



PTE Frederick Daniel GRIMSON

6055 – 23rd Battalion, 17th Reinforcements

Born: 1890 Cumnock, NSW

Parents: Edwin & Mary Grimson

Occupation: Farmer

District Connection: Yullundry, Cumnock

Enlistment Date: 13 Apr 1916

Enlistment Age: 25

Embarkation: 31 Oct 1916, HMAT *Argyllshire A8*

Served: France

Fate: DOD 5 Apr 1917, France

Buried Becourt Military Cemetery, Albert, France.

Honour Boards: National War Museum, Canberra;
& Cumnock War Memorial Gates.

Biography

Frederick Daniel Grimson was born near Cumnock in 1890, the son of Edmund and Mary Ann Grimson. Their children were Charles B 1876, Lydia B1878, Stephen 1880, Edmond B 1884, Robert B 1887, and Frederick.

The Grimson family in Cumnock originated from Stephen and Lydia (nee Brown) Grimson from Norfolk England. They had eight children – Stephen B1827, Robert B1828, Charles B1830, Samuel B1832, James B1833, Rachel B1835, Lydia B1838 and John B1840. Stephen Grimson and his 24 yr old son, Stephen, worked as agricultural labourers when the 1851 England Census for Norfolk/Toft Monks was recorded. In 1852 Stephen Grimson (Jnr) married Sarah Simmons in the county of Norfolk. They had one child, Edmond Grimson, born in 1853, in Norfolk. Sarah Grimson died in 1855.

Stephen Grimson, aged 29yrs, along with his 3yr old son, Edmund, were Assisted Immigrant Passengers on the ship *Lloyds*, arriving at Sydney on 4 Sep 1856. He stated on the ship's papers that his brother Samuel was living at Newtown. Samuel, aged 21yrs, had arrived in Australia on 21 Oct 1854, on the *Anglo Saxon*. Another brother, Robert, also came to Australia, around the same time as Samuel and Stephen. The three Grimson brothers started the St Peter's (Sydney) brickworks. Stephen later purchased horse teams and around 1872, started carrying trade between Sydney and Bourke. His son Edmund accompanied him with a second team. Leaving the road, father and son settled on land on Yullundry Creek, near Cumnock. Robert eventually settled in Wellington, NSW, and Samuel at Crookwell, NSW – both married with children.

Stephen Grimson married Mary Ann Townsend at Molong in 1876, and they had five children. An unnamed son B & D 1877; daughter born 1879; Mary B & D 1881; Robert B 1883, D 1887, and Samuel B & D 1886. In 1893 Stephen Grimson bought 320 acres of land along Yullundry Creek which they called Norfolk Farm, in the parish of Buckinbah, county of Gordon and a further 40 acres in 1896. They grazed sheep and farmed wheat, which won several competitions at local shows. Mary Ann Grimson died, aged 54yrs, on 17 Sep 1898, at Yullundry Creek. Stephen Grimson sold his Yullundry farm in 1904 and died, aged 85yrs, on 3 Sep 1912. The couple are buried in the Anglican portion of the Cumnock Cemetery.

Edmund (variously spelt as Edmond or Edward) took up a selection adjoining his father's, at Yullundry. In 1918 Edmund Grimson was reported in local newspapers as having built new sale yards, held a license to run billiards in Cumnock, and was the local news agent – stocking pipes, tobacco, fancy goods, phonographs and other articles. He was a member of the Cumnock Club and took an active part in community activities. Edmund Grimson died aged 67yrs at his Yullundry farm, on 8 Feb 1921, having lived there for 47 years. The farm was managed by his son, Robert, in later years. Mary Ann Grimson moved to Orange to live in 1922. She died aged 95yrs, in 1949, at Kiama, NSW.

Frederick or 'Ned' Grimson would have attended Yullundry School and enjoyed playing tennis and playing the violin. He played the violin for many social occasions in Cumnock and Yeoval and was part of the Cumnock Brass Band. He worked for a time a time for Mr Arthur Job but also had his own farm at Bellview, Yullundry Creek.

Frederick enlisted in the AIF at Cumnock on 13 Apr 1916, aged 25 yrs and 8 months, and was examined by the town GP, Dr Ivie Aird. He was 5 feet 10 inches tall, had fair complexion hair, blue eyes, and was of the Church of England religious denomination.

His brother Lance Corporal Charles Grimson – 582, 1st Light Horse Regiment, returned to Australia from Gallipoli wounded, on 9 Sep 1915. He had won the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his bravery at Gallipoli and was commended for his bravery in the Molong, Cumnock and Yeoval districts on his return.

The *Molong Express and Western District Advertiser* – 4 Nov 1916, p4, reported on a Yullundry Soldier Farewelled:

“One of the largest crowds ever known at Yullundry gathered at ‘Fairview,’ the residence of Mr and Mrs A Job on Tuesday October 24, to bid farewell to one of the most highly esteemed and respected young residents, Pte F D Grimson, who has answered the Empire’s call and who was expected to sail last Tuesday, to join his comrades who are fighting the great battle for freedom and justice, and for King and country. Private Grimson is a native of Yullundry, where his respected parents (Mr and Mrs Edmond Grimson) still reside. He is also a brother of that gallant soldier, Corporal C Grimson, DCM.

Private Grimson was motored with his father and mother to the send-off party at about four o’clock by Mr A Job. About 300 people were gathered to meet him, and, judging by the good wishes that were bestowed on him, there is not the least doubt that he is greatly respected in the Yullundry district, and we feel sure that if the opportunity arises he will make a name for himself and the district.

Games of all descriptions were indulged in till tea time, which commenced at 6.30 in a large wheat shed, decorated tastily with flags. Mr WR Glasson, of Brigalow, in a nicely spoken and interesting speech, presented Pte Grimson, on behalf of the residents of Yullundry, with a handsome wristlet watch and solid silver n safety razor. Mr JD Morris, in a well-chosen speech, presented the guest, on behalf of the residents of Bournewood, with a beautiful pocket wallet and fountain pen. Private Grimson suitably replied, and expressed his grateful thanks for the kindness of the district people for the presents, and for the good wishes that had been bestowed on him.

The floor was then cleared for dancing, and about 50 couple graced the floor. The music was supplied by Miss Whittaker, and Messrs Wykes, Grimson, and Martin, on violin and concertina. At midnight, supper was partaken of, and dancing was resumed, and continued till late. Messrs D and H Wykes and T Brown were the M’s C.

Private Grimson, accompanied by most of the members of the Grimson family, was conveyed to Molong on Thursday evening by Messrs A and R Job, in their two cars, to catch the mail train for Sydney.”

Pte Frederick Grimson embarked from Sydney on 31 Oct 1916 on HMAT *Argyllshire* A8. The *Argyllshire* arrived at Plymouth on 10 Jan 1917 and he proceeded to the Training Btn at Larkhill. He travelled to France on 28 Mar and joined the 23rd Btn on 1 Apr 1917. Just four days later he died suddenly.

A friend, Miss Mary O Hunter, of Three Rivers, via Molong, wrote to the War Office saying that she had received a letter from Pte Grimson dated 2nd April, which said he was in the best of health.

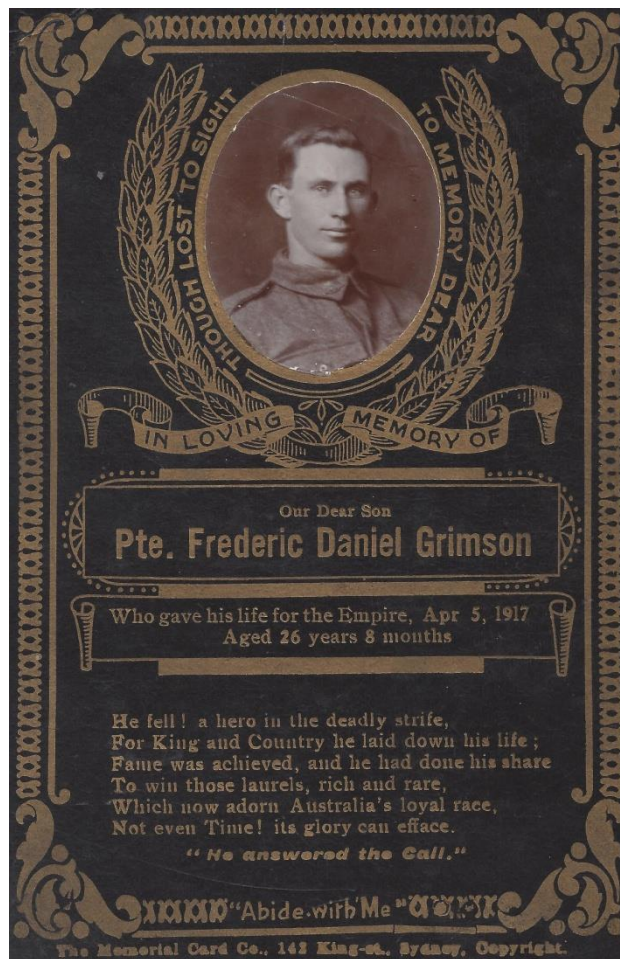
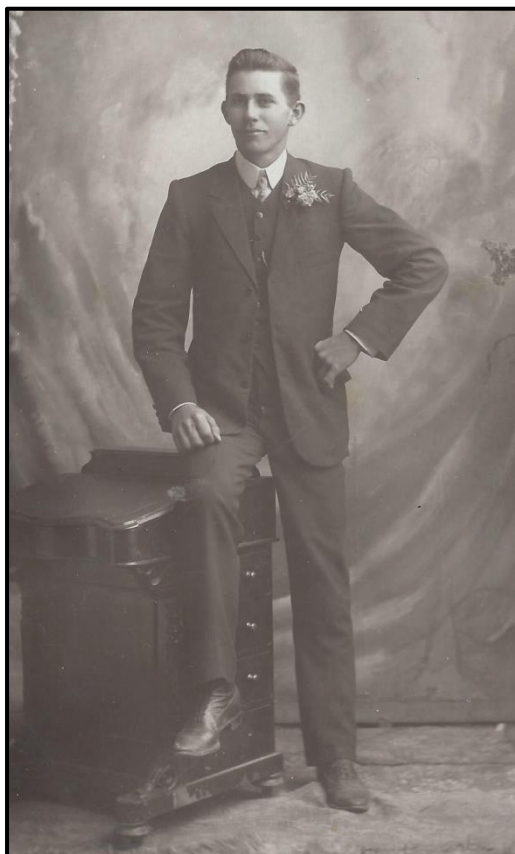
An official letter was sent to Pte Grimson’s parents, by his Commanding Officer on 27 Jun 1917, stating:

“Pte Grimson died of unknown causes in the early hours of the morning of 5 Apr 1917. He had complained of not feeling well the previous evening, but did not think it serious enough to see the Medical Officer. At about midnight on the 4th April he fell down unconscious on leaving the hut. The Medical Officer was immediately called, but Pte Grimson did not recover consciousness and died within 10 minutes. A post-mortem held at the 6th Australian Field Ambulance did not reveal the cause of death. Pte Grimson had only joined the Battalion 2 days prior to his death. Would you kindly convey to the family of the deceased soldier the deepest sympathy of the Officers and men of the 23rd Battalion.”

His effects were sent to his parents included cards, testament, booklet, pipe, handkerchiefs, scarf, brush and air cushion.

A sale was held at ‘Bellview’, Yullundry Creek, for Frederick Grimson’s estate, on 7 Nov 1917, with a number of draught horses and a quantity of farming machinery offered for sale.

The *Molong Argus* – 11 Jul 1919, p4, reported that *“Recently the residents of Yullundry presented the parents of the late Pte FD Grimson with a silver shield mounted on Australian maple, in memory of their son, who enlisted in 1916, and died of illness in 1917.”*



Above left & top of profile: Frederick Grimson. Photos courtesy of the Banjo Paterson Museum, 43 Forbes Street, Yeoval.

Above right: Memorial Scroll to Pte Frederick Grimson – on display at the WE Agland RSL MBE Memorial Museum, 243 Anson Street, Orange.

Below: Photo of a display of Frederick & Charles Grimson memorabilia at the Banjo Paterson Museum, 43 Forbes Street, Yeoval. Includes a photo of their mother, Mary Ann Grimson, a photo of Frederick's wooden cross in France, and his Testament book returned with his effects after his death in France in 1917.

The Edison Wax phonograph cylinder has a restored recording of Frederick Grimson playing the Merry Widow on the violin.

