

## WARD

# Francis Goodwin

## Service Number 4927

PRIVATE F. G. WARD.



16th Battalion.  
(Reported missing. Eldest son of Mr. and  
Mrs. G. W. Ward, Bruce Rock.)

Courtesy National Archives of  
Australia

## BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Francis Goodwin Ward

Service number: 4927

Date of enlistment: 6/12/1915

Age at Enlistment: 23 years 11 months

Civil Occupation: Farm Labourer

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal and the Victory Medal

Height: 5 feet 4 ½ inches

Weight: 109 pounds

Chest measurement: 31 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Grey

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: George William Ward

Mother: Elsie/Eliza Hathaway

Siblings: John Arthur L'anson (1894), Theodore George (1895), Una Katherine/Catherine (1896), William Hubert (1897), Cecil Joseph (1899), Flora Cecilia (1900), Victor Henry (1901), Gilbert Walter (1903), Stella Mary (1904), Elsie Honora Priscilla (1906), Bertha Maud Sylvia (1908)

## Family History:

George William Ward was born around 1866 in West Bergholt, Essex. He arrived in Australia on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1887 aboard the *Chimborazo* from Plymouth to Adelaide and Melbourne.

By 1892, George William was in Western Australia and, later that year, he was appointed the first teacher at Grigson's Well School. In September, George received a Certificate of Competency, First Class, in the Examination for Teachers' Certificates. This was also the year he married York girl, Eliza Hathaway, at York. The couple would go on to have a large family.

Between 1893 and 1898, George was appointed Head Teacher at Dongara State School. During this time, he was also the District Registrar for Births, Deaths and Marriages for the local district.

In 1899, George was appointed the Master of Cookernup School, where he was also a Returning Officer for the Wellington District at the Cookernup school house during the referendum for the Federation of Australia in 1900.

In 1900, George was appointed to Fremantle Boys' School, where he remained until 1902, when he resigned to take up a position of Instructor at the Fremantle Prison.

Around 1913, according to a family member, George acquired three thousand acres of land at Jura but, in 1914, George and Eliza were registered as living at Comitun Rock, Doodlakine. By 1916, they were listed at Jura Siding, where they remained until Eliza's death in 1927.

Their sons, Cecil, Hubert and John, were farming in the Bruce Rock area.

However, after the death of his wife in 1927, George moved to Perth, where he died, in 1932, after falling down a lift well.

## Life Story

Francis Goodwin Ward was born at York in 1892. He was most likely educated in the various state schools where his father taught and at the Fremantle Boys' School after his father commenced work at Fremantle Prison.

By the time of his enlistment at Wickpin on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 1915, Francis was working as a farm labourer.

A week after enlisting, Francis was ill with influenza. It was not until June 1916 that he finally embarked for Alexandria aboard the *Ulysses* to join the 4<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Alexandria.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1916, Francis left Egypt, bound for France. He disembarked at Marseilles on the 14<sup>th</sup> June and proceeded to join his unit.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> July, Francis was in the Field, Taken on Strength with the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Three weeks' later, he was Wounded in Action and diagnosed with shell shock.

Francis re-joined his unit on the 15<sup>th</sup> August but, on the 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1916, he was reported Missing in Action. His body was never found and, on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 1917, a Court of Inquiry declared Francis Killed in Action on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 1917.

He is commemorated on the Villers Bretonneux memorial and the Bruce Rock War Memorial.

## Acknowledgements

The following people and organisations helped with the research to compile this booklet.

Harvey, Heather

Ward, Victor Hugo

## References

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