



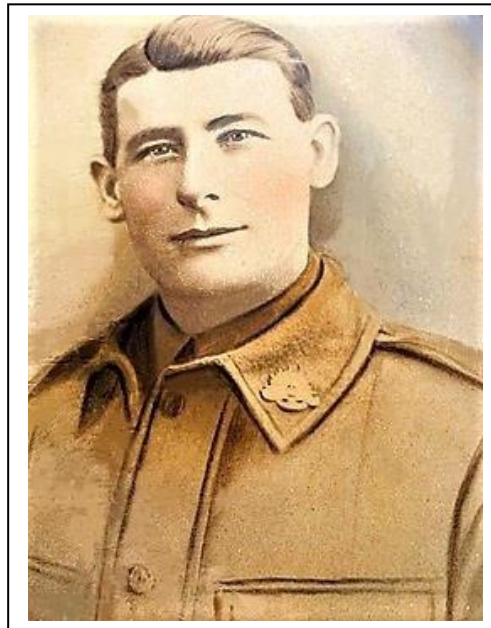
A Soldier of the Great War

Private Harry Burrows 2574

4th Battalion AIF



Lest We Forget.



Private Harry BURROWS

Regimental number	2574
Date of birth	28 February 1893
Place of birth	Newcastle, New South Wales
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Labourer
Address	35 Henry Street, Tighe's Hill, Newcastle, New South Wales
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	21.2
Height	5' 5"
Weight	131 lbs
Next of kin	Mother, Mrs E Burrows, 35 Henry Street, Tighe's Hill, Newcastle, New South Wales
Previous military service	Served for 3 years in Senior Cadets.

Enlistment date 3 August 1915
Place of enlistment Newcastle, New South Wales
Rank on enlistment Private
Unit name 19th Battalion, 6th Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll number 23/36/2
Embarkation details Unit embarked from Sydney, New South Wales, on board
HMAT A14 *Euripides* on 2 November 1915
Rank from Nominal Roll Private
Unit from Nominal Roll 4th Battalion
Recommendations (Medals and Awards) Bar to Military Medal

Conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in carrying
important messages under heavy fire.(East of Ypres 4
October 1917).
Recommendation date: 15 September 1917
Military Medal

Fate
Medals

Courage and valuable services in carrying important
messages under fire.
(East of Ypres 22 September 1917).
Recommendation date: 29 September 1917
Returned to Australia 28 March 1919
Military Medal

'East of YPRES on the 22nd September, 1917, after having
carried messages continuously for 24 hours on and through
heavily shelled country, he was required to convey a
message to the rear through country which was at the time
being very heavily shelled. The message was safely
conveyed and with such expedition that the Battalion
Transport was prevented from coming into a very dangerous
area unnecessarily.'
Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 31
Date: 7 March 1918
Bar to Military Medal

Other details

Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette'
Date: 25 July 1918
War service: Egypt, Western Front

Commenced return to Australia on board HT 'City of Poona',
28 March 1919; disembarked Sydney, 16 May 1919;
discharged (termination of period of enlistment), Sydney, 9
July 1919.

Date of death
Age at death
Place of burial
Sources

Medals: Military Medal & Bar, 1914-15 Star, British War
Medal, Victory Medal
6 August 1960
66
Aberdeen Cemetery, New South Wales
NAA: B2455, BURROWS Harry

Harry Burrows was born in Newcastle on the 28th February 1893.

He worked as a labourer, unmarried and stood about 5.5 feet.
He had spent 3 years as a senior cadet.

On the 3rd August 1915 at the age of 21 years and 2 months he enlisted in the AIF.

H. Burrows, 35, Henry St, Newcastle, N.S.W. 6/8/15

Temporarily attached to 1st Field Coy. Engineers France

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

6th. Rein., 19th. Batt. MM. FA.

No. *247631* Name *BURROWS Harry*
Unit *6th. Rein., 19th. Batt.*
Joined on *3. 8. 15*

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name?	1. <i>Harry Burrows</i>
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born?	2. <i>Woolah</i> in or near the Town of <i>Newcastle</i> in the County of <i>N.S.W.</i>
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)	3. <i>Yes</i>
4. What is your age?	4. <i>21 1/2</i>
5. What is your trade or calling?	5. <i>Labourer</i>
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period?	6. <i>No</i>
7. Are you married?	7. <i>No - Single</i>
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated)	8. <i>Mother - Edith Burrows, 35 Henry St, High Hill, Newcastle, N.S.W.</i>
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power?	9. <i>No</i>
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy?	10. <i>No</i>
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge	11. <i>Senior cadets - 3 yrs (Exempt. 135)</i>
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service?	12. <i>Yes</i>
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds?	13. <i>No</i>
14. Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with Pay would reach eight shillings per day?	14. <i>Yes</i>
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever?	15. <i>Yes</i>

I, *Harry Burrows* do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

* And I further agree to allot not less than *two-fifths* of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my *wife and children* *three-fifths*

Date *3-8-15* Signature of person enlisted. *H. Burrows*

* This clause to be amended where necessary and should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 16 years of age.

National Archives of Australia NAA: B2455, BURROWS H

The Anzacs has been at Gallipoli for 4 months and were suffering heavy losses against a well fortified Turkish Army.

After initial training he embarked Sydney as a private aboard the HMAT A14 Eurpides on the 2nd November 1915. The Anzacs would soon retreat from Gallipoli and gather in Egypt in preparation for the Western Front assault.

He had enlisted in the 19th Battalion 6th reinforcements. He would for a small time be part of the 1st Field Company Engineers and ultimately be part of the 4th Battalion Infantry.

On the 14th February 1916 he disembarked at Tel-El-Kabir and join the Australian armies in Egypt where they would train , be part of a defending force there and prepare for deployment to France. It Was here that he would ultimately be part of the 4th Battalion.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt where the AIF underwent a period of expansion and reorganisation. In March 1916, the 4th Battalion, along with the rest of the 1st Division, was transferred to the European theatre of operations where for the next two and a half years the battalion served in the trenches along the Western Front in France and Belgium.

On the 23rd March the 4th Battalion departed Alexandria for Marseilles arriving on the 30th March and training to Northern France.

In July, Harry and his Battalion would take part in the Battles of Poziere where from July to September 1916 nearly 7000 Australians were killed or died of wounds. Many never were recovered or identified and now lie in commemorative graves all over the Somme.

The Battle of Pozières (23 July – 3 September 1916) took place in northern France around the village of Pozières, during the Battle of the Somme. The costly fighting ended with the British in possession of the plateau north and east of the village, in a position to menace the German bastion of Thiepval from the rear. The Australian official historian Charles Bean wrote that Pozières ridge "is more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth".

Sometime between the 22nd and 27th July 1916 Harry would sustain life threatening injuries. He was initially treated at the 5th field hospital behind the lines at Rouen and then repatriated to the 1st South General Hospital in Birmingham. He had severe gunshot wounds to the head and neck. He would survive the horrors of Pozieres .

By the 11th September he had recovered enough to rejoin the 1st training Battalion at Perham Downs on the Salisbury Plains in England.

He would thereafter finally rejoin his battalion at Etaples in France in mid September 1916.

From here he returned to the field and was part of the 1st Signals Division. He would rotate in and out of the front lines around the Somme region safely until September 1917 when after furlow in England he moved with the 4th Battalion to Belgium. His time in the signals division was to lead to his being awarded a Military Medal and Military Bar for conspicuous bravery under fire.

On the 22nd September 1917 before the Battle of Polygon Wood around Glencourse wood , near Hooge, Harry would carry messages to and from the front ensuring safety of transport battalions. He achieved his Military Cross for this action.

The Battle of Polygon Wood took place from 26 September to 3 October 1917, during the second phase of the Third Battle of Ypres in the First World War. The battle was fought near Ypres in Belgium, in the area from the Menin road to Polygon Wood and thence north, to the area beyond St Julien.[a] Much of the woodland had been destroyed by the huge quantity of shellfire from both sides since 16 July and the area had changed hands several times.

The Third Battle of Ypres (German: *Dritte Flandernschlacht*; French: *Troisième Bataille des Flandres*; Dutch: *Derde Slag om Ieper*), also known as the Battle of Passchendaele (/ˈpæʃəndeɪl/), was a campaign of the First World War, fought by the Allies against the German Empire. [a] The battle took place on the Western Front, from July to November 1917, for control of the ridges south and east of the Belgian city of Ypres in West Flanders, as part of a strategy decided by the Allies at conferences in November 1916 and May 1917. Passchendaele lies on the last ridge east of Ypres, 5 mi (8.0 km) from Roulers (now Roeselare) a junction of the Bruges (Brugge) to Kortrijk railway. The station at Roulers was on the main supply route of the German 4th Army. Once Passchendaele Ridge had been captured, the Allied advance was to continue to a line from Thourout (now Torhout) to Couckelaere (Koekelare).

Then in November 1917 during the Battle of Broodeside Ridge (Passcendale) he would again act gallantly and receive a further citation of a Military Bar attached to his Military Cross. Australia would again lose many soldiers to the wet and muddy conditions of battle.



7
1.

For conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty at BROODSEINDER RIDGE east of YPRES on 4th Oct., 1918th Bn., Military Pte. BURROWS conveyed a message from Battalion Headquarters through our own barrage to the advanced elements of a Company who had gone beyond our barrage. Owing to the dauntless and expeditious manner in which BURROWS carried his message these troops were withdrawn before the protective barrage lifted and increased in intensity and by doing so doubtless saved many lives. He continued to carry messages through barrages of shell fire throughout the remainder of the operation. (Awarded M.M. 20/9/17) C.C., Bar to A.I.F. Medal.

Harry would continue his service safely.

Harry would be wounded in September 1918 but remain in the field. This would occur around Amiens during the final stages of the war.

He would survive some of the greatest battles of the Great War and would take well deserved leave in January 1919 to Paris.

He and his surviving mates would disembark at Weymouth in late January 1919 and finally depart for Australia leaving Southampton on the 28th March 1919.

The vessel "City of Poona" arrived in Sydney on the 16th May 1919.

Harry had survived the Great War but at what cost? 417 000 men and women had enlisted. 60000 would never return. 156 000 would be wounded and scarred for life.

Harry would re enlist on his return in July 1919 and join the Special Services AIF as a Corporal and travel back to London to escort the German Repatriation groups.

He would return and live out his life in Aberdeen in NSW .

His granddaughter Michel Stead remembers him.....

At his funeral men came from everywhere to come and 1 man stood up and on behalf of the 4th Battalion and spoke about Harry.

How he had saved numerous lives while running on his messenger tasks. They claimed he would throw any grenades as he ran if he found any , back at the Germans.

His uniform was always 2 sizes to big as it was more wool to keep him warm as it was so cold compared to Tyes Hill in Newcastle where he was from.

His name is written up on the war memorial at Tyes Hill primary school where he went to school with a MM and Bar proudly named.

His name is also on the RSL club entrance at Aberdeen RSL where he was the first person to enter this club when it was opened.



1914

GREAT WAR

ABERDEEN HONOR ROLL

ALLEN H. J.	+ CRACKNELL D.
ALLEN W.	DALTON CHAS.
ARMSTRONG C.	DALTON C.
ARMSTRONG W.	DURHAM E.
BALL N. C.	DURHAM N.
BAILEY D.	ELDER K.
+ BARTIER R. O.	FIMISTER J.
BARTIER W. C.	FLEMING W. M.
BENSON B.	FLYNN J. A.
BERMAN D.	FLYNN T. M.
BLAYDEN T. W.	FRANCIS S. B.
BOLTON C. P.	FROST J.
BRADY J.	CARDINER E.
BRINDLE J.	CARDINER S.
BROAD S. J.	CARDINER WM.
BROOKS A. R.	+ CARNOR A.
BROWN A.	+ GREEN T.
BROWN J.	+ CUNN H.
BRYAN J.	HARDY L.
BURROWS H.	HARRISON A. V.
+ BUSSELL R. D.	HARRISON L.
BUTTLER J.	HEAD H.
CALNAN H.	+ HENDERSON J.
CALNAN W.	KELLAHER A.
CARR T. C. S.	KIRBY F.
CLARK H. P.	● LESLIE E.
CLAYDON H. A.	MADDEN R. B.
COLLINS R.	MALONEY J. B.

AE

MAL
MAR
MAT
MFA
MFD
MFE
MFI
MFO
MFP
MFS
MFT
MFA
MFB
MFC
MFD
MFE
MFI
MFO
MFP
MFS
MFT

His grave is black granite and has all military honours on it.



On Anzac Day he would go to Sydney every year to March with his mates from the 4th Battalion and this sadly passed when he was sure he had cancer (as a lot of diggers had died that he knew) but when Harry went to hospital they decided to open him up in August of 1960 and he had ulcers and these burst on the operating table and he died there and then.

At his funeral the diggers where shocked , as Harry had returned and met and married Sara Jane Burrows in Aberdeen in the upper Hunter after obtaining a job in the Meat Works there.

He worked as a boner and the reason he went to Aberdeen was because his 2nd sister had married and moved there to marry a dairy farmer.

Sarah was born in Aberdeen and they met there. They had 3 daughters Daphne, Barbra and Margaret of who I am her only child.

He used to SP book-make and liked to go to the pub with his mates and to the RSL. This is when the pubs closed early after work.

My mother remembers every year when he returned from the Anzac March in Sydney as he caught the train down from Aberdeen he always bought a big tin of chocolates back.

He never spoke of his deeds in the war to his family but they did know he was highly decorated as he wore his medals with pride and always said how important it was to always remember the sacrifices of the men who were left behind in France and Belgium.

He said it was sad that the men came back to the flu and the depression and that every pension they got from the government was deserved especially for the war widows.

He passed away on the 6th August 1960 aged 67 years old.
He is buried in Aberdeen Cemetery.

He served with courage and bravery and survived horrific circumstances.

Lest we forget.

Military Medal

'East of YPRES on the 22nd September, 1917, after having carried messages continuously for 24 hours on and through heavily shelled country, he was required to convey a message to the rear through country which was at the time being very heavily shelled. The message was safely conveyed and with such expedition that the Battalion Transport was prevented from coming into a very dangerous area unnecessarily.'

Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 31

Date: 7 March 1918

Bar to Military Medal

Conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in carrying important messages under heavy fire.(East of Ypres 4 October 1917).

Recommendation date: 15 September 1918

