

Leon was born at Dungog on 17th Jan 1895, the son of Alexander Robert Lester Ferguson and his wife Pricilla May, nee Martin. He was a commercial traveller and joined the AN&MEF on 11th August 1914 and was promoted corporal at some time during his service.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H19498

Members of AN&MEF prior to embarkation. Leon is probably 6th from left.

He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915.

On 16th March he joined the AIF as a corporal in the 19th Battalion, regimental number 856 and was promoted sergeant on 29th March. On 25th June he departed Sydney aboard the CERAMIC, arriving in Alexandria on 23rd July. With his battalion, he landed on Gallipoli on 19th August and was wounded on 23rd September with bullet wounds to his left arm and thigh. He was evacuated and left on the GRAMPIAN for the UK where he was admitted on 11th October to the No 2 Southern Hospital, Wandsworth.

He returned to duty on 14th Jan 1916, was promoted 2Lt and moved with the battalion from Alexandria to Marseilles in March on 29th June 1916 he transferred to the 45th Battalion and promoted Lieutenant on 18th August 1916.



Officers of the 45th on Anzac Day 1917. Leon is 3rd from right, back row.

He was awarded the Military Cross – “For gallantry and devotion to duty at GUEUDECOURT on the night of the 22/23 February 1917 during an attack on the enemy’s trenches. Lieut. Ferguson was in charge of the attacking party and led his men with great dash and determination, taking and holding 120 yards of enemy’s trench, capturing 30 prisoners and inflicting numerous casualties on the enemy. This officer, by his utter disregard of danger and initiative rendered valuable assistance in the consolidation of the captured trench – a very difficult operation owing to the abnormal state (thigh deep in mud) and the darkness on the night.”

On 11th October 1917 he was wounded in the nose and evacuated to the 2nd London General Hospital, Wandsworth. He was promoted Captain and rejoined his unit on 4th Jan 1918. He was again wounded on 8th August 1918 but remained on duty. On 12th August 1918 he was recommended for a Bar to his Military Cross – “For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during the operations East of HAMEL from 8th to 11th August 1918. He led his Company with great skill and dash securing his objective with few casualties and capturing about 150 prisoners with a battery of 8 inch Howitzers. On another occasion during a minor operation his Company materially assisted in the consolidation. Although wounded he remained at his post and throughout the operations set a fine example to his Company.” There is no record of a Bar being awarded.



45th Battalion 1918. Leon is third from Right, Front Row.

Between 3rd March 1919 and 27th October 1919, he attended an Accountancy Course at the George Williams College, Tottenham Rd, London. He left the UK aboard the NESTOR on 1st November 1919. His appointment to the AIF was terminated on 17th April 1920.

His older brother, Noel Rex Ferguson, regimental number 3053 also served in the AIF as part of the 6th Field Artillery Brigade from 25th July 1915 till 24th Jan 1919.

In 1923 he married Dulcie Mabel Welch and died at Willoughby on 22nd Feb 1976.