

AUSTRALIANS AT WAR



FIND

FOR NAME SEARCH
FOR NAME AND DATE
FOR NAME AND LOCATION
FOR NAME AND UNIT

FAMILY PAGE

MEMORABILIA

SPYBAGS

MEMORABILIA

CREWING

ARMY OF

ARMY

SHE MAP & HELP

MEMORABILIA
INFORMATION
FORM

GREAT SEARCH STORIES

COMMAND CENTRE - GREAT SEARCH - WORLD WAR I - STORY
WORLD WAR I

NEXT

ALAN GARDEN

GAVE UP LAW TO GO TO WAR

NAME: Alan Garden

DATE: 1916 - 1918

UNIT: 8th Field Artillery

LOCATION: Europe

Alan Garden abandoned his law degree at Melbourne University to sign up for World War I. He joined with his mates, Bill Woodfull (who later captained the Australian cricket team), and Bill Leggatt (who became Sir William Leggatt, Agent-General for Victoria in London) and Norm (no other details are known).

They all felt it was the right thing to do, the Mother Country needed them, and they barely thought about the danger they would face.

Alan and Norm joined the 8th Field Artillery and were sent to England for training and then on to France.

Alan wrote regularly to his parents, his letters full of descriptions of places he'd been and events that had taken place - but rarely did he describe the war. He appeared to be determined to save his parents from worrying too much about him. Every letter had phrases such as "I am well and safe and not in any danger", even when he was in the thick of things.

As a young wide-eyed Aussie kid, he found quaint old England a new experience. He wrote in his first letter home,

"I'm here! We arrived in Plymouth on Sunday. We left the old ship about midday Sunday on tenders and were brought into the docks and from there we entrained immediately."

"The trip was a magnificent one - we came through Devon & Somerset - and you have heard of the beauties of Devon. It was one of the prettiest journeys I have ever taken."

He was fascinated by the towns they passed



● Gunner Alan Garden of the 8th Field Artillery.



● Gunner Alan Garden (left) with three mates.