

A SOLDIER'S STORY



Service No.: 1822
Name: William Clarence Way AHANG
Nickname: Bill



Medals and Decorations

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Rank: Private
Service: Army
Enlisted: 23 Feb 1916
Discharged: 27 Oct 1919

Bill was born near Sheringa (Hundred of Way) on 1 Dec 1887 to Henry Ahang and Emma Ahang (nee Argoon) of Sheringa. He was one of 6 children, 2 boys and 4 girls. His father was a farm labourer.

He had very rudimentary schooling, and went to work as a farm labourer in the Sheringa area. He remained working on farms in both the Sheringa and Tumby Bay districts until his enlistment in Feb 1916, at the age of 28 years.

On induction into the Army he was posted to the 2nd Depot Battalion before being transferred to 5th Pioneer Battalion. After a short period of training he embarked on 11 May 1916 bound for the UK and then the Western Front.

During his service he had a fairly rough time having been wounded twice. The first time he was gassed; the second time he was more severely wounded, receiving gunshot wounds to his right arm, back, neck and side on 6 Oct 1918. He was evacuated to 1st Southern General Hospital in UK, his wounds being classified as “severe”.

During his convalescence he met Christina Mortlock and later married her at Earl’s Court in London (UK) on 9 Dec 1918. They had 2 children, both boys.

He continued his convalescence in UK until 27 Jul 1919, when he and his wife were embarked on the “*Indarra*” for return to Australia, arriving on 3 Sep 1919.

After his return to Australia he took his discharge from the Army on 27 Oct 1919 and he and his wife made their way back to Tumby Bay where they stayed with his aunt, Margaret Ahang (possibly Louisa Margaret Caroline Ahang, also known as Sophia Ahang), for a short time before moving to Port Neill.

He was allocated a “soldier settler” block at Carrow, near Port Neill. An unusual story of the conditions that faced the “new” British bride was when she spent the whole

day scrubbing the floor in their farm house trying to find the lino through all the dirt. When Bill came home he explained to her that their house had a dirt floor. She had never been exposed to this type of thing in the UK! How would a newly married woman of today handle these conditions?

Unfortunately Bill suffered poor health as a result of the injuries he received during the war. He died on 23 Mar 1928 at the age of 40 and is buried in the Tumby Bay Cemetery.

After his death his wife and family moved to Alberton in Adelaide. His wife died on 28 Dec 1980 after being hit by a drunk driver on Christmas day of that year.



Cleaning Carrow Wells circa 1920