

Leslie Gordon CAMPBELL

Date of birth	21 August 1892
Occupation	Civil servant
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	22
Next of kin	W D Campbell, 101 Aphrasia Street, Newtown, Geelong, Victoria
Enlistment date	24 August 1914
Rank on enlistment	Captain — <i>Quel k1E07</i> , 6th Battalion, 1st Company '1' C Coy
Unit name	
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/23/1
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board Transport A20 <i>Hororata</i> on 19 October 1914
Rank from Nominal Roll	Major
Unit from Nominal Roll	6th Battalion
Promotions	Captain
	Unit: 6th Battalion
	Promotion date: 10 March 1916
Fate	Effective abroad (still overseas)
Medals	Croix de Guerre (France)
	Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. Date: 23 May 1919

Leslie Gordon Campbell - Joined 24/8/14 - 2nd. Lieut.
Promoted Lieut.- March, 1915

*Sawled 29/10/14 for
Mull "KORONA" -*

Promoted Captain- March, 1916

Promoted Major- 1918

Wounded 8/5/15 - Gallipoli. Wounded again 25/7/15 - Gallipoli = Gunshot wound to leg. London Hospital - 8/9/15 20/12/15 - Returned to Egypt

Rejoined Battalion in France 1916

May 1916 - Attached to 2nd Infantry Brigade as a bomb officer.

22/6/17 Transferred to 67th Battalion, then rejoined 6th Battalion.

October 18th - Promoted to Major injured again.

1/11/18 Awarded Croix de Guerre with Siler Star for actions from 13th April to 4th August near Villers Bretonneux, in cooperation with the French Army.

6/10/1919 - Returned to Australia on "Pakeha".

Had a good job in Crown Law Dept before he went away. Job still open, could not settle so applied for The Soldier Settlement Scheme. Put off farm in 1938.

2nd World War - On Reserve list of Officers, joined up again. Brigade Major and QM at Bonegilla- 3rd Infantry Training Brigade. Applied for overseas service, but rejected due to age and health. Awarded a VX No. - VX108377 because of 1st World War service.

14/11/48 - Awarded Australian Efficiency Decoration.

When demobbed at war's end, stayed on as a civilian working at the Barracks in St Kilda Rd. Died in 1952, aged 60, bowel cancer.

Unit colours were a rectangle, horizontally divided - top purple, bottom red.

There are photos and mentions of him in "Rough as Bags", The History of the 6th Battalion, 1st AIF, 1914-1919. by Ron Austin. Mentions the action he was involved in which won him the Croix de Guerre.

North Woodlands Estate - 1/6/1921 Alone at first - horses

Lot 54 - 287 acres. 179 acres added in 1934 from abandoned S.S. block Lot of settlers surrendered their blocks

Block only 65% viable - fit for grazing and a little wheat - tobacco experiment

OK for 5 and one half years Then started to fall into arrears - not sufficiently productive. Best land taken by closer settlers 10-12 years earlier. S.S.'s had to pay back their govt loan by instalments, but had 1st few years without whilst they attempted to become viable.

Roads very bad - lot of buck passing re repairs between Shire, CRB and S.S. C'ion. latter refused to help.

Closer Settlement 1905 - Govt took over from private enterprise - also saddled with existing bad debts.

S.S. Commission est during war to deal with influx, but lot more applicants than they expected. Qualification Certs often nothing more than references. Had to appear before a Board for selection. Influx of applicants and inadequate funds led to inadequate blocks and inadequate funding.

1934 S.S. Board handed scheme back to Closer Settlement C'ion and pressure was applied to borderline farmers to pay their debts - this meant surrendering their blocks, selling whatever assets they had so existing blocks could be divided up and shared out with survivors. Father had to sell out in 1938.

City - unemployment - munitions factory -reenlistment

Affected by war- Father. Talents -Father

Childhood on the farm - School for S.S. Children Correspondence Courses for children - Library books - going to school, eg. frosts and floods. Transport horse and buggy, neighbour's T model Ford - chilblains - Anzac Day - reaction of closer settler's children.

Closer Settlers reaction to S.S.'s

*Board of Settlers - 1934
Railway line
Bey drift - 1946
in history*

The following is information received from
The Australian War Memorial Records and The National Archives of Australia.

Leslie Gordon CAMPBELL.

Service Number VX108377. Awarded France Croix de Guerre.

The award citation read:

Captain Leslie Gordon CAMPBELL, 6TH Battalion, AIF
"From 13th April to 4th August of 1918, led his Company to attack with great success, each time bringing back prisoners. During the preparation of the offensive in August 1918 near VILLERS BRETONNEUX in co-operation with the French Army, proved to be of exceptional military quality and magnificent daring." Awarded Croix de Guerre with Silver Star.

"The question of whether an Australian serviceman or woman was awarded a French or other foreign award during World War One or other conflicts is frequently a vexed one. It is generally accepted by medal collectors and researchers that the ultimate authority for proving an award is an entry in the London or Commonwealth Gazette". (French Awards to Australians in World War One – Neil and Sylvie Smith, Melbourne. August 2000).

Leslie's award was entered:

*London Gazette, 7th Jan. 1919, pg 312, position 7.
*Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, 23rd May 1919, page 893, position 25.



FRENCH AWARDS TO AUSTRALIANS TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH

Ann 25 391/44

Name	Initials	Rank	Regt No.	Award	Remarks
Ainsworth	GV	Pte	159	M de Recon 2 nd Class	
Allen*	AS	Maj		C de G with Gilt Star	DSO, 31 Army Corps 3 Oct 18
Anderson	DO	Sgt	4971	M de Recon 2 nd Class	
Bage	SG	Gur	327	C de G	French General order 6 May 18
Barber*	GW	Col		C de G with Gilt Star	CMG; DSO, 31 Army Corps 3 Oct 18
Blamey*	TA	Brig Gen		C de G with Gilt Star	CMG; DSO, 31 Army Corps 3 Oct 18
Boatwright*	JJ	Spr	7346	C de G with Bronze Star	31 Army Corps 3 Oct 18
Borwick*	TF	Maj		C de G with Gilt Star	DSO, 31 Army Corps 3 Oct 18
Brown	AG	Capt		M de Recon 1 st Class	MC
Burnell*	JG	Capt		C de G with Silver Star, also recorded C de G with Gilt Star	MC, 31 Army Corps 27 Sep 18
Campbell*	LG	Capt		C de G with Silver Star	
Chapman	CL	Maj		M de Recon 1 st Class	31 Army Corps 27 Sep 18
Colley*	JM	Sgt	4388	C de G with Bronze Star	DSO
					31 Army Corps 3 Oct 18

A book titled "As Rough As Bags: The History of the 6th Battalion, 1st AIF 1914-1919" by R. Austen, (Published by McCrae, Vic. 1992) has a number of references to Leslie. Throughout the war years he rose in rank from 2nd Lieutenant to Major. The photo here of Lieutenant Campbell is taken from this book.



First World War Embarkation Roll

Leslie Gordon Campbell

View the digitised record:

■ [View record](#)

Rank	Lieutenant
Unit	6 Infantry Battalion (October 1914)
Ship Name	HMAT Hororata
Ship number	A20
Date of embarkation	19 October 1914
Place of embarkation	Melbourne

6th Battalion

The 6th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 7th and 8th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.

The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. It later took part in the Anzac landing on 25 April 1915, as part of the second wave. Ten days after the landing, the 2nd Brigade was transferred from Anzac to Cape Helles to help in the attack on the village of Krithia. The attack captured little ground but cost the brigade almost a third of its strength. The Victorian battalions returned to Anzac to help defend the beachhead, and in August the 2nd Brigade fought at the battle of Lone Pine. The battalion served at Anzac until the evacuation in December.

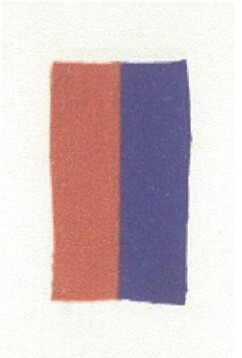
After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion was heavily involved in operations against the German Army. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozzières in the Somme valley in July 1916. After Pozzières the battalion fought near Ypres, in Flanders, returning to the Somme for winter. In 1917, the battalion participated in the operations that followed-up the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line, and then returned to Belgium to join the great offensive launched to the east of Ypres. During the battle of Menin Road in September 1917, Lieutenant Frederick Birks earned the 6th Battalion's only Victoria Cross. Birks was killed by a shell burst the next day while trying to rescue men buried during a bombardment.

In March and April 1918 the battalion helped stop the German spring offensive and later participated in the Allies' own offensive, launched near Amiens on 8 August 1918. The advance by British and empire troops was the greatest success in a single day on the Western Front, one that German General Erich Ludendorff described as "the black day of the German Army in this war".

The battalion continued operations until late September 1918. At 11 am on 11 November 1918, the guns fell silent. The November armistice was followed by the peace treaty of Versailles signed on 28 June 1919.

In November 1918 members of the AIF began to return to Australia for demobilisation and discharge. In March the battalion was so reduced that it and the 7th Battalion were amalgamated to form a composite battalion. This battalion subsequently merged with another, formed from the 5th and 8th Battalions, to form the 2nd Brigade Battalion.

Colour Patch



Glossary

- 1st Australian Imperial Force (/units/unit_13200.asp)

- Albany (/units/place_1690.asp)
- Battle of Amiens (/units/event_74.asp)
- Battle of Lone Pine (/units/event_71.asp)
- Battle of Menin Road (/units/event_97.asp)
- Birks, Frederick (/units/people_8228.asp)
- German Spring Offensive (/units/event_65.asp)
- Ludendorff, Erich (/units/people_1074435.asp)
- Krithia (place_95.asp)
- The landing at ANZAC Cove (/units/event_70.asp)
- Versailles Peace Treaty (/units/event_78.asp)
- Western Front (/units/place_755.asp)

Battle Honours

- Somme, 1916, '18 (/units/event_34.asp)
- Pozières (/units/event_37.asp)
- Bullecourt (/units/event_38.asp)
- Ypres, 1917 (/units/event_39.asp)
- Menin Road (/units/event_40.asp)
- Polygon Wood (/units/event_41.asp)
- Broodseinde (/units/event_42.asp)
- Poelcappelle (/units/event_43.asp)
- Passchendaele (/units/event_44.asp)
- Lys (/units/event_45.asp)
- Hazebrouck (/units/event_46.asp)
- Amiens (/units/event_47.asp)
- Albert, 1918 (/units/event_62.asp)
- Hindenburg Line (/units/event_98.asp)
- Epéhy (/units/event_50.asp)
- France and Flanders, 1916-18 (/units/event_111.asp)
- Helles (/units/event_91.asp)
- Krithia (/units/event_92.asp)
- Anzac (/units/event_6.asp)
- Landing at Anzac (/units/event_52.asp)
- Defence of Anzac (/units/event_7.asp)
- Suvla (/units/event_93.asp)
- Sari Bair (/units/event_9.asp)
- Gallipoli, 1915 (/units/event_55.asp)
- Egypt, 1915-16 (/units/event_522/)

Battle Honours source: Australian Army Orders (112), 1927. Army Head-Quarters, 9 March 1927. 'Award of Battle Honours for the Great War to Cavalry and Infantry Units.'

Casualties

- 1066 killed, 2017 wounded (including gassed)

For more information please see the Roll of Honour ([/research/people/roll_of_honour/](#)), Wounded and Missing ([/research/people/wounded_and_missing/](#)), First World War Nominal Roll ([/research/people/nominal_rolls/first_world_war/](#)) and Embarkation Roll ([/research/people/nominal_rolls/first_world_war_embarkation/](#)) databases.

Commanding Officers

- Semmens, James Michael ([/units/people_1074895.asp](#))
- McNicoll, Walter Ramsay ([/units/people_5365.asp](#))
- Bennett, Henry Gordon ([/units/people_110.asp](#))
- Daly, Clarence Wells Didier ([/units/people_2623.asp](#))

Decorations

- 1 VC
- 1 CMG
- 5 DSO, 1 bar
- 31 MC, 2 bars
- 34 DCM
- 127 MM, 9 bars
- 9 MSM
- 48 MID
- 13 foreign awards

For more information please see Honours and Awards ([/research/people/honours_and_awards/](#)) database

Collection Items

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References

- *AWM4/23/23/1: May 1915 unit diary* ([/collection/war_diaries/first_world_war subclass.asp?levelID=1778](#))
- R.J. Austin, *As rough as bags: the history of the 6th Battalion, 1st AIF, 1914-1919* (McCrae: R J and S P Austin, 1992).
- R.J. Austin, *Bold, steady, faithful: the history of the 6th Battalion, the Royal Melbourne Regiment, 1854-1993* (Melbourne: 6th Battalion Association, 1993).