

John Oliver ETHELL



Pre-enlistment:

- John was born in Kalk Bay, Cape Town, South Africa
- His parents were Alfred William and May ETHELL, The Rectory, Laidley, Queensland
- He gained his education through State and Private Tuition & he was a student for Holy Orders with the Church of England
- His occupation was that of a teacher and at the time of enlistment was on the teaching staff at Laidley South State School
- He was a Patrol Leader in Baden Powell's Scouts.
- He lived at The Rectory in Laidley, Queensland as a clergyman's son.

Military Records

- Service Number: 3341
- John Ethell enlisted on 7 October 1915 as a Sapper with 6th Field Company Engineers, in Brisbane
- He embarked with his Unit from Sydney, NSW on board HMAT A40 Ceramic on 24 November 1915 as a 2nd Lieutenant with 23rd Battalion
- On 12 March 1916 he was re-instated as a Private then on 19 March he embarked at Alexandria for Marsailles where he disembarked on 27 March 1916
- On 6 June 1916 was transferred from Etaples, France to England where he was admitted to hospital with synovitis of the right knee then discharged on 9 August 1916
- On 25 September he proceeded overseas to France and reported for duty on 5 October 1916
- He was promoted 2nd Lieutenant on 3 April 1917
- On 8 April 1917 he was taken on strength by 23rd Battalion in France
- He was wounded in action on 3 May 1917 at Bullecourt whilst in charge of a bombing party, then invalided back to England.
- On 21 August he again proceeded overseas to France and re-joined his Unit at the Front.
- Lieutenant John Ethell was killed in action on 4 October 1917, at Broodseinde, Passchendaele, Belgium aged 21 years 6 months
- His O.C. wrote of him: "In his death I have lost one of my most promising officers."
- The Padre wrote of him: "We all expected him to take a big place in the Army as he had all the qualities of a good officer".
- His War Service was in Egypt and the Western Front

Cemetery &/or Memorial

- No known grave
- The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial (Panel 23), Belgium
- Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour Panel number 99
- First Nambour Boy Scouts Honour Board,
- Laidley Memorial Park Gates,
- Laidley War Memorial

Honours & Awards

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

Rifle Shooting

- John Ethell was a member of the Laidley Rifle Club

ACWM Commemoration Service

Reference Links

- recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3544485
- www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=92310
- vwma.org.au/explore/people/160796
- www.awm.gov.au/collection/R172221
- www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1722217
- trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/179426406 Wed 17 Oct 1917.
- trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/20193195?search
- trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/81864934?search
- trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/22343522?search