

Horace was born in Yass on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1884, the son of George Gray and his wife Mary Ann, nee Allsop. On 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1902, just before his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, he joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Australian Commonwealth Horse, regimental number 485, as a Trumpeter and went with his unit to South Africa at the end of the Boer War, which ended on 31<sup>st</sup> May. On his attestation paper he stated he was 18 years 5 months old.

His attestation papers for the AN&MEF are missing but we know he joined on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1914 and was a Sergeant (Drummer) attached to HQ. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 1915.

On 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 1915 he joined the 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion, regimental number 7, and was promoted Sergeant, Drummer on 16<sup>th</sup> April. He sailed with the battalion on the CERAMIC leaving Sydney on 25<sup>th</sup> June and arriving in Alexandria on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. He landed on Gallipoli and was promoted WO, RSM, on 9<sup>th</sup> October. He remained on the peninsular until his battalion was withdrawn on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1915.

He moved from Alexandria to Marseilles in March 1916 and, on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 1916 was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for "...conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty at POZIERES during the period 25<sup>th</sup> July – 5<sup>th</sup> August 1916. During the heaviest shell fire he repeatedly guided ammunition and ration parties to the front trenches, his courage and energy having the most beneficial effect on his men. R.S.M. Gray also left the cover of the trenches and brought in a comrade wounded by a sniper, showing the utmost fearlessness."

Arthur was killed in action on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 1916 and, as his body was never recovered, he is remembered at the Australian Memorial at Villers – Bretonneux, and on Panel 88 at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.