

# Francis Burleigh CALESS



## Pre-enlistment:

- Francis was born on 17 April 1894 in Southport, Qld to parents William and Delia CALESS of Ayr, Qld
- His schooling was at Richmond State School, Charters Towers
- His home town was Ayr, Burdekin, Qld
- His occupation at time of enlistment was that of a sugar farmer
- He had previously served in the Senior Cadets as a 2nd Lieut
- His brother George Reginald Cales of Ayr, Qld was listed as his NOK on enlistment. George also enlisted, Service Number 1803, served with the 41st Battalion and returned to Australia in 1919.
- Previous Military Service: 3 years in Citizen Forces, 2 years as 2nd Lieut

## Military Record

- Service Number: 25
- Private Francis CALESS enlisted on 19 April 1915 with the 26th Battalion, an original of A Company
- He embarked with his Unit from Brisbane on board the HMAT A11 Ascanius on 24 May 1915
- On 27 August 1915 he was promoted Lieutenant just prior to the 26th Battalion landing on Gallipoli
- On 3 December 1915 he disembarked in Malta and was admitted to hospital due to sickness
- On 22 December 1915 he embarked at Malta for Egypt on H.T. Peregrine fit for active duty
- On 5 March 1916 he returned to his Unit from hospital
- He was promoted Captain on 2 June 1916
- On 8 July 1916 he took part in several raids on enemy trenches in France
- He was recommended for a mention in despatches for his work on the day he was reported missing - 4 August 1916
- Captain Francis CALESS was Killed in Action at Pozieres, Somme, France on 5 August 1916 aged 22 years
- His war service was in Egypt, Gallipoli and on the Western Front
- Firsthand account of death of Cales from H.W. Wood of 26th Battalion: 'We had just leapt the parapet on the left of the Pozieres Cemetery when he was hit by shrapnel shell. It was at about 9.15am on 4/8/16. Death was instantaneous and evidently painless. He was in front of us leading the Company. As we were advancing I am unable to say what happened after that.'
- During 1930 his remains were discovered near Pozieres, identified by his disc, an epaulette which held the three stars of his badge of rank, and an officer's tunic and revolver holster. His body was reinterred in the Serre Rd No.2 Cemetery.

## Cemetery &/or Memorial

- Buried on Serre Road Cemetery No 2 (Plot XXV, Row F, grave No 11), near Beaumont Hamel, France
- Ayr War Memorial
- Richmond Hill Teachers and Ex-Pupils Great War Honour Roll

## Rifle Shooting

- Francis Cales was a member of Millchester Rifle Club

## Honours & Awards

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

## ACWM Commemoration Service

## Reference Links

- <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3188631>
- <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=43299>
- <https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/334675>
- <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1676559>
- <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=43299>
- Roll of Honour, Bruce Scott