force officers enlisted for military service throughout WW1. Service records could be sourced for 63 of these enlistees. The information contained in these records was used to create a statistical profile as well as a brief military service history for individual enlistees.

Most WA Police enlistees joined the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in either 1915 or 1916. The average age of enlistees was 29 years old, with the youngest being aged 20 and the oldest being aged 46.

More than three quarters of WA Police enlistees were single. Some **71.4 per cent** were affiliated with a Protestant denomination.

The average length of military service for WA Police enlistees was 2.8 years. Sixteen enlistees were promoted to Corporal or Sergeant by the end of their service. A further four were promoted to Second Lieutenant while two others attained the rank of Lieutenant and Captain respectively.

Eleven or **17.4 per cent** of WA Police enlistees died while on military service. This is slightly higher than the rate for the AIF generally. Just under half of enlistees were medically discharged.

Service records reveal that enlistees served mostly in France and Belgium. At least five enlistees received the Military Medal for bravery in the field. Two others were respectively awarded the Military Cross and Distinguished Service Order.

In April 1918 WAPU presented a jarrah honour roll of enlistees to WA Police. The honour roll was initially unveiled at (then) WA Police Headquarters at James Street. The honour roll is currently on display in the WA Police Force Academy Chapel at Joondalup.

#### Introduction

This research paper has been produced by the WA Police Union (WAPU). Founded in 1912, WAPU has been at the forefront of representing the rights, interests, and welfare of police officers throughout the State. WAPU currently has more than 7,000 Members – **98 per cent** of all police officers and police auxiliary officers in the WA Police Force.

World War One (WW1) commenced just two years after WAPU was founded. WW1 was fought between 1914 to 1918 throughout Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the Pacific, and parts of Asia. It remains one of the deadliest conflicts in human history with an estimated 9 million combatants and 5 million civilians killed during the war.

Australia actively participated in WW1 as part of the Allies. From a population of fewer than five million, 416,809 Australian men enlisted, of whom more than 60,000 were killed and 156,000 wounded, gassed, or taken prisoner<sup>1</sup>.

This research paper attempts to provide an overview of WA Police officers who enlisted for military service during WW1. This includes a statistical overview of enlistees as well as a brief military service history of individual enlistees where possible.

# Methodology

This paper defines "enlistees" as individuals who were WA Police officers prior to WW1. It does not include individuals who began their career as a WA Police officer after WW1.

Enlistees were first identified from the 1916 to 1918 editions of *The Police Review*, the predecessor of WAPU's *Police News*. Service records of enlistees were then extracted from two online databases:

- Australian War Memorial: <a href="https://vwma.org.au/">https://vwma.org.au/</a>
- National Archives of Australia: <a href="https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection/defence-and-war-service-records">https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection/defence-and-war-service-records</a>

Data was then collected from the service records of as many enlistees that could be documented. WAPU analysed enlistee data across the following categories:

- Year of enlistment
- Age at enlistment
- Marital status and religion at enlistment
- Length of service
- Category of military service separation
- Final rank at separation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/atwar/first-world-war

Online records were also used to create a brief military service history of individual enlistees. The amount of information contained within enlistee records could vary significantly. Information is omitted from the service history of some enlistees out of respect for individual and family privacy.

WAPU does not claim to have identified every WA Police officer who enlisted in WW1. But this research paper still represents the most detailed information on the topic that WAPU has produced to date.

#### Further information

Matthew Payne WAPU Research Officer Phone: (08) 9321 2155

Email: matthew.payne@wapu.org.au

## Statistical profile of enlistees

The WA Government did not initially give WA Police officers permission to enlist for military service at the start of WW1<sup>2</sup>. Largely because the Government believed that police officers already represented an important wartime service. Any officer who did want to enlist had to resign from WA Police with no guarantee they would be allowed to resume their policing career after the war was over. However, the increasing shortage of military volunteers throughout WW1 eventually saw the Government reverse its position, allowing enlistees to resume their policing career without loss of benefits<sup>3</sup>.

At least 84 serving and former WA Police officers enlisted for military service during WW1. This represents about **4.5 per cent** of WA Police officers over the period. All enlistees were men. This is not surprising given the official prohibition on women combatants. Indeed, the shortage of male officers was a pivotal factor for WA Police recruiting its first female officers in 1917<sup>4</sup>.

The names of the 84 enlistees are listed in alphabetical order in the table below.

A11	C.II	51.111
Abbott, J	Gillett, S F	Phillps, A J
Ackland, G	Growden, F H	Powell, H H
Anderson, A A	Harley, A A	Robinson, R
Bell, W	Houston, H	Rowland, W J
Callaghan, M	Howell, E R	Shorrock, J
Campbell, A W	Jones, G	Sisson, T
Campbell, H M	Kelman, J	Steenholdt, P V
Cannon, S J	Klemp, J	Stow, H J
Casterton, W W	Leonard, H	Street, H V
Chapman, J	Lewis, C H	Strapp, J
Christensen, J G	MacPherson, J M	Taylor, G F
Cook, F I	Malcom, W	Teahan, M
Costello, T	Mann, H W	Tetterington, T
Coull, J	McGuire, J F	Thomas, A V
Crossland, J W	McInnes A B	Thomas, W
Cullen, J J	McKay, C R	Tillotson, A H
Davis, E W	McMillan, D	Triat, T P
Dewar, S	Miller, T	Ullman, W R
Dodd, A E	Moodie-Heddle, H A	Ward, F T
Edwardes, E E	Nagle, J	Warner, F L
England, A B	Newnham, G F	Watts, A J
Ettridge, T W	Noonan, M J	Webster, W H
Findlay, G H	Norman, F	White, J
Fitzgerald, E	Northcott, J B	Wildsmith, D R
Fitzgerald, R F	O'Callaghan, F B	Wilkinson, A B
Fitzsimmons, A W	Pennefather, V B	Williams, A V
Fitzsimmons, R F	Percy, T H	Wilson, A
Foley, J	Petchell, W H	Wreford, A

 $<sup>^2\,\</sup>underline{\text{https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/28577032?searchTerm=police\%20enlistment}}$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/81777084?searchTerm=police%20enlistment

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/81022023?searchTerm=women%20police%20war

WAPU was able to source service records for 63 or **75 per cent** of enlistees. These enlistees were used to create a statistical profile of WA Police officer who served in the military during WW1.

#### Year and Age of enlistment

Almost half of WA Police officers enlisted in 1916. WAPU was unable to document any WA Police officers who enlisted in 1918.



All but two of 63 enlistees joined the Australian Imperial Force (AIF). The AIF was comprised of Australia's land forces throughout the war including infantry, artillery, field ambulances, engineers, and light horse<sup>5</sup>. One enlistee exception joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment as part of the British Expeditionary Force. Another enlisted in the Australian Naval and Military Expedition Force (ANZMEF) that captured and occupied German New Guinea and Nauru in September 1914.

Most enlistees were aged 28 to 29 years old. Although at least twelve enlistees (**19 per cent**) were aged 35 years and older.

WA Police WW1 enlistees - Age	Years old
Average	29
Median	27
Youngest	20
Oldest	46

Service records also indicate that ten or **15.9 per** cent of enlistees had a tattoo prior to enlistment.

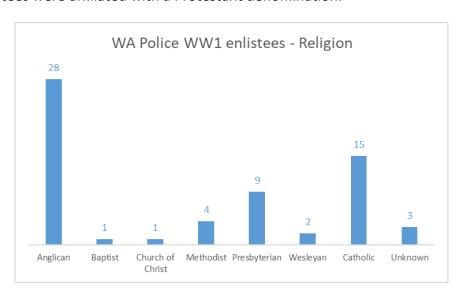
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/wars-and-missions/ww1/military-organisation/australian-imperial-force

#### Martial status and Religion

Almost two-thirds of the 63 enlistees were single.



Australia has experienced a strong undercurrent of religious sectarianism throughout most of its history<sup>6</sup>. Two referenda on conscription during WW1 – among other things – proved particularly divisive in this regard<sup>7</sup>. WA Police annual reports in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century counted the number of Protestant and Catholic officers within its ranks. Just over **71.4 per cent** of WW1 enlistees were affiliated with a Protestant denomination.



Some **23.8 per cent** of WA Police enlistees were Roman Catholic. Department of Defence statistics for June 1918 reveal that Roman Catholics accounted for **18.8 per cent** of AIF enlistments generally<sup>8</sup>.

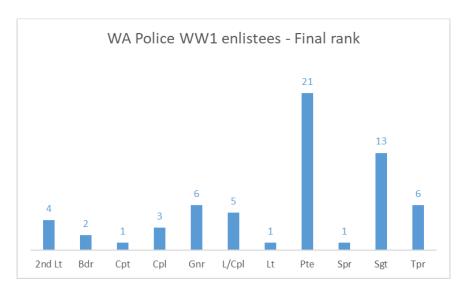
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://integrity.moore.edu.au/index.php/Integrity/article/download/7/4/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/religion australia

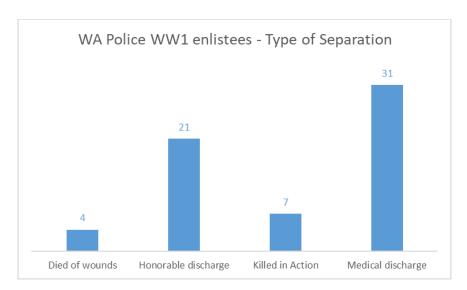
<sup>8</sup> https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/212682449

#### Final rank and type of discharge

All but two of WA Police enlistees commenced their AIF career at the lowest rank depending on the type of service arm — Private (infantry), Sapper (engineers), Gunner (artillery), or Trooper (light horse). Some **54 per cent** of enlistees were so ranked at the end of their military service. However, at least 16 enlistees were promoted to either Corporal or Sergeant. Four enlistees eventually became commissioned officers, attaining the rank of Second Lieutenant. Two enlistees who served in the Boer War were originally made commissioned officers upon entering service with one reaching the rank of Captain.



WA Police enlistees had an average length of service of 2.8 years. Seven enlistees were killed in action and a further four died shortly after being wounded in action. This means **17.4 per cent** of WA Police enlistees died during WW1 compared to **14.8 per cent** of AIF enlistees in general. The large majority of WA Police enlistees nonetheless survived WW1 and returned to civilian life.



Repatriation of the AIF began after the armistice of 11 November 1918. Demobilisation proved a lengthy process with some returning soldiers waiting up to two years before

returning to Australia and being formally discharged. This included many of the 156,000 AIF soldiers wounded in action<sup>9</sup>. Detailed research released in 2014 that over half of AIF soldiers who survived WW1 were discharged medically unfit<sup>10</sup>. This was reflected among WA Police enlistees with 31 or **49.2 per cent** being medically discharged from service. Physical injuries are well documented. The limited knowledge about psychological injuries at time is reflected by medical records using terms like "shell shock" and "stress". This makes it difficult to determine the extent of psychological illness and injury suffered by WA Police enlistees from their military service (including one who later fell victim to suicide). Although contemporary news reports indicate the mental health of returned soldiers in WA was a matter of concern to the RSL<sup>11</sup>.

Illness from non-battle disease was a constant threat to combatants throughout WW1. Trench warfare only exacerbated this threat given the proliferation of rats, lice, flies, and mosquitoes<sup>12</sup>. Dysentery, influenza, and malaria were among the most common diseases suffered by WA Police enlistees. Some **15.8 per cent** of enlistees were also infected with a sexually transmitted disease at one time during their military service which is comparable to infection rates for the AIF generally<sup>13</sup>.

The number of honourable discharges was two-thirds the number of enlistees who were medically discharged. But where it can be documented, a higher proportion of medical discharges died aged 60 years or younger.

#### Age of death (years old)

WA Police WW1 enlistees	Total	Average	% 60 or younger
Honourable discharge	17	69.8	24%
Medical discharge	25	67.8	32%
Total	42	68.6	29%

No WA Police enlistee received a dishonourable discharge. Although several enlistees were charged with various offences throughout their military service including being absent without leave and insubordination. Punishments were generally a fine (deduction of wages) or being demoted in rank.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/enlistment/ww1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/war losses australia

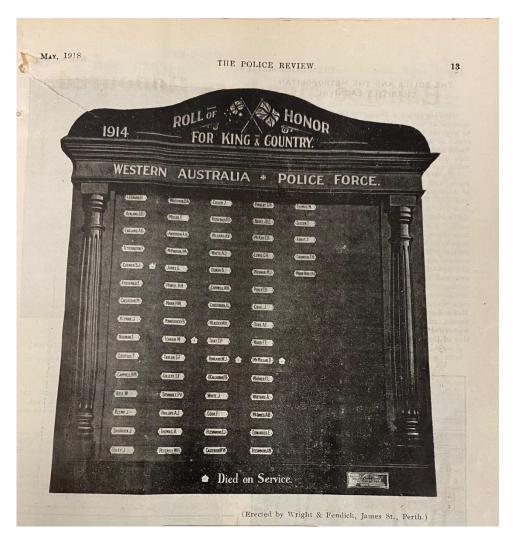
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/84747501

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/exhibitions/1918/battles/trenchwarfare

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> <a href="https://jmvh.org/article/the-australian-armys-two-traditional-diseases-gonorrhea-and-syphilis-a-military-medical-history-during-the-twentieth-century/">https://jmvh.org/article/the-australian-armys-two-traditional-diseases-gonorrhea-and-syphilis-a-military-medical-history-during-the-twentieth-century/</a>

#### WAPU Honour Roll of WW1 Enlistees

On 22 April 1918 WAPU formally presented WA Police with a jarrah honour roll of all enlistees. The honour roll was initially displayed at the WA Police HQ on James Street. The May 1918 edition of *The Police Review* had a story about the presentation including a photo of the honour roll on display.



The honour roll was formally unveiled at WA Police HQ by the Acting WA Premier, Mr Hal Colebatch MLC. The first Anglican Archbishop of Perth, Charles Riley, was also present at the unveiling ceremony. Archbishop Riley was quoted as saying: "Men who have enlisted only fight while the war lasts, but policemen must always be ready for [sic] fight."<sup>14</sup>

The honour roll is currently on display in the WA Police Force Academy Chapel at Joondalup.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Enlisted Members Honoured. (May 1918), *The Police Review*, pp 12-13.

# Individual profiles of WA Police Force officer WW1 enlistees

Name	Age when enlisted	Service period	Brief military service history
Abbott, John	42	Enlisted 11/12/1916 Medical discharge 19/10/1917	Originally enlisted in 5 <sup>th</sup> Camel Corps. Promoted to Sergeant while training at Claremont depot. Heart condition led to him being medically discharged without seeing any active service.
Ackland, George	?	Enlisted ? Medical discharge 08/08/1919	Joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment as part of the British Expeditionary Force. Unable to find his date of enlistment. Died of acute bronchitis in a UK Hospital having been medically discharged.
Bell, William	27	Enlisted 01/02/1915 Killed in Action 25/07/1916	Member of 11 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Served at Gallipoli and in France. Eventually promoted to Sergeant. Was initially reported as missing in action on 25 July 1916. A court of enquiry later concluded that he had been KIA.
Campbell, Andrew Whitton	33	Enlisted 14/04/1916 Medical discharge 02/12/1919	Served in France as part of the 11 <sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade and 4 <sup>th</sup> Division Artillery.
Campbell, Harrison McDowell	25	Enlisted 08/02/1915 Died of wounds 23/11/1916	Born in New Zealand. The only WA Police Detective documented to have enlisted. Served in 27 <sup>th</sup> Battalion at both Gallipoli and France. Eventually promoted to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. Received the Military Cross in August 1916 after leading the capture of an enemy position during the Battle of Pozieres. Died at a field hospital within days of being shot and wounded.

Name	Age when enlisted	Service period	Brief military service history
Cannon, Sidney James	27	Enlisted 19/08/1914 Died of wounds 11/05/1915	Member of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery Brigade. Died of wounds received in action at Gallipoli. Buried at sea.
Casterton, William Wright	23	Enlisted 19/09/1916 Medical discharge 05/03/1919	Enlisted in 44 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion which was originally raised in Claremont. Wounded on multiple occasions while on active service in France. Eventually promoted to Sergeant. Was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field.
Christensen, John Gilbert	30	Enlisted 10/07/1916 Medical discharge 24/06/1919	Originally served in 55 <sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battery. Saw active service in France. Medically discharged due to several chronic injuries and illnesses.
Cook, Felix Ingmire	35	Enlisted 26/06/1916  Medical discharge 12/08/1918	Enlisted in 44 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Saw action in France. Awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field. Medically discharged after suffering a serious back injury while in action.
Costello, Thomas	28	Enlisted 21/09/1914  Medical discharge 16/05/1919	Served in Gallipoli and France as part of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery Brigade. Wounded multiples times while on active service. Was once recorded as suffering from shell shock from an intense bombardment.

Name	Age when enlisted	Service period	Brief military service history
Coull, James	24	Enlisted 25/09/1916 Honourable discharge 13/03/1920	Initially joined the 48 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion before being transferred to serve as an instructor at the War Dogs School in England. These dogs were used on the frontlines as couriers and for hauling machine guns or supply carts. Coull rejoined WA Police after WW1 serving as a detective.
Crossland, Joseph Wright	33	Enlisted 13/12/1915 Medical discharge 31/03/1919	Enlisted in the 27 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Had initially served in the Boer War for 13 months which saw him attain the rank of Sergeant. It led to him being commissioned a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant as a WW1 enlistee before being promoted to Lieutenant. Served in France where he was wounded in action on several occasions.
Cullen, John Joseph	25	Enlisted 03/01/1916 Medical discharge 02/10/1919	Mounted police officer who enlisted in the 10 <sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment. Served in the Middle East.
Davis, Ernest William	29	Enlisted 07/01/1916 Killed in Action 28/03/1918	Enlisted in the 44 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Served in France where he was eventually promoted to Sergeant. Went missing in action during the First Battle of Villers-Bretonneux in March 1918. Inquiry later determined that Davis had been KIA.
Dewar, Stanley	23	Enlisted 27/03/1916 Medical discharge 05/04/1919	Enlisted in the 11 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Served in France where he was wounded in action.

Name	Age when enlisted	Service period	Brief military service history
Dodd, Albert Edward	27	Enlisted 06/11/1916 Died of wounds 10/08/1918	Enlisted in the 48 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Served in France as part of a machine gun company. Died within hours after being shot and wounded in action.
Edwardes, Edred Edwin	46	Enlisted 09/05/1917 Honourable discharge 27/01/1919	Was the oldest WA Police officer documented to have enlisted. Member of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tunnelling Company. Served in France prior to being honourably discharged.
Findlay, Gavin Hugh	24	Enlisted 03/08/1916 Honourable discharge 31/08/1919	Served in France as part of the 31 <sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Battery.
Ettridge, Thomas William	21	Enlisted 24/02/1916  Honourable discharge 31/05/1919	Enlisted in the 28 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Served in France where he was eventually promoted to Sergeant.
Fitzgerald, Robert Francis	24	Enlisted 01/03/1916 Killed in Action 15/04/1917	Enlisted in 11 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. KIA while serving in France.

Name	Age when enlisted	Service period	Brief military service history
Fitzsimmons, Thomas John	27	Enlisted 26/06/1916  Medical discharge 22/05/1918	Enlisted in 44 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Wounded in action in France in June 1917. Eventually medically discharged in May 1918.
Growden, Frederick Henry	38	Enlisted 27/08/1917 Medical discharge 21/06/1919	Mounted police constable who Initially served in the Boer War as part of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Mounted Infantry Contingent. Enlisted in 10 <sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment in WW1. Disembarked in the Suez for service in the Middle East. Medically discharged from service due to malaria.
Harley, Augustus Alphoncis	26	Enlisted 08/09/1914 Honourable discharge 12/01/1919	Originally enlisted in the 9 <sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance but also served with other ambulance units throughout WW1. Served in France and was eventually promoted to Staff Sergeant in the 9 <sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance.
Houston, Hugh Kennedy	43	Enlisted 05/07/1915 Honourable discharge 26/06/1919	Enlisted in 32 <sup>nd</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. In October 1917 was transferred to the military police attached to 8 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Brigade HQ. Served in the Middle East and France and was eventually promoted to Sergeant.
Howell, Edmond Roy	20	Enlisted 21/10/1914  Medical discharge 12/04/1918	Enlisted in the 10 <sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment. Suffered several illnesses while serving in the Middle East. Was eventually medically discharged.

Name	Age when enlisted	Service period	Brief military service history
Jones, George	38	Enlisted 17/12/1915 Medical discharge 22/02/1919	Enlisted in 12 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Served in France. Awarded Military Medal in August 1917 for bravery in the field. Medically discharged due to suffering from trench foot.
Kelman, James	28	Enlisted 07/09/1914 Honourable discharge 15/05/1919	Enlisted in the 48 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Served in both Gallipoli and France and was wounded in action in both theatres. Superiors considered him an excellent Sergeant. It led to Kelman being sent to Officer Cadet School which he graduated from with the rank of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant.
Klemp, Julius	22	Enlisted 18/02/1915 Medical discharge 17/07/1916	Enlisted in the 11 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Was shot and seriously wounded in the leg during action at Gallipoli.
Lewis, Charles Henry	28	Enlisted 18/07/1916 Medical discharge 15/03/1920	Enlisted in the 48 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Served in France.
MacPherson, John McAskill	28	Enlisted 16/08/1915 Killed in Action 13/07/1917	Enlisted in the 51 <sup>st</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Eventually promoted to Sergeant. Was killed in action in Belgium.

Name	Age when enlisted	Service period	Brief military service history
Mann, Henage William	40	Enlisted 14/09/1915 Medical discharge 27/12/1917	Originally enlisted in the 10 <sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment prior to being transferred to the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Light Horse Regiment. Served as a military police officer in Cairo where he was eventually promoted to Sergeant.
McKay, Charles Robert	29	Enlisted 26/06/1916 Medical discharge 16/07/1919	Enlisted the 44 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Served in France where he was shot and severely wounded in action in March 1918.
McMillan, Daniel	34	Enlisted 24/11/1916 Killed in Action 12/10/1917	Enlisted in the 46 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Killed in action in Belgium during the Battle of Passchendaele.
Moodie-Heddle, Howard Alan	27	Enlisted 13/08/1917 Medical discharge 03/07/1919	Enlisted in the 51 <sup>st</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Served in France where he was shot and severely wounded in action in April 1918.
Nagle, Joseph	21	Enlisted 26/06/1916 Medical discharge 04/10/1918	Enlisted in the 11 <sup>th</sup> Light Trench Mortar Battery. Served in France where he was eventually promoted to Lance Corporal. Was wounded in action on multiple occasions.

Name	Age when enlisted	Service period	Brief military service history
Newnham, George Frederick	32	Enlisted 22/05/1916  Medical discharge 09/12/1918	Originally enlisted in the 10 <sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade prior to being transferred to the 36 <sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade. Served in France.
Noonan, Michael John	33	Enlisted 28/06/1916 Medical discharge 07/09/1919	Enlisted in the 10 <sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment. Medically discharged not long after contracting malaria in Palestine while on active service.
Northcott, James Brewer	24	Enlisted 18/08/1914 Medical discharge 18/03/1918	Enlisted in the 11 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Suffered several illnesses while serving at Gallipoli. Returned to Australia in late 1915 to convalesce. Reembarked for active service in July 1916 as part of the 8 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Served in France until being medically discharged.
O'Callaghan, Francis Bernard	25	Enlisted 02/05/1916 Honourable discharge 08/09/1919	Enlisted in the Australian Corps Signal Company where he served in France.
Pennefather, Victor Bolton	31	Enlisted 24/08/1915 Honourable discharge 09/05/1921	Served in Commonwealth contingent in Boer War. Joined WA Police in 1908 before resigning in 1911. Was posted in occupied German New Guinea as part of ANZMEF and eventually promoted to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. Remarkably, his knowledge of the area saw him participate in Australian Army operations against Imperial Japan during World War 2. Survived and was discharged at age 61 – possibly the oldest WW2 combatant to have actively served in the Pacific.

Name	Age when enlisted	Service period	Brief military service history
Percy, Thomas Harold	24	Enlisted 16/09/1916 Honourable discharge 25/11/1919	Enlisted in the 1 <sup>st</sup> Tunnelling Company. Served in France where he was eventually promoted to Corporal.
Petchell, William Henry	21	Enlisted 13/12/1915 Medical discharge 23/09/1919	Enlisted in the 16 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Served in France where he was wounded in action on multiple occasions. A serious hand wound in June 1918 eventually led to him being medically discharged.
Phillips, Alfred John	24	Enlisted 09/11/1915 Honourable discharge 11/05/1919	Enlisted in the 14 <sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade. Served in France.
Powell, Henry Herman	23	Enlisted 29/09/1915 Honourable discharge 07/09/1919	Originally enlisted in the 10 <sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment before being transferred to the 4 <sup>th</sup> Divisional Artillery. Served in both the Middle East and in France.
Rowland, William Joseph	26	Enlisted 26/06/1916 Killed in Action 14/03/1917	Enlisted in the 44 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Served in France and was killed in action during an unsuccessful two company raid on enemy positions.

Name	Age when enlisted	Service period	Brief military service history
Shorrock, James	26	Enlisted 12/03/1915 Medical discharge 05/10/1919	Enlisted in the 28 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Served in France where he suffered wounds from both gunfire and shells. Was eventually promoted to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order after almost single-handedly capturing 30 enemy soldiers and 4 machine guns. Shorrock rejoined WA Police after being medically discharged. Sadly, he died of an unspecified illness within weeks of resuming his policing career.
Sisson, Thomas	28	Enlisted 07/08/1917 Medical discharge 23/12/1919	Enlisted in the 51 <sup>st</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Served in France prior to being wounded in action in August 1918. Married an Englishwoman while serving overseas.
Steenholdt, Percival Valdeman	27	Enlisted 01/11/1915 Medical discharge 22/05/1919	Enlisted in the 12 <sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade. Served in France and was eventually promoted to Sergeant.
Stow, Henry John	42	Enlisted 26/06/1916 Killed in Action 05/05/1917	Mounted police officer who enlisted in the 10 <sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment. Was taken ill to a field hospital in Palestine. Was killed the following day when the hospital was bombed by enemy aircraft.
Street, Henry Vincent	28	Enlisted 10/02/1917 Honourable discharge 30/09/1919	Enlisted in the 1 <sup>st</sup> Machine Gun Squadron of the 10 <sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment. Served in the Middle East.

Name	Age when enlisted	Service period	Brief military service history
Taylor, George Frederick	25	Enlisted 23/09/1915  Medical discharge 10/01/1919	Was enlisted in the 48 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion before being transferred to the 4th Machine Gun Battalion. Served in France.
Teahan, Michael	30	Enlisted 23/09/1915 Died of wounds 08/08/1916	Enlisted in the 28 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Served in France where he received major wounds to both legs between 6 to 7 August 1916. Died of his wounds the following day.
Thomas, Albert Victor	25	Enlisted 13/12/1915 Medical discharge 30/09/1919	Enlisted in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Pioneer Battalion. Served in France where he was eventually promoted to Sergeant. Awarded the Military Medal in October 1918 for displaying courage under fire.
Tillotson, Arthur Herbert	46	Enlisted 2/10/1916 Honourable discharge 31/08/1920	Enlisted and served in the military police attached to the AIF Staff Headquarters in London. Was eventually promoted to Staff Sergeant.
Triat, Thomas Patrick	21	Enlisted 21/08/1916  Medical discharge 15/01/1919	Enlisted in the 48 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Served in France. Medically discharged after being diagnosed with nephritis in April 1918.

Name	Age when enlisted	Service period	Brief military service history
Ullman, William Richard	45	Enlisted 25/03/1916 Honourable discharge 19/01/1919	Enlisted and served in the military police based in Australia. Was eventually promoted to Lance Corporal.
Warner, Frederick Lytton	40	Enlisted 22/12/1916 Honourable discharge 10/09/1919	Enlisted in the 44 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Served in France and was eventually promoted to Sergeant. Awarded the Military Medal in July 1918 after neutralising two enemy machine gun positions, allowing his company to continue its advance.
Watts, Arthur John	41	Enlisted 13/10/1915 Honourable discharge 28/06/1919	Originally served in the Boer War where he attained the rank of Sergeant. Enlisted in the 1 <sup>st</sup> Australian Remount in WW1 and was initially commissioned as a Lieutenant. Eventually ended up serving in the AIF military police in Cairo where he was eventually promoted to Captain.
Webster, William Harvey	22	Enlisted 11/05/1916 Medical discharge 19/05/1919	Enlisted in the 8 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Served in France. Medically discharged after being diagnosed with trench foot in April 1918.
White, John	33	Enlisted 26/06/1916 Honourable discharge 24/05/1919	Enlisted in the 44 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Served in France where he was wounded in action twice. Was eventually promoted to Sergeant. Married a Scotswoman just after WW1 prior to returning to Australia.

Name	Age when enlisted	Service period	Brief military service history
Wildsmith, Donald Rocke	21	Enlisted 21/07/1915 Honourable discharge 28/03/1920	Enlisted in the 11 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Served in France.
Williams, Alvaria Vincent	30	Enlisted 03/01/1916 Medical discharge 14/04/1919	Enlisted in the 44 <sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Served in France where he was medically discharged after being wounded in action in August 1918.
Wreford, Arthur	31	Enlisted 12/02/1917 Medical discharge 22/10/1917	Enlisted in the 51 <sup>st</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. However, he did not see active service after suffering several illnesses while still training in Perth. Was medically discharged.