



William Charles HARRIS

Regimental No.	4131
Place of birth	Monbulk, Victoria
School	Tooronga Road and Malvern East Schools, Victoria
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Plasterer
Address	Dunedin House, Balaclava Road, Caulfield, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	19
Next of kin	Father, Frederick. Joseph Harris, Dunedin House, Balaclava Road, Caulfield, Victoria
Previous military service	Served in the Citizen Forces
Enlistment date	14th January 1916
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	22nd Battalion, 10th Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll No.	23/39/3
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT A18 <i>Wiltshire</i> on 7th March 1916
Rank from Nominal Roll	Sergeant
Unit from Nominal Roll	22nd Battalion
Recommendations (Medals and Awards)	Distinguished Conduct Medal for work at Broodseinde Ridge on 4th October 1917. Recommendation date: 14th October 1917
1916	Serving with 22nd Battalion in training Egypt.
1916 18th May	Disembarked Marseilles, France.
1916 8th June	Injured toe nail sent to Etaples.
1916 31st July	Rejoined Unit in France.
1916 5th August	Gun Shot Wounded to head. Admitted to Camiers General Hospital.
1916 24th September	Rejoined Unit in Field.
1916 31st October	Appointed Lieutenant Corporal.
1917 8th March	Promoted to Corporal.
1917 10th May	Shrapnel wounded to head admitted to Company Depot at Rouen.
1917 8th July	Reverts to Corporal rank.
1917 21st May	Rejoined Battalion in the Field
1917 12 June	Accidental Injury. Incised wound front of chest. Soldier not to blame. Admitted to Casualty Clearing Station. Rejoined Unit on 18th June.
1917 20th July	Promoted to Sergeant.
1917 4th October	Wounded in Action. Gun shot wound to left arm. Transferred to Camiers then to England on 10th October. Then convalescence in England.
1917 5th November	On furlough until 14th November.
1917 6th December	Attended the 16th Rifle Course at the School of Musketry Tidworth. Qualified as 1st Class with a fair working knowledge of the Lewis Gun until 8th January 1918.
1918 12th June	Rejoined Battalion in France.
1918 22nd July	Wounded in Action. Gassed and shrapnel wound to the neck and back. Transferred to 5th Casualty Clearing Hospital, France.
Fate	Died of wounds 22nd July 1918 in Villers-Bretonneux, France
Other details	War service: Western Front Medals: 1914 - 15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal and Distinguished Conduct Medal Born 1897 in Lilydale. Son of Agnes (<i>nee</i> Green) and Frederick Joseph Harris Described as 5 ft., 6 3/4 in., 141 lbs., brown eyes and brown hair. William's effects received by his father from the field were: 1 wallet, 1 letter, photos, 1 knife, 1 roll book, 4 wound stripes, 1 gold ring (stone missing), 1 coin, D.C.M. ribbon. Died aged 21 Connection with Monbulk unknown.
Family/military connections	Cousin; Caulfield George Harris, wounded and died. IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION: No.4131 Sergeant William C Harris D.C.M. Died of Wounds 22nd July 1918 Buried: Crouy British Cemetery Somme, France.

Distinguished Conduct Medal

'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in continuing to lead his section in an attack though wounded three times. He rushed a hostile blockhouse, silenced the gun, and captured the occupants. He remained at his post in the captured position until wounded again.'

Source: 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 95 Date: 27th June 1918