

## **William John BURROWS**

William Burrows was born at Kilmore in 1900 and was the eldest of four children born to John and Catherine (nee Connama). He enlisted at Brunswick in August 1917 stating his age was 18 years and 7 months. Birth records show he was one year younger. Previous experience was four years with the Senior Cadets. When he enlisted William was employed as a blacksmith.

William commenced training at Broadmeadows Training Camp ranked private. While in training he was hospitalised between 18 October 18 and December 15, 1917. There is no indication in his military file of why this was necessary. He embarked for overseas active duty aboard the "Persic" in March 1918. En route to London he contracted influenza and required hospitalisation. Following disembarkation William was allotted to the 21st Battalion with service number 50010.

In August 1918 William proceeded to France to join his Battalion, having now been transferred to the 22nd Battalion. His army file records he suffered a gun shot wound to his right wrist in early September and was subsequently invalided back to England for treatment. This injury probably occurred during the Battle of Mont Saint Quentin (August 31 – September 4, 1918). He did not return to active duty.

William returned to Australia in February 1919. He was awarded the British War Medal, the 1914/15 Star and the Victory Medal. His name is recorded on the Kilmore Honour Roll. Little is known about his post war life. He married Joyce Phyllis and in 1967 the couple were living in Shepparton where William was employed as a linesman. He died in 1970 at Richmond.

*Compiled by Kilmore Historical Society.*



*Australian soldiers moving along a communications trench at Mont St. Quentin, France, 1 September 1918. (AWM EO3139).*