

## William Thomas ALDER

Private. Australian Infantry, A.I.F



### At KES:

William was fatherless and came to KES in 1900. He was described as a good shoemaker. When he left in 1904 there is no indication as to his future work. It appears that he emigrated to Sydney, Australia in January 1914, hoping perhaps to be a dairy farmer. However within a year he was fighting in the War.



**Date of Death: 4<sup>th</sup> August 1916**

**Place: France**

**Buried: Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-L'Abbe, Somme**

The 18th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. William attested on 26<sup>th</sup> April 1915, he gave his trade as a tailor.

The Battalion left Australia in early May, trained in Egypt from mid-June until mid-August, and on 20th August landed at Anzac Cove. The battalion had not been ashore a day when it was committed to the last operation of the August Offensive - the attack on Hill 60 - which lasted until 29 August and cost it 50 per cent casualties. For the rest of the campaign the 18th played a purely defensive role, being primarily responsible for holding Courtney's Post. The last members of the battalion left Gallipoli on 20th December. After further training in Egypt, the 18th Battalion proceeded to France. Landing there on 25 March 1916, it took part in its first major battle at Pozières between 25 July and 5 August.

Service records indicate that he died of wounds at the 35<sup>th</sup> Clearing Station.

He is remembered at the Australian National Memorial, Canberra - see above.