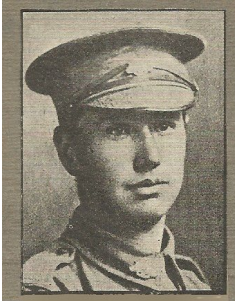
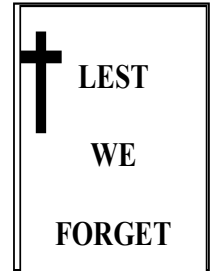


A SOLDIER'S STORY



Service No.: 4780
Name: Walter Oliver WEGENER
Nickname: Walt



Medals and Decorations

British War Medal
Victory Medal

Rank: Signaller
Service: Army
Enlisted: 10 Feb 1916
KIA: 3 May 1917

Walt was born at Edwardstown (SA) on 27 Feb 1897 to Heinrich Lebrecht Wegener and Ellen Wegener (nee Rogers). There were 9 children in the family, 6 boys and 3 girls, of which he was the third eldest. His family moved to Tumby Bay in 1899, initially to Wadella Springs, before his father became a Commission Agent at Tumby Bay in 1901. The family lived in a cottage opposite Tresize's Garage on what is now the school oval. This was one of the earliest cottages in Tumby Bay!

Walt went to school at Tumby Bay, commencing in 1905 and leaving on completion of Grade 7 in 1911. He then worked in the Post Office at Tumby, which at that time was located in Tumby Terrace next to the Police Station, until he enlisted in the Army. At the time of enlistment he recorded his occupation as Assistant GPB (?)

As a result of his previous part time military service of 12 months as an Engineer signaller in 28th Battalion (Bn), a Citizen Forces unit, he was sent to the Signals School at Mitcham on enlistment for further signals training. After completion of this training he was posted to 12th Reinforcements/ 27th Bn on 12 Apr 1916. He undertook further Infantry training, before embarking at Fremantle on "*Aenoas*" for Suez and then on to UK.

On arrival in UK in Jul 1916 he was immediately admitted to Fargo Military Hospital suffering from influenza, being discharged from hospital in early Dec 1916. On 15 Dec 1916 he embarked from Folkstone (UK) aboard the "*Princess Victoria*" for Estaples (France): On arrival he again joined his unit (27th Bn).

27th Bn was raised in SA in 1915 from recruits previously earmarked for 24th Bn. Initially the Bn saw service at Gallipoli, commencing in Sep 1915, before returning to Egypt and then on to France, entering the front line on the Western Front on 7 Apr 1916 at the battle of Pozieres. The Bn participated in a number of attacks during the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line in early 1917. These attacks are listed as “minor attacks”, but the casualties were high. It was during one of these attacks that Walt was killed in action (KIA).

The 27th Bn was disbanded in Jun 1919, but was re-raised in 1921 as part of the Citizen Forces.

Walt was buried in Quent Road British Cemetery near Buissy, which is noted as being 8 ³/₄ miles (approx 13 ¹/₂ Km) North West of Cambrai (France). As usual for the time his Next of Kin had to send a remittance for 3 photos of the grave site: these were forwarded on 11 Apr 1922. It is hard for us to comprehend the difficulty experienced and time taken for the passage of information during this period!



British War Medal Victory Medal

Private
WEGENER, WALTER OLIVER

Service Number 4780

Died 03/05/1917

Aged 20

27th Bn.
Australian Infantry, A.I.F.

Son of Lebrecht and Ellen Wegener, of Tumby Bay, South Australia.



Quent Road Cemetery, France