

**St. Mary's New Churchyard,  
Codford, Wiltshire, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



*In Loving Memory*

*- of -*

**Pte. PERCY CONNELLY.**

**WHO DIED MARCH 19TH 1917**

**AGED 25 YEARS.**

**ERECTED BY HIS COMRADES**

**8TH. REINFTS. 49TH BATTN.**

**13TH TRAINING BATTN. A.I.F.**

## Percy Francis CONNELLY

Percy Francis Connelly was born at Goulburn, New South Wales in 1892 to parents Francis & Emily Connelly (nee Windley).

Percy Francis Connelly attended school at Goulburn, New South Wales.

Percy Connelly was a 24 year old, single, Labourer from Bangalow, Richmond River, NSW when he enlisted at Mackay, Queensland on 2nd November, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his father – Francis Connelly of Bangalow, Richmond River, NSW.

Private Percy Francis Connelly was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 8th November, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 49th Battalion on 29th November, 1916.

Private Percy Francis Connelly, Service number 3144, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Demosthenes (A64)* on 23rd December, 1916 with the 49th Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 3rd March, 1917.

### 49th Battalion

The 49th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 27 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 9th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 9th, the 49th was predominantly composed of men from Queensland. The battalion became part of the 13th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division....

(Battalion information from The Australian War Memorial)

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

Private Percy Francis Connelly was marched in to 13th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire on 4th March, 1917 from Australia. He was admitted sick to New Zealand Hospital on 15th March, 1917 (date as per Casualty Form – Active Service, however the Statement of Service form recorded he was admitted on 13th March, 1917) .

The Medical Case Sheet for Private Percy Francis Connelly recorded the following:

*7-3-17 From Codford No. 4 Australian Camp. Ill to day. Reported sick each day for three days and was then sent to Observation Hut. Transferred to Hospital yesterday. Severe Cough – laboured and difficult breathing. No dullness – Fine inspiratory Rales all over chest.....*

*8 pm – Respiration very difficult and rapid. Morph. Gr 1/6 Atropine, Grs 1/180*

*18-3-17 Delirious. Sweating profusely – Very low – No sleep....*

Private Percy Francis Connelly died at 4.10 a.m. on 19th March, 1917 at No. 3 New Zealand Military Hospital, Codford, Wiltshire of Broncho-Pneumonia. (Note: A telegram from Codford St. Mary to Commandant, Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F., London advised that Private P. F. Connelly died at 1.10 am on 19th March, 1917 from Broncho Pneumonia).

A death for Percy F. Connelly, aged 25, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Percy Francis Connelly was buried on 22nd March, 1917 in St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England - Grave No. 82.

From the burial report - *A wreath was put on the grave of Pte Connelly by the C.O. 13th Training Battalion.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Private Percy Francis Connelly has the following letter to the Secretary of Red Cross from the Lieut. – Col. N.Z.M.C. Officer Commanding No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital, dated August 11th, 1917:

*He was admitted to this Hospital on March 7th last but his condition did not give cause for any undue alarm until he became much worse on March 17th when his Medical Officer placed him on the Seriously Ill list with Broncho-Pneumonia and to which effect we telegraphed the Australian Military Headquarters, London. In spite of every attention administered by Doctors and nurses, I regret to say that he became rapidly worse and died at 4.10 on the morning of March 19th. The deceased was accorded a Funeral with full Military Honours on March 22nd and he was buried in accordance with the Rites of his Church in Grave No.82 in the Australian portion of the Soldiers Cemetery at Codford St. Mary. I need hardly say how much we sympathise with the relatives and friends of the late Pte Connelly in the loss which they have sustained.*

Private Percy Francis Connelly 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 Private Connelly's father – Mr Francis Connelly (Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque sent July, 1922.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Percy Francis Connelly – service number 3144, of 49th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private P. F. Connelly is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 148.



*(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)*



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

P. F. Connelly is remembered on the Bangalow-Clunes Great War Honour Roll, located outside of Bangalow RSL Memorial Hall, 13 – 15 Station Street, Bangalow, NSW.



**Bangalow-Clunes Great War Honour Roll** (Photo from War Memorials Register NSW – Colin Draper)

P. F. Connelly is also remembered on the Mackay Old Town Hall Honour Board, located in Old Mackay Town Hall Foyer, Sydney Street, Mackay, Queensland.



Mackay Old Town Hall Honour Board (Photos from Queensland War Memorials Register)

BOWMAN M.	BROWN W.G.	CAIRNS C.H.	CHAMBERS S.H.	CLYNNE A.
BOYD A.J.	BROWNING W.	CAIRNS W.R.	CHAMBERLAIN J.G.	COLBY W.
BRACKEN E.C.	BROWNSEY O.E.	CAIRNS J.A.	CHAMBERLAIN W.	COLE J.
BRADBURY W.A.	BRUCE N.W.L.	CAIRLANE A.	CHAMBERLAIN W.A.	COLE T.H.
BRADFORD A.E.	BRYANT A.L.	CALDER T.S.	CHARLES F.	COLLETT M.
BRADFORD C.	BRYANT R.J.	CALLANDER A.	CHARLES S.T.J.G.	COLLINS H.J.
BRADFORD W.J.	BRYANT R.	CAMERON A.	CHARTERIS T.	COLLINS T.D.
BRADLEY C.	BUCKLEY A.J.	CAMERON R.	CHESTERFIELD J.	CONDEN E.
BRADLEY J.B.	BUCKLEY H.E.	CAMERON W.H.	CHETWYN H.L.	GONDONEY C.A.
BRADSHAW H.A.	BUCKLEY P.	CAMERON W.J.	CHIDGEY NURSE E.	CONDRIN E.
BRAIN A.F.	BUDDEN A.L.	CAMERON G.	CHIDCEY O.	CONNELLY F.A.
BRETT C.V.B.	BUNN E.	CAMPBELL J.A.	CHUNG W.T.	CONNELLY P.F.
BRETT R.B.	BURDEN F.	CAMPBELL J.	CHRISTENSEN N.P.	CONNELLY P.
BRIERLEY A.H.	BURDON W.H.	CAMPBELL M.J.	CHRISTENSEN W.	CONROY U.
BROADHEAD E.W.	BURDITT R.W.	CAMPBELL M.	CHRISTIE C.E.	CONROY R.M.
BROMAGE A.E.	BURCESS C.W.	CAMPBELL R.F.	CHRISTIE J.H.	COEY W.J.
BROOKS A.	BURCESS J.A.	CAPPER F.P.	CLAIR F.W.	COOK A.W.
BROOKS A.E.	BURCESS T.	CARLSENN H.C.	CLARK A.A.	COOK J.
BROOKS E.M.	BURKE A.E.	CARNEY C.B.	CLARK F.W.B.	COOK R.E.
BROOKS H.C.	BURKE J.	CARR C.	CLARK P.	COOK W.
BROOKE S.	BURN C.C.	CARR F.B.	CLARK R.J.	COOLING F.H.
BROOKES E.J.	BURNS G.E.	CARR T.	CLARK W.D.	COOLING H.W.
BROUCH J.	BURNS J.	CARROLL C.	CLARK W.G.	COOPER A.C.
BROWN A.	BURNS W.	CARTHEW H.G.	CLARK W.	COOPER A.E.
BROWN A.G.	BURROWS T.	CARTNEY J.W.	CLARKE C.	COOPER E.R.
BROWN C.O.E.	BUTLER T.	CAULCOTT F.	CLAUDE E.M.	COOPER J.W.
BROWN E.C.	BUTT J.H.	CAVEN H.	CLIFFORD J.	COOPER S.G.
BROWN E.M.	BYRNE C.	CHADWICK H.W.	CLIFFORD W.P.	COPP H.J.
BROWN R.W.A.	BYRNE J.H.	CHANDLER J.W.	CLOUGH R.H.	CORBET B.F.
BROWN W.A.	CAHALANE J.	CHATAWAY S.D.E.		CORBETT H.
HODGSON W.	HUGHES W.J.	JASTER J.G.	KEATING R.W.	KLINGNER F.V.

(34 pages of Private Percy Francis Connelly's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*



**\*\* Connected to Private Percy Francis Connelly:**

Older brother – Private Francis Connelly, service number 764, of 42nd Battalion A.I.F. was killed in action in France on 29th September, 1918.

He is remembered on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France & Panel 135 at the Australian War Memorial.



**Newspaper Reports**

**CASUALTY LIST - QUEENSLAND**

**DIED OF ILLNESS**

Pte P. F. Connelly (Bangalow, NSW)

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Friday 6th April, 1917)*

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**MACKAY NOTES**

Miss Rene Cook, Town Common, has been advised that Private Percy F. Connelly died of illness in London\* on March 9th, five days after arrival. The late Private Connelly was the son of Mr and Mrs Connelly of Banglow, Richmond River, New South Wales. The deceased was well known in Mackay.

*(Townsville Daily Bulletin, Queensland, Thursday 12th April, 1917)*

*\*Note the date of death & place of death are both incorrect*

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## St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England

The New Zealand Command Depot was established at Codford in June 1916 and the No 3 New Zealand General Hospital followed in July. The New Churchyard was established by deed of gift as the "Military Burial Ground," with a small part reserved for future burials from the parish. The war graves plot contains 98 burials, mostly of New Zealand and Australian forces. There is only one burial of the Second World War in the New Churchyard.

*(Information from CWGC)*

There are 31 WW1 Australian War Graves & 66 WW1 New Zealand War Graves located here. There is one WW1 British Royal Army Medical Corp Grave & one WW2 Welsh Guards grave located in this Churchyard.

Private Percy Francis Connelly does not have a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone as his headstone was erected prior by his comrades.



**St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford** *(Photos courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*





**New Zealand Section of Codford Anzac War Graves Cemetery** (Photo by Romy Wyeth 2013)



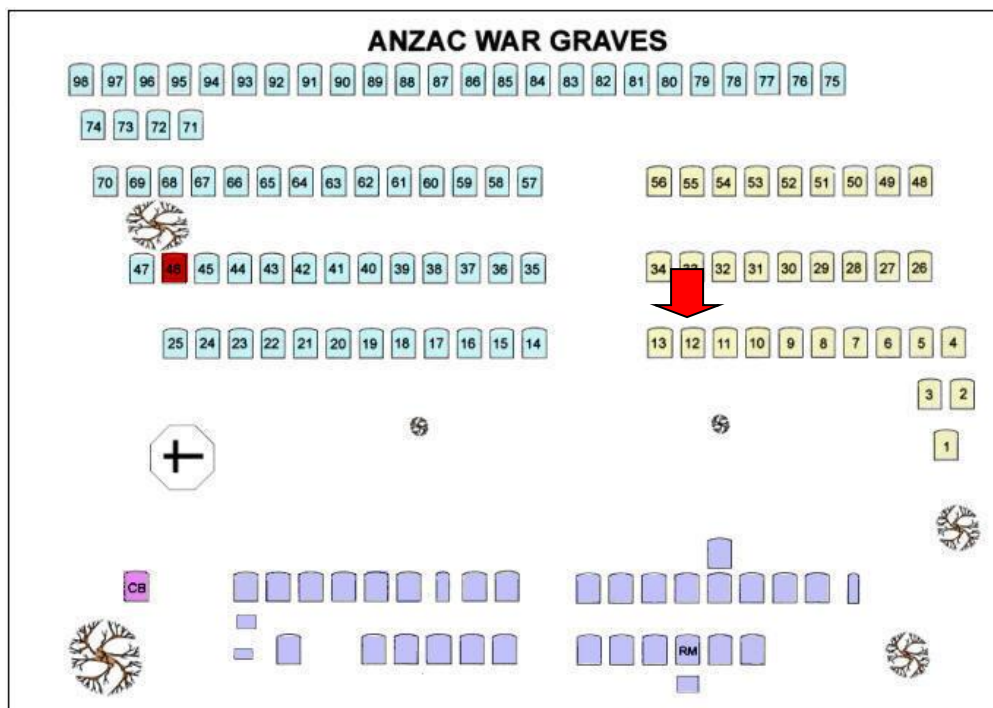
Photo of Private Percy Connelly's Private Headstone in St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England.



*(Headstone Photos courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*



A Headstone for Private Percy Connelly is located in Main Front Row (Right Hand Side) Grave Plot # 12 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (CWGC Reference - Grave # 82)



- Australian Soldiers
- Welsh Soldier
- New Zealand Soldiers
- Local Burials
- UK Soldier

Codford War Graves map adapted from Brian Marshall courtesy of Romy Wyeth