

Alan was born in St Kilda on 20th Feb 1895, the son of William Alexander Anderson and Grace Anderson, nee Harrison and educated at Sydney High School.

Alan enlisted in the AN&MEF on 11th August 1914, stating that he was 23, when, in fact, he was only 19. He stated that he was an electrical engineer, was single and gave his father at 9 The avenue, Strathfield, as his next of kin.

On 18th August he was promoted to Sergeant and was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant on 20th November 1914. His appointment was terminated, time expired on 4th March 1915, having completed 206 days service.

In 1915 he married Thelma Blanche Reed, stating he was 22 years old, whereas he was only 20.

On 7th May 1915 he received a Commission as a Lieutenant in the 18th Battalion, leaving Sydney aboard the Argyllshire on 30th September 1915. In March he transferred to the 1st Pioneers and on 1st April 1916 he was promoted Captain and then Major on 3rd August 1917.

Alan was awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre – “For consistent good work and efficiency since joining the battalion in March 1916. He skilfully all works allotted to him as company commander, under arduous and dangerous conditions. He has on many occasions displayed great initiative in directing the construction of Light Railways, tunnels and defence systems. His Company was engaged in carrying out Deauville work in the YPRES SALIENT during the months of October and September 1917,”.

He was also Mentioned In Despatches.

On 15th July 1919 he returned to Australia on the PRINZ LUDWIG” and was transferred to the Reserve of Officers on 1st Jan 1920.

In 1921 Thelma was granted a divorce on the grounds of desertion and in 1924 Warrant for arrest was issued for non-support of his child and he was arrested in 1927 under that warrant in 1927.

Alan died in Queensland on 23rd December 1966.