

Private William Francis ARGUS (service no. 55090)

William Francis Argus, known as Frank, was the son of Albert Ernest Cole Argus and Mary Jane Argus (nee Chalwell). He was born at Tyabb, Victoria, on 9th October 1899.

On 13th March 1918, at the age of eighteen, he enlisted with the 1 to 17 (Victoria) Reinforcements to serve in World War I. On 5th June 1918, he embarked from Sydney aboard the *RMS Orantes*, disembarking at Liverpool, England on 11th August 1918.

On the following day, he commenced training on the Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire with the 14th Training Battalion, based at Codford. He was allotted to the 60th Battalion which was then fighting in France. When the 60th Battalion was disbanded at the end of September 1918 so that its former members could reinforce the other three Battalions in the Brigade, Frank Argus was transferred to the 8th Battalion which was also serving in France at that time.

From 5th to 19th October 1918, Frank was laid up in the Sutton Veny Military Hospital in Wiltshire with a bout of measles. On 11th November 1918, peace was declared and the guns fell silent while Frank was still in England.

On 22nd November 1918, he finally got to the continent, re-joining the 8th Battalion on 2nd December. When the Battalion was disbanded, Frank was transferred to the 4th Auxiliary Mechanical Transport Company on 2nd April 1919. This unit would have been busy in mopping up operations such as moving troops and equipment back to French ports for return to England and Australia.

Private Frank Argus returned to Australia on *HMAT Argylleshire* on 1st August 1919 as a young man of nineteen years.