

**St. Mary's Churchyard,
Sledmere, East Yorkshire, England**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5957 PRIVATE

W. BEAN

AUSTRALIAN TUNNELLING CORPS

10 JANUARY, 1917

William BEAN

William Bean was born at York, Yorkshire, England around 1871 (based on his age stated on his Attestation Papers).

[There is insufficient information to correctly identify William Bean in the England Censuses]

William Bean came to Australia & resided in the Mount Morgan area in Queensland. He was employed by the Mount Morgan Gold Mining Company Ltd.

William Bean married Elizabeth Ellen Draper on 18th December, 1895 in Queensland.

The following children were born to parents William & Elizabeth Ellen Bean: Annie Ellen Bean (born 14th February, 1897); Florence May Bean (born 30th November, 1898); Albert Edward William Bean (born 2nd February, 1901); Emma Elizabeth Bean (born 25th August, 1902); Edith Alice Bean (born 25th August, 1904) & Evelyn Maud Bean (born 8th August, 1906).

The 1905 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Capricornia, subdivision of Mount Morgan, Queensland, listed William Bean, Miner, & his wife Elizabeth, Home Duties, of William Street.

The 1908 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Capricornia, subdivision of Mount Morgan, Queensland, listed William Bean, Miner, & his wife Elizabeth, Home Duties, of Long Gully.

The 1917 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Capricornia, subdivision of Mount Morgan, Queensland, listed William Bean, Miner, & his wife Elizabeth Ellen, Home Duties, of Gowdie St.

William Bean stated he was a 45 year old, married, Miner from Mount Morgan, Queensland when he enlisted at Rockhampton, Queensland on 18th May, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5957 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Elizabeth Ellen Bean, North Street, Mount Morgan, Queensland. (Note: There are 2 Embarkation Rolls for William Bean – one has his age as 44, the other has his age as 45. His Attestation Papers have his age as 44 years & 10 months)

Private William Bean was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 22nd May, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to Mining Corps, A.I.F. on 5th July, 1916 then transferred to Miners Reinforcements at Seymour on 9th September, 1916 as Sapper.

Sapper William Bean embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ulysses (A38)* on 25th October, 1916 with the Tunnelling Companies, December, 1916 Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 28th December, 1916.

1st Australian Tunnelling Company

The 1st Australian Tunnelling Company was one of the tunnelling companies of the Royal Australian Engineers during World War I. The tunnelling units were occupied in offensive and defensive mining involving the placing and maintaining of mines under enemy lines, as well as other underground work such as the construction of deep dugouts for troop accommodation, the digging of subways, saps (narrow trenches dug to approach enemy trenches), cable trenches, and underground chambers for signals and medical services. (*Wikipedia*)

From research it is known that an Australian Mining Corps was raised within the A.I.F. around August/September 1915. It is known that the manning of that unit specifically included a proportion of members from the mining industry and allowed enlistment up to the age of 50 to capture the experienced men the Corps would need to fulfil its role. (*Tunners.net*)

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Sapper William Bean was marched in to Australian Details Camp, Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 29th December, 1916 from Australia.

Sapper William Bean died on 10th January, 1917 at Mill Cottages, Sledmere, Yorkshire, England from Acute Bronchitis.

A death for a "*William Bean, aged 52*" was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Driffield. Yorkshire East Riding, England.

Sapper William Bean was buried in St. Mary's Churchyard, Sledmere, East Yorkshire, England – south-west part. He has a private headstone however his death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

A War Pension was granted to Mrs Elizabeth Ellen Bean, Mt. Morgan, widow of the late Private William Bean, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 26th March, 1917. Pensions were also granted per fortnight from same day to the following children of Elizabeth & the late William Bean – Emma Elizabeth (£1); Edith Alice (15/-); Evelyn Maud (10/-).

Two separate packages containing the personal effects of the late Private William Bean were sent to his widow – Mrs E. E. Bean, North St., Mount Morgan, Queensland. She signed, as receipt of receiving them, on 16th July, 1917 & 20th August, 1917.

Sapper William Bean was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sapper Bean's widow – Mrs E. E. Bean, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

Base Records wrote to Mrs E. E. Bean, Shandon Hill, Mount Morgan, Queensland, on 10th February, 1922 to advise "*The attached covering letter and King's Message were forwarded to your former address and returned to this office unclaimed. The Memorial Scroll issuable on account of the late No. 5957 Private W. Bean, 1st Tunnelling Company was also despatched per separate packet post, but this has not come to hand. I should be obliged if you would advise me whether same as been redirected to you, and if not it is suggested you make enquiries from the local postal authorities. Your change of address, which was furnished this Office by Headquarters, 1st District Base, Victoria Barracks, Brisbane, has been noted on the records.*"

Base Records wrote to Mrs E. E. Bean, Shandon Hill, Mount Morgan, Queensland, on 26th May, 1930 asking if she would complete the enclosed Roll of Honor form with information regarding her late husband, No. 5957 Private William Bean, 1st Tunnelling Company, A.I.F., for the Official Historian.

The letter was returned marked "unclaimed" & the information for the Roll of Honour was not completed by Mrs Bean & was filled in (in part) by the Official Historian.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Bean – service number 5957, of 6th Coy., Australian Tunnelling Corps. No family details are listed.

Private W. Bean is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 26.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

The Mount Morgan RSL War Memorial, located at ANZAC Park, Morgan & West Streets, Mount Morgan, Queensland, does not list individual names.



Mount Morgan RSL War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia – John Huth)

The Mount Morgan Mine Honour Board, located in Main Office Building, Mount Morgan Mine, Mount Morgan, Queensland lists the names of employees (over 600) of the Mount Morgan Gold Mining Company who served in World War 1.



Mount Morgan Mine Honour Board



The Mount Morgan 1st Tunnellers Honour Board (Photo from Queensland War Memorials)

(47 pages of Private William Bean's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

CENTRAL DISTRICT VOLUNTEERS

Twenty two more recruits accepted for service in the Australian expeditionary forces have left Rockhampton for Brisbane since Tuesday last. Their names are:

.....

William Bean, Mount Morgan

.....

(*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 27 May, 1916)

MOUNT MORGAN

(From Our Local Correspondent)

Mrs E. E. Bean, Gowdie-street, Mount Morgan, has received the sad news that her husband, Sapper William Bean, died of illness in England on the 10th of January. Sapper Bean enlisted in June, 1916, and left Australia with the miners' corps. Before enlisting he was employed in the Mount Morgan mine. He was a very old resident of Mount Morgan and was highly respected. He left a widow and family, for whom much sympathy is felt.

(*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 1 February, 1917)

CASUALTIES

THE 270th LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Sapp. W. Bean, Mt. Morgan, 10/1/17

(*Daily Standard*, Brisbane, Queensland – 3 February, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BEAN – Died of illness, on the 10th January, 1917, Sapper W. Bean of the Tunnelling Corps.

(Inserted by his loving wife, Mrs E. E. Bean and family: Mr and Mrs W. Gambier, daughter and son-in-law; Mr and Mrs G. Underhill, brother-in-law and sister-in-law; Mr and Mrs T. Schmidt, daughter and son-in-law.)

(*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 31 January, 1917) & (*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 3 February, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BEAN – In memory of Sapper W. Bean, who died of illness in England, on the 10th January, 1917.

(Inserted by G. E. Underhill and family, Mount Morgan.)

BEAN – In loving memory of our dear husband and father, Sapper W. Bean, who died in England on the 10th January, 1917.

No loved ones stood around him,
 To bid a fond farewell;
No words of comfort could we give
 To him we loved so well.

(Inserted by his loving wife and family and daughters and sons-in-law, Mr and Mrs W. Gambier, Mount Morgan, and Mr and Mrs T. Schmidt, Yeppoon.)

(*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 10 January, 1918) & (*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 12 January, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BEAN – In fond and loving memory of our dear husband and father and father-in-law, Sapper W. Bean, died of illness in England, 10th January, 1917.

This is the day of remembrance to all,
This is the day that is sad to recall;
Only those who have lost are able to tell
The pain of our hearts at not saying farewell.

(Inserted by his loving wife and family and daughters and sons-in-law, Mr and Mrs W. Gambier, Mount Morgan, and Mr and Mrs T. Schmidt, Yeppoon.)

(*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 8 January, 1919) & (*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 11 January, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BEAN – In loving memory of our dear husband and father, who departed this life at Sledmere, England, January 10th, 1917.

 He answered his country's call.

(Inserted by his loving wife and family, Mrs E. Bean, Mount Morgan; Mrs and Mr Gambier, Yeppoon; and Mrs and Mr T. Schmidt, Yeppoon.)

(*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 9 January, 1920) & (*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 17 January, 1920)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BEAN – In loving memory of our dear husband and father, Sapper William Bean, died of illness in England, 10th January, 1917.

We often think of the days gone by,
When we were all together;
A shadow o'er our life is cast,
For he has gone forever.

Inserted by his loving wife and sons and daughters, Mrs E. Bean and family; Mr and Mrs W. J. Gambier, Mount Morgan; Mr and Mrs T. Schmidt, Yeppoon; and Mr and Mrs F. McDevitt, Longreach.)

(*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 10 January, 1921) & (*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 15 January, 1921)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BEAN – In fond and loving remembrance of Sapper William Bean, died in Lledmere, England, from illness, 10th January, 1915.

(Inserted by his loving wife and family, Mrs E. Bean and Mr and Mrs T. Schmidt and Mr and Mrs Gambier and Mr and Mrs McDevitt, daughters and sons-in-law.)

(*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 11 January, 1922) & (*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 14 January, 1922)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BEAN – In loving memory of our dear husband and father, Sapper William Bean, who died at Lledmere, England, January 10th, 1917.

Gone, but not forgotten.

(Inserted by his loving wife and family).

(*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 10 January, 1923) & (*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 13 January, 1923)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Private W. Bean has a Private Headstone.

St. Mary's Churchyard, Sledmere, East Yorkshire, England.

St. Mary's Churchyard, Sledmere has 3 Commonwealth War Graves – 2 relating to World War 1 & 1 from World War 2.



(Photo from Find a Grave – buttershap)



St. Mary's Churchyard, Sledmere (Photo from Find a Grave – buttershap)



St. Mary's Church, Sledmere (Photo by JThomas)

Photo of Private W. Bean's Private Headstone in St. Mary's Churchyard, Sledmere, East Yorkshire, England.



(Photos courtesy of Peter Bennett Private Collection)



