

**CAPTAIN GEORGE ARTHUR BROOKES – A.A.M.C.
2nd Tunnelling Company**

George Arthur Brookes was born in Brisbane, Queensland the son of Benjamin Oakden and Mary (formerly Langley) Brookes on February 22, 1880. In 1907 he received his Bachelor of Medicine (MB) and in 1908 was a Resident Doctor at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. His medical experience included House Surgeon to Sir Alex McCormick, House Surgeon to Dr T. Furniss and House Physician to Dr J.A. (name unreadable). His class of work was the general run of major and minor surgery – cystoscope, catheter etc. Military experience was as a Captain in the A.A.M.C. Reserve.

On June 26, 1917 the thirty-seven year old Doctor applied to the Defence Central Administration for a Commission with the Army Medical Corps, A.I.F. and passed the medical examination. The Application reveals that he was a single Medical Practitioner of Livingstone Road, Petersham, Sydney, NSW. Personal details of height 173cms (5ft 8ins) with a chest expansion of 79-89cms (31-35ins) and weighed 60.9kgs (134lbs) were also taken with his eyesight testing to fair in one eye and poor in the other. His mother Mrs Mary Brookes was next-of-kin at the above address. Methodist was his religion. He could ride a horse but spoke no languages and his specialist skills were noted as slightly surgical. On July 10, 1917 he was recommended for a Commission with the A.M.C., A.I.F. and the District Commandant accepted the recommendation on July 20, 1917. The P.M.O. (2nd M.D.) approved him as a Senior Doctor for General Duty and was assigned to the A.M.C. Reinforcements.

Forms of Attestation were completed on July 10, 1917 adding his next-of-kin. His father, Benjamin Oakden Brookes of Brisbane was named as next-of-kin but all notices were to go to his mother Mrs Mary Brookes of Livingstone Road, Petersham, NSW. In preparation for overseas service his Will was recorded to be held by Richardson Clarke, Solicitors, Elizabeth Street, Sydney, NSW.

His Commission was formalised in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette No 129 dated August 16, 1917.

Captain Brookes embarked on the transport HMAT A28 *Miltiades* on August 2, 1917 from Sydney, NSW and arrived in Glasgow, Scotland on October 2, 1917. From Scotland the Reinforcements were detained to Tidworth station, England and the Captain marched into the A.A.M.C. Training Brigade at Parkhouse on October 8, 1917. Four days later he was transferred to the No.2 Command Depot at Weymouth.

The Captain proceeded to France via Folkstone on January 25, 1918 and two days later he was posted from the A.A.M.C. General Reinforcements to the 2nd Tunnelling Company.

Six weeks later on March 14, 1918 he was placed under arrest to await a General Field Court Martial and spent thirty-seven days in custody.

The Court Martial took place on April 19, 1918 where he was charged with the following:

Charge:	Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, in that he, in the field, on or about March 14, 1918 when ordered by Major G.N. Mulligan, D.S.O. O.C. 2nd Aust. Tunnelling Coy, to examine certain billets and dugouts for gas, refused to do so.
Finding:	Guilty
Sentence:	To be dismissed from His Majesty's service
Confirmation:	Confirmed by General Rawlinson, 4th Army
Remarks:	Sentence commuted to 'Severe Reprimand' by Field Marshal D. Haig Commander in Chief.
Period:	In arrest awaiting trial 14/3/1918 to 19/4/1918 (37 days).

With no experience or training to examine gassed dugouts or billets the Company could have lost a much needed Doctor who could have treated any victims brought out from the trenches. General Haig's common sense to commute the sentence gave the Army Medical Corps another Doctor to assist with hospital treatment of the sick and wounded.

Captain Brookes was transferred away from the front and proceeded to England on May 23, 1918 to report to the D.M.S., A.I.F. The following day marched in to the A.A.M.C. Training Brigade at Tidworth from the D.M.S.

Six days later he reported to the Overseas Training Brigade then to No 2 Command Depot at Weymouth for duty as Temporary Medical Officer.

On September 3, 1918 his mother received a form issued by the British War Office advising of the appointment of Temporary Medical Officer with the Army Medical Corps. She received receiving the form on September 11, 1918.

After the Armistice he remained on duty at Weymouth until December 20, 1918 then sent to Sutton Veny camp to await his return to Australia.

Captain Brookes embarked from England on the H.T. *Margha* on January 19, 1919 for the voyage to Australia as Medical Officer on board. His mother was notified he was on his way on February 7, 1919. The ship arrived on March 5, 1919 in Melbourne, Vic (3rd M.D.) then docked in Sydney, NSW (2nd M.D.) on March 11, 1919.

At the Garrison Hospital, Sydney on March 25, 1919 Captain Brookes was assessed by the Permanent Medical Board Referee for any disability as a result of his war service. Pathology and a Dental check with one tooth filling were performed. No disability was found.

His appointment was terminated on April 11, 1919 and recorded in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette No 14/22. Deducted from his pay were the thirty-seven days spent awaiting the Field Court Martial.

Later in 1919 George Arthur Brookes married Rosina Cox in the district of Petersham, Sydney.

For his service abroad Captain George Arthur Brookes, Aust. Army Medical Corps received the British War Medal (76322) and the Victory Medal (72802).

In the early 1930's George and Rosina Brookes resided at 36 Wolseley Road, Edgecliffe, Sydney as he continued as a Medical Practitioner. Later it seems the street numbering changed and their residence became 70 Wolseley Road.

After Rosina's death in 1945, George A. Brookes re-married to Lina Winifred Kate Pearce in 1946 and they continued to live at the same residence.

Dr George Arthur Brookes died in 1955 in Sydney, NSW and his death was registered in the Paddington District. He was 75 years of age.