

Norman was born in Kiama, NSW, in 1893 the son of Grace and George Blanchard. He enlisted in A Company, AN&MEF on 11th August 1914, stating that he was a Commercial Traveller and single, giving his mother, at 135 Wigram Rd, Forest Lodge, as his next of kin. He returned to Rabaul and was discharged on 4th March 1915.

On 18th March 1915 he joined B Company, 20th Battalion, was promoted Corporal on 21st May and to Sergeant on 31st May. On 25th June he left Sydney with the battalion aboard the BERRIMA and after training in Egypt the battalion arrived at Gallipoli on 22nd August 1915.

Norman was granted a commission as 2nd Lt on 1st October 1915, and promoted to Lt on 8th December and, with the battalion, left the Peninsular on 20th December.



Officers of the 20th battalion April 1916. Lt Blanchard in back row, second from right.

On 5th May 1916 Norman was wounded and captured by the Germans at Bois Grenier near Armentieres, France. He was at Rosenberg- Kronach (Bavaria) before being transferred to Holland for internment in May 1918.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P08451.002

Norman is second on left, back row. Taken in Germany in 1917.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P03236.071

Another shot of Australian POWs with Norman at left in back row.

On 16th May Norman was promoted to Captain. Following his return to the UK he faced a court martial for events that occurred whilst he was in Holland. There were five counts of conduct unbecoming of an Officer for present drafts for which he had no funds to cover and 5 alternative

charges. He was proved not guilty of the charges and guilty of the alternative charges and severely reprimanded.

On 1st April 1919 he left the UK aboard the SHROPSHIRE and on his return to Australia his appointment was terminated on 17th May 1919. His financial problems followed him with him being declared bankrupt in 1920. He was sentenced to two months hard labour for vagrancy in 1921 and in 1924 he was charged with fraud in Kiama. In 1925 he married Maud Ashcroft in Rockdale.

Norman died in 1935 at South Kensington.