

## Edward Bright



Private (Pte) 152 Edward Bright enlisted in the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion in the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Division in Melbourne on 18 March 1915. He embarked overseas on 10 May and disembarked in Egypt in early June.

The 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion embarked for Gallipoli on 30 August and disembarked on 5 September, where they assumed defensive positions at Courtney's, Quinn's and Steele's Posts. A week later they began a 14 week period of rotations (together with the 23<sup>rd</sup> Battalion) in and out of the trenches at Lone Pine.

On 22 September, Pte Bright was evacuated to the 6<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance with dysentery, then transferred to Malta where he was hospitalised at the Tigne Military Hospital between 27 September – 11 February 1916. He returned to Egypt on 26 February, where he rejoined the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 8 March.

The battalion left Egypt on 20 March and disembarked in Marseilles on 26 March, then entrained north to Rebecq. They entered the front line for the first time at Fleurbaix from 15 – 21 April, the first of several short stints in the line there over the next few weeks.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Division took over the Australian attack on Pozieres on 28 July, and the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion, although not directly involved in the failed attacks of 29 – 30 July, nevertheless lost 199 men (including 43 killed) mostly to German artillery fire.

Less than a week later, on 4 – 5 August the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion was directly involved in the next attack at Pozieres, which succeeded in pushing the line forward. They also fought off several German counter attacks before being relieved, having lost another 248 men (including 127 killed or missing).

The period from October 1916 to January 1917 was relatively quiet and no major attacks were undertaken. The 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion operated mainly in the Flers region and alternated between short stints in the front-line, ongoing military training and/or road re-construction.

Pte Bright was treated at the 1<sup>st</sup> ANZAC Scabies Station from 1 – 11 May, then promoted to Lance Corporal (L Cpl) on 19 July.

On 3 August 1917, L Cpl Bright was detached for permanent duty with the 6<sup>th</sup> (Brigade) Training Battalion, and he embarked for England that day. He arrived at Tidworth Camp four days later and remained in that role until 31 December, when he returned to France and rejoined the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 5 January 1918.

In the early hours of 21 March 1918, the battalion was billeted near Ploegsteert when they were subjected to a four hour artillery bombardment, which included thousands of gas shells. Initially it was thought the battalion had escaped relatively unscathed but over the next 36 hours, 219 men subsequently became incapacitated by the effects of the gas, one of whom was L Cpl Bright, who was evacuated to the 11<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station on 22 March.

From there he was transferred to England, where he was admitted to the Croydon War Hospital between 26 March – 23 April, then granted leave until 9 May.

He spent the next six months at various training camps in Wiltshire and never rejoined the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He embarked for return to Australia on 14 December 1918.

Lance Corporal 152 Edward Bright disembarked in Melbourne on 29 January, where he was discharged from the AIF on 23 March 1919.

Name: Bright, Edward	
Service Number	152
Date enlisted	18 March 1915
Place enlisted	Melbourne, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	24 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion
Previous military service	12 months – 5 <sup>th</sup> Hampshire Territorials
Date and ship embarked for overseas	10 May 1915 HMAT A14 <i>Euripides</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	19 years 10 months
Place of birth	Eartleigh, Hampshire, England
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Boot repairer
Religion	Church of England
Next of kin and address	Bright, Mrs Emily, mother, High Street, Eartleigh, Hampshire, England
Appearance	Fresh complexion, light brown hair, blue eyes, height – 5 feet 6 inches, weight – 9 stone, 6 lbs, chest measurement – 34/36 inches
Final Rank	Lance Corporal
Final Unit	24 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion
Theatres of war served in	Egypt, Gallipoli, France, Belgium
Fate	Returned to Australia
Date and place wounded	22 March 1918 Ploegsteert, Belgium
Nature of wounds	Gassed
Date and ship embarked for Australia	14 December 1918 HT <i>Burmah</i>
Date discharged	23 March 1919
Nature of discharge	Termination of Period of Enlistment
Honours/medals	1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	