



Corporal Walter Henry YOUNG 522 –12th & 6th Light Horse Regiments

Born: Jan 1894, registered Molong

Parents: John Henry & Annie Young

Occupation: Farmer

District Connection: Cumnock.

Enlistment Date: Aug 1914, Reinlisted 18 Feb 1915

Enlistment Age: 20yrs 10 mths.

Embarkation: 13 Jun 1915, Sydney, *HMAT Suevic A29*

Served: Gallipoli, France

Fate: RTA 28 Aug 1919.

Honour Boards: Cumnock War Memorial Gates;

Biography:

Walter Henry Young was born in 1894, registered in Molong, to John Henry (known as Harry) and Annie Jane (nee Miller) Young.

John and Annie were married in 1889 and had the following known children: Elizabeth M 1890-1890; John F 1892-1966; Walter H 1894-1961; Dorrit E 1896-1980; and Harold E 1902-1971. John Young was the owner of 'Southernwood', once a part of Burrawong. The family moved to Wellington around 1900, and then moved back to 'Southernwood' in 1910.

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Walter first enlisted at Liverpool in Aug 1914, but his father John Henry Young died on 17 Sep 1914 and Walter returned home. He re-enlisted at Liverpool on 18 Feb 1915, aged 20yrs. His medical examination stated that he was 5ft 7 1/4 inches tall, had a fair complexion, blue eyes, fair hair and was of the Church of England religious denomination.

The Molong Express & Western District Advertiser – 6 Feb 1915, p9, Cumnockites Farewelled:

“Messrs Don White [Pte Donald White – 392, 17th Btn, KIA 6 Nov 1916], Walter Young, and Jack Murray [Pte James Murray – 1604 12th LHR, RTA 29 Apr 1918], of the Cumnock district, are going to the war: On Wednesday, at Cumnock, they were tendered a farewell social, at which dancing and euchre playing were the principal diversions.

During the evening highly eulogistic references were made to the guests of honor by Messrs Johnson, Durr and Hopper. The interest taken by the young patriots in all local matters was favourably commented upon, particularly their association with sporting activities...

Messrs White and Young left for Sydney on Thursday, and Mr Murray will follow on Monday.”

He embarked from Sydney on 13 Jun 1915 on *HMAT Suevic A29*, as a member of the 12th LH Regiment.

On 25 Aug 1915 he embarked at Alexandria for Gallipoli, where he was transferred to the 6th LHR and was posted to D Squadron. Just two weeks after arriving at Gallipoli on 12 Sep 1915, he reported sick with Dysentery and was evacuated for treatment. Sickness and disease was one of the greatest problems on Gallipoli. Thousands of men were evacuated suffering from dysentery, diarrhoea and enteric fever. The poor diet and lice infestation in their clothing made life very difficult for all troops at Gallipoli.

Trooper Young was discharged from hospital on 15 Oct 1915, but did not go back to Gallipoli. Instead he commenced duty at No 1 Aux Hospital, at Heliopolis, Cairo. He rejoined the 12 LHR on 22 Feb 1916. He was then attached to Kasr El Vil Barracks from 26 Apr–7 May 1916. He attended a course in railway construction at Rafa, 16 Jun–5 Jul 1917, followed by a short break at the 'Rest Camp' at Port Said. During August and September he was employed at railway construction work at Abasam. In Oct 1917, the 12 LHR took part in the Battle of Beersheba. During this battle, along with the 4th LHR, the 12th carried out a successful mounted charge, advancing over open ground late in the afternoon to get under the Ottoman

guns and capture the town and its vital water supplies.

After Gaza fell on 7 Nov 1917, the 12th LHR participated in the pursuit of Turkish troops, and then spent the first months of 1918 resting and training. The Btn then moved into the Jordan Valley in time to participate in the raid at Es Salt, Palestine, between 29 Apr–4 May 1918. On 19 Sep 1918, after a month's training in traditional cavalry tactics, the mounted forces severed roads, railways and communication links on the way to Damascus. The 12th LHR was one of the first Australian units to enter Damascus on 2 Oct 1918.

On 8 Feb 1919 Trooper Young was appointed Lance Corporal. While waiting to embark for home, the 12th LH was called back to operational duty to quell the Egyptian revolt that erupted in Mar 1919 and restored order in little over a month. Two further promotions were awarded - Temporary Corporal on 18 Apr, and then Corporal on 2 May 1919.

Cpl Young embarked on *HT Morvado* from Egypt on 22 Jul 1919, disembarking in Australia on 28 Aug 1919. He was awarded the 1914-15 Star Medal, the British War Medal 1914-1920, and the Victory Medal.

Walter returned to Cumnock to live after the war. He became a Justice of the Peace in 1930, His mother Annie Jane Young died on 13 Mar 1931, and is buried with her husband at the Cumnock cemetery.

Walter worked as a stock and station agent at Cumnock in 1933. On 29 Aug 1934, he married Lavinia Cather, daughter of Elsie and Alexander Percy Cather, at St Matthew's Church of England, Cumnock. They moved to Wellington to live and had two daughters, Judith and Dorrit. Walter was very involved in community organisations and the RSL in both Cumnock and Wellington. He was Secretary of the Wellington District Hospital from 1935-1959. In 1960 he was made a Life Member of the RSS&A

Lavinia Young died on 17 Sep 1943, aged 31 years.

Walter Young died on 27 Aug 1961, aged 67 yrs. He was buried in the Cumnock Cemetery, where his parents and wife are also buried.

Walter Henry Young is featured in the book, Wellington's Finest, by Trevor Munro & Graeme Hosken, 2005, pages 765 & 766.

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Left: Grave of Walter Henry Young, Anglican portion of Cumnock Cemetery.

Below: Cumnock War Memorial Gates & Honour Board.

