

Edgar Charles Lee

Private (Pte) 4849 Edgar Charles Lee enlisted in the 16th Infantry Battalion at Blackboy Hill on 18 December 1915. He embarked overseas on 1 April 1916 and disembarked in Egypt on 28 April, where he joined the 4th (Brigade) Training Battalion.

He departed Egypt on 7 June and landed in France on 14 June, where he was later transferred and taken on strength of the 48th Infantry Battalion in the 12th Infantry Brigade of the 4th Australian Division at Bertaucourt les Dames on 18 July 1916.

The 48th Battalion moved into the front line at Pozieres on the night of 5 August and it was here that Pte Lee sustained a gunshot wound to his head that resulted in a fractured skull, on 6 August.



*Australian soldiers walk past a line of trenches excavated during the advance on Pozieres, 1 August 1916.
German shellfire is falling in the distance.*

He was evacuated to the 4th General Hospital at Camiers on 8 August, then transferred to England on 2 September, where he was admitted to the Duston War Hospital in Northampton from 2 September – 22 November, when he was granted leave until 7 December 1916.

Pte Lee was granted further leave from 5 – 20 January 1917 but was still suffering from pains in his head so he was returned to Australia on 13 February. He disembarked in Fremantle on 10 April and later travelled to Melbourne, at his own request to be near family, in early June.

He disembarked in Melbourne on 9 June, where he was medically discharged from the AIF on 23 July 1917

He obviously continued to suffer and was admitted to Geelong Hospital at some stage, where he finally succumbed to complications from his wounds on 28 April 1919.

Private 4849 Edgar Charles Lee was subsequently buried at Geelong Eastern Cemetery.

Name: Lee, Edgar Charles	
Service Number	4849
Date enlisted	18 December 1915
Place enlisted	Blackboy Hill, WA
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	16 th Infantry Battalion
Date and ship embarked for overseas	1 April 1916 HMAT A38 <i>Ulysses</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	28 years 9 months
Place of birth	Benalla, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Railways contractor
Religion	Church of England
Next of kin and address	Lee, Mr Charles, father, 27 Richmond Crescent, East Geelong, Victoria
Permanent address	Geraldton, WA
Appearance	Ruddy complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, height – 5 feet 11 inches, weight – 10 stone, 14 lbs, chest measurement – 34/38 inches
Final Rank	Private
Final Unit	48 th Infantry Battalion
Theatres of war served in	Egypt, France
Fate	Died of wounds (post discharge)
Date and place wounded	6 August 1916 Mouquet Farm, France
Nature of wounds	Gunshot wound to head (fractured skull)
Date and place died	28 April 1919, Geelong Hospital, Vic.
Cemetery details	Geelong Eastern Cemetery, Victoria. C of E Section, Plot 6, Grave 200
Date and ship embarked for Australia	13 February 1917 HT <i>Benalla</i>
Date discharged	23 July 1917
Nature of discharge	Medically Unfit (wounds)
Honours/medals	British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Family resided in Leopold pre-war. Also remembered on the Leopold State School Honor Roll, Leopold War Memorial and Geelong & District Peace Memorial.