

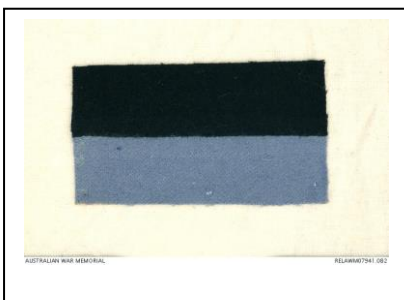


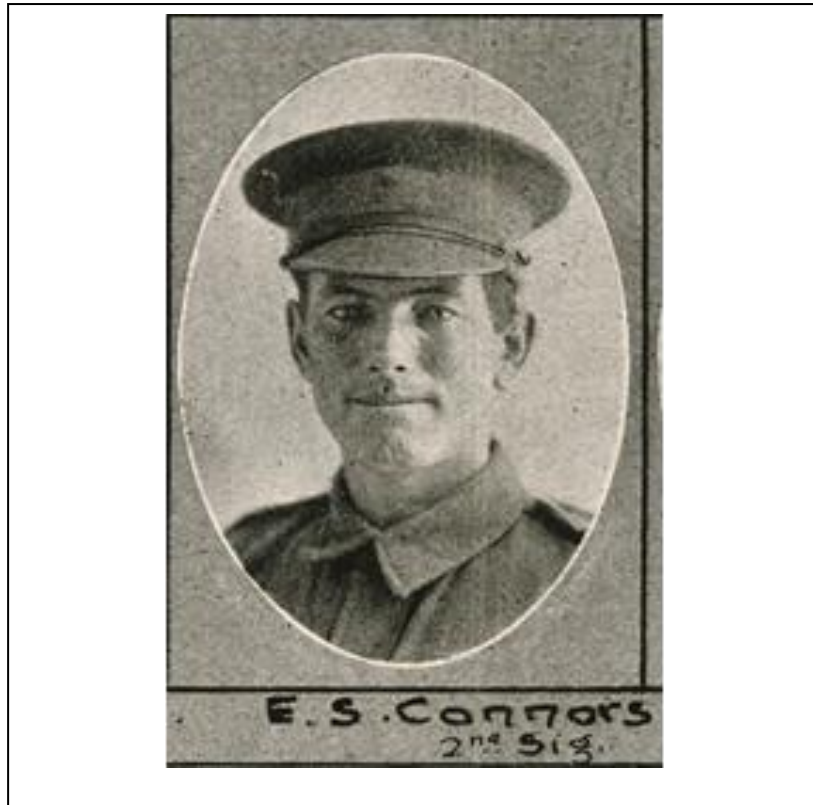
# A Soldier of the Great War

## Gunner Erice Sylvester Connors

### 11<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade AIF

Regimental number	4474
Place of birth	Berry, New South Wales
Religion	Roman Catholic
Occupation	Carter
Address	Gotha Street, Valley, Brisbane, Queensland
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	23
Next of kin	Sister, Mrs E Bates, 76 Gotha Street, Valley, Brisbane, Queensland
Enlistment date	28 September 1915
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	<a href="#">9th Battalion, 14th Reinforcement</a>
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/26/4
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Brisbane, Queensland, on board HMAT A62 <i>Wandilla</i> on 31 January 1916
Rank from Nominal Roll	Gunner
Unit from Nominal Roll	11th Field Artillery Brigade
Other details from Roll of Honour Circular	Enlisted 28 September 1915 - 14th Rfcts. 9 Bn. TOS 11 FAS 17 June 1916
Fate	Killed in Action 30 December 1916
Place of death or wounding	Somme, France
Age at death	24
Place of burial	No known grave
Commemoration details	
Panel number, Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial	16
Family/military connections	Brother: 639 WO II Cyril Ernest CONNORS, 6th Light Horse Regiment, returned to Australia, 15 November 1918.
Other details	War service: Western Front
	Medals: British War Medal, Victory Medal





*The 9th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. It was the first battalion recruited in Queensland, and with the 10th, 11th and 12th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade.*

*The battalion was raised within weeks of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After preliminary training, the battalion sailed to Egypt, arriving in early December. The 3rd Brigade was the covering force for the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915, and so was the first ashore at around 4.30 am. The battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the front line of the ANZAC beachhead. It served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December 1915.*

*After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. It was split to help form the 49th Battalion and brought up to strength with reinforcements. In March 1916 the battalion sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley. The 9th Battalion attacked on the extreme right of the line and it was during this action that Private John Leak won, with the bayonet, the battalion's only Victoria Cross. Later the battalion fought at Ypres, in*

*Flanders, before returning to the Somme for winter. In 1917 the battalion moved back to Belgium for the advance to the Hindenburg Line, and in March and April 1918 helped stop the German spring offensive. The battalion participated in the great allied offensive of 1918 and fought near Amiens on 8 August. The advance by British and empire troops was the greatest success in a single day on the Western Front, one that German General Erich Ludendorff described as "the black day of the German Army in this war".*

*The battalion continued operations until late September 1918. At 11 am on 11 November 1918, the guns fell silent. The November armistice was followed by the peace treaty of Versailles, signed on 28 June 1919.*

*In November 1918 members of the AIF began to return to Australia for demobilisation and discharge. On 5 February 1919, the 9th and 10th Battalions were amalgamated.*

**Erice Sylvester Connors**, also known as 'Ted', was born at Fair Meadow outside of Berry, NSW, in 1892, the youngest child of Thomas Connors and Susannah Connors (nee Hukins). He would have grown up on the family farm, helping his father tend to the dairy cows kept on the property when not being schooled. He was a keen participant in local events, having placed first in the 'wheelbarrow' and '75 yard sack races' during the 1906 Public Schools Carnival in Berry. He also placed 2nd in the 'throwing at wicket' competition, hinting at a keen interest in the game of cricket his brothers also played regularly. At some stage thereafter, most likely after his parents passed away in 1910, he relocated to the North Coast of NSW where the majority of his living brothers resided. His elder brothers William and James had passed on in 1907, but John, Cyril and Fred had all moved to the Richmond River area. His eldest sister (18 years older than him) had also moved to Brisbane with her husband John Bates.

Erice would enlist for the Great War on 28 September 1915. His older brother Cyril had by that time been serving with the 6th Lighthorse Regiment on Gallipoli (Cyril would survive Gallipoli and later transfer to the Imperial Camel Corps, before eventually returning to Australia after the War). When he enlisted, Erice was living in Gotha Street, Brisbane, the home of his sister Mary. Of note, the next entry after Erice in the Embarkation Roll was Walter Eugene Cleaver - also recorded as living at Gotha Street with his next in kin, Mrs Geo. Bates. Mary Connors had married John Bates, so perhaps Walter Cleaver was an in-law...

Erice was initially enlisted in the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion 14<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements and would embark aboard the HMAT Wandilla from Brisbane on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1915, (just as the Anzacs had withdrawn from Gallipoli) arriving in Alexandria Egypt on 5 March 1916. The AIF was being prepared for France at this time and much time was spent in Egypt awaiting the commands to proceed. Five days later he was taken on strength by the 11th Field Artillery Brigade, assigned the rank of gunner and posted to the Brigade Ammunition Column.



### **11<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery**

**The 11th Field Artillery Brigade** formed in Egypt in early 1916 to support the newly raised 4th Division. It went on to serve in Egypt: Defence of Egypt, Western Front: Retreat to the Hindenburg Line, Bullecourt, Messines, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele, Villers Bretonneux, Hamel, Amiens, Albert, Hindenburg Line.

- 11th Field Artillery Brigade February 1916 – past November 1918
  - 41st Field Artillery Battery
  - 42nd Field Artillery Battery
  - 43rd Field Artillery Battery
  - 111th Field Artillery (Howitzer) Battery
  - 11th Brigade Ammunition Column

The term Brigade in the WW1 Artillery context is confusing - it more closely approximates a Battalion in terms of manpower. Each Field Artillery Brigade generally initially comprised three Batteries of four 18 Pounder Mk 1 or II guns. With a range of about 6,500 yards (almost 6km) they fired a range of ammunition natures including High Explosive fragmentation, Shrapnel, Smoke, Gas, Star (illumination) and Armour Piercing projectiles. For the record, most gas used in WW 1 was fired from specialised low velocity projectors operated by Engineers.

Napoleon Bonaparte, a gunner himself, famously described Artillery as "the God of War" because of the effect that its fire can bring to bear on the battlefield. In WW 1 on the Western Front, artillery

*dominated and defined the battlefield. In concert with the weather, it turned the terrain into the pulverised devastated quagmire that is so synonymous with that period and place.*

*Artillery inflicted the most casualties and battle space damage and instilled the most fear among opposing forces. Its effect was both physical and psychological, with the term 'shell shock' coming into general use early in the war. Artillery required a Herculean logistic effort to keep ammunition up to the guns from manufacture to the gun line. It was also a very dangerous occupation, attracting the attention of the enemy, the general result of which was 'counter battery fire' designed to neutralise and destroy gun positions and ammunition.*

*At the outbreak of the War, Australian Artillery was in short supply in both quantitative and qualitative terms.*

*The standard field gun was the British 18 pounder (so-called because of the weight of the high explosive shell). When the AIF embarked, its artillery was light-on indeed. As it turned out the scope to use it at Gallipoli was extremely constrained anyway so it mattered less than had the AIF gone straight to Europe, where artillery was the definitive feature of the battlefield.*

*At ANZAC, guns were deployed singly purely because of a lack of suitable fire positions. The 18 pounders were the first into action but later an improvised heavy Battery was formed with two 6 inch (150mm) howitzers and a 4.7 inch (120mm) Naval Quick Firing gun.*

*Artillery units had arguably the least intuitive structure and organisation of any of the major Corps in the AIF. This in part reflected changing priority and availability of equipment.*

*The standard organisation of Field Artillery took on the form of the Field Artillery Brigade (FAB) which were formed ostensibly to support infantry Brigades. In 1914 and 1915 the First and Second Division each had three FAB (initially corresponding to the Infantry Brigade numeric designation) equipped with 12 x 18 pounder field guns. On arrival in France, the artillery was reorganised with each FAB having 12 x 18 pounders and 4 x 4.5 inch howitzers. There was initially a lack of howitzers available to meet the establishment.*

*As the war progressed, concentration became the name of the game to facilitate command and control at the highest level. Later a range of independent Batteries equipped with specialised weapons like Siege Artillery, Heavy Howitzers and Medium and Heavy Mortars were added to the mix generally at Division level or higher. The allocation of their fire support was managed accordingly. See the entry for Divisional artillery for further information.*

*In March 1916 a fourth battery of four 18 pounder field guns was added. At the same time a Howitzer Brigade was raised for each division with 12 x 4.5 inch howitzers each.*

*In January 1917, batteries were increased in size to 6 guns each in order to economise on headquarters structures and the number of FAB in each division was reduced to two. Six gun batteries persist to this day in Australian Artillery units. The third FAB in each Division was re-assigned to Army level control (ie 3rd, 6th, 9th, 12th and 15th FAB were re-assigned under command of HQ Army Artillery).*

The 11th FAB had been formed in February 1916 and was attached to the 4th Division AIF. Erice was assigned to the 43rd battery. On 1 July 1916 he finally sailed for France aboard the HMT Haverford. The ship docked at Marseilles on the 10th of July, and Erice entrained for Le Havre by 2pm that afternoon for a three day train ride. On 20 June 1916 he was transferred to the 11th FAB HQ where he was

designated a signaller, where he would have been responsible for communications within the Brigade, possibly laying signal lines between HQ and the various batteries. The early battalions were engaged around Armentieres in the "Nursery Sector " as it had been known to prepare them for future engagement. Many though Gallipoli had been difficult but they were yet to engage on the Western Front. The Australians were to suffer terrible losses at both Fromelles and Pozieres in the coming months. The Brigade first entered the line at Fleurbaix in the Fromelles sector on 4 July 1916, and 2 days later had its first taste of battle when shelled by enemy artillery for 2 hours. The Brigade returned first during the next few days, with the 43rd battery, Erice's former battery, destroying a girl's convent being used by the enemy. On 13 July 1916 the Brigade retired to billets at Croix du Bac, but returned to its former position in the lines within a few days. Between 19 & 20 July it supported the 5th Division AIF in its attack at Fromelles, and on 22 July was attached to the New Zealand Division and moved north to Armentieres where it stayed in the line until 3 August. The Brigade undertook further training until 23 August 1916 when it proceeded to Dickebusch near Ypres to take over from the 6th FAB of the Canadian 2nd Division. This area was in the vicinity of Pozieres which had been taken by AIF troops in recent weeks. The 11th FAB stayed in the line until 18 September when it was relieved. About this time Erice was invalided to the Australian Field Ambulance for a short while, his teeth giving him trouble. The next couple of months represented a similar affair for the unit, with stints in and out of the lines. On 14 November 1916 the Brigade undertook a six day march from Boeschepe to Naours where it would eventually be held in reserve until 21 December 1916. During the cold winter soldiers would be involved in many activities and even had some time off. The Naours caves was a visiting spot and over 2000 signatures were left on the cave walls at this time. Maybe Erice may have left his name there still to be discovered. At that time his battalion took the line just north of Flers, itself not far from Pozieres. The Germans welcomed them promptly with a heavy bombardment on 22 December 1916. Shrapnel fire was sustained, and the Brigade subsequently engaged in an artillery duel with the enemy on Christmas Eve. By Boxing Day the enemy had accurately registered its guns on the Brigade, and the Australians were convinced their own gun flashes were visible to the Germans except in extremely foggy weather, of which there was much. The conditions on the Somme were horrendous at the time, with the winter of 1916/17 being the worst in 40 years. On 28 December 1916 an enemy airplane attacked the Brigade, firing its machine guns into the Batteries. Two days later, on 30 December 1916, the Germans open a tremendous fire on the Brigade, whose positions it had ranged. The fire around HQ was very heavy throughout both morning and evening. At 4pm a shell hit one of the HQ dugouts where Erice was sheltering with a number of soldiers. Erice was killed instantly along with a number of other soldiers including Kenneth Taylor and Paddy McGrath. 344 other Australians would be killed that month.

*The Red Cross Wounded & Missing Files have a number of records concerning his death. Their very existence suggests that enquiries were being made by homebound*

*relatives obviously devastated by the news of Erice's death. These records indicate that Erice was acting as Signaller for Brigade HQ at the time he was killed, to the left of Flers, and that he was later buried in the vicinity of the town. Death had been instantaneous. It appears he may have been enjoying a coffee at the time, with two colleagues (Ken Taylor and John 'Paddy' McGrath) when the dugout they were in suffered a direct hit from a 5.9" shell. All occupants were killed.*

***The Red Cross records also indicate clearly that all three soldiers and perhaps one more were killed instantly and there may have been very little evidence remaining. The records also indicate an eye witness who assisted to bury the remains of the 3 soldiers in one grave with a cross erected above the grave.***

A number of reports clearly indicate that the three soldiers were in fact buried together.

For some reason the Brigade's War Diary notes only Taylor and McGrath having been casualties, which may be an indication of the damage wrought by the shell that hit the dugout and the lack of remains.

Burials often occurred in the field near where the soldiers died. These graves were often destroyed later as the war ravaged.

Kenneth Taylor (one of the 3 men who died that day) now rests in a cemetery close to Flers while Erice Connors and Paddy McGrath are remembered on the Australian Memorial at Villers Brettoneux as soldiers with no known grave.

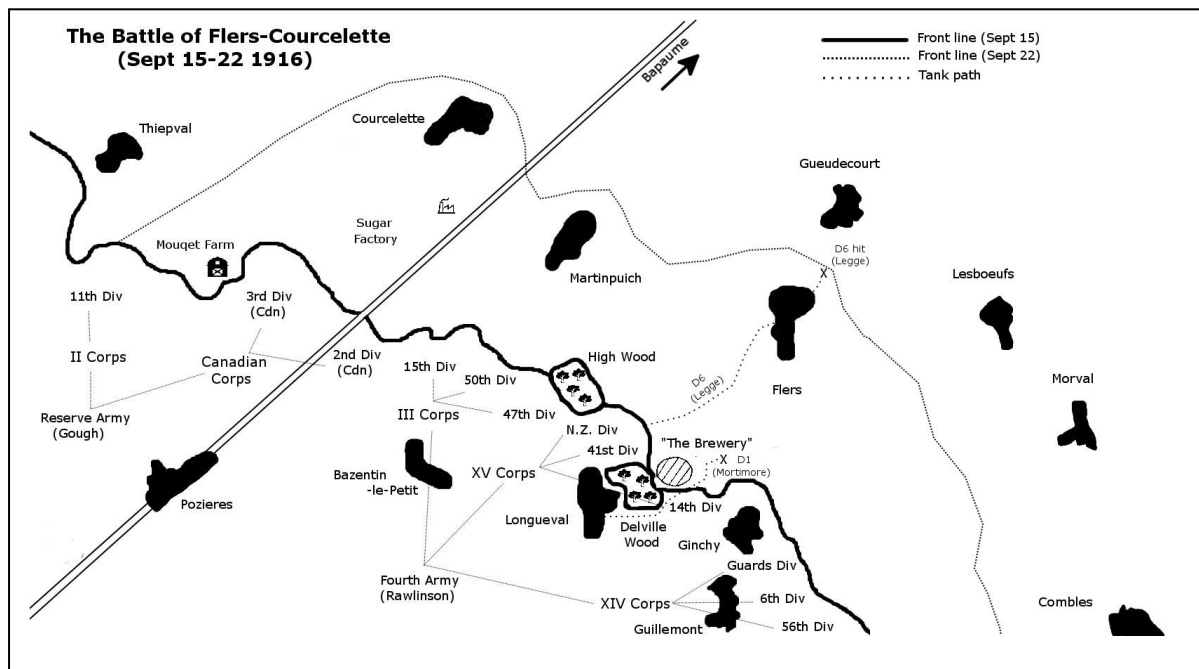
## ***The Battle of Flers***

*The village of Flers, in the Somme valley in France, gave its name to a series of attacks launched by 1 ANZAC in November 1916. By this time the Somme battlefield had been deluged with rain and the attacks were made in atrocious conditions. The attacking waves of troops were sucked down by the cloying mud and thus, unable to keep up with their creeping artillery barrage, became easy targets for German machine-gunners and riflemen.*



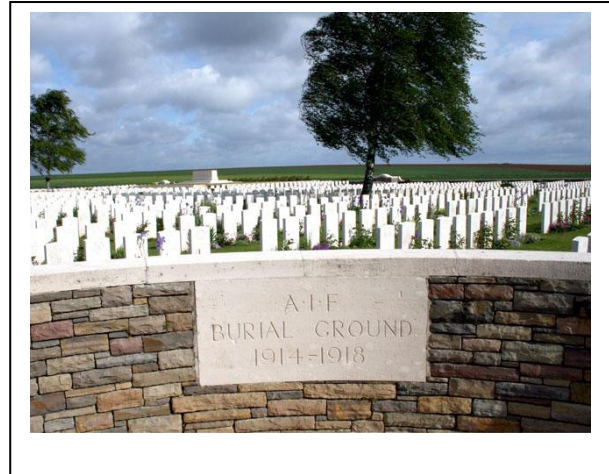
*Flers was captured on 15 September 1916, in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette, when it was entered by the New Zealand and 41st Divisions behind tanks, the innovative new weapons that were used here for the first time. The first Flers attack was launched on 5 November with the 1st Brigade advancing against trenches north of Gueudecourt, and the 7th against a complex of trenches known as "the Maze". Both attacks managed to capture some of their objectives, but were eventually forced to withdraw. Another attack was launched against the Maze by the 5th and 7th Brigades on the morning of 17 November, it also succeeded in capturing a portion of the German trenches, but a surprise attack two days later returned this to the enemy.*

*The village was lost during the German advance of March 1918 and retaken at the end of the following August by the 10th West Yorks and the 6th Dorsets of the 17th Division.*



**The A.I.F. Burial Ground** is 2 Kms north of the village of Flers, in the Department of the Somme. Travel south-west of Bapaume on the D929 in the direction of Albert for 6 Kms to the village of Le Sars. Turn left eastwards on the D11 in the direction of Geudecourt for 3.5 Kms to the D74/D197 junction. Continue along the D74 in the direction of Geudecourt for 500 metres when a CWGC signpost will be seen indicating the A.I.F. Burial Ground along a track to the right.





***THE AIF BURIAL GROUND GRASS LANE CEMETERY was begun by Australian medical units, posted in the neighbouring caves, in November 1916-February 1917. These original graves are in Plot I, Rows A and B. It was very greatly enlarged after the Armistice when almost 4,000 Commonwealth and French graves were brought in from the battlefields of the Somme, and later from a wider area. The following were among the burial grounds from which Commonwealth graves were taken to this cemetery:- FACTORY CORNER, FLERS, a little West of the crossing of the roads from Eaucourt-L'Abbaye to Gueudecourt and from Flers to Ligny-Thillois.***

***This place, which had been a German Headquarters for Artillery and Engineers and had a German Cemetery, was taken by the 1st Canterbury Infantry Regiment on the 25th September 1916, and again by the 7th East Yorks on the 27th August 1918. Fifteen soldiers from the United Kingdom and 13 from Australia were buried here in October 1916 - March 1917, and in August 1918. NORTH ROAD CEMETERY, FLERS, North-West of the village, at the crossing of the Eaucourt-L'Abbaye road with "North Road" (to Factory Corner). Here were buried, in the winter of 1916-17, 13 Australian soldiers and seven from the United Kingdom.***

***The great majority of the graves in A.I.F. Burial Ground date from the autumn of 1916, but one is from 1914, and there are others from the spring of 1917 and the spring and summer of 1918. There are now 3,475 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 2,263 of the burials are unidentified and there are special memorials to 23 casualties known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of three casualties buried in a cemetery at Flers, whose graves could not be found. The cemetery also contains 170 French and 3 German war graves. The cemetery was designed by Sir Herbert Baker.***

If in fact the 3 soldiers were buried in one grave together due to the lack of remains and the grave was lost during subsequent battles then it is extremely possible that

when the surrounding area was dealt with by Australian Grave parties consolidating cemeteries after the war that when the grave of the three was found, the only recognizable remains may have been of Kenneth Taylor. He was recognised by a headstone while both Erice and Paddy were considered lost and unknown.

Could the remains of the 3 all lie in the one grave with the Taylor headstone?

Erice's sister, Mary Ellen Bates (nee Connors) was the NOK notified of his death, as the Army was unable to locate his brother. Erice's name is listed on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial in France, and also on the Berry War Memorial in NSW. He has no known grave. For some reason official records incorrectly noted the spelling of Erice's name as Eric. This was reproduced on the Villers memorial noted, however, the Commonwealth War Graves electronic memorial now records the correct spelling. The Memorial Plaque issued to his sister Mary also incorrectly spelt Erice's name. The whereabouts of this plaque, and the medals which Erice would have been entitled to, are unknown.

## Erice's Brother Cyril....

### Cyril Ernest CONNORS

Regimental number	639
Date of birth	23 April 1890
Place of birth	Berry, New South Wales
Enlistment date	1 October 1914
Rank from Nominal Roll	Warrant Officer II
Unit from Nominal Roll	6th Light Horse Regiment
Fate	Returned to Australia 15 November 1918
Family/military connections	Brother: 4474 Gunner Erice Sylvester CONNORS, 11th Field Artillery Brigade, killed in action, 30 December 1916.
Other details	Medals: 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal  Also served in World War II: enlisted Adamstown, New South Wales, 19 January 1942; died, N393474 Pte HQ, Volunteer Defence Corps, New South Wales, 18 June 1942.
Miscellaneous details	Name does not appear on Embarkation Roll.
Date of death	18 June 1942
Age at death	52

The men killed with Erice on the 30<sup>th</sup> December 1917.....

## Kenneth Robert TAYLOR

Regimental number	5132
Place of birth	Taringa, Queensland
School	Taringa State School, Queensland
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Clerk
Address	Westminster Road, Indooroopilly, Brisbane, Queensland
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	18
Next of kin	Father, Frederick William Taylor, Westminster Road, Indooroopilly, Brisbane, Queensland
Previous military service	Served in the Compulsory Military Training scheme.
Enlistment date	13 June 1915
Date of enlistment from Nominal Roll	14 June 1915
Rank on enlistment	Gunner
Unit name	<a href="#">Field Artillery Brigade 3, Reinforcement 9</a>
AWM Embarkation Roll number	13/31/2
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT A70 <i>Ballarat</i> on 9 September 1915
Rank from Nominal Roll	Bombardier
Unit from Nominal Roll	11th Field Artillery Brigade
Fate	Killed in Action 30 December 1916
Place of death or wounding	Flers, France
Age at death	18.7
Age at death from cemetery records	18
Place of burial	A.I.F. Burial Ground, Grass Lane (Plot III, Row K, Grave No. 10), Flers, France
Panel number, Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial	17
Miscellaneous information from cemetery records	Parents: Frederick William and Mabel Annette TAYLOR, "Woy Woy", Stanley Terrace, Taringa, Queensland

# John McGrath

Regimental number	1997
Place of birth	Waterford, Ireland
Religion	Roman Catholic
Occupation	Gardener
Address	Lawrence McGrath (brother), 90 Dryburgh Street, North Melbourne, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	28
Next of kin	Mother, Mrs J McGrath, Dungarvan, Waterford, Ireland
Enlistment date	9 July 1915
Place of enlistment	Melbourne, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	<a href="#">8th Light Horse Regiment, 14th Reinforcement</a>
AWM Embarkation Roll number	10/13/3
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT A1 <i>Hymettus</i> on 27 January 1916
Fate	Killed in Action 30 December 1916
Place of burial	No known grave
Panel number, Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial	17
Sources	<a href="#">NAA: B2455, McGRATH John</a>



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20794

AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 4444

Name Connors Eric Sylvester

Unit 14th/9th Reinforcements

11th Y A-B

Joined on 28/9/15

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. What is your Name?   | 1. <u>Eric Sylvester Connors</u>   |
| 2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born?  | 2. In the Parish of _____ in or<br>near the Town of <u>Berry</u><br>in the County of <u>N.S. Wales</u> |
| 3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.)   | 3. <u>Natural born British</u>   |
| 4. What is your age?  | 4. <u>23 years - 6 months</u>  |
| 5. What is your trade or calling?   | 5. <u>Brick Layer</u>  |
| 6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period?  | 6. <u>No.</u>  |
| 7. Are you married?   | 7. <u>No.</u>  |
| 8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated)  | 8. <u>Sister - Mrs G. Bates</u><br><u>76 Gough Street</u><br><u>Valley Brisbane</u>                    |
| 9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power?   | 9. <u>No.</u>  |
| 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. <u>No.</u>   |
| 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. <u>No.</u>   |
| 12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service?  | 12. <u>Yes</u>   |
| 13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds?   | 13. <u>No.</u>   |
| 14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)—<br>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. _____  |
| 15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever?  | 15. <u>Yes</u>   |

I, Eric Sylvester Connors 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.\*†

Date Sept 28/15

Signed E. S. Connors  
Signature of person enlisted.

D. 377/1-15.—C. 665. \*This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age. †Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.



11th, Field Artillery Brigade.  
Casualty Form—Active Service.

Army Form B. 103.

Regiment or Corps 11th, R.F.A., 9th, Bn.

4474.

Regimental No. 4474 Rank Pte. Gunner. Name CONNORS. Eric. Sylvester.Enlisted (a) 20-10-15 Terms of Service (a) \_\_\_\_\_ Service reckons from (a) \_\_\_\_\_Date of promotion { \_\_\_\_\_ Date of appointment { \_\_\_\_\_ Numerical position on { \_\_\_\_\_  
to present rank { \_\_\_\_\_ to lance rank { \_\_\_\_\_ roll of N.C.Os. { \_\_\_\_\_

Extended \_\_\_\_\_ Re-engaged \_\_\_\_\_ Qualification (b) \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Report		Place	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
	From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.			
	O.C.				
	Troops.	Disembarked Ex WANDILLA.	Alexandria	5-3-16.	A.P.6116.
21-4-16.	B.213. 11th.BAC	Taken on strength of 11th. F.A.Bde.mustered Gunner & posted to B.A.C.	Serapeum.	21-4-16.	B.213.A.L.1136. D.O.4/541.
	O.C.H.M.T. HAVERFORD.	Proceeded to join B.E.F. Disembarked at	Alexandria	1-6-16.	A.P.8595.
			Marseilles.	10-6-16.	L.R.5769.
27-5-16.	O.C.43rd	Trans to 43rd,Battery.	Serapeum.	24-5-16	A.L.1716. D.O.8/1324.
20-6-16.	"	Trans.to 11th,FAB.HdQrs.	France.	17-6-16.	B.213.A.Q.673. D.O.9/1460.
16-9-16.	O.C.11th Can.F.Amb.	To duty from Field.Amb. "Dental."	France.	8-9-16.	E.D.2921.
6-1-17.	C.O.11th. F.A.B.	Killed in Action.	In the Field	30-12-16.	B.213.D27/1. D.O.3/180. V.L.227.14-1-17.

ANXAC SECTION 3RD,Echelon.G.H.Q.

(SGD.) S.H. CRAWFORD

.....Lieut.

British Expeditionary Force

Officer I/C.Records.

D.P.O

kept and maintained; and that I will in all matters appertaining to my service,  
faithfully discharge my duty according to law.

So HELP ME, God.

Signed E. S. Connors

Signature of Person Enlisted.

Taken and subscribed at Alexandria inthe State of New South Walesthis 18<sup>th</sup> day \_\_\_\_\_ ofSeptember 1916, before me—Signed J. H. Walker. Lt.

Signature of Attesting Officer.

\* A person enlisting who objects to taking an oath may make an affirmation in accordance with the Third Schedule of the Act, and the above form must be amended accordingly. All amendments must be initialed by the Attesting Officer.

# FIELD SERVICE.

Army Form B. 2090A.

REPORT of Death of a Soldier to be forwarded to the War Office with the least possible delay after receipt of notification of death on Army Form B. 213 or Army Form A. 36, or from other official documentary sources.

REGIMENT (11th Field Artillery Bde. Squadron, Troop, Battery or Company) 11th F.A. Bde. Hdqrs.  
 Report No. 4474 Rank Gunner.  
 Surname CONNORS. Christian Names Erice. Sylvester.

Died { Date December 30th. 1916. Place France.  
 Cause of Death\* Killed in Action.

Nature and Date of Report A.F.B. 213. dated January 6th. 1917.

By whom made Commanding Officer 11th Field Artillery Brigade.

\* Specially state if killed in action, or died from wounds received in action, or from illness due to field operations or to fatigue, privation or exposure while on military duty, or from injury while on military duty.

Burial { Place Particulars not yet to hand. Date ) -  
 By whom reported -

State whether he leaves (a) in Pay Book (Army Book 64) Will not Received (b) in Small Book (if at Base) ) -  
 a Will or not (c) as a separate document -

All private documents and effects received from the front or hospital, as well as the Pay Book, should be examined, and if any will is found it should be at once forwarded to the War Office.

Any information received as to verbal expressions by a deceased soldier of his wishes as to the disposal of his estate should be reported to the War Office as soon as possible.

A duplicate of this Report is to be sent to the Fixed Centre Paymaster at Home, or to the D.F.A.G., Indian Expeditionary Force, or Field Disbursing Officer, as the case may require, together with the Deceased's Pay Book (after withdrawal of any will from the latter). If the deceased's Small Book is at the Base, it should be forwarded to the War Office with this Report.

Anzac Section 3rd Echelon G.H.Q.

Station and Date B.E.F. 16-2-17. Signature of Officer in charge of Section Adjutant-General's Office at the Base M. Crawford Lieut. Officer I/C Records.

(1332) Wt. 5710/M745 400,000 2/16 JFW (E328) Forms/B2090A/2

ulcers; traces of corporal punishment, or evidence of having been marked with the letters D. or B.C.; contracted or deformed chest; abnormal curvature of spine; or any other disease or physical defect calculated to unfit him for the duties of a soldier.

He can see the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs; and he declares he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him fit for active service.

Date Sept 28th 1915

Place Tienon

Signature A. Lancerche

Signature of Examining Medical Officer.

## CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.

I CERTIFY that this Attestation of the above-named person is correct, and that the required forms have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Place \_\_\_\_\_

Commanding \_\_\_\_\_

D. 577/4.15.—C. 4687.



11th Field Art. BDE Army Form B. 103. 4474

**Casualty Form - Active Service.**

Regiment or Corps 11th Field Art. Bde Rank Pte Name CONNORS, Erice Sylvester

Regimental No. 4474 Enlisted (a) 20-10-15 Terms of Service (a) \_\_\_\_\_ Service reckons from (a) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of promotion to present rank \_\_\_\_\_ Date of appointment to lance rank \_\_\_\_\_ Numerical position on roll of N.C.O's. \_\_\_\_\_

Extended \_\_\_\_\_ Re-engaged \_\_\_\_\_ Qualification (b) \_\_\_\_\_

Report Date	From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
	O.C. Troops	Disembarked ex WANDILLA	ALEXANDRIA	5-3-16	A.P.6116
21-4-16.	B.213. 11th BAC	Taken on strength of 11th Bde. Mustered Gunner & posted to B.A.C.	Serapeum	21-4-16.	B.213. A.L.1136. D.O.4/541
	O.C.H.M.T.	Proceed to Join BEF	Alexandria	1-6-16	AP 8595
	HAVERFORD	Disembarked	Marseilles	10-6-16	LR 5769
27-5-16.	O.C. 43rd	Trans. to 43rd Battery	Serapeum	24-5-16.	A.L.1716. D.O.5/1324
20-6-16.	"	Trans. to 11th FAB. HdQrs.	France	17-6-16.	B.213. A.Q.673. D.O.9/1460
16-9-16.	O.C. 11th Can. F. Amb.	To duty from Field Amb. "Dental."	"	8-9-16.	E.D.2921.
6-1-17.	O.C. 11th F.A.B.	Killed in Action	In the Field	30-12-16	B.213. D.27/1. V.L.227.14-1-17. D.O.3/180

ANXAC SECTION 3RD Echelon G.H.Q. British Expeditionary Force. 22-17

ORIGINAL Copies forwarded to Defence Headquarters and Headquarters I.F. London. Officer I/C Records. Lieut. P.T.O.

11th Field Artillery Brigade. Army Form B. 103. 4474.

**Casualty Form - Active Service.**

Regiment or Corps 11th Field Art. Bde Rank Pte Name CONNORS, Erice Sylvester

Regimental No. 4474 Enlisted (a) 20-10-15 Terms of Service (a) \_\_\_\_\_ Service reckons from (a) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of promotion to present rank \_\_\_\_\_ Date of appointment to lance rank \_\_\_\_\_ Numerical position on roll of N.C.O's. \_\_\_\_\_

Extended \_\_\_\_\_ Re-engaged \_\_\_\_\_ Qualification (b) \_\_\_\_\_

Report Date	From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
	O.C. Troops	Disembarked Ex WANDILLA.	Alexandria	5-3-16.	A.P.6116.
21-4-16.	B.213. 11th BAC	Taken on strength of 11th Bde. Mustered Gunner & posted to B.A.C.	Serapeum	21-4-16.	B.213. A.L.1136. D.O.4/541.
	O.C.H.M.T. HAVERFORD	Proceeded to join B.E.F. Disembarked at	Alexandria	1-6-16.	A.P.8595.
			Marseilles	10-6-16.	L.R.5769.
27-5-16.	O.C. 43rd	Trans to 43rd Battery.	Serapeum	24-5-16	A.L.1716. D.O.8/1324.
20-6-16.	"	Trans. to 11th FAB. HdQrs.	France	17-6-16.	B.213. A.Q.673. D.O.9/1460.
16-9-16.	O.C. 11th Can. F. Amb.	To duty from Field Amb. "Dental."	France	8-9-16.	E.D.2921.
6-1-17.	O.C. 11th F.A.B.	Killed in Action.	In the Field	30-12-16.	B.213. D.27/1. V.L.227.14-1-17. D.O.3/180.

ANXAC SECTION 3RD Echelon G.H.Q. British Expeditionary Force. 22-17

ORIGINAL Copies forwarded to Defence Headquarters and Headquarters I.F. London. Officer I/C Records. Lieut. P.T.O.

NV.

G.R.1892/21/71.

D.16.

C O P Y

4474. Gnr. CONNORS E.S. 11th F.A.B., A.I.F.  
Killed in Action 30.12.18.

The only information obtainable with reference to the above is that he was at the time of his death a signaller on Bde. H.Qrs. He was killed on the left of Flers, death being instantaneous and that he was buried in the vicinity of Flers.

(Sgd) .....Lt.  
Commanding Officer.  
11th F.A.B.



# FIELD SERVICE.

Army Form B. 2090A.

REPORT of Death of a Soldier to be forwarded to the War Office with the least possible delay after receipt of notification of death on Army Form B. 213 or Army Form A. 36, or from other official documentary sources.

REGIMENT } 11th. Field Artillery Bde. Squadron, Troop, } 11th. F.A. Bde. Hdqrs.  
OR CORPS } Battery or Company }

Regimental No. 4474 Rank Gunner.

Surname CONNORS. Christian Names Eric. Sylvester.

Died { Date December 30th. 1916. Place France.

Cause of Death\* Killed in Action.

Nature and Date of Report A.F.B. 213. dated January 6th. 1917.

By whom made Commanding Officer 11th. Field Artillery Brigade.

\* Specially state if killed in action, or died from wounds received in action, or from illness due to field operations or to fatigue, privation or exposure while on military duty, or from injury while on military duty.

Particulars not yet to hand. ) -

Burial { Place - Date -

By whom reported -

State whether he leaves { (a) in Pay Book (Army Book 64) Will not (b) in Small Book (if at Base) Received ) -

a Will or not { (c) as a separate document -

All private documents and effects received from the front or hospital, as well as the Pay Book, should be examined, and if any will is found it should be at once forwarded to the War Office.

Any information received as to verbal expressions by a deceased soldier of his wishes as to the disposal of his estate should be reported to the War Office as soon as possible.

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Anzac Section 3rd. Echelon. G.H.Q.

Station and { B.E.F. Signature of Officer in charge of Section } W. Crawford Lieut.  
Date { 16-2-17. Adjutant-General's Office at the Base } Officer I/C. Records.

(1332) Wt. 5710/M745 400,000 8/16 JFW [E328] Forms/B2090A/2

<b>C O N N O R S</b>	<b>Eric Sylvester</b>	<b>4474</b>	<b>14/9th/Bn</b>
Surname.	Other Names	Regimental No.	Unit.
REPORT.			AUTHORITY.
Embarked at Brisbane on H.M.A.T. A62 "Wandilla" 31.1.16			
PTE			
16/4/16 Trans. to 4th Div. Artill. Serapeum (Details)			MEFO 7/1-16
21.4.16. Taken on strength 11th F.A.B. mustered Gunner and posted to 11th B.A.C.			MEFO 4.2.16.
30.12.16. KILLED IN ACTION In the Field.			T.S. IE 137.49.17.
24/5/16 Transferred to 43rd Bty Serapeum (VT)			MEFO 8/1-16
30/12/16 KILLED IN ACTION			MEFO 3/3-17

E.G.

1st February, 1919.

DESPATCHED

Dear Madam,

With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your brother, the late No. 4474 Gunner E.S. Connors, 11th Field Artillery Brigade, I am now in receipt of advice which shows that he was killed in action (death being instantaneous) on the left of Flers on 30/12/16, and was buried in the vicinity of Flers, France. At time of his death he was a signaller on Brigade Headquarters.

The utmost care and attention is being devoted where possible to the graves of our soldiers. It is understood photographs of graves are being taken as soon as possible and these will be transmitted to next-of-kin when available.

These additional details are furnished by direction, it being the policy of the Department to forward all information received in connexion with deaths of members of the Australian Imperial Force.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. E. Bates,  
76 Gotha Street,  
Valley,  
BRISBANE. Q'ld.

Major,  
Officer i/c Base Records.



W

Transferred to

D 21705

## AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

No. 4444

Rank

Name

CONNORS. E. S.





Unit

11th L.A.B. Lake &amp; Battw.

270 Casualty

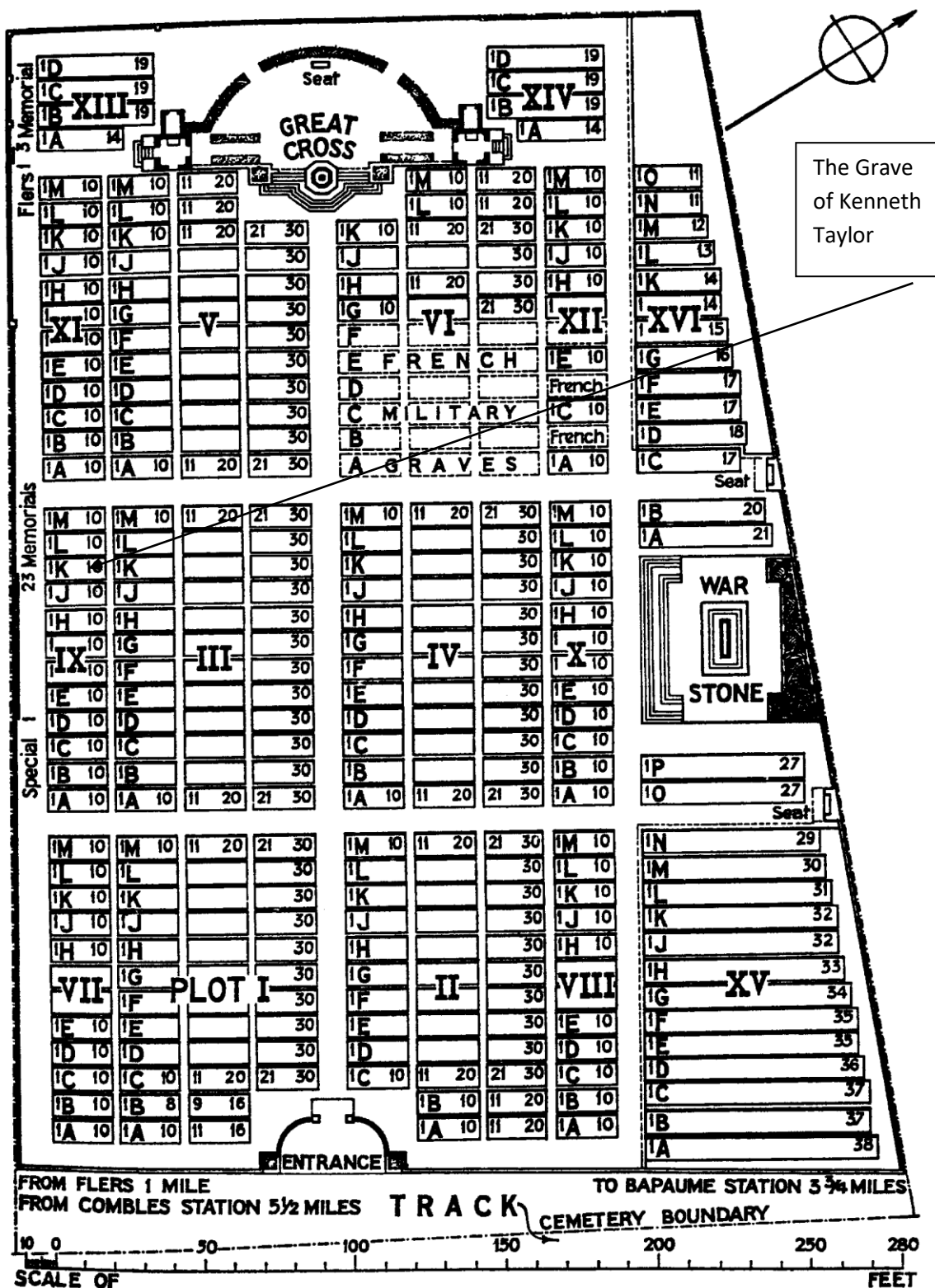
30/12/16. Killed in action C.2. Pl 963/8099 A.

2 London 20/1/17

DATE.	PURPORT.	REF. NO.
22.1.17 3.2.1917	<b>A.F. B. 103 Received</b> M.O. 1 ADVISED, KILLED IN ACTION, 30/12/16. COPY MADE FOR WAR DEPT. CONFIRMATION RECEIVED OF Cable No. 809/963 Note 513 D 20/1/17. NO PERSONAL EFFECTS IN KIT - B.R.M. No. 16/1142 Grouper B.R.M. 46/1368 & Booklet re Graves despatched 1/1/17. 	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"><div style="text-align: center;"> 1915 STAR MEDAL No. NE</div><div style="text-align: center;"> BRITISH WAR MEDAL ISSUED No. 31143</div><div style="text-align: center;"> VICTORY MEDAL ISSUED No. 30930</div></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"><div>BRITISH WAR MEDAL</div><div>VICTORY MEDAL to Sister</div><div>B.R.P.F. 42.</div></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"><div>Registered Post No. 5655</div><div>G.P.O. Melbourne.</div></div>		
LIST. D.97/3.16 - C.942 - 10W.		

WAR HISTORY INDEX

9 OCT 1922



A.I.F. BURIAL GROUND GRASS LANE FLERS