

AMPHLETT, Harry Robert

Rank: Private

Service Number: 2070

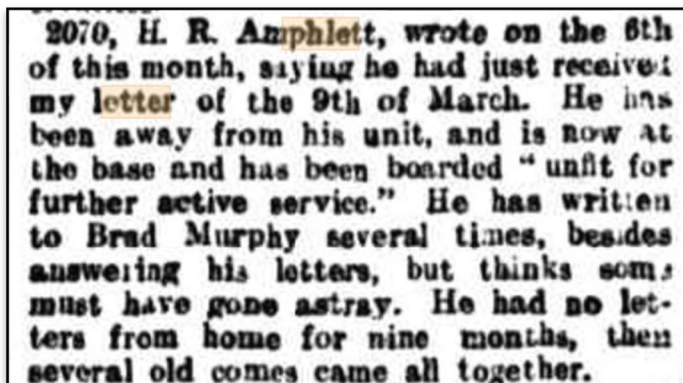
Unit: 4th Australian Infantry Battalion; Transferred to 4th Pioneers

Place of Birth: Collingwood, Melbourne, Victoria

Date of Birth: 1877 (Birth recorded as "AMPLETT" on Victoria BDM index.

Parents William and Jane, nee MARSH)

Enlisted at Rockhampton, 29 January 1916 age 38 years 9 months. Next-of-kin was his wife, Mrs Alice May Amphlett (nee Smith), 33 Charlotte Street, East Richmond, Melbourne, Victoria. On enlistment he was 5 feet 10¼ inches and weighed 125 lbs. His chest measurement was 40 inches. His occupation was Lengthsman. After serving in France, he suffered chronic bronchitis and returned to Australia on 9 December 1918 and discharged from service. Harry died in Heidelberg, Victoria at age 89 years in 1966.



2070, H. R. Amphlett, wrote on the 6th of this month, saying he had just received my letter of the 9th of March. He has been away from his unit, and is now at the base and has been boarded "unfit for further active service." He has written to Brad Murphy several times, besides answering his letters, but thinks some must have gone astray. He had no letters from home for nine months, then several old comes came all together.

Mrs Wheeler's letters to the front. Source: State Library of Queensland:

When war broke out in August 1914, Rockhampton grazier's widow Mrs Annie Wheeler (1867-1950) and her daughter Portia were in England. From their residence in London, Mrs Wheeler endeavoured to contact all soldiers from Central Queensland, whether wounded, imprisoned, or in the trenches, and kept a detailed card index to record instances of contact. Known as the 'Mother of the Queenslanders', she corresponded with soldiers on the battlefield, forwarded mail, supervised hospital care, and supplemented allowances. Families in Queensland sent letters and parcels through her, and by 1918 over 2,300 soldiers were on her cards. Each fortnight, Mrs Wheeler sent home detailed letters which were published in the Capricornian and the Morning Bulletin. Rockhampton accorded her a hero's welcome on her return in November 1919, and over 5,000 people met her train. In 1920, she was appointed O.B.E. for her welfare work.

Service Record: [View digital copy \(naa.gov.au\)](https://naa.gov.au)

Paulette Flint, 2023