

Stories from the Honour Boards

Stories of those who served and are remembered on the Honour Boards in the Merrington Anzac Memorial Peace Chapel at Saint Andrew's Uniting Church

Booklet Number 161

WALKER BROTHERS

LEONARD REID

1885–1951

PHILIP CUNNINGHAM

1890 - 1934



Australian War Memorial

CO1890

Going ashore at Gallipoli

This booklet remains the property of Saint Andrew's Uniting Church.
Please see a Guide if you would like a copy.

Cover Illustration: *The picture shows Australian troops being towed ashore in lighters to land at Anzac Cove, Gallipoli. In the background is the transport ship.*

Leonard and Philip Walker both served on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

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Corner Ann and Creek Streets
Brisbane QLD 4000
2017

Captain Leonard Reid Walker MID

Corporal Philip Cunningham Walker

Brothers Leonard and Philip Walker enlisted early in the 1st AIF – Philip in Brisbane in August 1914 in the 3rd Field Ambulance and Leonard the following month in Adelaide in the 10th Infantry Battalion.

Both served on Gallipoli, and although subsequent health problems precluded front line service for them both, they contributed significantly in administrative support roles for the rest of the war.

Family background

Their parents were William John Walker, an insurance manager and Margaret Adelaide née Reid. William was born in London but his parents – John who was an engineer and Anna née Cunningham – emigrated when William and his brother Robert were young.

William worked in several States, and was resident secretary of the Victorian Branch of the AMP Society prior to his passing in 1909. He was survived by his wife Margaret as well as two sons and two daughters.

Daughter Anna Ruth was a talented singer and frequent soloist at Saint Andrew's Church in the Brisbane CBD, and the wife of Dr Joseph Espie Dods (the subject of booklet no.7).

Leonard - enlistment

Leonard Reid Walker was born in Burwood, Sydney in 1885. At the time of his enlistment in the 1st AIF his occupation was soldier, and the details he gave were five years with the 2nd

Battalion Cadets, two years as a Lieutenant of school cadets, and five years on instructional staff.

He enlisted in Adelaide on 26 September 1914 and was placed with the 10th Infantry Battalion as signalling Sergeant. He was tall at 185cms, solidly built in that generation at 81kg, and had a fresh complexion, grey eyes and brown hair. For his religion he wrote 'Protestant'.

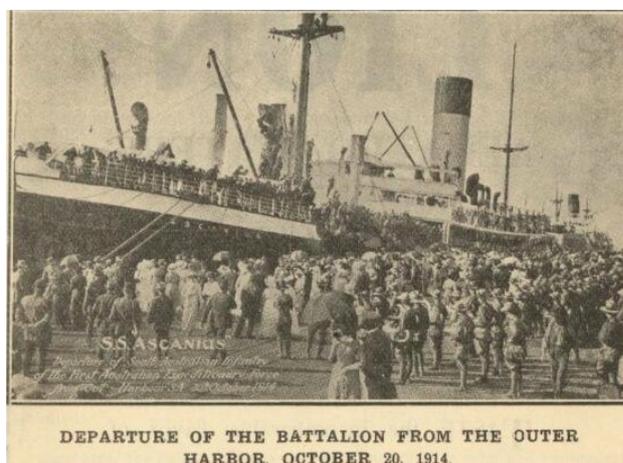


AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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10th Battalion and Gurkhas waiting to embark for Gallipoli

Leonard embarked with the Battalion on HMAT *Ascanius* A11 on 20 October 1914. After linking up with other ships in Albany, WA, the *Ascanius* proceeded to Egypt, arriving in December 1914.



Leonard – war service

The 10th Battalion was one of the units first ashore at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 and like the others, suffered heavy casualties. On 7 May Leonard was made Regimental Quarter-Master Sergeant, and served on the Peninsula until 20 August 1915.



10th Battalion colour patch

In August 1915 he was evacuated to No.2 Australian General Hospital in Cairo and admitted with varicose veins. Discharged from hospital on 20 September 1915, Leonard was certified fit for light duty at Base in Egypt, as well as promoted to Warrant Officer.

Subsequently he received a Mention-in-Despatches, MID (London Gazette 20 July 1916 and Australian Gazette 21 September 1916) for his work:

He is in clerical charge of the Records Sub-section and had shown much ability since he has been with the Base. He has been recommended for a commission on account of his qualifications and ability displayed.



Headquarters and bivouacs

In July 1916 Leonard was moved to the AIF Administrative Headquarters in Horseferry Road, London, and in the following January promoted to 2nd Lieutenant and Quarter-Master.



Australian War Museum

H15037

AIF Administrative Headquarters, Horseferry Road, London

His mother Margaret made an inquiry with the Red Cross in August 1916 about Leonard's current address, saying that she had not heard from him since April 1916 and understood that he was now in London. Margaret received a reply with his address in January 1917. Perhaps Leonard had been totally pre-occupied with his work - in February 1917 he was 'brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for War for valuable services rendered in the War', with this being promulgated in Military Order No. 290 of 14 July 1917.

He continued as a Quarter-Master – being promoted to Captain in November 1918 – until late in 1919.

Post war

Leonard commenced 1920 on leave without pay from the AIF working with Messrs William Pearson Ltd in London. On being given a guarantee of employment by Messrs Douglas Boyd and Co Ltd, Importers and Exporters of Finsbury Square, London Leonard applied for discharge from the AIF in the UK.

In giving his reasons he put forward that:

My employment is not guaranteed on return to Australia and the disability from which I suffer will be aggravated by a hot climate. I have no dependents in Australia. Also my future wife does not desire to go abroad.

Discharge in the UK was approved and took effect from 14 April 1920.

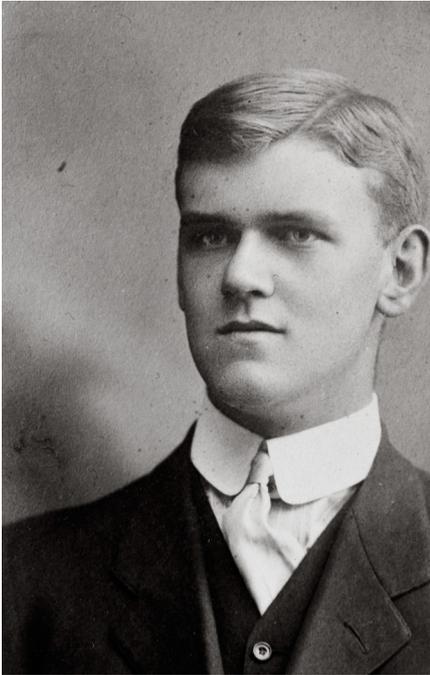
We then have a gap of 29 years in available records about Leonard's life – with an intriguing but scanty reference in his death certificate to him being married in India, but without the date or name of his wife being stated. The certificate does not list any offspring.

Questions abound – what happened to the apparent engagement in England to a woman who did not wish to travel abroad, when and why did Leonard go to India and what did he do there, who did he marry? Available records give no answers. We do know that by 1949 he was back in Australia because he is listed in the 1949 electoral rolls as living in Warringah, NSW.

Two years later – on 23 August 1951 - he died of congestive cardiac failure in Brisbane Hospital, aged 66. He was buried in the South Brisbane Cemetery with Presbyterian rites administered by the Rev Norman Webster from Saint Andrew's Church. (corner of Ann and Creek Streets in the Brisbane CBD)

Philip – early life and enlistment

Philip Cunningham Walker was born in Burwood, Sydney on 7 January 1890. Located later in Melbourne because of his father's employment, Philip attended the Melbourne Grammar School, entering the senior school in 1905 and leaving in 1908.



Philip Walker 1908



Honour Boards, Melbourne Grammar School



The Old Melbournians War Memorial Hall

Melbourne Grammar School supplied these pictures from their archival collection.

The following year Philip joined the Brisbane clerical staff of the Australian Mutual Provident Society.

On 26 August 1914, the month in which applications for the 1st AIF commenced, Philip enlisted in Brisbane. He was a big man – weighing a little over 100kg and standing 190.5 cms tall. He had brown hair, grey eyes and a fair complexion, and his religion was Presbyterian.

He was placed as a Private in A Section of the 3rd Field Ambulance. Other early enlistees in the 3rd Field Ambulance on the Saint Andrew's Honour Boards are Edward Clark (booklet no.157), Albert Beech (booklet no.110) and Ernest Pilcher (booklet no.24).

Among Philip's fellow-workers in the AMP Queensland Branch who enlisted later (in different units) and are on the Saint Andrew's Honour Boards are Eric Solley (booklet no.86) and Stewart Martin (booklet no.144).

The A Section of the 3rd Field Ambulance embarked in Brisbane on HMAT *Rangatira* A22 on 25 September, and after becoming part of the convoy which left from Albany WA the following month, reached Egypt in December 1914.

Philip – Gallipoli

The stretcher-bearers of the 3rd Field Ambulance accompanied the infantry ashore at Gallipoli in the early morning of 25 April 1915. While not certain, Philip was probably in this group.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

C01618

The 3rd Field Ambulance Dressing Station on Upper Beach Road above Anzac Cove



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

C01734

The dugouts of the 2nd and 3rd Australian Field Ambulance Brigades at Anzac Cove in 1915.

If so, he would have come ashore off HMAS *Ribble* at what became known as North Beach, surviving enemy fire and amid the chaos helping to collect wounded from beach areas and nearby hills, taking them to temporary shelters and dressing wounds. That evening the 3rd FA bearers were spread between bringing more wounded down from regimental aid posts and helping evacuate wounded to hospital ships.

In the following days the chaos lessened somewhat – although the conditions remained particularly difficult - and the three field ambulances divided up territory, with the 3rd FA bearers bringing wounded down the hazardous paths of Shrapnel Gully, Monash Valley (aka Death Valley) and White's Valley to a dressing station.



Australian War Memorial

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Hospital cart, Gallipoli

The physical and mental demands were great and unrelenting. Philip was admitted to hospital on 10 August 1915 and then evacuated to hospital in Wandsworth, England where he underwent an appendectomy and two hernia repairs on 10 September 1915. He was discharged a month later.

Philip - further service

Philip arrived back in Australia on the HMAT *Suevic* A29 in March 1916. The next month his right hernia re-appeared and it was operated on in June. Evidently he was determined to continue to serve, and embarked for the UK on the HMAT *Seang Choon* A49 in Melbourne in September 1916.

On arrival back in England Philip was attached to the AIF Administrative Headquarters in Horseferry Road, London on 20 December 1916. In October of 1917 he was promoted Corporal in the medical section of the Headquarters.

His medical problem had continued, with the right hernia recurring yet again in March 1917, but he managed this by wearing a truss. However, in May 1918 he was admitted to hospital with neurasthenia and after a period of medical leave, returned to duty on 3 July 1918.

In October 1918 Philip marched out for return to Australia and disembarked from the HMAT *Marathon* A74 in Melbourne on 1 January 1919. Back in Queensland, he was formally discharged on 10 April 1919 as medically unfit due to abdominal adhesions.

Philip - post war

Philip resumed at AMP, and at the time of his death in 1934 'was head of the department responsible for all advertising matters in connection with AMP'.

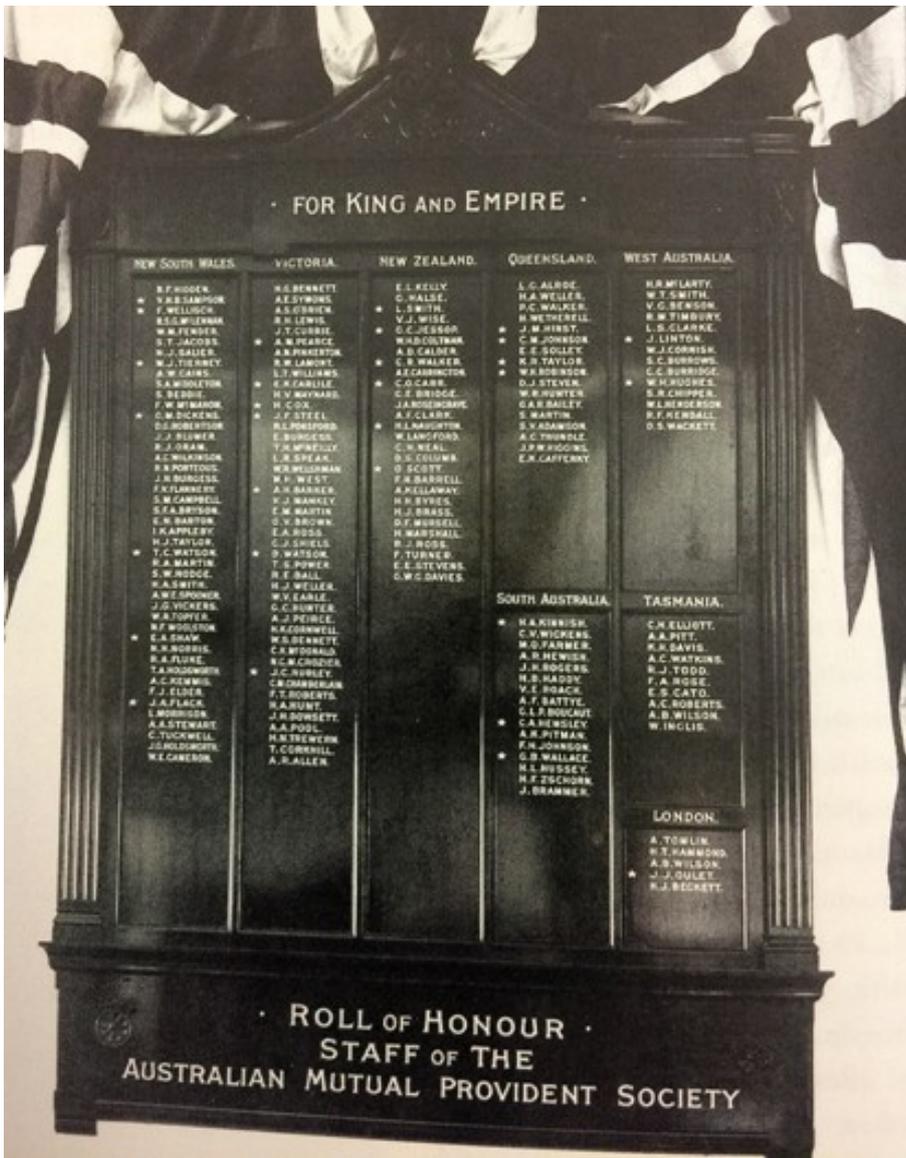
The newspaper obituary also noted that 'In his spare time Mr Walker devoted most of his attention to gardening'.



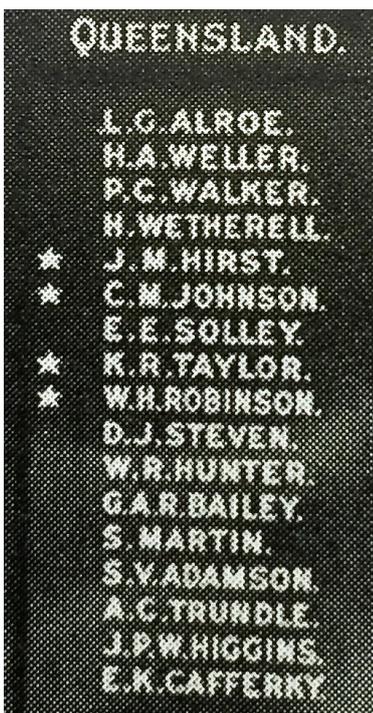
AMP Building , Queen Street, Brisbane

It was at the home of a Dods nephew in Kangaroo Point that Philip died on 4 December 1934, aged 44 from chronic nephritis. The certifying medical attendant was Dr AH Marks (booklet no.44).

The Rev Norman Millar from Saint Andrew's Church – where Philip, his brother Leonard and brother-in-law Joseph Espie Dods are all listed on the Honour Boards - conducted the funeral, with Philip's remains being interred at the South Brisbane Cemetery.



AMP Honour Board



Detail. AMP Honour Board

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Written by Ian Carnell AM

Buderim

January 2017



Lest we forget