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William Mullavey

William Mullavey's service documents state that he was born in Kilmore East in about 1882/1883, the son of Rose Mullavey. The Mullaveys were a well known family in the Broadford and Tallarook district. His occupation when he enlisted was given as farm labourer and bushman.

William enlisted in Melbourne on May 22, 1916, giving his place of residence as Kilmore. He was allocated as private 6823 to the 22nd Reinforcements, 6th Battalion, and undertook training at Geelong.

He embarked on HMAT Ulysses in Melbourne on October 25, 1916 bound for Plymouth in England. While in training William forfeited 3 days pay for not returning his leave pass in February 1917. In March he proceeded to the Western Front in France to join his battalion which was carrying out defensive duties in the trenches.

In March and April the 6th took part in the Second Battle of Bullecourt followed by the Battle of Menin Road in September. On September 20, 1917 William received gunshot wounds to his right thigh. He was transferred to a small hospital in Hatfield, Hertfordshire for five weeks, then to Weymouth for convalescence before returning to the front in France in early February 1918.

In March and April 1918 the battalion took part in defending its position against the German spring offensive. On the second day of the allied Hundred Days Offensive which commenced on August 8, near Villers-Bretonneux, William again received gunshot wounds, this time to his right wrist. After treatment in the field he was transferred to England for further treatment at the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, Kent.

The war ended on November 11, 1918 and later that month William returned to France to join his battalion. He left France to return to Melbourne, via England, on HMAT Port Darwin in April 1919. William was discharge on July 27, 1919.

William was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal, and his name is recorded on the Kilmore Shire Honour Roll. He died in 1959 at Parkville, late of Seymour.

Contributed by the Kilmore Historical Society