

Joseph Royal Tatt



Private (Pte) 4326 Joseph Royal Tatt enlisted in the 5th Infantry Battalion in the 2nd Infantry Brigade of the 1st Australian Division in Melbourne on 27 July 1915. He embarked for Egypt on 29 December, where he undertook training for several months.

He embarked for France on 29 March 1916 and disembarked in Marseilles on 4 April, where he was taken on strength of the 5th Battalion on 17 May. The battalion moved into the front line at Fromelles between 28 May – 10 June for the loss of 25 men (three killed). After a brief period in Belgium, the 5th Battalion was moved south to the Somme from 12 July and reached Albert on 21 July.

The 1st Division was ordered to attack and capture the French village of Pozieres on 23 July. The division achieved its objectives and then had to withstand several fierce counter attacks and the most severe artillery bombardments that any Australian soldiers had encountered to that time. Overall 1st Division casualties between 23 – 27 July totalled 5,285 men, mostly to artillery. The 5th Battalion accounted for 446 of those before they left the line.

After a short spell, the 5th Battalion returned to Pozieres on 14 August and slowly advanced towards the heavily fortified Mouquet Farm, however the Germans held firm. After a week, the battalion left the line on 21 August having sustained a further 198 casualties (36 killed), one of whom was Pte Tatt, who was killed in action while serving as a stretcher bearer during the battle.

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

Private 4326 Joseph Royal Tatt is remembered on the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux, France.

Name: Tatt, Joseph Royal	
Service Number	4326
Date enlisted	27 July 1915
Place enlisted	Melbourne, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	5 th Infantry Battalion
Date and ship embarked for overseas	29 December 1915 HMAT A64 <i>Demosthenes</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	24 years
Place of birth	Maldon, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Labourer
Religion	Church of England
Next of kin and address	Tatt, Mr George, father, Porcupine Road, Maldon, Victoria
Permanent address in Australia	Porcupine Road, Maldon, Victoria
Appearance	Fair complexion, dark brown hair, dark green eyes, height – 5 feet 8 ³ / ₄ inches, weight – 9 stone, chest measurement – 33/36 inches
Final Rank	Private
Final Unit	5 th Infantry Battalion
Theatres of war served in	Egypt, France, Belgium
Fate	Killed in action
Date and place died	18 August 1916 Mouquet Farm, France
Cemetery details	No known grave. Commemorated on the Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France
Honours/medals	British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Also listed on Holy Trinity Anglican Church Roll of Honor and Maldon State School Roll of Honor