Walter Percival HOLLAND



Pre-enlistment:

- Walter was born at Kangaroo Point, Brisbane, Qld to parents, Julius and Brenda HOLLAND and he was one of three sons
- He attended East Brisbane State School and then Brisbane Grammar where he was an outstanding sportsman
- Later he moved to the Harlin district (near Esk in the Sommerset district) where he worked with his brother Kenneth, on their dairy farm as a single man
- His next of kin was listed as his brother, Kenneth Gould Holland, Ashley Harlin, Brisbane Valley, Qld
- Other details from his brother: Walter "Was a good all round sport, keen on all games and held the tennis championship of the Upper Brisbane River for some years. He was a true friend and a man always to be relied upon and of a most generous nature. He was a total abstainer to the last."

Military Records

- Service Number: 5592
- Walter Holland enlisted on 2 March 1916, in Brisbane as a Private with the 25th Battalion, 15th Reinforcement, aged 38 years. He spent six months in camp at Enoggera
- He embarked with his Unit from Brisbane, Qld, on board HMAT A46 Clan MacGillivray on 7 September 1916, aged 38 years
- He arrived in Plymouth on 2nd November, then marched into 4th Training Battalion at Rolleston, England.
- In December, Walter proceeded overseas to Etaples and was taken on strength by his battalion on 18th December.
- On 1st January 1917, Walter was promoted directly to Sergeant. Quite remarkable for someone who had only been with the battalion for 13 days. Three weeks later, he was promoted to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant and was assigned as the Battalion's transport officer.
- Walter was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant while the Battalion was out of the line.
- In July of 1917, he was granted five day's leave to Paris.
- In August, he was briefly seconded to the 7th Australian Army Service Corps before returning to his Unit. He was part of the Battle of Menin Road on 20th September followed by Broodseinde Ridge on 4th October.
- Walter took leave in England for two weeks before returning to the Battalion's winter camp in time for Christmas.
- On 2nd April, the 25th Battalion moved to defend Amiens. As Transport Officer, Walter worked tirelessly over a five day period.
- On 9th June 1918, the 25th Battalion suffered heavy losses near Morlancourt. The battalion war diary recorded that two officers and 41 other ranks were killed that day.
- Lieutenant Walter Percival Holland was killed in action on 9 June 1918 in Amiens, France, aged 40
- His war service was on the Western Front

Cemetery &/or Memorial

- He was initially buried at Hertly but later reinterred at Ribemont Communal Cemetery Extension (Plot III, Row B, Grave No. 4), France
- His headstone read: ALL HE HAD HE GAVE TO SAVE MANKIND, HIMSELF HE SCORNED TO SAVE.
- Memorials: Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour Panel number 104
- Brisbane Grammar School Memorial Library WW1 Honour Board 1,
- Colinton War Memorial

Honours & Awards

- British War Medal,
- Victory Medal

Rifle Shooting

- Walter Holland was a member of the Harlin Rifle Club

ACWM Commemoration Service

Reference Links

- recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=5827606
- aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=141039
- vwma.org.au/explore/people/326480
- awm.gov.au/collection/R1635687
- https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/113155478?