Ernest John BURNE

Ernest John Burne, known as John, was born at Pyalong in 1894 to John and Harriet (nee Lapthorne) Burne. When he enlisted in July 1915 he was aged 23 years and six months. He was unmarried and a railway employee with 3 years experience with the 64th Infantry in Melbourne. His next of kin was his father, John Burne of Moonee Ponds.

Training took place at Broadmeadows Camp where John was attached to the 29th Battalion as a private, service number 729. He embarked for overseas active duty in November 2015, disembarking at Suez. While at Tel-el-Kebir Camp he was transferred the 13th Field Artillery Brigade. In June 1916 he marched into France to join his battalion. He was given leave to England in September 1916. He attended the School of Instruction for one month in February 1918.

There is little detail in John's military file. He appears to have remained relatively unscathed during the course of the war. Following the November armistice John was transferred to England for duty in March 2019. In July of that year he embarked for Australia, arriving in Melbourne aboard the "Friedrichsrue" in September.

John was awarded the British War Medal, the 1914/15 Star and the Victory Medal. His service is commemorated on the Kilmore Honour Roll. Little is known of his post war life. Electoral records show him living in Bannockburn in 1923. He died in Elsternwick in 1952.

Compiled by Kilmore Historical Society.

*An orderly 18 pounder gun position in the Ypres sector with plentiful stocks of ammunition to hand.
As can be seen there is very little protection in the event of counter battery fire.*