

William James Collins

Sapper (Spr) 82 William James Collins enlisted in the 2nd Field Company Engineers in the 2nd Infantry Brigade of the 1st Australian Division in Melbourne on 26 August 1914. He embarked overseas on 21 October and disembarked in Egypt on 4 December.

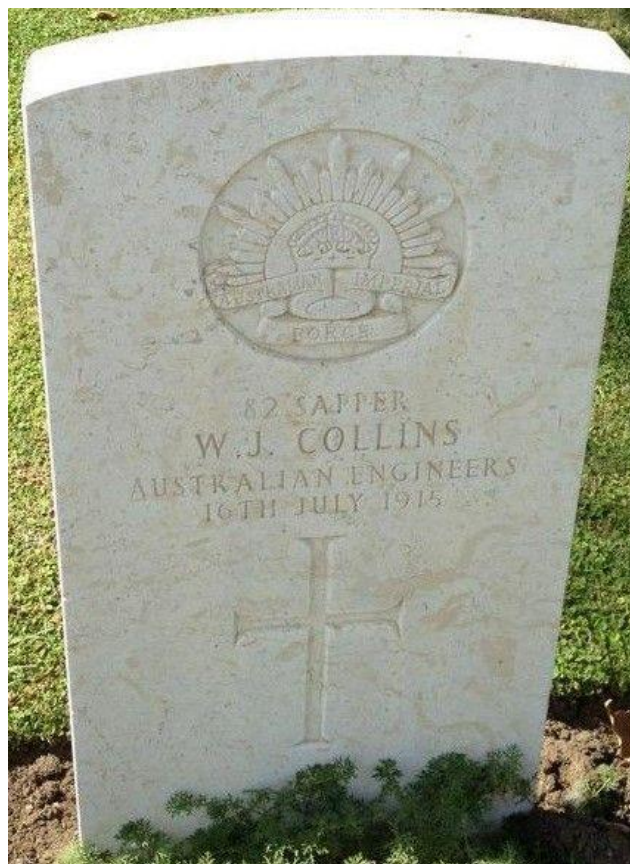
Each infantry brigade had its own field engineer unit which undertook a broad range of tasks, including preparation and construction of defensive positions and command posts, trench and dugout excavation, erection of barbed wire obstacles, road and bridge construction and maintenance and water supply.

The company departed Egypt on 5 April and landed on Lemnos on 9 April, where they practised disembarking from the ship. The 2nd FCE landed on Gallipoli at 7.30 am on 25 April 1915 where they dug wells for water, constructed roads from the beach and unloaded ammunition from barges.

Spr Collins became ill with diarrhoea on 9 May and was treated at the 2nd Field Ambulance from 9 – 21 May, then transferred to the 1st Stationary Hospital on Lemnos.

Later diagnosed with dysentery, on 20 June he was evacuated to Egypt and admitted to the 1st Australian General Hospital at Cairo, where he succumbed to his illness on 16 July 1915.

Sapper 82 William James Collins was buried in the Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt.



Sapper William Collins' grave at Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

Name: Collins, William James	
Service Number	82
Date enlisted	26 August 1914
Place enlisted	Melbourne, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Sapper
Initial Unit	2 nd Field Company Engineers
Date and ship embarked for overseas	21 October 1914 HMAT A3 <i>Orvieto</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	28 years 3 months
Place of birth	South Melbourne, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Rough carpenter
Religion	Roman Catholic
Next of kin and address	Collins, Mr John, father, c/- Marshalltown PO, via Geelong, Vic.
Permanent address	Marshalltown, Victoria
Appearance	Fair complexion, fair hair, blue eyes, height – 5 feet 11 inches, weight – 11 stone, 12 lbs, chest measurement – 37 inches
Final Rank	Sapper
Final Unit	2 nd Field Company Engineers
Theatres of war served in	Egypt, Gallipoli
Fate	Died of illness (dysentery)
Date and place died	16 July 1915 1 st Australian General Hospital, Cairo, Egypt
Cemetery details	Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, Cairo, Egypt Row M, Grave 50
Honours/medals	1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Also remembered on the Leopold State School Honor Roll, Geelong & District Peace Memorial and the Shire of South Barwon Honor Roll.