**SAPPER WILLIAM ALBERT HEITMAN**

**7350 – 3rd Tunnelling Company**

William Albert Heitman stated he was born at Woodside, South Australia on 18 March, 1885 the son of Heinrich Friedrich Wilhelm and Isabella Ann McKenzie (nee Carter) Heitman. From there the family moved to Broken Hill, New South Wales. He stated he had spent three weeks in the War Service Camp.

At the recruiting depot in Broken Hill on 4 January, 1917 the thirty-one-year-old miner applied to enlist for active service abroad and passed the medical examination. Attestation forms describe him as 167cms (5ft 5½ins) tall, weighing 62.9kgs (138lbs) with a chest expansion of 82-89cms (32-35ins) and had a sallow complexion with good vision in his blue eyes and brown hair. Distinctive marks were tattoos of crosses on left forearm and right arm. Medical notation was some haemorrhoids, scars on both knees and slight varicose veins. His faith was Methodist.

Next-of-kin nominated was his father William Heitman of Pell Street, Broken Hill, NSW. The Oath of Enlistment was taken and signed the same day.

Basic training commenced with B Coy at Mitcham camp, near Adelaide, South Australia (4th Military District) from 9 January, 1917. Was allotted on January 22 to the Tunnellers Reinforcements training to the 8 March then transferred to their training camp at Seymour, Victoria joining the March, 1917 Reinforcements to the Tunnelling Companies. On May 21 commenced final training and military authorities noted that his Will had been lodged with his mother at Pell Street, Railway Town, Broken Hill. His rank was Sapper with the regimental number 7350.

The Reinforcements of 167 members embarked on HMAT A32 *Themistocles* from Melbourne, Victoria on August 4, 1917. The voyage across the Pacific was rough and stormy for several days causing sea sickness on board. As the ship entered the Tropics it became very hot. Colon, Panama was reached on August 31, 1917 and during the unavoidable eight-day delay very heavy rain and muggy conditions were endured. The transport docked at Halifax, Nova Scotia on September 18, 1917 and three days later left to experience good weather across the Atlantic arriving in Glasgow, Scotland on October 2, 1917 after a fifty-nine-day voyage. The troops were detrained to Tidworth, England marching into Nos 1 and 3 Details camps at Parkhouse for further training for the front.

From Southampton the Reinforcements proceeded overseas to France on 22 November, 1917 arriving a day later at the Aust General Base Depot in Rouelles. On 27 November marched to the 1st Anzac Entrenching Battalion which was an advanced section of the Base Depot that organised works near the lines and through duties, usually of ten days duration, would accustom the reinforcements to war conditions before being assigned to a company in the field.

On 30 November, 1917 was taken on strength with the 3rd Tunnelling Company who were about to commence a programme of work on Dugouts in Old German Lines at Hill 70.

He was a recipient of Comfort gifts from the Kalgoorlie Ladies Group and a letter of thanks was signed by all and published in the:

*Kalgoorlie Miner* Tuesday April 16, 1918:

TUNNELLERS’ COMFORTS - MEN WHO RECEIVED THEM

Sometime ago gifts were despatched to the front by the No. 1 Tunnelling, Pioneers and Engineers committee, and a list of recipients has now been received by the secretary, Mrs R.M. Jordan as follows— W.A. Heitman

*Article abridged*

Blue Chevrons were issued to wear on his uniform for serving twelve months abroad.

In an audit of the company, he was noted to be still with his unit on 1 October, 1918.

When Peace was declared he was with his unit and the Tunnelling Companies remained on the front as part of the Army of Occupation assisting with rehabilitation of their district by clearing roads and bridges of booby traps and delayed action mines left by the enemy.

Leave from France was granted and he left on November 20 and re-joined his unit on 7 December, 1918.

On 4 April, 1919 reported to the Agricultural Training Depot and left from Havre four days later arriving at the No. 6 Camp at Sutton Veny on April 11.

He was declared an illegal absentee as from 25 August by a Court of Inquiry held at Sutton Veny on 16 September, 1919.

On 22 November, 1919 at the Parish Church, Carlisle, Cumberland, William Albert Heitman (34) bachelor of Sutton Veny, Wiltshire married Nancy Bratson, (26) spinster daughter of Thomas Bratson, plasterer, of 11 Harold Street, Carlisle by license according to the ceremonies of the Established Church by Rev. E. Walker, Vicar.

Nancy became his next-of-kin.

Sapper was granted indefinite leave subject to recall on 9 December, 1919 while waiting for the family ship.

Accompanied by his wife, Sapper Heitman embarked on 16 April, 1920 for Australia on board H.T. *Hororata.* Base Records advised his father on 5 April that he was on his way home. This news was shared in the:

*Barrier Miner* Tuesday May 11, 1920:

PERSONAL

Mr and Mrs W. Heitman, of Pell-street, Railway Town, have been advised that their son, Sapper W.A. Heitman, is returning with his wife to Australia by the transport Hororata, which will reach Australian shores about May 30. Sapper Heitman will be the fourth son of Mr and Mrs Heitman to return from active service

The transport docked in Adelaide (4th M.D.) on 8 June, 1920 with news of their arrival reported in the:

*Daily Herald* (Adelaide) Tuesday June 8, 1920:

SHIPPING NOTES

The Steamer Hororata, bringing 810 members of the A.I.F. and their dependants, berthed of the Outer Harbour on Monday morning. The vessel was on her maiden Voyage when the war broke out, and immediately commandeered by the Australian authorities to be used as a transport. In 1918 she was used for carrying American troops. The Hororata left Liverpool on April 16, arriving at Capetown on May 8; leaving there again on the 10th. Fremantle was reached on May 28 in which port she stayed until June 2, when she left for Adelaide. Throughout the whole of the voyage the vessel, in which is commanded by Captain W.C. Bower, experienced fine weather.

Military Discharge was issued in Adelaide (4th M.D.) on 23 July, 1920 on termination of his period of enlistment.

He returned to Broken Hill.

The British War Medal (21096) and the Victory Medal (20567) were issued to Sapper 7350 William Albert Heitman, 3rd Tunnelling Company for serving his country. He receipted delivery of the War Medal on 17 September, 1921 and the Victory Medal on 2 December, 1922 both at Broken Hill.

Their home remained 70 Pell Street, Broken Hill South.

He was a witness in the Coroner’s Court in Broken Hill with the following published in the:

*Barrier Miner* Tuesday October 10, 1939:

CAR PASSENGERS TELL STORY – MORE EVIDENCE IN CAR CRASH INQUEST

PASENGERS IN THE CAR WITH Francis John Mallon told the Coroner (Mr A.B. Collins) at the inquest yesterday the same time as Mallon the collision would not have occurred. They stated that the cyclist appeared to lose control of the bicycle before the collision.

William Albert Heitman, miner, of 70 Pell Street, said he was a passenger in the rear seat of Mallon’s car. He heard a crash of glass and saw a man in the roadway. Witness’s hand was cut by glass. He was in the act of lighting his pipe. He did not see any other car or hear any screeching of brakes.

Mallon said, “Did anyone get his number?” Mallon stopped the car about 10 feet from where he saw the man lying. It was on the incorrect side.

Witness said to Mallon, “How did you get over here?” and Mallon replied, “Another car pushed me over.”

Witness told Mr Davoren that he did not know whether he lit the pipe as he had been unable to find one half of it since the accident.

Heitman said Mallon was a very careful driver, and he did not know Mallon to drive at a fast speed.

*Article abridged*

His younger brother Robert George (born 1/12/1907 in Broken Hill) enlisted with the Australian Army in Hindmarsh, S.A. on 17 June, 1940. Next-of-kin nominated was Irene Heitman. Private SX5373 (Bob) Heitman was discharged on 16 October, 1945 from the 2 /43 Aust Infantry Battalion.

William was advised the following news on his brother and published in the:

*Barrier Daily Truth* Friday September 24, 1943:

MENTIONED IN DISPATCHES

Word has been received by Mr W.A. Heitman, of 70 Pell Street, that his brother, Private R.G. (Bob) Heitman, of the 2 /43 Battalion, has been mentioned in dispatches for a gallant and distinguished service in the Middle East during the period May 1, 1942 to October, 22, 1942. Pte Heitman who was born in Broken Hill, was educated at the Burke Ward School, and resided at Railway Town.

His lease of land in Broken Hill was advertised in the:

*Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales* Friday September 16, 1949:

Western Lands Office, Sydney, 16th September, 1949

Land Leases of the lands specified in the annexed Schedule to have been granted to the undermentioned persons.

6374 49-5,749 William Albert Heitman Parish of Picton, County Yancowinna,

Situation Portion 4,939, Area 32½ acres Purpose of land – Residence. Term of Lease 12 Apr. 1949 to 14 Apr 1963. Annual Rent 2 0 0, Survey fee 1 0 0 Broken Hill.

William Albert Heitman passed away on 29 January, 1956 aged 71 years. Interment took place in the Methodist-Rakow portion of Broken Hill Cemetery within row 22 in grave no. 42.

Business arising from his Estate was published in the:

*Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales* (Sydney) Friday June 22, 1956:

On or before the twenty-fifth day of August, 1956, at the expiration of which time the said Public Trustee will distribute the assets of the respective deceased persons to the respective person entitles, having regard only to the claims of which he then has notice:

William Albert Heitman, late of Broken Hill, NSW, retired miner, died on 29th January, 1956; administration, with the will dated 8th November, 1948, annexed, was granted on 24th May, 1956.

A Statement of his service was requested from the Sydney branch of the Repatriation Commission from Base Records and duly forwarded on 3 October, 1956.

His grave can be located in Broken Hill Cemetery, NSW with his wife buried in the same grave.

The Legacy Club of Adelaide wrote to Base Records on 22 April, 1959 stating that Nancy Heitman had applied to enrol with the club and in order for them to ascertain requested details if her husband had service overseas or prescribed operational area.

Base Records replied on 30 April, 1959 that her husband has served continuously until honourably discharged on 23 July, 1920. During this period, he served overseas in England and France from 4 August, 1917 until 8 June, 1920.

Their grave in Broken Hill Cemetery

Photo sourced from Billion Graves website –

photographed on 15/5/2015 by SIMO

His three brothers also served.

**PRIVATE ROY NATHANIEL HEITMAN**

**4489 – 10th Battalion**

Broken Hill, New South Wales was the birthplace of Roy Nathaniel Heitman on 8 June, 1895 the son of Heinrich and Isabella (nee Carter) Heitman. Military experience was gained from Senior Cadets to Citizens Forces B Coy, 88th Battalion.

Enlisted at Broken Hill before 10 September, 1915 with both parents’ permission, passing the preliminary medical examination enabling him to go to Adelaide, South Australia (4th Military District) to enlist.

Described in Attestation forms as 163cms (5ft 3ins) tall, weighing 54.45kgs (122lbs) with a chest expansion of 82-90cms (32½-35½ins) and a fair complexion with good vision in his blue eyes and light brown hair. Methodist was his religion.

Next-of-kin nominated was his mother Isabella Heitman of Pell Street, Broken Hill, NSW. Was sworn in on 10 September, 1915 in Adelaide.

Acknowledgement to the departing volunteers was published in the:

*Barrier Miner* Friday September 10, 1915

DEPARTURE OF RECRUITS - LAST NIGHT’S SEND-OFF

Another batch of Broken Hill recruits numbering 46, left by the last night’s train for camp in Adelaide. The men were formed up at the Barrier Boys’ Brigade Hall in the usual way, and marched to the station via Oxide, Argent and Bromide streets. A large crowd of members and sympathisers of the Barrier Empire League, and the City Band, met the volunteers at the New Masonic Hall, and escorted them for the remainder of the journey to the station. The crowd was the platform was exceptionally large, and the men were loudly cheered. The enthusiasm en route was also especially marked. Following are the names of the recruits:

**Roy Nathaniel Heitman**, *Article abridged*

Trained with E Coy, 2nd Depot Battalion at the Exhibition ground camp until September 30, then with 1st Depot Battalion to 15 November, 1915 and allotted to the 14th Reinforcements to the 10th Battalion.

Rank was Private with the regimental number 4459.

Embarked from Adelaide on HMAT A28 *Miltiades* on 7 February, 1916 for the Suez disembarking on 11 March. Re-embarked overseas to England for training at Perham Downs camp then proceeded to France on 15 August, 1916 and was taken on strength with their unit on August 25.

Ill with Influenza during December, 1916 re-joining his unit on January 18, 1917.

Wounded in action on 9 April, 1917 by a gunshot with wounds to right knee and thigh severe, scapula and wrist.

Invalided to England on the hospital ship *West Australian* and admitted to the Fulham Military Hospital on April 24 then transferred to Grove Military Hospital at Tooting in 16 June. Moved to the 3rd Aust Auxiliary Hospital on June 25 remaining until 13 July when sent to the No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth.

Embarked for a change to Australia, due to wounding of right knee, on 27 July, 1917 on board H.T. *Demosthenes* arriving in Melbourne (3rd Military District) on 24 September, 1917 then overland by train to Adelaide (4th Military District). News of their impending arrival was reported in the:

*The Register* Monday September 24, 1917:

MORE RETURNING SOLDIERS

A further batch of 90 invalid soldiers will reach the Adelaide Railway Station at 9.5 a.m. to-morrow. In accordance with the usual custom, the Mayor (Mr I. Isaacs), members of the City Council and the Town Clerk will be among those who will join in the “welcome home,” and they will accompany the men in procession through the city. The Mayor asks that the buildings in the principal throughfares shall be decorated with bunting, and that employees be permitted to leave their work while the procession of cars is passing order to welcome the soldiers. The arrival of the train will be announced by the ringing of the Town Hall bells.

Military Discharge was issued in Adelaide (4th M.D.) 29 October, 1917 as medically unfit.

Base Records was advised on 17 November, 1917 of his arrival and discharge after serving 2 years and 50 days of which 1 year and 230 days were served abroad.

Private 4459 Roy Nathaniel, 10th Battalion was issued with the British War Medal (10221) and the Victory Medal (10156) for serving his country.

In 1934 he was a labourer at Kubya, Blackheath, NSW and in 1943 was at 47 Kenilworth Street, Waverley, Sydney with the same occupation.

Roy Nathaniel Heitman died on 6 January, 1984 aged 88 years in Adelaide. Interment took place in Derrick Gardens portion of Centennial Park Cemetery within Row 035S.

His plaque in Centennial Park Cemetery

Photo sourced from Dept of Veterans’ Affairs

and used with permission.

**PRIVATE HARRY HEITMAN**

**6096 – 27th Battalion**

Woodside, South Australia was the birthplace of Harry Heitman on 13 May, 1893 the son of Heinrich and Isabella (nee Carter) Heitman. The family moved to Broken Hill, NSW and he worked as a labourer.

At the recruiting depot in Broken Hill on 29 August, 1916 the twenty-three-year-old labourer applied to enlist for active service abroad and passed the medical examination. Attestation forms describe him as 164cms (5ft 4¾ins) tall, weighing 54.4kgs 74-85cms (120lbs) with a chest expansion of (29-33¼ins) and had a sallow complexion with good vision in his blue eyes and brown hair. Distinctive marks were 4 vaccination scars in an A.I.F. tattoo and noted he was never in camp before. Methodist was his religious faith. Next-of-kin initially was his mother Mrs Isabella Heitman of Pell Street, Broken Hill.

This changed when he married on 21 October, 1916 at the City Mission to Hilda Florence Wilks and his next-of-kin changed to her at 17 Chapel Street, Thebarton, S.A. The Oath of Enlistment was signed on 7 September, 1916.

Basic training commenced in Adelaide (4th Military District) on 11 September, 1916 with A Coy, 2nd Depot Battalion at Mitcham camp until 17 October, 1916 when allotted to the 17 Reinforcements to the 27th Battalion in the rank of Private with the regimental number 6096.

The reinforcements proceeded to England on 7 November, 1916 from Adelaide on the troopship HMAT A19 *Afric.* There are no trip sheets for the voyage to Plymouth, England docking on 9 January, 1917 and the men marched into the Training Battalion at Rollestone camp.

Training completed the Reinforcements embarked from Folkstone for France on 5 April, 1917 arriving at the 2nd Divisional Base Depot at Etaples a day later. Was taken on strength on April 9 with the 27th Battalion.

Was hospitalised in Belgium after reporting sick on 21 October, 1917 to the 25 General Hospital until 3 November then invalided to England on the hospital ship *Jan Breydal* suffering cellulitis neck and admitted to the No.2 Military Hospital in Old Park until transferred to the Military Hospital at Chatham on November 19.

Private was classed with B1a3 debility at Sutton Veny Depot on 25 January, 1918 and returned to France from Southampton on February 21 and re-joined his Battalion.

Was wounded in action on 8 August, 1918 with a gunshot wound to right thigh and admitted to the 4th General Hospital on two days later. The hospital ship *Princess Elizabeth* conveyed him to England entering the Barnet Military Hospital remaining until discharged to report to Sutton Veny after furlough.

He was there when Peace was declared. On 9 December marched out to the Overseas Training Brigade to await his voyage home.

Returned to Australia on 25 January, 1919 on board H.T. *Ceramic* for discharge in Australia. The transport docked in Adelaide (4th M.D.) on 14 March, 1919.

Military Discharge was issued in Adelaide on 21 April, 1919 on termination of his period of enlistment.

The 4th Military District advised Base Records on 24 April, 1919 that he as returned and been discharged after serving 2 years and 227 days of which 2 years and 128 days had been service abroad.

Private 6096 Harry Heitman, 27th Battalion was issued with the British War Medal (18208) and the Victory Medal (18001) in service for his country.

In 1939 to 1943 their residence was listed as 11a Chapel Street, Thebarton working as a labourer.

Harry Heitman passed away on 25 August, 1982 in Adelaide, S.A. at 89 years of age. Interment took place in Hindmarsh Cemetery with his wife Hilda.

Their grave in Hindmarsh Cemetery

Photo sourced from Find-a-Grave website

**PRIVATE THOMAS HEITMAN**

**3066 – 43rd Battalion**

Broken Hill, New South Wales was stated to be the birthplace of Thomas Heitman in 1895 the son of Heinrich and Isabella (nee Carter) Heitman. He spent one year with the Cadets in Broken Hill.

At the recruiting depot in Adelaide, South Australia (4th Military District) on 19 March, 1917 the twenty-two-year-old single labourer applied to enlist for active service abroad and passed the medical examination. Described in Attestation forms as 164cms (5ft 4½ins) tall, weighing 60kgs (132lbs) with a chest expansion of 84-89cms (33-35ins) and had a fresh complexion with good vision in his blue eyes and fair hair. Methodist was his religion. Next-of-kin nominated was his father William Heitman of Pell Street, Broken Hill, NSW. He was sworn in the same day.

Basic training commenced at Mitcham camp, Adelaide with B. Coy 2nd Depot Battalion until 31 March then assigned to the 7th Reinforcements to the 43rd Battalion a day later. His rank was Private with the regimental number 3066. Military authorities noted his Will was lodged with his mother at Pell Street, Railway Town, Broken Hill, NSW

The Reinforcements embarked on board HMAT A30 *Adelaide* on 23 June, 1917 arriving at Plymouth, England on 25 August, 1917 marching into the Training Battalion at Lark Hill the next day.

Proceeded overseas to France from Southampton on 18 December, 1917 arriving at Havre to the Aust General Base Depot the following day. Was taken on strength on 24 December with the 43rd Battalion in the field.

Service continued until March, 1918 when he suffered Tonsillitis until April 24 re-joining his unit. He suffered laryngitis on 7 October and returned to duty on October 23. He was with his unit when Peace was declared.

Was detached to the Civil Training Engineers on 11 December, 1918 on returning from leave to England and re-joined in March, 1919. On 7 April was detached to the Aust Graves Registration Department remaining until 17 August then returned to England to the No. 2 Group Camp to await his voyage home.

After demobilisation Private Heitman embarked for Australia on 25 September, 1919 on H.T. *Port Dennison* for his journey home.

Base Records advised his father on 15 October that he was on his way home. The transport docked at Port Adelaide (4th M.D.) on 20 November, 1919.

Military Discharge was issued in Adelaide, S.A. (4th M.D.) on 19 December, 1919 on termination of his period of enlistment.

For serving his country Private 3066 Thomas Heitman, 43rd Battalion was issued with the British War Medal (20568) and the Victory Medal (20108).

Both medals were signed for on 19 May, 1923 at Woodside, S.A. His address in 1937 was Adelaide River, Northern Territory working as a labourer.

He re-enlisted as a soldier during World War II with the Australian Army at Alice Springs, N.T. on 23 October, 1939. Corporal D301601Thomas Heitman was discharged on 8 November 1943 from the 9 Aust Army Transport Company Royal Aust Engineers.

He was at Arltunga, N.T. working as a dry blower in 1954 and care of Lands & Survey Department as a survey hand in 1954. By 1963 was at 9 Hartley Street, Alice Springs and a pensioner.

Base Records forwarded a copy of his service records to the Adelaide branch of the Repatriation Commission on 2 August, 1954.

Thomas Heitman died in South Australia in 1971.

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