

William O'NEILL



Pre-enlistment:

- William was born about 1885 in Cooktown, Qld to parents, James and Edith O'NEILL, Gordonvale via Cairns
- His brother, James Gordon O'Neill had the same Christian name as his father, James, so his mother called her son Gordon
- His occupation at time of enlistment was that of a seaman/clerk. He had previously been one of the seamen from the wrecked ship Dundonald who spent nine months in 1907 stranded on Disappointment Island off New Zealand.
- It has been recorded that at various times he lived in Rockhampton and Dalby as a single man
- He listed his father as his next of kin

Military Records

- Service Number: 4258
- William O'Neill enlisted in Rockhampton on 30 August 1915 as a Private with 9th Battalion, 13th Reinforcement, aged 29 years
- He embarked with his Unit from Brisbane, on board HMAT A55 Kyarra on 3 January 1916 aged 29 years
- He disembarked at Alexandria on 19 February 1916
- On 29 March 1916 he proceeded to join the B.E.F and disembarked in Marseilles on 4 April 1916
- He marched out to 9th Battalion at Etaples on 26 July 1916 and taken on strength in France on 29 July 1916
- He joined the Battalion on 29 July then promoted Temporary Sergeant on 1 August 1916
- Sergeant William O'Neill was killed in action on 21 August 1916 near Mouquet Farm, France only a month after arriving there, aged 30
- His War service was in Egypt and on the Western Front

Cemetery &/or Memorial

- Cemetery: No known grave
- Memorials: Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France
- Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour, Panel number 57
- Cairns Cenotaph
- Gordonvale Presbyterian Roll of Honour
- Gordonvale Cenotaph

Honours & Awards

- British War Medal,
- Victory Medal

Rifle Shooting

- William O'Neill was a member of the Musgrave Rifle Club

ACWM Commemoration Service

Reference Links

- recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=7996792
- aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=228682
- awm.gov.au/collection/R1657266
- Paulene O'Keefe, 10 Feb 1019-Gordonvale War Memorial
- cairns.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/190496/Anzacsiteinfo.pdf
- monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/conflict/ww1/display/105673-gordonvale-memorial-hospital-
- trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/40297558?
- trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/40355003?