

William Thomas KENNY



Pre-enlistment:

- William KENNY was born in Cooktown Qld on 4 July 1894, to parents, James and Rosena KENNY, Irvinebank, Qld and named his mother as NOK
- At time of enlistment he was studying Engineering
- Irvinebank, Qld was his home town
- He served in Home Defence on Thursday Island from 5th August 1914 to 20 February 1915.

Military Records

- Service Number: 4480
- William KENNY enlisted as a Private on 2 October 1915 with 25th Battalion, 11th Reinforcements, in Townsville, Qld, aged 21 years
- He embarked from Sydney with his Unit on HMAT Star of Victoria on 31 March 1916
- On 10 May 1916 he embarked Alexandria on the HT Scotian and proceeded to join the British Expeditionary Force disembarking at Marseilles on 18 May 1916
- On 24 June 1916 he was appointed Acting Corporal at Etaples (northern France)
- "THE SOLDIERS' POSTBAG. An Irvinebank Man's Letter."
 - Acting Q.M.S., W. T. Kenny, Irvinebank, writes from France as follows on the 21 st July.

Cemetery &/or Memorial

- No known grave
- Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France
- Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour, Panel Number 105
- Cairns Cenotaph
- Herberton Methodist Circuit and Mission Area
- Irvinebank Roll of Honour

Honours & Awards

- British War Medal
- Victory Medal

Dear Dad, Just a line to let you know that I am still well, and not having too bad a time. I have not left this camp yet, but I have tried two or three times to get away, but the officers only laugh at me, and say "Your all right, you can go up when I am going." As far as I can see, a fellow has a hard job to get out of the orderly room once he gets the run of things, as a new man takes a while to find out, what men are gone, and where they are gone to. Anyhow, I don't expect to have to stay here much longer. I received a letter from you a few weeks ago and I have also received a bundle or two of papers ("Heralds") and I can assure you, a bit of North Queensland news is appreciated, after a fellow is away over here for a while. This game is not bad for excitement and travel, and all that, but I think the old Australian Bush is the best place after all. A fellow has no need to bother about a pass when he wants to go out, and there is no bugle to wake him in the morning. I have posted you some of the papers from here, as they might interest you, so don't forget to let me know if you get them. Let me know how you have got on with the horses this year, and what sort of year you have had. If I am lucky, I ought to be home with you the following season. The Frenchmen and Tommies seem to think that old Fritz won't go into another winter campaign, but we fellows are like the Scotchman "Have me doubts." Anyhow, they are not getting much spare time to prepare for winter. If they had been left alone they would have had a grand winter. Some of the officers dug-outs that were captured, had carpets and a piano in them, so you see they meant to settle down. I don't like their chance of getting those dugouts back this winter. I was talking to some fellows last night from the North of Ireland, and they were saying they had a Corporal with them, that came from Cavan and knows the place very well. I am going to have a talk with him this evening, and I will let you know how I get on later. He is a fellow about 45, so you might know him." - from the Cairns Post 03 Oct 1916 (nla.gov.au)

- On 2 August 1918 he was Taken on Strength in France and his rank reverted to that of a Private. Three days later he was engaged in action at Pozieres.
- Private William Thomas KENNY was killed in action in Pozieres, France on 5 August 1916, aged 22 years
- His War service was on the Western Front

Rifle Shooting

- William Kenny was a member of the Irvinebank Rifle Club

ACWM Commemoration Service

Some Reference Links

- <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=7371280>
- <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=163201>
- <https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/115100>
- <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1642151>
- <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/42894563>
Cairns Post, Thu 13 Aug 1914, Page 8, Northern Mobilisation. Roll of Riflemen