

Henry Roger Scrieck

Private (Pte) 1773 Henry Roger Scrieck enlisted in the 23rd Infantry Battalion in the 6th Infantry Brigade of the 2nd Australian Division in Melbourne, under the alias Harry Scrieck Rogers, on 21 May 1915.

The battalion embarked overseas on 16 July and disembarked in Egypt in mid-August. Two weeks later, they sailed for Gallipoli on 30 August and landed there late on 4 September, where they took up defensive positions in the Lone Pine trenches the next day. They remained in this area for several months.

On 29 November 1915, their positions came under heavy Turkish artillery fire and Pte Scrieck sustained shrapnel wounds to his head and right hand during the bombardment. He was evacuated via hospital ship to Malta on 3 December, where he was admitted to St Paul's Hospital between 4 – 31 December.

While recuperating at a convalescent camp in Malta, on 16 January 1916, Pte Scrieck was arrested for being drunk, resisting arrest and wilfully damaging property, for which he was sentenced to 120 days' detention and fined £12 1s.

Pte Scrieck eventually arrived back in Egypt on 28 May 1916, where he joined the 15th (Brigade) Training Battalion at Tel el Kebir the next day. He left Egypt on 21 June and disembarked in Marseilles on 30 June, where he joined the 5th Division Base Details at Etaples.

While there, he contracted diphtheria and was hospitalised at the 24th General Hospital from 25 August – 8 September, then transferred to the 5th Convalescent Depot at Boulogne between 10 September – 3 October. Shortly afterward, he contracted venereal disease and was admitted to the 18th General Hospital at Camiers between 9 October – 16 January 1917.

Following his release, Pte Scrieck was transferred and taken on strength of the 57th Infantry Battalion in the 15th Infantry Brigade of the 5th Australian Division at Bernafay Camp on 22 January.

The 57th Battalion moved south to Gueudecourt in early March, where patrols discovered that the Germans had vacated their forward trench system and withdrawn to newly prepared positions on the Hindenburg Line. The battalion cautiously moved forward, bypassed Bapaume, and occupied Reincourt on 21 March.

As they took over the forward outposts beyond Beaumetz late on 23 March, an enemy artillery bombardment coincided with two German trench raids, and it was here that Pte Scrieck was killed in action on 24 March 1917.

His body was not recovered, and he has no known grave.

Private 1773 Henry Roger Scrieck is remembered on the Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France.

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| Name: Scieck, Henry Roger (aka Rogers, Harry Scieck) | |
| Service Number | 1773 |
| Date enlisted | 21 May 1915 |
| Place enlisted | Melbourne, Victoria |
| Rank on enlistment | Private |
| Initial Unit | 23 rd Infantry Battalion |
| Date and ship embarked for overseas | 16 July 1915 HMAT A64 <i>Demosthenes</i> |
| Stated age/DOB (if known) | 19 years 8 months |
| Place of birth | Bordeaux, France |
| Marital status | Single |
| Occupation | Farm hand |
| Religion | Church of England |
| Next of kin and address | Bowman, Mr George, friend, 10 Daisy Street, Geelong, Victoria |
| Permanent address | Geelong, Victoria |
| Appearance | Fair complexion, dark brown hair, light brown eyes, height – 5 feet 5 inches, weight – 9 stone, 4 lbs, chest measurement – 35/37 inches |
| Final Rank | Private |
| Final Unit | 57 th Infantry Battalion |
| Theatres of war served in | Egypt, Gallipoli, France |
| Fate | Killed in action |
| Date and place wounded | 29 November 1915 Lone Pine, Gallipoli, Turkey |
| Nature of wounds | Shrapnel wound to head and right hand |
| Date and place died | 24 March 1917 Beaumont, France |
| Cemetery details | No known grave. Commemorated on the Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France. |
| Honours/medals | 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal |
| Notes | Connection to St Leonards is unclear but he may have been a farm hand on a local property. Remembered on the St Paul's Anglican Church Honor Roll. |