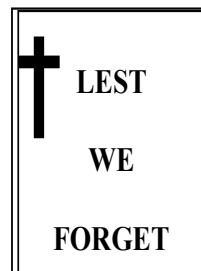


A SOLDIER'S STORY



Service No.: 3862
Name: Samuel John JENKINS
Nickname: Sam



Medals and Decorations

British War Medal
Victory Medal

Rank: Private
Service: Army
Enlisted: 20 Jun 1917
DoW: 18 Sep 1918

Sam was born at Wasleys (near Gawler SA) on 3 Mar 1899 to Richard Burton Jenkins and Jane Jenkins (nee Selich). There were 5 children in the family, 2 boys and 3 girls, of which Sam was the eldest. His father was a farmer, initially in the Wasleys area before moving with his family to Stokes.

It is thought that he started school at Gawler. After the death of his sister, Margaret, the family moved to the Stokes area and he completed his schooling at Stokes in a class room in the family house of the Provis family, which was also the Post Office (the teacher was Miss Provis). After completing his schooling he worked on the family farm and other farms in the Stokes area until his enlistment at Port Lincoln in Jun 1917. At this time he gave his occupation as farmer and his postal address as Ungarra.

On enlistment he was sent to Mitcham for processing and then to 2nd Depot Battalion (Bn) for basic training, which he undertook between Jun and Sep 1917. He was then allocated to 10th Reinforcements/5th Pioneer Battalion (Bn) and undertook further specialist sapper training at Mitcham.

The 5th Pioneer Bn was raised in Egypt on 10 Mar 1916 and assigned to 5th Division. It then saw service on the Western Front. Pioneer Bns performed construction tasks in the forward areas not requiring the special equipment of engineers, such as constructing trenches and dugouts although they occasionally acted in an engineer role on tasks such as the construction of bridges. They were organised the same as infantry battalions and also served as infantry in the front line.

On 27 Oct 1917 Sam entrained for Melbourne and then embarked aboard HMAT "Aeneas" bound for Devonport (UK), disembarking on 27 Dec 1917. Whilst undertaking further training in the UK he was transferred to 32nd Bn on 2 Jan 1918. He remained on

the strength of this unit for 3 months before again being transferred, this time to 48th Bn.

The 48th Bn was raised in Egypt on the same day as 5th Pioneer Bn (16 Mar 1916) as part of the reorganisation and expansion of the AIF following the Gallipoli Campaign. The unit's personnel were drawn mainly from SA and WA. The Bn was sent to the Western Front in Jun 1916.

In March 1918, following the collapse of Russia, the Germans launched the “Spring Offensive. As the Allies were pushed back, the 48th Bn undertook a defensive role around Dernancourt, blocking the Amiens Road, before joining the final Allied offensive around Amiens in Aug 1918. During the fighting, it suffered 843 killed in action or died of wounds and 1,628 wounded.

It was during the Bns last battle at Le Verguier, north west of St. Quentin, that Sam was wounded in action (WIA) with a gunshot wound to the leg on 18 Sep 1918. He was evacuated to 141st Field Ambulance for treatment but died of wounds (DoW) later the same day. After this battle the Bn was withdrawn from the line and did not see action again before the war ended in Nov 1918.

He was buried at Estrees on Chausee in France, 5¾ miles south east of Peronne. His body was exhumed and reinterred at Hancourt British Cemetery, 6½ miles east south east of Peronne on 14 Apr 1920.

His name is recorded on the Tumby Bay Memorial.

His family moved from the Stokes area back to Adelaide in 1919.



British War Medal Victory Medal

Private
JENKINS, SAMUEL JOHN

Service Number 3862

Died 18/09/1918

Aged 19

48th Bn.
Australian Infantry, A.I.F.

Son of Richard Burton Jenkins and Jane Jenkins
of Wasleys, South Australia.



Hancourt
British
Cemetery,
Somme,
France

