

Rupert Geehan Godenzi



Private (Pte) 1517 Rupert Geehan Godenzi enlisted in the 23rd Infantry Battalion in the 6th Infantry Brigade of the 2nd Australian Division at Maldon on 26 March 1915. He embarked overseas on 8 May and disembarked in Egypt in mid-June, where he was taken on strength of the 23rd Battalion on 18 August.

He embarked for Gallipoli on 30 August and disembarked on 4 September. The battalion took up positions around Lone Pine and remained in that area for several months. Pte Godenzi suffered from frost bite and was evacuated to Egypt on 10 December, where he was hospitalized from 11 December – 5 January 1916, also suffering from nephritis. He rejoined the battalion on 21 February.

The 23rd Battalion embarked for France on 19 March and disembarked at Marseilles on 26 March and headed north, where they spent time in and out of the line near Armentieres and Fleurbaix in the following weeks. Pte Godenzi sustained a scalp wound and shell concussion on 24 July and was admitted to the 11th General Hospital in Camiers between 27 July – 9 August, then rejoined the battalion on 27 August.

On 1 February 1917, Pte Godenzi was treated for a septic toe, initially in France and then at the Edmonton Military Hospital in England from 2 March – 2 May. Following two weeks leave in England from 3 – 18 May, he was charged with being absent without leave between 23 May – 5 June, and was penalised with the forfeiture of 43 days pay. He returned to France on 11 June and rejoined the 23rd Battalion, in the field at Beaulencourt, on 25 June.

He was promoted to Corporal (Cpl) on 10 September and the battalion then moved north to Belgium where, on 4 October, they were involved in the attack on Broodseinde Ridge. Even though mainly used as carriers, the battalion sustained 110 casualties. Just five days later, on 9 October, the 6th Brigade supported a British attack on Poelcapelle, in which the 23rd Battalion suffered a further 83 casualties.

The battalion was back in the front line east of Broodseinde on 10 November, when Cpl Godenzi was one of four men killed in action that day. His body was not located until after the war.

Corporal 1517 Rupert Geehan Gondenzi's remains were subsequently located and buried at Tyne Cot Cemetery, Passchendaele, Belgium in around May 1921.

Name: Godenzi, Rupert Geehan	
Service Number	1517
Date enlisted	26 March 1915
Place enlisted	Maldon, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	23 rd Infantry Battalion
Date and ship embarked for overseas	8 May 1915 HMAT A14 <i>Euripides</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	20 years 6 months
Place of birth	Maldon, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Wood carter
Religion	Church of England
Next of kin and address	Godenzi, Mr Benjamin, father, Long Gully, Maldon, Victoria
Permanent address	Long Gully, Maldon, Victoria
Appearance	Dark complexion, black hair, brown eyes, height – 5 feet 10 inches, weight – 9 stone, 14 lbs, chest measurement – 34/38 inches
Final Rank	Corporal
Final Unit	23 rd Infantry Battalion
Theatres of war served in	Egypt, Gallipoli, France, Belgium
Fate	Killed in action
Date and place wounded	24 July 1916, France
Nature of wounds	Scalp wound and shell concussion
Date and place died	10 November 1917, Belgium
Cemetery details	Tyne Cot Cemetery, Passchendaele, Belgium Plot XL, Row G, Grave 5
Honours/medals	1914/15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Also listed on the Holy Trinity Anglican Church Roll of Honor and Maldon State School Roll of Honor