

Peter enlisted in C Company, AN&MEF on 11th August 1914, stating that he was born in Dublin, was 38 years old, a labourer and single. He gave no next of kin. He was in the Royal Artillery and Royal Garrison Artillery for 18 years before coming to Australia.

On 28th October he was appointed lance corporal, promoted corporal on 29th October and then Sergeant on 1st Feb 1915. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

He enlisted in the AIF on 19th April 1915 as part of the 1st Reinforcements for the 19th battalion, regimental number 1515. He was promoted Sergeant on 1st May and sailed for Egypt aboard the THEMISTOCLES on 12th May.

He arrived on Gallipoli on 21st August 1915 and remained until the battalion was evacuated. At the end of March, he moved with his battalion to France. He was awarded the Military Medal for; - "Conspicuous devotion to duty. On the night of the attack on German Second Line trenches at POZIERES, 4/5th August 1916, he had charge of a carrying party. He made numerous journeys under heavy shell fire, continually leading his men across open country to avoid saps which were congested with wounded. He displayed great coolness and devotion to duty and was instrumental in successfully forwarding material for consolidating the newly captured position."

On 22nd October he was promoted to Company Sergeant Major (WO11) and on 14th October he suffered a sprained ankle which, when coupled with his varicose veins, led him to be evacuated to the Norfolk War Hospital where he remained till 26th December 1916. He was then transferred to the 61st Training battalion and after a period of AWL, was demoted to corporal, following a court martial.

He was reappointed CSM and rejoined his unit on 24th October 1917 which was near Ypres. He was promoted Regimental Sergeant Major (WO1) on 1st December 1917. He was hospitalised with Influenza from 9th May 1918 till 10th July. During his time recovering he married Annie Louisa Scott in Poole, UK on 30th May.

He returned to France and rejoined his unit on 14th July and took part in the August offensive and later in the fighting to take Mont St Quentin and the AIF's 1st action of the war at Montbrehain on 3rd October.

Peter was the only battalion casualty of 4th October, when he was wounded in the head, and evacuated to the 74th General Hospital. By the time he was released from hospital the 19th Battalion had been disbanded so Peter returned to the UK. He was Mentioned in Despatches (MID) and left the UK for home aboard the SOMALI on 10th December 1918, arriving home on 10th Feb 1919.

Peter was discharged from the AIF as medically unfit on 13th April 1919.

Peter's British War Medal 1014/20 is held at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.