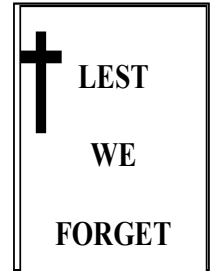


A SOLDIER'S STORY



Service No.: 928
Name: William Edward LEAR
Nickname: Bill



Medals and Decorations

1914 - 15 Star
British War Medal
Victory Medal

Rank: Trooper
Service: Army
Enlisted: 30 Nov 1914
KIA: 29 Aug 1915

Bill was born on 10 Nov 1889 at Balaklava (SA) to Thomas Forster Lear and Matilda Jane Lear (nee Schnaars). There were 8 children in the family, 5 boys and 3 girls; 4 of the children being from a previous marriage. Bill was the third youngest of the children. His family travelled from Balaclava to Wallaroo before boarding the "*Ferret*", arriving in Tumby Bay in 1904 and then moving to Yallunda Flat where his father farmed on Section 186 Hundred of Koppio. I can not reveal who has this farm today because the council will not release that information due to privacy concerns!

Bill went to school at Balaklava. On completion of schooling he worked on the family farm at Balaklava until their relocation to Yallunda Flat, where he again worked on the family farm, as well as other local farms in the area, until his enlistment in the Army at Oaklands at the age of 25. At the time of enlistment he recorded his occupation as farm labourer and the address of his next of kin (father) as Yallunda Flat, via Tumby Bay.

On enlistment Bill was sent to Base Light Horse at Mitcham for training before being allocated to 4th Reinforcements/9th Light Horse Regiment (9th L H Regt).

On completion of training he embarked at Adelaide aboard HMAT "*Port Lincoln*" on 1 Apr 1915 bound for Alexandria, arriving on 27 May 1915. Originally the Light Horse were considered not suitable for deployment to Gallipoli; however this was overcome by the units leaving their horses in Egypt and being shipped to Gallipoli to fight as dismounted infantry.

After a further 2 months of training he was admitted to hospital, then transferred to the Hospital Ship (HS) "*Song Bee*" and taken to the Florina Hospital in Malta suffering from influenza; he remained in hospital for just over a month before he was released from hospital and returned to his unit (9th L H Regt), arriving in Gallipoli on 12 Aug

1915.

After only 2 weeks back in action at Gallipoli he was reported missing in action (MIA) on 29 Aug 1915. This was during the attack on Hill 60 where his unit suffered 50 percent casualties. This report was later amended to killed in action (KIA) by the findings of a court of enquiry on 26 Apr 1916.

The Court also found that a further 18 men of Bill's unit who had been reported as missing in action at the same time, were in fact killed in action on that day. The findings of the court reads "the court was of the opinion that it is reasonable to suppose that the officers and soldiers are (now) dead."

Bill has no known final resting place and his name is inscribed on the Lone Pine Memorial, along with five thousand other Australian and New Zealand soldiers. His name is also recorded on the Tumby Bay Memorial.

Two of Bill's brothers also served in the Army during WW1. Percival Albert Lear served at Gallipoli and Egypt with the 3rd Light Horse Regiment until he was wounded in action at Romani; and Richard Forster Lear served on the Western Front with 10th Bn, until he was wounded in action with a gunshot wound to his right foot at the battle of Amiens. Both were medically discharged as a result of their wounds.



1914-15 Star

British War Medal

Victory Medal

Trooper
LEAR, WILLIAM EDWARD

Service Number 928

Died 29/08/1915

9th
Australian Light Horse



Lone Pine
Memorial,
Gallipoli

