

# Chaplain 4th Class Walter Ernest Dexter

Chaplain, Chaplain 4th Class, Chaplain of the Forces 4, Major,  
Reverend

**Birth Date**            **31 August 1873**

**Birth Place**           **United Kingdom: England, Cheshire**

**Death Date**           **31 August 1950**

**Death Place**         **Australia: Victoria, Melbourne**

**Final Rank**           **Chaplain 4th Class**

**Service**    **Australian Imperial Force**

**Units**        •            **1st Australian Division**

•            **5th Australian Infantry Battalion**

•            **Australian Chaplains Department**

**HE SERVED IN TWO WARS:  
First World War, 1914-1918**

**South Africa, 1899-1902 (Boer War)  
(Seen below in early photograph).**





# CHAPLAIN DEXTER OUTSIDE HIS TENT



**CAPTAIN WALTER DEXTER, CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHAPLAIN (PADRE), 1ST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION (LEFT), AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL CASS, COMMANDING.**

**An Australian transport unit on church parade in a rest area. On the far right Chaplain Walter Dexter DSO, DCM, wearing a surplice, is reading the service or preaching. Note the small dog.**



**Soldiers and officers crowd together in a scrubby gully during a church parade conducted by Chaplain the Reverend Walter Ernest Dexter. There are numerous dugouts scattered over the slope.**



AUSTRALIAN  
WAR MEMORIAL

C01080



**Informal portrait of probably Padre Walter Ernest Dexter modelling a large box respirator, predecessor of the commonly used small box respirator. The wraparound cloth mask featured a carbon filter (in a unit in the bag attached to the soldier's uniform) that removed impurities from the air.**

**Wielding a pair of pliers, Chaplain Walter Ernest Dexter DSO MC DCM (left) pretends that he is about to extract a tooth from the seated Captain Daniel Aston Luxton at a dressing station behind the trenches. Standing on the right is Lt Staniforth Ricketson and standing behind Capt Luxton is Lt George Leslie Makin, 5th Battalion, who died of wounds on 8 September 1918. This posed photograph was arranged by the photographer.**





**Padre Walter E Dexter  
DSO MC DCM holding  
up a small child with  
one hand.**





**At Sea. November 1914. Captain W. E. Dexter, Chaplain of the 5th Battalion (an old sea captain), Captain (Capt) H. Carter of the Public Schools Company F, 5th Battalion, and Capt Gordon Smith RN, Commanding the Convoy.**

Photograph Courtesy of the Australian War Memorial



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J03775

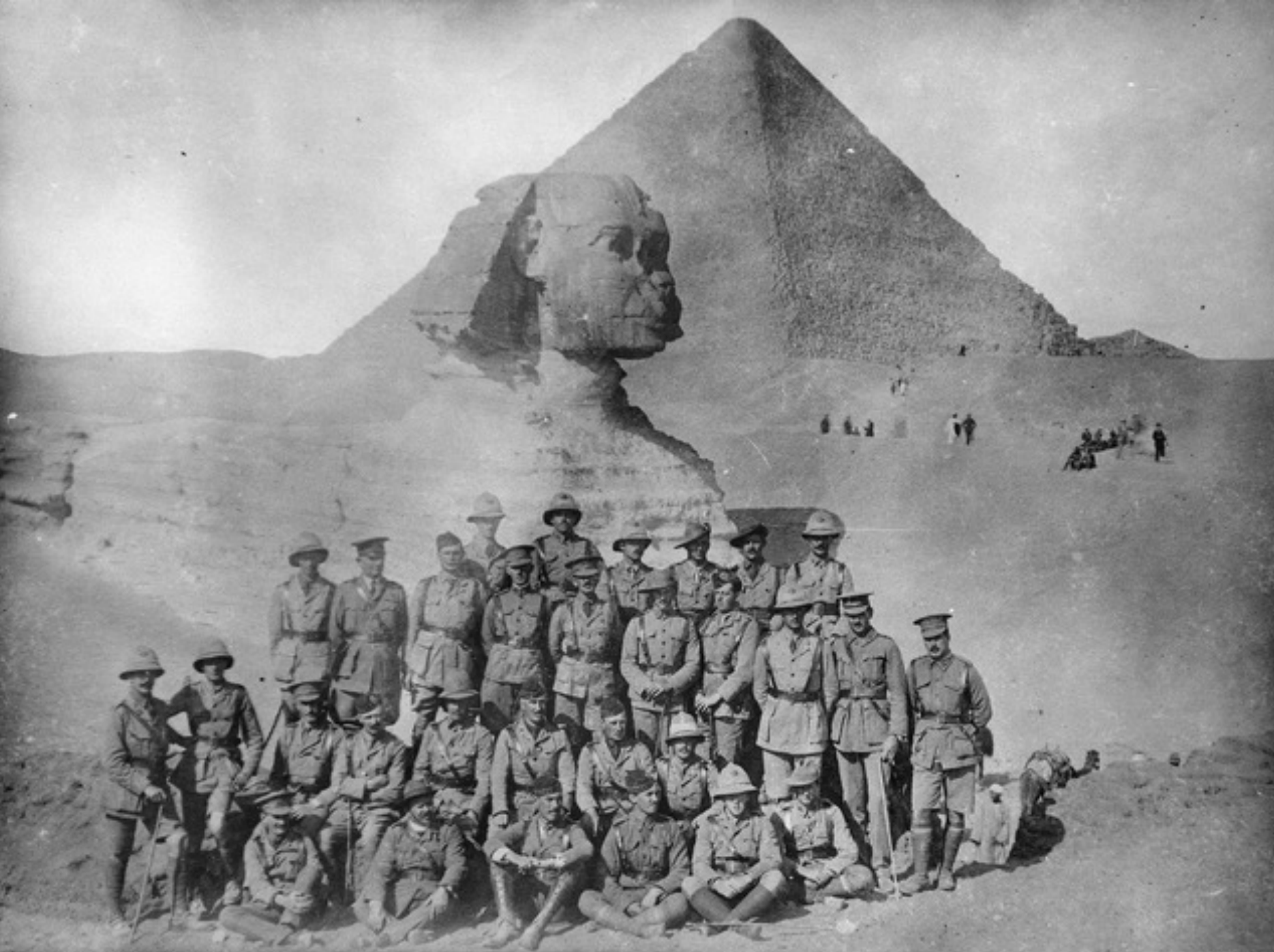
**Two unidentified Australian officers, wheeling Chaplain Walter E in a French farmer's wheel barrow.**



**Gallipoli - Private John Simpson Kirkpatrick earned fame as the "Man with the Donkey". It is not known if this is Simpson's donkey "Murphy" but Padre Dexter did find the scene interesting enough to warrant a photograph, which he took.**



**Chaplain the  
Reverend  
Walter Ernest  
Dexter stands  
on the track in  
a gully on the  
Gallipoli  
Peninsula,  
looking down  
towards North  
Beach.**



**Group portrait of officers of the 5th Battalion in front of the Sphinx at the foot of the Pyramids.**

**CHAPLAIN DEXTER IS SITTING, SECOND FROM LEFT.**



**Outdoor portrait of a group of Australian officers in Martyn's Lane near Divisional Headquarters, Gallipoli. Identified from left to right are: Chaplain (Padre) Walter Ernest Dexter;**

Captain Roy Victor Cutler, 2nd Field Company Engineers; Lieutenant Thomas Hastie, 5th Battalion; Captain James Herbert Mirams, 2nd Field Company Engineers (died on 19 August 1916 of wounds received in France); and Lieutenant Colonel Cecil Henry Foott, Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster General 1st Australian Division.







# COMMUNION SET USED BY CHAPLAIN DEXTER

