

# PITT, Arthur William (35194 AIF)



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circa 1916  
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<b>Name</b>	<b>PITT, Arthur William Sergeant</b>
<b>Service Number</b>	35194 AIF
<b>Date of Birth</b>	4th April 1883
<b>Died</b>	20 October 1960
<b>Place of Birth</b>	Adelaide SA
<b>Resident</b>	Victor Harbor SA
<b>Cemetery</b>	Centennial Park Cemetery, South Australia

Arthur William Pitt was born on 4 April 1883 in Adelaide, South Australia, the first of five children to James Pitt and Annie Pitt (nee Jeffery). It is not known where he attended primary school but we do know he later attended Adelaide High School.

On March 4th, 1912 Arthur married Ella Amalie Augusta Kayser in the Unitarian Church, Adelaide. They moved to Victor Harbor where Arthur was employed as a state schoolteacher.

On 2 October 1916, at the age of 33 years and four months he enlisted in the AIF. His service file states he had previously served six years with various school cadet units.

His younger brother, Harold Edward Pitt, (SN 2862) enlisted in the AIF a week later, on the 9 October 1916, and Harold set sail with the 16th Reinforcements, 43rd Battalion aboard HMAT Berrima from Port Adelaide on 16 December 1916.

Arthur was posted to E Company, 2nd Depot Battalion AIF at Mitcham for basic training. Unlike his brother Harold, on 16 December 1917, after completing a six-week Non-Commissioned Officers course Arthur was still in Australia. He passed his training as a proficient gunner, and attached to the Field Artillery Reinforcements. On 6 January 1917, he joined the Field Artillery Reinforcements at Maribyrnong in Victoria. On 16 August 1917, after training he was promoted to Bombardier (equivalent to a Corporal). His unit embarked from Melbourne aboard HMAT A15 – The Star of England from Port Sydney on 9 November 1917, and disembarked at Suez on 12 December. Six days later they departed from Alexandria on the HMT 38012 (*This British Vessel is unknown – the two troopships that sailed between Alexandrina to England via Italy were each sunk within days of each other by German U-Boats.*), via Taranto, Italy, disembarking at Southampton on 4 January 1918.

The following day, Arthur and his fellow soldiers marched into RBAA Heytesbury on the Salisbury Plain where they underwent further artillery training. They remained at Heytesbury until April 1918

when they were attached to the 3rd Australian Field Artillery Brigade and prepared for overseas service and embarkation from Southampton. On 9 April 1918, they marched into the Australian General Base Depot (AGBD) at Rouelles, France before proceeding to the front lines.

The war diary of the 3rd Field Artillery Brigade for the month of April 1918 shows that reinforcements arrived on the 25 April 1918. At that time the Brigade came under the tactical control of the 6th Army Brigade Australian Field Artillery (3rd Australian Division). The wagon lines of the Brigade remained in Franvillers. General policy included providing harassing fire on all enemy approaches, listening for communications during darkness, observing any gun shots during the day, enemy movement and any new work being conducted by the enemy.

The German spring counteroffensive began on 21 March 1918, when 64 enemy divisions smashed the British line at Cambrai, and thrust between the British 3rd and 5th Armies, heading towards Amiens. At the time of the breakthrough, the 3rd and 4th Australian Divisions were resting out of the line in Flanders and they were ordered south. Both divisions had an infantry brigade detached on urgent other tasks but they deployed in front of Amiens to take the brunt of the next German thrust. The artillery of both divisions followed quickly behind the infantry and provided valuable support for counter offensive operation to the German attacks.

The appointment of Lieutenant-General Sir John Monash to command the Australian Corps on 31 May 1918 was followed by further efforts to place more Australians in senior command and staff appointments. With his artillery, Monash had a far more potent weapon than in previous years. After almost four years of war, new techniques had been developed and refined. With information gained from improved sound ranging and flash spotting techniques, as well as aerial photography, they could fire on enemy positions without ranging shots, thus obtaining an element of surprise before an attack.

Arthur was promoted to temporary Sergeant on 18 January 1918 and served in various locations at the Western Front with the 3rd Australian Division Artillery until the 25 April 1918. According to his medical file, Arthur had become sick and was hospitalised. Meanwhile Arthur was to learn later that year, that his brother Harold was killed in action on 1 September 1918 in the Somme. There was no known grave however his brother is commemorated at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial.

Arthur was repatriated to England on 13 May 1919 for treatment of catarrh. Catarrh is a severe chronic swelling of the nose and throat that produces large amounts of thick mucus. The condition was so severe that Arthur lost total hearing in both his ears and spent many months recuperating. His service record notes that his military service had aggravated the condition. On 23 July 1919, Arthur finally returned to Australia aboard the ship SS Main. On 6 October 1919, SGT Pitt was given a full medical examination, which stated no further treatment required and medically fit.

Sergeant Pitt was discharged from the AIF on 15 November 1919 with his address given as School House, Edwardstown. He was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

Arthur William Pitt died on 20 October 1960 at Cumberland Park (SA).

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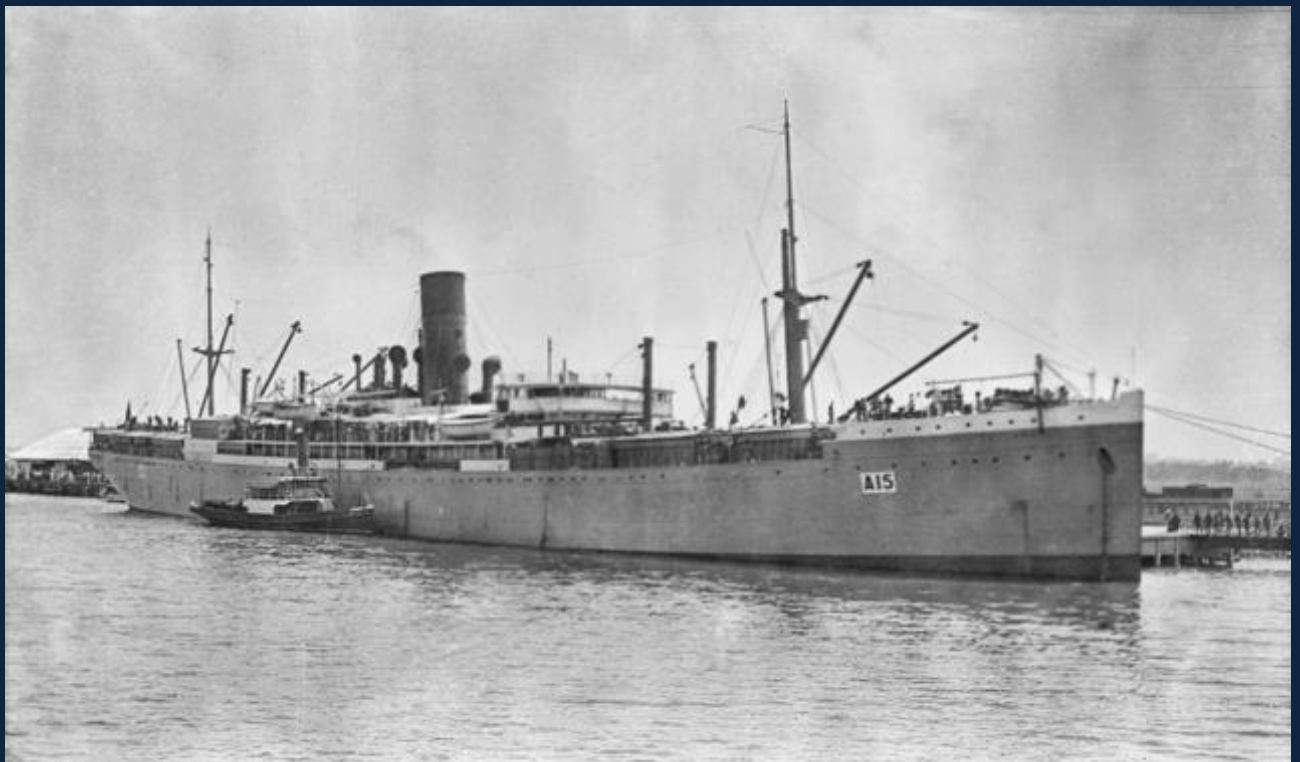
*Compiled by Victor Harbor RSL member and retired journalist Graham McInerney, January 2012.*

Updated by T.Young & M.Young 10/08/2025

# Appendix



Image 2 © Adelaide High School 2025  
circa 1899-1903



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

C02483

Image 3 © AWM.gov.au 2025  
Troop Ship HMAT A15 The Star of England that carried Arthur from Sydney  
to the Suez 1917

Station KESWICK

AUSTRALIAN

MILITARY FORCES.

A.M. Form D2.  
(For use in Australia.  
Revised 1.10.18.)

Date 7/10/19

### MEDICAL REPORT ON AN INVALID.

1. Number 35194 2. Rank T/Sgt. 3. Name PITT A. W.  
 4. Unit 5 F.A.B. 5. Age 36 6. Trade or Occupation S. S. Tchr.  
 7. Place of Enlistment Adelaide 7A. Date of Enlistment 2/10/16  
 8. Disability in respect of which invaliding is proposed Deafness

#### MEDICAL OFFICER'S STATEMENT OF CASE.

(Soldier's own statement must be carefully recorded as such, and signed by him.)

9. Date and place of origin of disability Somme, May 1918 Date of arrival "Main" 6/10/19  
 10. Date and place where disability first caused man to become a Casualty Somme, May 1918  
 11. Essential facts of Medical History (including causation)

Had catarrh of throat and then developed deafness both ears. Thinks guns may have aggravated

Deafness twice at the front, once from gun fire & once after a severe cold. At present 10/10/19 ears practically normal. Hearing to watch - R. 12" L. 12" Noce & throat healthy.

12. State whether disability was (a) Due to Military Service, (b) Aggravated by Military Service, or (c) Independent of Military Service; (d) Due to, or aggravated by, want of proper care on man's part, intemperance, misconduct, &c. Pra-existent, aggravated by M.S.

13. What is his present condition and progress?

Heart / General health good. Ears practically normal now.  
 Lungs /  
 Urine /  
 Scars Scar over trachea

14. If the disability is an injury, state whether it was caused (a) in action, (b) on field service, (c) on duty, (d) off duty Not app.

15. If a Court of Inquiry was held, state place, date, and opinion " "

16. Was an operation performed? If so, what? " "

17. Was an operation advised and declined? " "

18. In the case of loss or decay of teeth—Was it due to, aggravated by, or independent of Military Service? "

19. Give particulars of any other disabilities existing Nil.

20. Do you recommend discharge as permanently unfit for general service? No. Medically fit

(Sgd.) E. B. Thomas, Capt.  
Medical Officer in charge of case.

I, having satisfied myself of the general accuracy of this report, concur therewith, except

(Sgd.) R. S. Rogers, Lt.Col.  
Officer in charge of Hospital.

No. 7 A.G. Hospital  
Station KESWICK

Date 16/10/19

D 347 (1/1) 19. C. 981-9908.

Image 5 © naa.gov.au 2025  
Service and Casualty Report

P I T T	Arthur William	35194	27th. Rfts. F.A.
Surname	Other Names	Regimental No.	Unit.
PURPORT		4th MD	AUTHORITY.
Gnr.			
Emb. per A15. "Port Sydney" from Melbourne on 9/11/17			
4.1.18. Mchd into R.B.A.A. Heytesbury from Aus. ex A15 (IS)			LON. 8/11x-18
4.1.18. REV. TO GNR on mchng. into R.B.A.A. Heytesbury from Aus.			LON. 7/5-18.
18.10.18 Mchd into A.G.B. Depot.			(IS) BEFO. 45/10-18
23.10.18. Rejoined 3rd F.A.B.			(IS) BEFO. 45/6-18
9.4.18. Mchd into Aust GEN Base-Depot Rouelles from U.K ex			
Reinf'ts			(RH) BEFO 10.2.18
12.5.18. To hosp l. sick.			(RH) BEFO 21.3.18
13.5.18. Adm'to L of C Hospl sick.			(RH) BEFO 21.4.18
14.4.18. T.O.S. of 3rd (Army) Bgde Australian Fld Arty (ex Arty Rfts) from Australian Gen Base Dep			BEFO 16.1.18
21.5.18. Dis to Base Depot ex L of C Hospl. ex sick.			(RH) BEFO 23.4.18
12.5.18 To hosp l. sick.			" 21.3. 18

Ent

Date and Station \_\_\_\_\_ Date and Station \_\_\_\_\_  
 Result \_\_\_\_\_ Result \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signatures \_\_\_\_\_ Signatures \_\_\_\_\_

**OPINION OF MEDICAL BOARD ON FINALIZATION.**

*Note.*—Clear and definite answers to the following questions are to be carefully filled in by the Board, as, in the event of the man being invalided, it is essential that the Minister for Pensions should be in possession of the most reliable information to enable him to decide upon the man's claim for pension.

21. State whether the disability is clearly (a) Due to Military Service, (b) Aggravated by Military Service, (c) Independent of Military Service; (d) Due to, or aggravated by, want of proper care on man's part, intemperance, misconduct, &c.

Aggravated by M. S.

22. Is the present degree of disability permanent? Disability Nil

23. If not, at what rate and to what degree do you anticipate improvement? -

24. To what extent is his working capacity at present affected by his disability? (a) In his pre-enlistment trade or occupation? (b) In the general labour market? (Estimate as a percentage of full capacity.) Nil

25. If an operation was advised and declined, was the refusal unreasonable? Not app.

26. Do the Board recommend discharge as permanently unfit for General Service? No. Medically fit

27. If discharge is recommended, it should be stated whether further treatment is desirable in a (a) Sanatorium, (b) Orthopedic Institution, (c) Convalescent Home, (d) Asylum, or (e) other institution. State whether further treatment should be an in-patient or an out-patient, and for what period. No further treatment required

28. Is any surgical appliance recommended? No.

Station No. 7 A.G.H. Signatures R. S. Rogers, Lt.Col. President.  
 Date 16/10/19 Robert Pullsine, Major Members.  
 E. B. Thomas, Capt.

APPROVED. CONFIRMED. 16/10/19  
 (Sgd.) H.H.E. Russell, Lt.Col.  
 Station Keswick P.M.O. 4th M.D. Keswick  
 Date 16/10/19 Director General Medical Services.

**Notes by S.O.I. and R.S.**

Date of Discharge - 15/11/19

School House,  
EDWARDSTOWN. S.A.

This form will be used for the finalization of all invalids in Australia, and will embody (Question 11) all information contained on the papers of invalids returned from overseas. Question 13 will include in its Answer a detailed careful account of the medical condition of the patient on finalization. On completion of the Board, it will be forwarded to the P.M.O. by hand, for confirmation, thence to the S.O.I. and R.S., who will make necessary copies. This report is confidential.  
 Single copies only need be forwarded to Head-Quarters.  
 For discharge of members of services other than the permanent forces the District P.M.O. may approve for the D.G.M.S.

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Discharge report