

MAJOR HENRY LAWRENCE TOOTH – A.A.M.C.
3rd Tunnelling Company

The birthplace of Henry Lawrence Tooth was Homebush, Sydney, NSW on October 22, 1891, the son of Alfred Erasmus and Beatrice Lily Tooth. In 1915 he was resident Surgical Officer at St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst in Sydney after completing a Bachelor of Medicine (MB) degree from the Sydney University. He was single and proficient in French with no military training.

A fortnight before his 24th birthday he joined on October 14, 1915 and applied for a Commission with the Aust. Army Medical Corps. Passing his medical examination the Commission form reveals his height as 177cms (5ft 9ins) tall, weighed 63.6kgs (140lbs) with a chest measurement of 92cms (36ins) and possessing good eyesight. His father Alfred E. Tooth of "The Tor", Elizabeth Bay, Darlinghurst was noted as his next-of-kin. No religion was given.

His appointment as Captain began on December 23, 1915 and his Commission was officially Gazetted No 17 on February 3, 1916. Captain Tooth as a Junior G.P. embarked for overseas service aboard the transport HMAT A29 *Suevic* on the December 23, 1915 from Sydney and disembarked at the port of Suez after a voyage of 29 days on January 21, 1916. Upon arrival he was transferred to the Resident Medical Officer Reinforcements at 10th Field Ambulance.

A further transfer on February 10, 1916 attached the Captain to the 4th Field Ambulance until March 1 when was attached to Headquarters at Tel-el-Kebir. All troops proceeded to join the B.E.F. in France with Headquarters remaining and he embarked from Alexandria on June 5 docking at Marseilles seven days later.

In France he remained with the 4th Field Ambulance until December 10, 1916 when he was taken on strength and attached as R.M.O. to the 10th Field Ambulance.

On February 18, 1917 he was evacuated sick to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station being admitted with measles and was discharged to duty on February 25, 1917.

His father A.E. Tooth received a form regarding his son's commission with the Aust. Medical Corps which he acknowledged on April 27, 1918.

A temporary transfer to the Headquarters 4th Division Training took place on April 18, then Captain Tooth was transferred to the 3rd Tunnelling Company on May 10, 1917.

The Captain proceeded on leave on June 14 returning on June 30, 1918.

He was taken sick on July 17 to 1st Canadian C.C.S. and diagnosed with Colic Gastritis and two days later was transferred on A.T. 61 to Camiers and admitted to the 20th General Hospital until August 2, 1918.

The Hospital Ship *Cambria* then evacuated the Doctor to England for admission to the 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, still suffering from Gastritis. Convalescence to Cobham Hall until August 30 followed but after appearing before the Medical Board he was advised to take a further period of recovery on September 17 and after five days the Board recommended leave until September 30, 1917.

He was to report to Room A11 Medical Section for further assessment by the Medical Board and was discharged to D.M.S., England on October 15, 1918. Orders to report to Headquarters, London ensued and he was taken on strength from A.I.F. to H.Q. London two days later.

On November 11, 1918, Armistice Day, he was promoted to Major.

From Devonport, Engand on March 21, 1919 Major Tooth returned to Australia embarking for duty as Medical Officer aboard H.T. *Kildonian Castle*. His father at The Astor, 123 Macquarie Street, Sydney was advised on April 11, 1919 of his impending return. The ship docked in the 2 M.D. (NSW) on May 9, 1919.

His appointment with the A.A.M.C. was terminated on September 29, 1919 (2 M.D.).

In 1920 he married Helen Margaret Rankine in Goulburn, NSW.

Major Henry Lawrence Tooth was awarded the British War Medal (28924) and the Victory Medal (28531) for the duties he performed serving his country.

In the early 1930's he was a medical practitioner and they resided at 9 Northcote Road, Lindfield, NSW. From around 1936 he was still practising and their home was at 28 Lynwood Avenue, Killara, NSW.

A Statement detailing his Service was sent to the Repatriation Department on April 13, 1937.

He died in Sydney, NSW at 59 years of age. In the *Sydney Morning Herald* on Thursday May 4, 1950 this brief Death Notice appeared:

<p>DEATHS</p> <p>TOOTH, Dr Henry Laurence — May 2, 1950, at Lynwood Avenue, Killara, Privately cremated.</p>
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