

## **PATRICK KEARNEY**



Patrick Kearney was born at Perth circa 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 1875. His father was M J (James) Kearney. Patrick gave his address at the time of enlistment simply as Nannup.

On his application to join the AIF, Patrick's age is given as 34 years and 7 months. However, a letter from his brother, written after his death states that he was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 1875. This would have made him 41 years and 8 months of age at the time of enlistment. It appears therefore that Patrick had falsified his age at the time of enlistment.

The date of enlistment was, ironically, 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1916. His enlistment form shows that he had previously been rejected for service due to his height.

Patrick's service record shows that he was 5 feet 2 inches tall, weighed 10 stone, dark complexion, grey eyes and black hair. He was allocated the Regimental No. 6439

Patrick was initially assigned to 93 depot and then within the space of days, 89 depot, 24/16 reinforcements and finally, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December 1916 assigned to 18/28 reinforcements.

Patrick embarked A34 "PERSIC" at Fremantle on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December 1916 bound for Devonport (UK) disembarking 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 1917.

It is presumed that Patrick, along with the rest of the contingent, were billeted at Rolleston camp in the UK. This camp was established on Salisbury Plain, which had been a training area for the British Army since 1890.

While at Rolleston Park, records show that Patrick presented with a case of mumps and was admitted to nearby Parkhouse Hospital.

After recovering from his bout of mumps, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 1917, Patrick proceeded to Havre (France). On the 18<sup>th</sup> of July he was taken on strength with the 28<sup>th</sup> battalion at France.

The 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion was in action against German troops in Belgium during September and Patrick sustained a shrapnel wound to the neck, as a result on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 1917, he was admitted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Hospital at Le Tréport (France), staying in that location until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October. From here, Patrick moved to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Convalescence Depot and finally to the 2nd Australian Division Base Depot.

Patrick re-joined the Battalion in the field on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 1917. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of November he was detached to the Deputy Director of Ordnance Services – 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Division.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 1918 Patrick proceeded on leave to England for two weeks, re-joining his unit on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 1918, in France, Patrick sustained multiple shrapnel wounds to the chest and as a result, died one day later.

Patrick is buried in the DAOURS Communal Cemetery Plot 4 Row F Grave 36

In his will, Patrick made the following bequeaths “I give to Thomas Kearney of Nannup all my Property and Cattle, Money and personal belongings and to John Kearney, 8 Bullocks and Dray and also Tackle”

Patrick appointed J.T. Whittle and Chas Kidd, both of Nannup as executors of his will.