



Figure 1: (Left to right) Private Alan Cuthbertson, Sergeant C. Cramp, and Private Arthur Cuthbertson

Private Arthur Edward Cuthbertson

BY ARCHER LOWMAN

Arthur Edward Cuthbertson was born in Hobart on the 20th of February 1893 to Thomas Whitfield Cuthbertson and Ada Selina Cuthbertson (nee Howard). Arthur was the second eldest of eight siblings, the others being, Sydney, Joshua, Alan, Harry, Philip, Ada and Lewis. Arthur was 22 years old when he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on the 19th of August 1915. He was 5'5", with brown hair, blue eyes and a medium complexion. Prior to enlisting, Arthur was working in the family carpentry business, with

a five-year apprenticeship to his father. The Cuthbertson family were ship builders based in Hobart known for building wooden hulled racing sailboats, so Arthur was learning a very specific set of skills. Alan James Cuthbertson, the fourth eldest brother, had worked as a bricklayer, before enlisting in the Australian Imperial Forces in the same year as Arthur. At the end of the war, in 1919, Arthur received a medical discharge due to a heart murmur. He came back from the war and moved to Adelaide, South Australia. He gained work as a building inspector with the South Australian Government and married Blanche Noyes. They had 2 daughters, Peggy and Betty. Peggy went on to become Peggy Lowman. Arthur Edward Cuthbertson is my great-grandfather.

A 153055
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.
Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.
Name CUTHBERTSON ARTHUR EDWARD
Unit 3rd Sappers Coy Engineers
Joined on 19/8/15
Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation
1. What is your Name? Arthur Edward Cuthbertson
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? Hobart
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (If not, of what country?) Yes
4. What is your age? 22 1/2
5. What is your trade or calling? Carpenter
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, when, to whom, and for what period? Yes
7. Are you married? No
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) Thomas Edward Cuthbertson
9. Have you ever been married by the Civil Power? No
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Honorary, or an Honorary and Without, or an honour of Discharge of Fidelity, or of a Commission of Great Britain, or have you been discharged with Disgrace from the Navy? No
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marine, the Militia, the Militia Forces, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, when, and if not now serving, state name of discharge. No
12. Have you ever been engaged as sailor for the Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? Yes
13. Have you ever been engaged as sailor for the Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? Yes
14. After naturalized men, voluntary with children, and military who are not exempted as to military service, are you exempted as to military service? Yes
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and venereal fever? Yes
I, Arthur Edward Cuthbertson, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and lawfully voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Force of the Commonwealth of Australia, within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.
And I further agree to what has been said of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service with the Commonwealth.
For the purpose of my wife and children. Arthur Edward Cuthbertson
Date 19 Aug 15 Arthur Edward Cuthbertson Signature of person enlisting.
* This form should be filled up in the case of persons of 16 or 17 years of age, and if there are children their names must be stated.

Figure 2: Arthur's enlistment records

Description of Cuthbertson A. E. an Enlistment.
Age 22 years 6 months. DISEMPOWERING MARKS
Height 5 feet 5 inches. Scar on forehead 1/4 inch
Weight 8 5 lbs.
Chest Measurement 41 3/4 inches.
Complexion Med.
Eyes Blue.
Hair Brown.
Religious Denomination C of C.
CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.
I have examined the above-named person, and find that he does not present any of the following conditions, viz:—
Scrofula; phthisis; syphilis; impaired constitution; defective intelligence; defects of vision, voice, or hearing; hernia; haemorrhoids; varicose veins, beyond a limited extent; marked varicose veins with unusually prominent nodes; venereal cutaneous disease; chronic ulcers; traces of corporeal punishment, or evidence of having been marked with the letters D. or B.C.; contracted or deformed chest; abnormal curvature of spine; or any other disease or physical defect calculated to unfit him for the duties of a soldier.
He can see the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs; and he declares he is not subject to fits of any description.
I consider him fit for active service.
Date 13/8/15
Inspector J. H. Gendall
Inspector of Examining Medical Officers.
CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.
I CERTIFY that this Attestation of the above-named person is correct, and that the required papers have been completed with his assent, and appoint him to 3rd Sappers and Field Coy (Engs).
Date 12 November. Arthur Edward Cuthbertson
Place Adelaide. Arthur Edward Cuthbertson
Commanding Officers.

Figure 3: Arthur's medical examination record

Arthur, being a carpenter, was enlisted as a sapper in the Australian Imperial Forces. A sapper was an army engineer, who would be involved in building bridges, trenches, roads and any other infrastructure required while on the front lines. The Western Front was the most-well known and bloody front during World War I. The bitter fighting of the Somme battle took place on the Western Front, which was the most costly and brutal campaign the World Wars would ever see.

It was 1914 and Germany had invaded France and Belgium. Britain went to the aid of its allies, France and Belgium, and managed to halt the German advance further into French and Belgium territory. As the battle to keep the Germans from advancing went on, it developed into trench warfare, and became known as the Western Front. Trench warfare required huge amounts of man power and Britain called on its empire to meet the increasing need for more troops. Australia as a young nation answered this call and thousands of young Australian men enlisted. After enlisting, and completing his military training in Australia and Egypt in 1915, Arthur was sent to the grim reality of war at the Western Front in France in June 1916.

Initially Australian troops filled the gaps in the front line in the trenches of the Western Front. Over time the Australian troops gained combat experience and combined with the Australian character gained a reputation as some of the best troops on the Western Front. This was demonstrated by their fierce fighting in the battle of Villers-Bretonneux and the battle of Le Hamel in 1918. These battles marked the point at which Germany started to realise it could not break through and defeat the allies on the Western Front.

Arthur Cuthbertson and his brother Alan arrived for military training in Egypt in 1915 shortly after the 1st Division AIF had pulled out of the Gallipoli Campaign and were re-equipping and training. On the 6th of August 1915, Alan was transferred to the 3rd Field Company with Arthur. This would have been a morale boost for Arthur, but shortly after on the 6th March 1916, Arthur was transferred to the 13th FCE (Field Company Engineers), 4th Division. In June 1916, the 13th FCE, 4th Division were transferred to Armentieres in France and Arthur lost contact with his brother.

On the 22nd of July 1916, the 13th FCE was moved to the recently captured town of Albert in France. There they suffered casualties from German shelling almost as soon as they arrived. Their first day near the front line and they were already being killed by Germans. On the 4th of August 1916, Arthur's unit moved on to relieve the 2nd Division at Pozieres. Between the 4th and the 6th August, the Germans tried to retake the town, but were repelled every time. The company was in the thick of the action at Pozieres for those few days. Being there, possibly fighting face to face with German soldiers would have been terrifying. In late March, early April 1917, the 13th FCE was moved to Bapaume, in France and once again suffered casualties

from German shelling. Yet again Arthur watched people he knew being killed by explosions from shells that were raining down from the sky. He would have shown terrific courage to keep pushing on after seeing these scenes.

On the 8th of June 1917, at a farm nicknamed *Keepaway Farm*, not far from Bapaume, the German shells rained down again on Arthur's unit. Fifty men died instantly from explosions. Later in July and August 1917 the 13th FCE experienced more shelling and was under attack by direct German forces. Arthur must have been horrified by the continual sight of so many people dying around him and feeling helpless to change what was happening. In October 1917 the 13th FCE was moved up to Ypres in Belgium only 2 kilometres behind the front line of the Battle of Passchendaele, the 13th FCE was moved up to Ypres, only two kilometres behind the front lines. They remained there for the whole of October and were hit by German artillery, suffering 68 fatalities. On January 30th, 1918, they were moved on to the Belgium town of Basseije, where they once again were hit heavily by German shelling. They eventually moved back down into France and on April 5th, in Baizieux, the 13th FCE came under German attack again. On August 8th the unit moved on to offer back up and support at Aubigny Saille-Sec where the allies were experiencing constant attacks by the Germans. The experiences Arthur would have had on the Western Front were a repeating horror and the conditions in which he lived in the trenches were hard to imagine. He would have felt as if he was walking through a living hell.

ANZAC Spirit: Courage

The ANZAC Spirit is defined by four qualities: courage, mateship, perseverance and resourcefulness. All ANZACs showed these qualities in one way or another, and at one time or another. Arthur Cuthbertson displayed courage. Courage can take many forms. It could be courage in the face of enemy fire or courage to face adversity. Courage can be a belief in something, or sometimes having to stand up to your friends. For me, courage is having the strength to face situations that might be perilous, or morally wrong, and standing tall against a threat and pushing on with the courage of your beliefs. Arthur Cuthbertson faced the enemy at the Western Front in battle, and also showed courage in the face of adversity and stood for his beliefs and his loyalty to his country. He showed courage in his resolve to put his own life on the line to fight for his country and his beliefs.

Arthur was courageous to enlist for World War One. He lived a comfortable life in Hobart, with a good job and plenty of family and friends. He made the decision to leave everything behind and risk his life fighting a war in a foreign land. This is courage that all ANZACs showed, not only Arthur, as the Australian Imperial Force at that time was a purely voluntary army. Arthur made a conscious decision to fight for his country against a virtually unknown enemy. He was an ordinary man making a huge decision, and showing extraordinary courage in doing so.

Arthur's time at the Western Front in France called on his courage and resolve to get through. On the 4th August 1916, Arthur's unit, along with the whole 4th Division AIF was caught by surprise by Germans when relieving the 2nd Division AIF at Pozieres. During the next couple of days, the Germans tried to retake the town multiple times. Arthur would have been caught in the middle of fierce German attacks and experienced severe shelling and enemy fire. As a sapper, he would have been expected to go

forward into the front line to repair damage to trenches and remove any enemy obstacles. It would have taken courage to perform this difficult job under battle conditions and put your own safety aside for the good of your fellow soldiers.

From early April to October 1917, Arthur's unit fell under heavy German fire multiple times and suffered significant losses. Arthur saw his fellow soldiers killed in violent circumstances and watched others dying from wounds around him. Arthur would not have known whether his brother, Alan, was alive or dead. To remain strong under such conditions and keep believing in what you are doing would have taken immense courage. At this time during the war French Army mutinies had started and 49 French divisions were affected, with some 27,000 French infantry soldiers refusing to fight by 1917. Troops on both sides were beginning to lose faith in what they were fighting for and French troops fighting for their homeland were giving up. This shows the amount of determination needed by the ANZAC troops like Arthur, to keep fighting the Germans on foreign soil, and to remain loyal to their beliefs.

Arthur's courage at the Western Front was present every day as he did his job under difficult and dangerous conditions. We should never forget all those soldiers who performed incredible acts of bravery and sacrifice in wartime and were acknowledged with awards such as the Victoria Cross. Neither should we forget the sacrifice and courage of all the soldiers who played their part, survived and are remembered through the generations by their families, like my great-grandfather, Arthur Edward Cuthbertson.

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(Figure 2)

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