

# Ernest William James SLATCHER

## Pre-enlistment:

- Ernest Slatcher was born on 14 August 1891 in Cairns to parents William and Amelia SLATCHER, Stannary Hills, Qld. Native of Cairns
- He attended school at Gordonvale State School, Qld
- His occupation was that of a labourer and miner
- He lived as a single man in Stannary Hills via Cairns
- His next of kin was listed as his father, William Slatcher, Stannary Hills



## Previous Military Service

- Ernest Slatcher embarked from Cairns, Queensland for Thursday Island (War Station) for Garrison Duty. He re-embarked at Thursday Island on 16th August 1914 on the Troopship 'Kanowna' to take part in the capture of German New Guinea. Private Sleep returned to Townsville, Queensland on 18th September 1914, on account of the trouble caused by the firemen on the troopship. He did not participate in the capture of German New Guinea. He was discharged on 18th September 1914.

## Military Records

- Service Number: 1579
- Ernest Slatcher enlisted on 13 March 1915, as a Private with the 25th Battalion, A Company in Cairns
- On 29 June 1915 he embarked with his Unit from Brisbane, on board HMAT A60 Aeneas aged 23 years and arrived at Suez on 2nd August for training near Cairo.
- On 5 September 1915, sailed for Lemnos Island.
- He disembarked at ANZAC during the night of the 12th
- On 20 September 1915, Ernest was admitted to 7th Field Ambulance, then to 16th Casualty Clearing Station, Gallipoli then transferred to Lemnos Island, then Malta with Pneumonia.
- On 4 January 1916, Ernest was discharged then on 12 January 1916, he disembarked the HT "Bornu" at Alexandria Egypt and re-joined the 25th Battalion in camp at Tel-el-Kebir.
- On 14 March 1916 he, with the 25th, proceeded to join the British Expeditionary Force in France and arrived at Marseilles at 2.30pm on the 19th March. Being the first Australian Battalion to arrive in France.

- On 4 April 1916, they moved to the vicinity of Armentieres. Ernest moved into the front line trenches for the first time on the 12th April 1916, then moved into the trenches opposite Messines Ridge, Belgium.
- On 10 July 1916, the 25th Battalion moved south to Vax, Amiens where they remained until the 20th July.
- On 20 July 1916, they moved to Herissar, then Warloy, on to Albert, then finally to Tara Hill.
- On 28/29 July 1916, the 25th Battalion launched a night attack at Pozieres- The casualty list for the attack on Pozieres by the 25th Battalion consisted of 4 Officers and 28 Other Ranks killed.
- Private Ernest William James Slatcher was killed in action at Pozieres, Somme, France on 29 July 1916
- He served in Egypt, Gallipoli and on the Western Front.

## Rifle Shooting

- Ernest Slatcher was a member of the Stannary Hills Rifle Club

## Reference Links

- <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8086237>
- <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=276882>
- <https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/298330>
- <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/4289456>  
3 Cairns Post, Thu 13 Aug 1914, Page 8, Northern Mobilisation. Roll of Riflemen

## Cemetery &/or Memorial

- Cemetery: Initially no known grave until 4th July 1923, his family were notified that his remains had been found with his identity disc. His remains were re-interred.
- Delville Wood Cemetery, (Plot XV1. Row Q. Grave 10), Longueval, Picardie, France
- Memorials: Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour Panel number 106
- Cairns Cenotaph

## Honours & Awards

- 1914/15 Star
- British War Medal
- Victory Medal

## ACWM Commemoration Service