

Charles Henry Brame



Private (Pte) 201 Charles Henry Brame enlisted in the 8th Infantry Battalion in the 2nd Infantry Brigade of the 1st Australian Division in Geelong on 17 August 1914. He embarked overseas on 19 October and disembarked in Egypt on 8 December.

On 5 April 1915, the 8th Battalion embarked for the island of Lemnos, where they practiced disembarking from the ship and climbing the local hills each day. On the night of 24 April, the troopships departed Mudros Harbour and sailed for Gallipoli.

At 7.30 am on 25 April 1915 the battalion disembarked from their transports into smaller boats and were towed toward the beaches. The 8th Battalion landed as part of the second wave and found the beach crowded with troops and wounded men. Between 25 – 29 April, the 8th Battalion lost 219 men, including 99 killed or missing.

On 6 May, the 2nd Brigade, including the 8th Battalion, travelled south by boat to Cape Helles, where the British and French landing forces were held up in front of the village of Krithia. On 8 May, at very short notice, the Australians were ordered to charge the (basically unknown) Turkish positions in full daylight. The result was a disaster, and the 8th Battalion lost another 169 men (38 killed or missing) then returned to Anzac Cove.

The 8th Battalion was the 2nd Brigade reserve during the fighting at Lone Pine in early August 1915 but nevertheless sustained 150 casualties from several retaliatory Turkish artillery bombardments during 6 – 8 August.

Pte Brame was promoted to Lance Corporal (L Cpl) on 26 November, and the battalion finally evacuated Gallipoli on the night of 18 December.

After a short rest on Lemnos, they arrived back in Egypt on 7 January 1916, where L Cpl Brame was promoted to Corporal on 26 February and then Sergeant (Sgt) on 14 March.

The battalion left Egypt on 26 March and disembarked in Marseilles on 30 March, then entrained for the north to Steenwerck.

On 11 May the battalion moved into the front line at Fleurbaix for the first time. By the time they were relieved on 29 May, they left the line having sustained 17 casualties (six killed).

They then moved into Belgium and held the line near Messines from 24 June – 4 July, for the loss of another 85 men, including 19 killed.

The 8th Battalion headed south to the Somme on 10 July and entered the support trenches at Pozieres in the early hours of 23 July, and the village itself that night. They were subjected to a continuous German artillery barrage for the next four days and sustained 363 casualties, including 97 killed or missing, one of whom was Sgt Brame who was killed in action on 28 July 1916.

Sergeant 201 Charles Henry Brame was subsequently buried in the Gordon Dump Cemetery, Ovillers-La Boisselle, France.



*Sgt Charles Brame's grave at Gordon Dump Cemetery,
Ovillers-La Boisselle, France*

Name: Brame, Charles Henry	
Service Number	201
Date enlisted	17 August 1914
Place enlisted	Geelong, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	8 th Infantry Battalion
Date and ship embarked for overseas	19 October 1914 HMAT A24 <i>Benalla</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	21 years
Place of birth	Leopold, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Labourer
Religion	Methodist
Next of kin and address	Brame, Mr Emily, mother, 206 Verner Street, East Geelong, Victoria
Permanent address	206 Verner Street, East Geelong, Vic.
Appearance	Dark complexion, dark hair, grey eyes, height – 5 feet 7 inches, weight – 9 stone, 10 lbs, chest measurement – 34 inches
Final Rank	Sergeant
Final Unit	8 th Infantry Battalion
Theatres of war served in	Egypt, Gallipoli, France, Belgium
Fate	Killed in action
Date and place died	28 July 1916 Pozieres, France
Cemetery details	Gordon Dump Cemetery, Ovillers-La Boisselle, France. Plot I, Row B, Grave 37
Honours/medals	1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Also remembered on the Leopold State School Honor Roll, Leopold War Memorial, Geelong & District Peace Memorial, East Geelong St Albans & Moolap War Memorial and the East Geelong Congregational Church & Sunday School Honor Roll.