

Frank William McWilliams



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DA10715

Private (Pte) 2488 Frank William McWilliams enlisted in the 21st Infantry Battalion in the 6th Infantry Brigade of the 2nd Australian Division in Geelong on 22 July 1915. He embarked overseas on 29 September and disembarked in Egypt in late October, where he joined the 21st Battalion at Tel el Kebir on 7 January 1916.

The battalion departed Egypt on 19 March and disembarked in Marseilles on 26 March, where they entrained to the Hazebrouck region in the north and spent several weeks in and out of the line around Fleurbaix.

The battalion headed south to the Somme from 8 July, which they reached on 18 July. The 2nd Division took over the Pozieres front on 27 July and the 21st Battalion entered the line on 29 July. Used mainly in a defensive role, the battalion nevertheless sustained 289 casualties.

Pte McWilliams was evacuated sick with dental problems between 17 – 22 August, then with an inflamed stomach from 28 August – 6 October, during which time he was hospitalised at the 18th General Hospital at Camiers.

He was treated for a disorderly action of the heart at the 26th General Hospital at Etaples between 8 – 13 October, then transferred to England and admitted to the Kitchener War Hospital at Brighton from 13 October – 3 February 1917, after which he was granted leave from 3 – 19 February. He embarked for return to Australia on 8 April.

Private 2488 Frank William McWilliams disembarked in Melbourne on 9 June, where he was medically discharged from the AIF on 11 August 1917.

Name: McWilliams, Frank William	
Service Number	2488
Date enlisted	22 July 1915
Place enlisted	Geelong, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	21 st Infantry Battalion
Date and ship embarked for overseas	29 September 1915 RMS <i>Osterley</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	28 years 3 months
Place of birth	Leopold, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Farm labourer
Religion	Church of England
Next of kin and address	McWilliams, Mr Thomas, father, Wallington, Victoria
Permanent address	Wallington, Victoria
Appearance	Fair complexion, fair hair, grey eyes, height – 5 feet 9 ½ inches, weight – 11 stone, chest measurement – 37 inches
Final Rank	Private
Final Unit	21 st Infantry Battalion
Theatres of war served in	Egypt, France
Fate	Returned to Australia
Date and ship embarked for Australia	8 April 1917 HT <i>Barambah</i>
Date discharged	11 August 1917
Nature of discharge	Medically Unfit (Endocarditis)
Honours/medals	1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Died 1935. Also remembered on the Leopold State School Honor Roll, Leopold & District Honor Roll and Leopold War Memorial