

**Fort Pitt Military Cemetery,  
Rochester, Kent  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**4482 CORPORAL**

**A. W. WOODS**

**AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS**

**26TH AUGUST, 1916 Age 27**

*In Memory*

*Of My Loving Husband*

*Loved By All Who Knew Him*

*"Asleep"*

## **Albert William (Bertie) WOODS**

Albert William Woods was born at Carlton, Melbourne, Victoria around June, 1888 to parents George and Jane Woods (nee Waters).

Albert William Woods attended the State School at Jumbunna, Victoria.

Jane Woods, mother of Albert William Woods, died on 4th May, 1906 at Jumbunna, Victoria.

Albert William Woods married Eleanor May (surname unknown).

Albert William Woods was a 26 year old, married, Seaman from 570 Latrobe Street, West Melbourne, Victoria when he enlisted on 24th March, 1915 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 24th Infantry Battalion, "C" Company of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 729 & his religion was 24th March, 1915. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Ellen May Woods, of 570 Latrobe Street, West Melbourne, Victoria.

Private Albert William Woods was posted to A.I.F. Depot on 24th March, 1915. He was transferred to 24th Battalion on 30th April, 1915.

Private Albert William Woods embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 10th May, 1915.

Private Albert William Woods was transferred to 5th Field Company, Australian Engineers from 24th Battalion on 15th August, 1915. His new service number was 4482.

### **Australian Engineers**

Engineers, also known as sappers, were essential to the running of the war. Without them, other branches of the Allied Forces would have found it difficult to cross the muddy and shell-ravaged ground of the Western Front. Their responsibilities included constructing the lines of defence, temporary bridges, tunnels and trenches, observation posts, roads, railways, communication lines, buildings of all kinds, showers and bathing facilities, and other material and mechanical solutions to the problems associated with fighting in all theatres.

*(Information from The Australian War Memorial)*

Private Albert William Woods was promoted to 2nd Corporal on 16th August, 1915 while at Anzac.

2nd Corporal Albert William Woods proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli on 3rd September, 1915.

2nd Corporal Albert William Woods was sent sick to Hospital while at Anzac on 14th November, 1915. He was discharged from Hospital on 18th November, 1915.

2nd Corporal Albert William Woods was taken to 5th Field Ambulance at Anzac on 6th December, 1915 suffering from the effects of gas then admitted the same day with Gas poisoning. He was discharged to duty on 8th December, 1915.

### War Diary – 5th Field Company, Australian Engineers. 2nd Australian Division:

*ANZAC - 5th December, 1915*

*COURTNEY's – Turks blew a charge at 2232 between D26 and D26B. A retaining tamping had already been put in D26 in anticipation of blowing ourselves, this assisted in preventing the backs and the walls of D26 from coming in. A second mine was exploded by the Turks about 2240 in front of D9B2, which filled in a few feet at the end and partially filled in for a distance of over 15ft. This was the only damage caused by the 2 blows – in both cases the Turks blew craters close to their own lines.*

ANZAC - 6th December, 1915

*COURTNEY's – Tamping removed in D26 and found gallery intact. 2/Cpl. Woods was overcome by gas fumes when investigating the damage from the Turkish blow, indicating undoubtedly a crack between the Turkish gallery and D26. Picking heard about 9ft distant from D9A4.*

(Information from The Australian War Memorial)

2nd Corporal Albert William Woods disembarked at Alexandria on 9th January, 1916 on *Manitou*.

2nd Corporal Albert William Woods was taken to Field Ambulance at Tel-el-Kebir on 18th January, 1916 suffering from eye trouble. He rejoined his Unit on 20th January, 1916.

2nd Corporal Albert William Woods was taken to Hospital (2nd Australian Stationary Hospital) at Tel-el-Kebir on 17th March, 1916 with congestion & rejoined his Unit on 19th March, 1916.

2nd Corporal Albert William Woods was made Corporal on 1st April, 1916 while at Ferry Post.

Corporal Albert William Woods embarked overseas with B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 17th June, 1916 on *Manitou*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 25th June, 1916.

Corporal Albert William Woods was admitted to 4th Australian Field Ambulance on 9th July, 1916. He was admitted to 5th D.R.S. (Divisional Rest Station) with Pyrexia on 11th July, 1916. Corporal Woods was discharged on 13th July, 1916 & rejoined his Unit on 14th July, 1916.

Corporal Albert William Woods was wounded in action on 20th July, 1916. He was admitted to 8th Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wounds to back. He was transferred by Ambulance Train on 21st July, 1916 & admitted to 30th General Hospital, at Calais, France on 21st July, 1916 with gunshot wounds to sacrum (severe). Corporal Woods embarked for England on 25th July, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Newhaven* with bullet wounds to Sacrum.

#### War Diary – 8th Field Company, Australian Engineers

*France – 20th July, 1916 – By 4 am the firing trench across No Mans Land had only a few pot holes (from which it had developed) to link up right against the German line, from which position the working parties had been bombed several times.*

*The casualties were:*

*Killed*

*2/Lt. C. P. Jenbosch*

*4511 Cpl. W. J. Morrison*

*4474 T/2 Cpl. H. T. Smith*

*1153 Spr. Ward, R. L.*

*2197 Spr. Betts S.*

*Wounded*

**4482 Cpl. A. W. Wood**

*4449 2/Cpl. G. S. Chisolm*

*1026 Spr. J. H. Dobson*

*2165 Spr. S. J. Fox*

*4457 Spr. Ingleby, C. H.*

*2180 Spr. Montgomery, O.*

*[Another 27 more names were listed along with 4 Missing]*

*Total Killed 1 Off. 4 OR. Wounded 33 OR Missing 4 OR.*

*The company remained in the line and did some repairs to avenues in the afternoon*

(Information from The Australian War Memorial)

Corporal Albert William Woods was admitted to Fort Pitt Military Hospital, Chatham, Kent, England on 25th July, 1916. He was reported as seriously ill on 27th July, 1916.

Corporal Albert William Woods died at 1 am on 26th August, 1916 at Fort Pitt Military Hospital, Chatham, Kent, England from wounds received in action in France – bullet wounds to sacrum.

A death for Albert W. Wood, aged 28, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Medway, Kent, England.

Corporal Albert William Woods was buried in Fort Pitt Military Cemetery, Rochester, Kent, England – Plot number 1404 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Corporal Albert William Woods was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Woods' widow – Mrs E. M. Woods, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal Albert William Woods – service number 4482, aged 27, of 8th Field Coy., Australian Engineers. He was the son of George and Jane Woods; husband of Eleanor May Woods, of 163 Curzon St., North Melbourne. Native of Jumbunna, Victoria, Australia.

Corporal A. W. Woods is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 25.

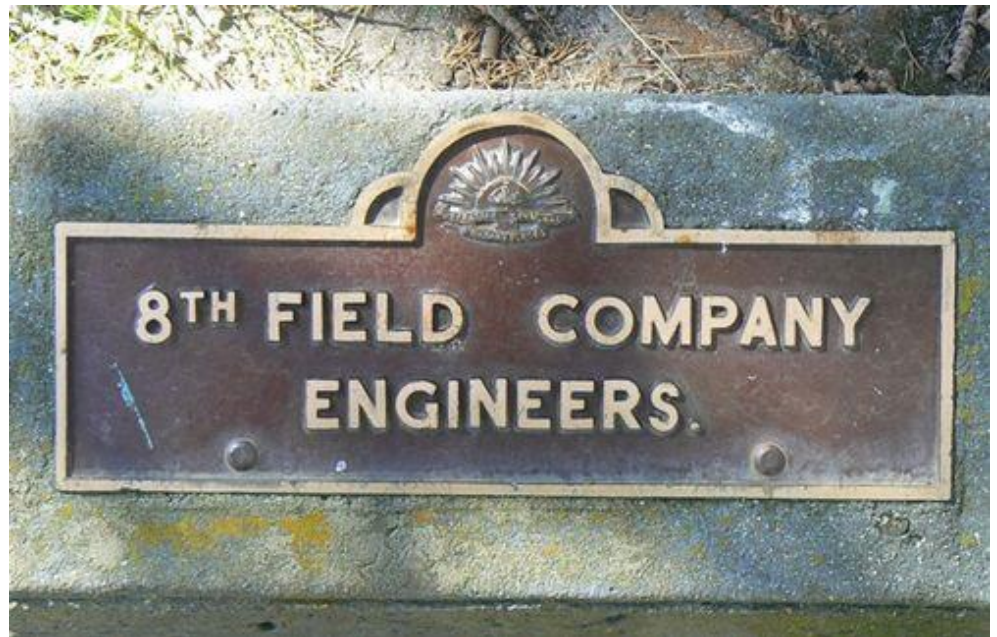


*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

The 8th Field Company Engineers are commemorated at the Shrine of Remembrance, St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, Victoria.



**Shrine of Remembrance** (Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson)



(44 pages of Corporal Albert William Woods' 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**

### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **134th LIST ISSUED**

ILL  
VICTORIA

2nd Cpl. WOODS, A. W. 5th Fld. Coy. Engrs. West Melbourne

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 January, 1916)

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### **THE 191st CASUALTY LIST**

#### **Wounded and Seriously Ill**

Corporal A. W. Woods, North Melbourne

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 12 August, 1916)

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### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **212th AND 213th LISTS ISSUED**

DANGEROUSLY ILL

VICTORIA

WOODS, Cpl. A. W., North Melbourne

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 16 September, 1916)

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### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **214th AND 215th LISTS ISSUED**

DIED OF WOUNDS

VICTORIA

WOODS, Cpl. A. W., North Melbourne, 26/8/16

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 19 September, 1916)

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### **Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones**

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(*Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921*)

Corporal A. W. Woods does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Memory Of My Loving Husband*

*Loved By All Who Knew Him*

*“Asleep”*

## Fort Pitt Military Cemetery, Rochester, Kent, England

Fort Pitt Military Cemetery, Rochester, Kent contains 289 identified Commonwealth War Graves.

During both wars there were naval and military establishments in the neighbourhood of Rochester, and some fishing and shipping at the port.

Fort Pitt Military Cemetery contains a plot of 266 First World War graves. The 25 Second World War graves (two of them unidentified) are north of the plot. All save two of them are together in a group.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*



Photo of Corporal A. W. Woods' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Fort Pitt Military Cemetery, Rochester, Kent, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Kyle Tallett)*