

## **Edmund McIntyre CORNWALL**

Edmund Cornwall was born at Bairnsdale in 1892 to Edmund Thomas and Florence (nee Smartt) Coirnwail. The family lived in Wandong from around 1900 until 1910. Edmund enlisted in Melbourne in July 1915 aged 22 years and 11 months. At the time he was employed as a Police Constable and was unmarried. He named his father, then living in Cranbourne, as his next of kin.

He embarked for active service with the 14th Battalion as a sergeant, service number 2782, in September 1915. In January 1916 he joined his unit at Ismalia, Egypt, and reverted to private. He was then taken on strength to the 46th Battallion and promoted to 2nd Lieutenant. In June of 1916 he marched in to France where he was seconded for duty to the 12th Light Trench Mortar Battery. This only lasted for about one week until he was re-transferred to the 46th Battalion.

In early August Edmund was sustained a gun shot wound to his right leg and after treatment in the field he was transferred to England for further interventions. He was discharged to duty in October and marched in to France in November. He was detached for duty at the 12th Light Trench Mortar Battery in February 1917 and promoted to Lieutenant in March. Edmund was then seconded for duty with the 12th Training Battalion. From there he detached to the 67th Battalion to attend the General Course of Instruction at Chelsea. In September 1917 he was transferred to the 46th Battalion and proceeded to France in October.

Edmund was admitted to the Field Hospital in January 1918 with trench feet and subsequently transferred to England for treatment. While under treatment he was accused of misconduct "delaying the cure of his disease". Edmund wrote an impassioned seven page letter to army administration justifying his behaviour at the time. It was clear he had expected a career in the army and had ambitions to go on to the British Indian Army post WW1. This was not to be. A proposed trial was dispensed with and he was returned to Australia in May 1918 for termination of appointment to the AIF - "Services no longer required".

Edmund was awarded the British War Medal, the 1914/15 Star and the Victory Medal and his service is commemorated on the Kilmore Honour Roll. He married Ivy May Prescott in February 1922. Electoral records show him living at Moe and working as a sawmiller in 1924. In 1949 he was living at Noojee as a farmer and contractor.

Edmund died at Bundoora in 1970 aged 77 years. This may have been an accidental death as one of his sons died on the same day.

*Compiled by Kilmore Historical Society.*