



Colour Patch
9th Btn, AIF.

Corporal Ambrose Curzon INGLE
7273 — 9th Battalion, 24th Reinforcements &
Australian Army Pay Corps

Born: 20 Mar 1861 Ely, Cambridgeshire, England

Parents: Annette & John Ingle, Cambridge, England.

Next of Kin: Wife, Mrs Alice Ingle, Hunters Hill, Sydney.

Occupation: Sanitary Inspector

District Connection: Cumnock

Enlistment Date: 27 Oct 1916, Charters Towers, QLD.

Enlistment Age: Stated 44 yrs, but actually 55yrs.

Embarkation: 24 Jan 1917 - HMAT A33 *Ayrshire*

Served: England

Fate: RTA 7 Feb 1920

Honour Board: Nil known.

Biography:

Ambrose Curzon Ingle was born on 20 Mar 1861 in Ely, Cambridgeshire, England. He was the son of Annette and the Reverend John Ingle, who was a graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge, and an ordained priest of the Anglican Church. The 1871 England Census for Devon/St Leonard/Exeter records John Ingle (47yrs) as the Rector of St Olaves, headmaster of Mount Radford School and a landowner. He had a wife Annette (41yrs), a son Ambrose, (10yrs) Ambrose, and four daughters, Mary 17yrs, Lucy (14yrs), Mildred (7yrs) and Winifred (3yrs).

At 20 years of age, in 1881, Ambrose was living in Lambeth, London, and working as a drapery warehouseman. He immigrated to Australia, arriving on the *Thomas Stephens* at Sydney on 23 January 1883. On 23 June 1883 he married Kezia Neville at Cobar. Kezia was the daughter of Mary and James Neville, of Carwell, near Rylstone.

Ambrose and Kezia had five children: Cyril 1883-1960; Annette born at Rylstone, 1885; Percy born at Rylstone, 1889; Nellie born at Gilgandra, 1892; and Lucy born at Oberon, 1896 and died at Rockley, 1901.

Ambrose Ingle became a school teacher at Carwell in 1883, Louth in 1884, and at Gilgandra in 1888. In 1893 and 1894 he was censured by the Education Department for the unsatisfactory condition of the school. He was moved to a smaller school at the Berrima Colliery in May 1894 and warned again in May 1895 "*that if marked improvement be not shown at next inspection, his classification will be reduced.*" He moved to the Half Time School at Norway, near Bathurst, in January 1896. In 1901 he moved to Perthville Public school, and in 1906 was "*warned that he should distinctly understand that he is now on his final trial.*" This warning seems to have had effect as he was promoted to a higher classification from 1 Apr 1906 and then moved to Mount McDonald in the Bathurst mining district, on 27 September 1906.

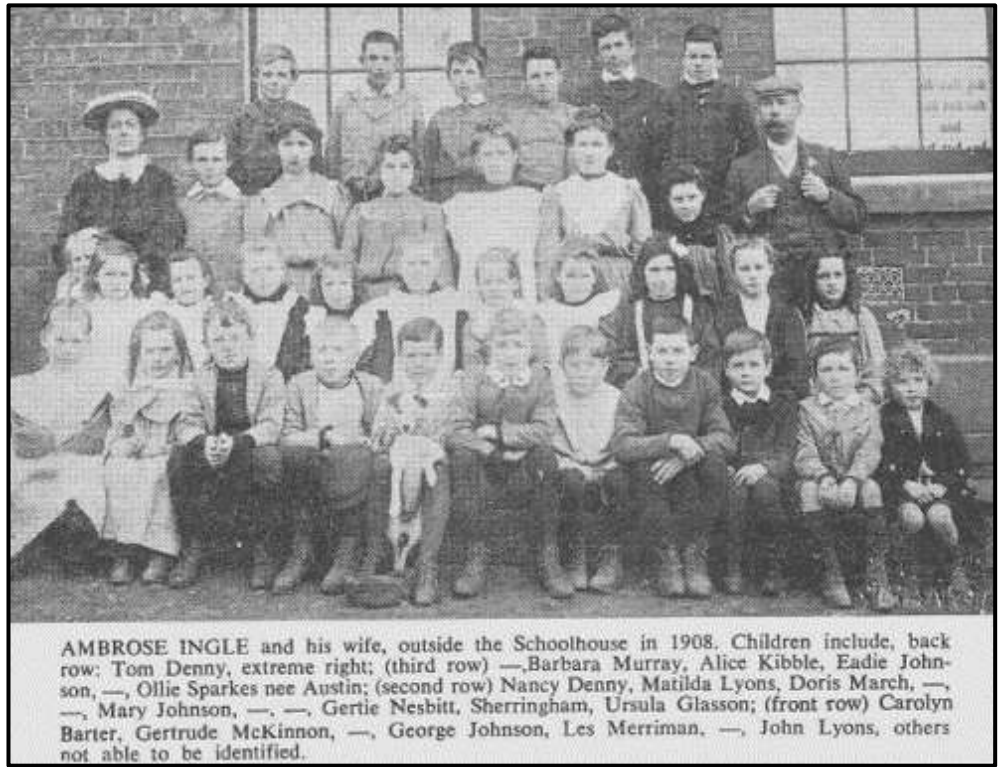
Ambrose Ingle was appointed to the Cumnock Public School on 18 February 1908. In "The Seeds of Wisdom" Joan Marriott describes that the 46-year-old Ambrose Ingle cycled into Cumnock and pulled up at Black Bros General Store, after cycling the 107 miles over three days from Mount McDonald, near Woodstock, to take up his new appointment. His wife and daughter Nellie arrived later by train and coach.

The Ingle family settled into Cumnock and initially appeared to have the community's approval.

The Molong Argus – 10 Apr 1908, p4, reported: “Mr Ingle, who has succeeded Mr Readford in charge of the Public School here, is becoming very popular. He is a most obliging and courteous officer.”

Ambrose Ingle assisted a committee to stage a grand Empire Day celebration in Cumnock on Monday 25th May. *The Molong Argus* – 29 May 1908, p4, reported in part that:

“All the business places were closed, and the locals gathered at the school where the flag was hoisted and saluted, and the National Anthem sung by the pupils of the Cumnock and Myrangle Schools. Patriotic and instructive speeches were made by local businessmen followed by a move to the showground where games, races and competitions were held during the day. At night a huge bonfire blazed merrily in McDonnell’s paddock, and fireballs, rockets and bangers of all descriptions were in evidence everywhere. A social was held in the hall afterwards and Mr Ingle and the committee were praised that the day passed off without a hitch.”



AMBROSE INGLE and his wife, outside the Schoolhouse in 1908. Children include, back row: Tom Denny, extreme right; (third row) —, Barbara Murray, Alice Kibble, Eadie Johnson, —, Ollie Sparkes nee Austin; (second row) Nancy Denny, Matilda Lyons, Doris March, —, Mary Johnson, —, —, Gertie Nesbitt, Sherringham, Ursula Glasson; (front row) Carolyn Barter, Gertrude McKinnon, —, George Johnson, Les Merriman, —, John Lyons, others not able to be identified.

The school building was in a very bad state of repair and the Sydney Morning Herald – 29 May 1908, p6, reported: “Mr John Miles complains of the neglect of country school buildings and grounds by the [Education] department. He says that the Cumnock school ‘stands out as a monument to the parsimony of the Government’.”

Ambrose applied for 6 months leave of absence as he had completed 25 years’ service. The leave was granted on half pay at the rate of his normal salary of £174 a year. However, Ambrose and Kezia could not manage to live on half pay so returned to the school six weeks later in October 1908. In their absence the parents of the school children had got together and contacted the School Inspector regarding Ambrose’s eccentric teaching methods and various indiscretions. He was also a liberal user of the cane, especially on the boys, for any misdemeanour. The girls fared better as Kezia Ingle taught them darning, sewing and fancywork, and a fund raiser was held to buy the school a sewing machine.

Written statements were documented by the District Inspector about Ambrose Ingle’s bizarre teaching lessons and included reports from four teenage girls outlining details of their teacher’s indiscretions in the playground. The Public Service Board reviewed the documents and suspended Ambrose from his position and was dismissed from the Public Service as from 31 Dec 1908. An inquiry under the Public Service Board was conducted against Ambrose Ingle was held at the Cumnock court House on 14th January 1909.

In January 1909 Nellie Ingle gained a scholarship as a probationary teacher studentship in Bathurst. Nellie later taught in Wellington and Molong schools and married William Parker in 1917 and they lived at ‘The Ingle’, Molong. Nellie Parker died at Orange on 19 Jun 1960, aged 68 years.

Ambrose Ingle was appointed as the Town Clerk of Tumut Shire Council in June 1909. Here he made friends and enemies of the council members and there are many newspaper reports in the *Adelong and Tumut Express and Tumbarumba Post* during 1909 of outlandish comments he made and then being asked to defend himself about an indiscretion about the handling of a cheque. The Council members were divided in whether he should be fired from his position, but eventually he was asked to resign. According to the *Macleay Chronicle, Kempsey* – 25 Nov 1909, p2, Ambrose was one of five applicants for the position of assistant Town Clerk at Kempsey but was not selected for the position.

Ambrose became a sanitary inspector (inspector of slaughter houses) of the Bourke Municipality around 1911. He continued with bizarre behaviour as the *Sydney Morning Herald* – 16 Aug 1911, p17, reported: *“Bourke. At the police court this afternoon, Ambrose Ingle, sanitary inspector of the Bourke municipality, was fined sixpence for stealing violets, the property of Walter Pountney, Superintendent of Police, Bourke, on Sunday last.”*

The Mudgee Guardian and North-Western Representative – 7 Mar 1912, p31, An Interesting Case, reported on a new precedent set: *“Local butchers will be interested in a decision given in the Bourke Court the other day. Ambrose Ingle, inspector of slaughter houses, sued Charles Jeffrey, butcher, for fees of 3d per head for the inspection of cattle slaughtered. The defence was that the defendant was only liable for bovine cattle, but the Court held that under the Local Government Act the word “cattle” was extended to include sheep and pigs. A Verdict for plaintiff was accordingly entered. This is the first time this charge has been collected in this state.*

Kezia Ingle died at Wellington aged 56 years, on 20 August 1912. Ambrose was still in the Cumnock area in 1912 as the *Molong Express and Western District Advertiser* – 18 Jan 1913, p9, reported that Bro. AC Ingle was one of the attendees of a meeting of the Loyal Pride of Cumnock Lodge held at Leary's Hall, at Cumnock.

Ambrose married again in 1913 to Alice Righetti at Murwillumbah. They had a son, Julian Francis Ingle, born in 1914 at Hunters Hill, NSW.

Ambrose's eldest son, Cyril Cecil Ingle, was 28 years and working as a labourer when he enlisted in the AIF at Cumnock on 5 Nov 1911. He stated he was working as a miner at Wollongong and listed both sisters as next of kin: Nurse Annette Ingle, St Margaret's Hospital, Redfern and Miss Nellie Ingle, Public School, Molong. (Annette Ingle remained single and was matron of several Hospitals around NSW, including Sofala, Tallimba, Hillston, Nimbin and Bonalbo. She died at Bathurst on 10 Mar 1970, aged 84 years)

Cyril served with the 7273 - 6th Light Horse regiment in Gallipoli and the Suez Canal area, but was invalided home due to deafness, arriving back at Sydney on 22 Jul 1916. Cyril Ingle's name appears on Cumnock's WW1 honour plaque. On 20 Dec 1917, Cyril Ingle married Maude Irene Wheeldon at Goulburn. They had three children. He died at Sydney on 12 May 1960, aged 73 years.

Percy Nevell Ingle was 26 years old and a farm labourer from Molong when he enlisted with the AIF on 4 Sep 1915. He served as Private 1622 - 6th Light Horse Regiment and the Camel Corps in Egypt and returned to Australia on 26 Jul 1919. He married Eily Goodare at Sydney in 1926. Percy Ingle died at Dapto on 10 Dec 1960, aged 71 years.

Ambrose Curzon Ingle, on 3 Nov 1916, at 55yrs of age (but stated his age was 44 yrs and 11 months) enlisted with the AIF at Charters Towers, Queensland. His occupation was listed as a Sanitary Inspector and his next of kin as his second wife, Alice Ingle, of Hunter's Hill, NSW. He was 5 feet 7 inches tall, with a ruddy complexion, brown eyes and hair, and of the Church of England religious denomination. Private Ambrose Ingle embarked from Sydney on *HMAT Ayrshire A33* on 24 Jan 1917 and disembarked at Devonport on 12 Apr 1917. He was stationed at the 3rd Training Battalion, Dorrington Camp, and promoted to Acting Corporal on 17 May 1917.

On 23 Jun 1917, he was transferred to the Australian Army Pay Corps (AAPC) in London, with the rank of Private. He was transferred Sutton Veny on 28 Nov 1917 and on 28 Dec 1917 was charged with being *“AWL from midnight 27 Dec until 1pm 28 Dec 1917”*, and received an admonishment and forfeited one day's pay. On 1 Sep 1918 he was promoted to ER/2nd Corporal.

He was again charged on 18 Jan 1918 with *“An act to the prejudice of good order and military discipline in that he caused to be transmitted to London, articles of service clothing which he was in wrongful possession.”* He received 10 days CC (confined to camp).

He was transferred back to the AAPC in London on 27 Mar 1918. No further information about his service is contained in his war records except that he was promoted to ER (Extra Regimental) Corporal at London on 30 Nov 1919.

He apparently did not stay in touch with his wife who wrote letters to the Army requesting information about him.

Corporal Ingle left England on 18 Dec 1919 and returned to Australia on the *HT Konigin Luise* disembarking at Sydney on 7 Feb 1920. He was discharged from the AIF on 23 Mar 1920 and awarded the British War Medal.

Ambrose Ingle went back to England without his wife Alice, on the passenger ship *Miliades*, arriving at Plymouth on 19 Oct 1920. Alice wrote a further letter to the Army in 1928 requesting if they had any information about Ambrose's whereabouts and they replied that they didn't.

Ambrose Ingle died at Lambeth, Greater London, in 1946, aged 85 years. Alice Ingle died at Sydney in 1974.

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