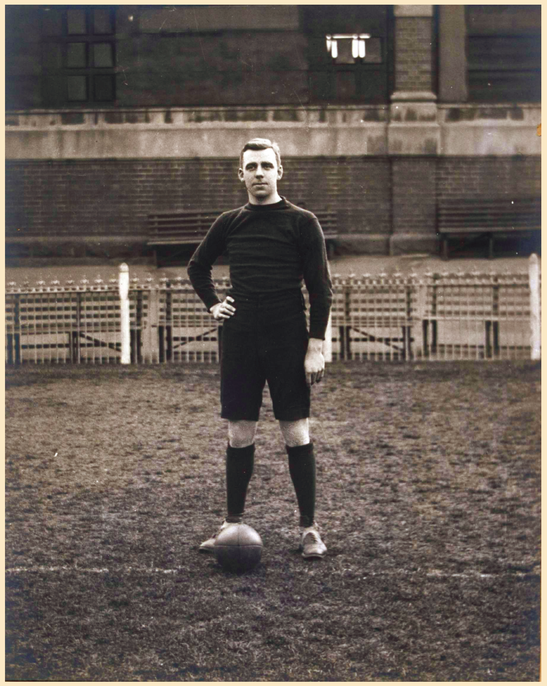
CORPORAL ARTHUR MUELLER "JOE" PEARCE



Joe Pearce, footballer, 1912. MCC



136-138 Gipps Street, East Melbourne. EMHS



Arthur Mueller 'Joe' Pearce in uniform. MCC



Memorial plaque, Holy Trinity Church, East Melbourne. EMHS

Born Bendigo on 28 January 1885

Educated at Bendigo Grammar School where his father was founder and headmaster

Employed by the Australian Mutual Provident Society as a clerk

Played 152 games for the Melbourne Football Club between 1904 and 1913

Lived at 138 Gipps Street, East Melbourne

A parishioner of Holy Trinity Church, East Melbourne, he served as church treasurer, Sunday School superintendent and secretary of the Church of England Men's Society, and sang in the choir

Enlisted in the AIF at Essendon, the eighth man to do so there

> ***I have thought this thing over and I have considered it in every way. I am strong, healthy and athletic and I think I ought to go, and if I don't come back, well, it won't much matter***

Embarked with the first contingent on 19 October 1914 aboard HMAT *Hororata*, a member of the 7th Infantry Battalion ('D' Company)

Made camp below the Pyramids and Sphinx

Left Cairo with his battalion under the command of Lt Col 'Pompey' Elliott and boarded HMT *Galeka* in Alexandria

With his unit, crammed onto boats to land at Gaba Tepe (Anzac Cove) on 25 April 1915

Shot and killed even before the troops landed:

> ***While making for Fisherman's Hut in a boat together with witness and under command of Lt Scanlon to take part in the landing on 25 April, Pearce was killed by machine gun or rifle fire. He was buried with 30 or 40 others on the beach***

Honoured by a plaque at Holy Trinity Church, East Melbourne, donated by his friends and fellow workers, and in the Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial.



Troops embark on *Hororata* at Port Melbourne. The ship visible is the *Orvieto*. AWM C02491



Troops, under the eye of commanding officer, Lt Col 'Pompey' Elliott, prepare to leave Egypt for the Gallipoli Peninsular. AWM PS0382



Members of the 7th Battalion aboard boats taking them from transport ship, *Galeka*, to Gallipoli, 25 April 1915. AWM P01287.008