

Robert enlisted in the AN&MEF on 11th August 1914 stating that he was 34, born at Newington, Edinburgh, Scotland, was a stone mason by trade and single. He gave Mrs C Dall of 3 West Preston St, Edinburgh as his next of kin. He stated that he spent 3 years with the Argyll and Scotland Highlanders, Service Number 9158, from 1905 till 1908. He was reported to the NSW Police as "missing" by Jane Dall (mother?) in 1911.

He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

On 19th April he enlisted in the AIF as part of the 6th Reinforcements, 1st Battalion, regimental number 2131, and sailed for the Middle East on 16th June 1915 aboard the KAROOLA. He was taken on strength by the battalion on Gallipoli on 6th August and promoted Corporal on the 7th November 1915.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, he spent some time with the 53rd Battalion before being transferred to the 5th Pioneers on 3rd March 1916 and was promoted sergeant on 4th March. On 3rd of July, after the battalion had moved to France, he reverted to private at his own request and was appointed lance corporal on 8th October 1916. He again reverted to private, this time after being found guilty of being drunk on duty but was re-appointed on 28th Feb 1917. He was promoted corporal on 3rd March and then sergeant on 18th May. On 21st June 1917 he requested that he revert to corporal and in September 1917 was awarded the Military Medal (MM) on the following recommendation: -

"East of HOOGH, near Ypres on the night of 19th/20th September 1917, this N.C.O. was with his Company assisting in the construction of an Artillery road which had to be completed by that morning. While work was progressing the Company came under heavy enemy shell fire causing casualties. The Company became scattered in the intense darkness and reorganisation of the parties was difficult as the enemy continued heavy shelling. Corporal Dall, by his splendid example of coolness and great courage, gave invaluable assistance in the reorganisation, and his devotion to duty was largely instrumental in the successful conclusion of the work."

On 1st October 1917 he was appointed Lance Sergeant. Whilst in England he was again charged with drunkenness on 19th May 1918 and reverted to corporal. He departed Devonport on 21st March 1919 aboard the KILDONIAN CASTLE, disembarking in Sydney on 9th May 1919.

He was discharged from the AIF on 9th July 1919, but again enlisted on 8th August 1919 this time with the Special Services Transport, regimental number 86172. He left Sydney on 19th August 1919 on the HMAT RIO NEGRO as escort for German detainees being repatriated, arriving in London on 27th October. Robert left London on 12th March 1920 aboard the CERAMIC, disembarking in Sydney on 6th May 1920.



HMAT RIO NEGRO

On 7th May 1941, he enlisted again, regimental number N270124 and was assigned to the Recruiting Depot but was discharged after only 13 days service on 20th May 1941. He was over 60 years old at this stage.

Robert died on 10th September 1945 at the Liverpool State Hospital.