

Clarence CUTTING

Clarence Cutting was born at Kilmore in 1900 to William and Christina (nee Beahan) Cutting.

Clarence enlisted at Brunswick in January 1917. Shortly after starting training at the Royal Park Camp he and his brother (John Thomas) were discharged after having only served 18 days “on account of having made a mis-statement of age on enlistment”. Not to be deterred Clarence again enlisted at Fitzroy in April 1917, then apparently aged 19 years and two months. His father’s consent was required for him to serve overseas as he was under the age of 20 years. It seems his father also verified Clarence’s stated age. Birth records show Clarence was in fact only 17 years and two months old. A note in his file states “Mother in Kew Asylum”.

At the time of enlistment Clarence was employed as a Steward with the Pilot Service and living at Gordon House in Little Bourke Street. His next of kin was given as his father, William, of Healesville. Following training at Royal Park Camp Clarence embarked for overseas active duty in June 1917, arriving in Liverpool in late August. In December he marched in to France and was transferred to the 57th Battalion as a Private, service number 3377.

He sustained an accidental gun shot wound to his right leg in April 1918 and was transferred to England for treatment. When it became apparent the injury would leave Clarence with some impairment he was transferred back to Australia, arriving in March 1919. He was discharged on medical grounds.

Clarence was awarded the British War Medal, the 1914/15 Star and the Victory Medal. His name is recorded on the Kilmore Honour Roll. He married Elsie Gerte McGuinness in 1920 and seems to have spent most of his life living in the Sydney area. Electoral Rolls show he was variously employed as a painter, green grocer and store-keeper. Clarence died in Sydney in 1977.

Compiled by Kilmore Historical Society.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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24 October 1917. Men of the 57th Battalion drawing hot tea from a cooker, prior to marching out of the Swan area to the front line in the Ypres sector.

