

Walter was born at Colchester, England, on 3rd October 1888, the son of John F Fenton and his wife, Hannah Louisa, nee Madle. He enlisted in the AN&MEF on 11th August 1914 stating that he was a labourer and single, giving his fiancée, Ina Sarah Towbridge, Lister Private Hospital, Darlington, as his next of kin. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

In 1915 he married Ina and then enlisted in the 5th Reinforcements, 18th Light Trench Mortar Battery on 27th November 1916, regimental number 1865. He left Sydney on 2nd November 1919 aboard the ORSOVA, disembarking at Plymouth on 17th Feb 1917. He was appointed a EDP Corporal for the duration of the voyage. He spent some time with the 1st Training Battalion before proceeding to France on 25th September and, on 6th October 1917, transferred to the 2nd Battalion, then in Belgium.

On 27th October he was wounded and died of his wounds later the same day. Pte F W Parkes, #1680 of the 2nd Battalion reported – “I knew the above soldier {Walter Fenton} well: he was in the same Battalion. We were under canvas a mile from Ypres, in the evening about 6.30 Fritz’s planes came over and dropped bombs, one of which caught a direct hit on the tent in which Fenton and others were sitting. Everybody in the tent was killed or subsequently died of wounds. I saw Fenton after he was wounded and he was taken to the Dressing Station, and I was told he died on the way there, or shortly after.

He was a big man; fair complexion; married. He went over with the 5th Reinforcements of the Light Trench Motor Battery.”

He was initially buried in Ypres Asylum Cemetery, Ypres and later reinterred in Bedford House Cemetery, Ypres.

He is remembered on Panel 32 at the Australian War Memorial Canberra.