

# William Henry O'CONNOR



## Pre-enlistment:

- William was born on 3 May 1893 in Charters Towers. His parents, Thomas Bartholomew and Hannah (nee Thomas), O'Connor, were married in 1885 and lived in Charters Towers
- His siblings were John (b 1885), Robert (b 1887), Eileen (b 1888), Helen (b 1889), Ruth (b 1891), Margaret (b 1895), Victor (b 1896), Amy (b 1898), Alfred (b 1900), Hannah (b 1901), Agnes (b 1903), Daniel (b 1906)
- He attended Quenton State School in Charters Towers
- His occupation on enlistment was that of a labourer
- His address upon enlistment was Millchester Road, Quenton, Charters Towers
- Prior to enlistment he served in the 3rd Kennedy Regiment and the 2nd Infantry Expeditionary Force where he:
  - Mobilised for War Service with 2nd A.N. & M.E.F.
  - Embarked at Cairns on 8 August 1914 for Thursday Island (War Station) Garrison Duty
  - Enlisted 14 August 1914 for service outside Australia
  - Re-embarked at Thursday Island on 16 August 1914, on Troopship 'Kanowna' to take part in the capture of German New Guinea
  - 'Taken on Strength' of the A.N. & M.E.F on 6 August 1914
  - Returned to Townsville on 18 September 1914, on account of the trouble caused by the firemen on troopship
  - Discharged 18 September 1914.
- After the war O'Connor Street in Rosslea, Qld was named in his memory.

## Military Records

- Service Number: 194
  - William Henry O'CONNOR enlisted on 21 December 1914, Townsville and joined the 25th Battalion A Company, aged 21 years 7 months
  - On 30 July 1915 he embarked from Brisbane on the HMAT Aeneas
  - On 4 September 1915 he embarked Alexandria for Gallipoli
  - 28 November 1915 he was admitted to a hospital ship with illness, evacuated from Gallipoli on 30 November, then transferred to hospital in Cairo
  - On 19 January 1916 he was discharged from hospital in Cairo then re-joined his Battalion in Tel-el-Kahir on 20 January 1916
  - On 14 March 1916 he proceeded to join B.E.F Alexandria and on 19 March he disembarked in Marseilles
  - On 29 June 1916 he took part in a successful raid on enemy trenches in France when he was wounded and admitted to the 44th Casualty Clearing Station, France.
  - Corporal William Henry O'CONNOR Died of Wounds on 30 July 1916 that he received in action in France the day before
  - Served and fought in the Campaigns at Gallipoli and on the Western Front
- | Cemetery &/or Memorial                            |
|---|
| • British Military Cemetery, Puchevillers, France |
| • Townsville Cenotaph                             |
| • Townsville City Council Honour Board            |
- | Honours & Awards    |
|---------------------|
| • 1914-1915 Star    |
| • British War Medal |
| • Victory Medal     |

## Rifle Shooting

- William O'Connor was a member of the Townsville Rifle Club

## ACWM Commemoration Service

## Reference Links

- <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=7991775>
- <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=227206>
- <https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/213121>
- <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1658197>
- 'The Townsville Cenotaph World War I Soldiers' by Carolyn Lee Larard and Maureen Valda Newnham