

## Albert Skinner



Private (Pte) 6080 Albert Skinner enlisted in the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion at Maldon on 17 April 1916. He embarked overseas on 28 July and disembarked in Plymouth on 11 September, where he joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> (Brigade) Training Battalion at Perham Downs Camp.

He sailed for France on 2 November, where he was subsequently transferred and taken on strength of the 59<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion in the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade of the 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Division, in the field at Dernancourt, on 17 November 1916.

After a period in the front line trenches near Flers from late November, where the winter conditions were atrocious, Pte Skinner contracted bronchitis on 30 December. He was evacuated to the Anzac Corps Rest Station the same day, and then to the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital at Rouen on 10 January 1917. His condition did not improve so he was transferred via hospital ship to England on 15 January, where he was admitted to the Beaufort War Hospital in Bristol the next day.

After six weeks there, he was transferred to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on 27 February, then granted leave in England from 16 – 31 March upon his full recovery. He spent the next four months regaining his fitness and conditioning, before he embarked again for France on 23 July, where he rejoined the 59<sup>th</sup> Battalion at Sercus on 11 August 1917.

By 25 September the battalion had moved to Westhoek Ridge and then, at 5.50am on 26 September they successfully participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Division attacks on Polygon Wood. The 59<sup>th</sup> Battalion suffered 268 casualties in the attack, including 68 men killed or missing, one of whom was Pte Skinner, who was killed in action by German artillery during the attack.

His body was never recovered, and he has no known grave.

Private 6080 Albert Skinner is remembered on Panel 29 of the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium.

Name: Skinner, Albert	
Service Number	6080
Date enlisted	17 April 1916
Place enlisted	Maldon, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	7 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion
Date and ship embarked for overseas	28 July 1916 HMAT A32 <i>Themistocles</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	20 years 9 months
Place of birth	Maldon, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Carpenter
Religion	Church of England
Next of kin and address	Skinner, Mr Charles, father, Tarrengower, via Maldon, Victoria
Permanent address	Tarrengower, via Maldon, Victoria
Appearance	Fresh complexion, brown hair, grey eyes, height – 5 feet 5 inches, weight – 8 stone, 10 lbs, chest measurement – 35/37 inches
Final Rank	Private
Final Unit	59 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion
Theatres of war served in	France, Belgium
Fate	Killed in action
Date and place died	26 September 1917 Polygon Wood, Belgium
Cemetery details	No known grave. Commemorated on Panel 29 of the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium
Honours/medals	British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Also listed on the Welshman's Reef State School Roll of Honor and the Baringhup School & District Roll of Honor. Cousin of 4642 Edwin Skinner.