

Ernest Arthur POTTS



Pre-enlistment:

- Ernest was born on 22 March 1893 in Townsville to parents David Cunningham and Ada (nee Stokes) Potts of Ackers Street, Townsville. They were married on 10 October 1891
- His siblings were David (b 1895), Ada (b 1897), Trixie (b 1901), Vera (b 1903), Wilfred (b 1905)
- He attended West End State School, Townsville
- He had been a member of the Voluntary Senior Cadets
- Prior to enlistment he was a shipping clerk with Adelaide S.S. Co, living at Acker Street, Hermit Park, Townsville
- He was engaged to Miss Daphne Wells of 'Arlington', Yooyong Road, Caulfield, Victoria
- After the war, Mary St was renamed Potts Street in 1919 in honour of Ernest Arthur Potts.

Military Records

- Service Number: 881
- Ernest POTTS enlisted on 13 September 1915 in Townsville aged 22 years 6 months
- Quarter Master Potts embarked with 3rd Pioneer Battalion, C Company on 6 June 1916 from Melbourne on HMAT Wandilla and disembarked in Plymouth England on 26 July 1916
- On 24 November 1916 he proceeded overseas from Southampton to France
- On 28 January 1917 he was admitted to hospital in St Omar with mumps until he re-joined his unit on 1 February 1917
- He was promoted CSM on 20 April 1917 then reverted to Sergeant on his own request on 23 June 1917
- He was appointed to bomb T.T. School from 25 – 26 July 1917 when he re-joined his Unit, then on 30 July 1917 he left France and returned to Fovant, England to PNR, Training Battalion
- He again proceeded overseas to France on 2 October 1917 via Folkestone, re-joined his Unit in the field on 12 October 1917
- He had been promoted to Sergeant Major but due to a nervous breakdown he reverted to Private at own request on 9 December 1917
- He was attached to 1st ANZAC Corps School at Avelay on 12 December until 9 March 1918.
- He re-joined his Unit in the field on 4 April 1918
- Private Ernest Arthur POTTS Died Of Wounds of GSW to abdomen and hip received in action at Etinehein near Bray-sur-Somme, France on 22 August 1918, aged 25 years 5 months
- His service was on the Western Front.

Cemetery &/or Memorial

- Buried at Beacon Cemetery Sully-Laurett Somme France Grave V.A.I
- Australian War Memorial, Roll of Honour, Panel umber 173
- Townsville Cenotaph
- Townsville West State School Memorial Gate
- Townsville City Council Honour Board

Honours & Awards

- British War Medal
- Victory Medal

Rifle Shooting

- Ernest Potts was a member of the Townsville Rifle Club

ACWM Commemoration Service

Reference Links

- <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8016881>
- <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=244194b>
- <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1653633>
- <https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/237717>
- 'The Townsville Cenotaph World War I Soldiers' by Carolyn Lee Larard and Maureen Valda Newnham