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## **William Henry ADAMS**

Regimental number 4746

Place of birth Carnarvon, Western Australia

Religion Church of England

Occupation Pearler

Address 21 South Street, Fremantle, Western Australia

Marital status Single
Age at embarkation 26

Next of kin Mother, Mrs A R Adams, Denham, Sharks Bay, Western Australia

Enlistment date 7 December 1915

Date of enlistment from Nominal Roll 7 December 1915

Rank on enlistment Private

Unit name 16th Battalion, 15th Reinforcement

AWM Embarkation Roll number 23/33/3

Embarkation details Unit embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia, on board HMAT A35 *Ulysses* on 1 April 1916

Rank from Nominal Roll Private

Unit from Nominal Roll 16th Battalion

Fate Killed in Action 11 April 1917

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Place of death or wounding

Bullecourt, France

Date of death

11 April 1917

Age at death

28

Place of burial

No known grave

Commemoration details

Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France

Villers-Bretonneux is a village about 15 km east of Amiens. The Memorial stands on the high ground ('Hill 104') behind the Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, Fouilloy, which is about 2 km north of Villers-Bretonneux on the east side of the road to Fouilloy.

The Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux is approached through the Military Cemetery, at the end of which is an open grass lawn which leads into a three-sided court. The two pavilions on the left and right are linked by the north and south walls to the back (east) wall, from which rises the focal point of the Memorial, a 105 foot tall tower, of fine ashlar. A staircase leads to an observation platform, 64 feet above the ground, from which further staircases lead to an observation room. This room contains a circular stone tablet with bronze pointers indicating the Somme villages whose names have become synonymous with battles of the Great War; other battle fields in France and Belgium in which Australians fought; and far beyond, Gallipoli and Canberra.

On the three walls, which are faced with Portland stone, are the names of 10,885 Australians who were killed in France and who have no known grave. The 'blocking course' above them bears the names of the Australian Battle Honours.

After the war an appeal in Australia raised 22,700 Pounds, of which 12,500 Pounds came from Victorian school children, with the request that the majority of the funds be used to build a new school in Villers-Bretonneux. The boys' school opened in May 1927, and contains an inscription stating that the school was the gift of Victorian schoolchildren, twelve hundred of whose fathers are buried in the Villers-Bretonneux cemetery, with the names of many more recorded on the Memorial. Villers-Bretonneux is now twinned with Robinvale, Victoria, which has in its main square a memorial to the links between the two towns.

Panel number, Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial 74

Other details

War service: Western Front

Medals: British War Medal, Victory Medal

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