

18th Battalion
5th Brigade
2nd Division



Name, rank & number	4512 LCpl Francis BENT, MM
Reinforcement batch	12/29 th Bn
Date & place of enlistment	10 Oct 1916, Melbourne, NSW
Age on enlistment	32yrs 11mths
Year & place of birth	1883, Wangaratta, VIC
Occupation	Painter
Religion	Church of England
Physical Description	5' 10" sallow, brown eyes, dark brown hair
Marital status	Single
NOK & address	Mother, Emma Bent, Richmond, VIC
Embarkation date and ship	16 Dec 1916, Medic
Repatriation date & ship	1 Apr 1919, Shropshire
Date of discharge	20 Jul 1919
Total service	2yrs 9mths
Overseas service	2yrs 5mths
Fate	Still alive 1935

Sicknesses: Nil

Crimes: Nil

Battle honours: France & Flanders 1916-1918, Hamel, Amiens, Albert 1918, Mont St Quentin, Hindenburg Line, Beaurevoir

Service outline:

10 Oct 1916 Enlisted in the AIF
 16 Dec 1916 Sailed for England
 13 Oct 1917 Joined 18th Bn in the field in France
 31 May 1918 **Wounded in Action**, barbed wire wound right leg & penis
 8 Jun 1918 Awarded Military Medal for bravery on 19 May 1918
 14 Jun 1918 Rejoined the 18th Bn
 4 Oct 1918 Promoted to Lance Corporal
 19 Jun 1919 Returned to Australia

Francis Bent was a painter from Melbourne when he joined the AIF in October 1916. He took the well trodden path of enlisting, training in Australia, shipment to England, more training and then shipment to France. Francis trained in England for some time and was actually reserved for the partially formed 6th Div (this was later disbanded due to a lack of men). This kept him out of the action until 13th October 1917 when fortunately for Francis the Passchendaele campaign had just finished and he met with the 18th Bn at Steenvorde in Belgium. He then saw a lot of action through to 19 May 1918 when he was awarded the Military Medal for bravery. His citation stated that after reaching the objective in the attack at Morlancourt that he returned into the thick of fire in no man's land to retrieve machine guns and ammunitions from the dead Australians. He did this three times and was actually recommended for the DCM. 12 days later he was wounded with a barbed wire gash to his leg and his penis – probably much to the amusement of his mates. The war diary refers to several night time patrols so perhaps it was on one of these that he received his wounds. Francis then went on to fight out the remainder of the war with the 18th Bn. His story after the war remains unknown.