

## William Daniel Meagher

William (Bill) Daniel Meagher was born in Kilmore in 1884, the son of Cornelius and Maria Meagher (nee Purcell). Cornelius and Maria's six children were all born in Kilmore.

Bill, a horse driver, enlisted in Melbourne for service in World War One on March 14, 1916. After training at Royal Park, Bill was allocated to the 15th Reinforcements, B Company, 24th Battalion as a private with service number 5630.

In Melbourne, Bill then embarked on the Shropshire on September 25 bound for Plymouth, arriving in November 1916. After further training his unit proceeded to France in December 1916 on HT Princess Henrietta where he joined his Battalion on January 22, 1917.

The 24th got little rest during the bleak winter of 1916-17 alternating between the front and labouring tasks. When patrolling no-man's land the men of the Battalion adopted a unique form of snow camouflage - large white nighties bought in Amiens.

On March 9, 1917 Bill was wounded in both thighs and buttock. And after treatment by the 7th Field Ambulance he was discharge back to his unit on the front line.

In March and April 1917, the Germans withdrew to the east to the Hindenburg Line, with the British and French armies pushing towards them. Then on April 18, probably at the front line east of Bapaume, Bill was seriously wounded by shrapnel in the chest. He was admitted to the 3rd Australian Casualty Station at Grevillers, where he died on April 21, 1917.

Bill was buried in the Grevillers British Cemetery near Bapaume, France. A tribute to Bill appeared in the Argus on May 26, 1917. His personal effects were sent to his father Cornelius in October 1917.

In 1920 Bill was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal, and together with a scroll and plaque, his medals were sent to his father.