

Charles William Murray

Charles William Murray was born to William Joseph Murray and Emily Murray in 1893 in Orange, New South Wales. He attended Orange Superior Public School and was a presbyterian.

He enlisted at Liverpool in July 1915, just a year and five days before his death.

His unit embarked from Sydney on HMAT A72 Beltana on the 9th November, 1915 for his training in Egypt. on the 8th of April he was promoted to Corporal.

He eventually left Egypt on the 23rd of June 1916 for Marseilles, France.

He died after only a little over a month in France on the battlefield of Fromelles. He charged with his comrades towards a German trench when he was shot in the thigh and was unable to move in the flat, open land with gunfire from all directions. It is not known exactly when he died, but his body was eventually recovered by the Germans and buried at Pheasant Wood. He was only 23 years old.

Below are the eyewitness accounts of his death on the 20th of July 1916

Eyewitness Accounts of Death

Statement, 684 Pte F. HALL, C Company, 30th Bn, 28 August 1916: 'I saw him fall, shot through the thigh on the night of the 19th July, at Fleurbaix. This was on the parades (sic) of the 1st. line of German trenches and he could not move. We had then to retire along the trench as the Germans had got in on our right and were bombing us. There was only one Cpl. Murray in C. Co. and he came from Orange, N.S.W.'

Second statement, 1180 Lance Corporal S. BROOK, C Company, 30th Bn (patient, Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol, England), 9 December 1916: 'I saw Cpl. Murray wounded in the thigh as we were running across the open at Fleurbaix on the 19th July. He fell but I cannot say whether he died or what happened to him further.'



The Orange Post Office 1890



Orange Telegraph and Post Office - Early 1900s

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HMAT A72



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He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal

1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal (L to R)



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