

## Thomas Everard Freeman

Sapper (Spr) 227 Thomas Everard Freeman enlisted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Company Engineers in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade of the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division in Melbourne on 7 September 1914. He embarked overseas on 22 December and disembarked in Egypt in mid-January 1916.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. They left Gallipoli in late December and disembarked in Egypt on 28 December.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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*Members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Company Engineers landing at Gallipoli, 25 April 1915*

Spr Freeman became ill with gastritis on 14 February 1916 and was admitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Stationary Hospital at Ismailia two days later. His condition quickly developed into peritonitis, and he died there of his illness on 22 February 1916.

Sapper 227 Thomas Everard Freeman was initially buried in the Ismailia Cemetery, but his remains were subsequently re-interred in the Ismailia War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt in 1920.

Name: Freeman, Thomas Everard	
Service Number	227
Date enlisted	7 September 1914
Place enlisted	Melbourne, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Sapper
Initial Unit	2 <sup>nd</sup> Field Company Engineers
Date and ship embarked for overseas	22 December 1914 HMAT A35 Berrima
Stated age/DOB (if known)	22 years 9 months
Place of birth	Townsville, Queensland
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Driver
Religion	Church of England
Next of kin and address	Freeman, Mrs Jessie, mother, "Kia Ora" Malvern Road, Malvern, Victoria
Permanent address	Malvern, Victoria
Appearance	Clear complexion, brown hair, hazel eyes, height – 5 feet 3 inches, weight – 10 stone, 12 lbs, chest measurement – 33/35 inches
Final Rank	Sapper
Final Unit	2 <sup>nd</sup> Field Company Engineers
Theatres of war served in	Egypt, Gallipoli
Fate	Died of illness (peritonitis)
Date and place died	22 February 1916 1 <sup>st</sup> Australian Stationary Hospital, Ismailia, Egypt
Cemetery details	Ismailia War Memorial Cemetery, Ismailia, Egypt. Row B, Grave 12
Honours/medals	British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Connection with Leopold not known.