

# Codford War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



*In Loving Memory*

*- Of -*

**Pte. PERCY CONNELLY.**

**WHO DIED MARCH 19TH 1917**

**AGED 25 YEARS.**

**ERECTED BY HIS COMRADES**

**8TH. REINFTS. 49<sup>TH</sup> BATTN.**

**13<sup>TH</sup> TRAINING BATTN. A.I.F.**

*A Headstone for Pte Percy Connelly is located in Main Front Row (Right Hand Side) Grave Plot # 12 of  
Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)*

*(CWGC Reference - Grave # 82 )*

Percy Francis Connelly was born at Goulburn, New South Wales in 1892 to parents Francis & Emily Connelly (nee Windley). He was a 24 year old, single Labourer from Bangalow, Richmond River, NSW when he enlisted at Mackay, Queensland on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 1916 with the 49<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 3144 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Francis Connelly of Bangalow, Richmond River, NSW.

Pte Percy Francis Connelly embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Demosthenes (A64)* on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 1917.

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.

Pte Connelly was marched in to 13th Training Battalion at Codford on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 1917. He was admitted sick to New Zealand Hospital on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 1917.

Pte Percy Francis Connelly died at 4.10 a.m. on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 at No. 3 New Zealand Military Hospital, Codford, Wiltshire.

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

From the burial report of Pte Percy Francis Connelly – He was buried on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 1917 at St. Mary's Parish Churchyard, Codford, Grave No. 82. *A wreath was put on the grave of Pte Connelly by the C.o. 13<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Pte 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 11<sup>th</sup>, 1917:

*He was admitted to this Hospital on March 7<sup>th</sup> last but his condition did not give cause for any undue alarm until he became much worse on March 17<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup>. The deceased was accorded a Funeral with full Military Honours on March 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 P. F. Connelly is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 148.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

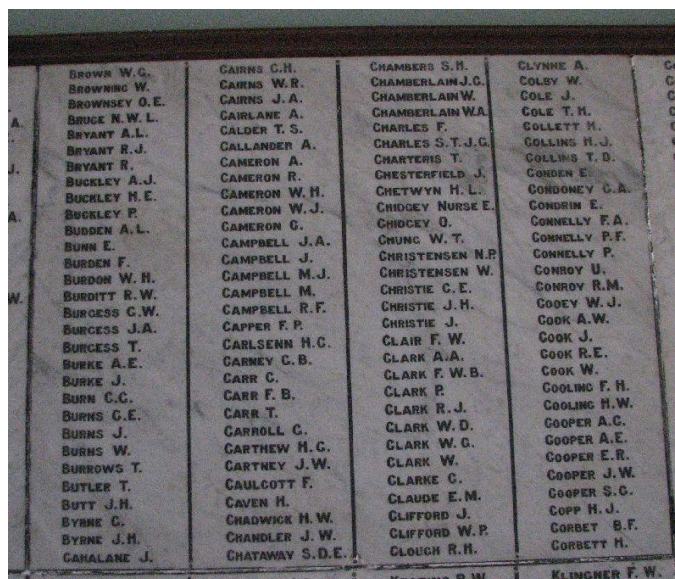


(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)

Pte P. F. Connelly is also remembered on the Mackay Old Town Hall Honour Board.



(Photos from Mackayhistory.org)



Pte 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 Pte Connelly's father – Mr Francis Connelly in August, 1922.

(34 pages of Pte 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*

oooOOOooo

\*\* Pte Percy Francis Connelly's older brother – Pte Francis Connelly, service number 764, of 42<sup>nd</sup> Battalion A.I.F. was killed in action in France on 29<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> April, 1917)*

---

#### MACKAY NOTES

Miss Rene Cook, Town Common, has been advised that Private Percy F. Connelly died of illness in London\* on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 12<sup>th</sup> April, 1917)*

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

---

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

Photo of Pte Percy Connelly's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery



*(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*