

## The AIF Project



### Walter Edmund CHURCHILL

Regimental number	382
Place of birth	Goulburn, New South Wales
School	Newcastle High School, New South Wales
Religion	Methodist
Occupation	Engineer
Address	Hexham, New South Wales
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	19
Height	5' 9"
Weight	168 lbs
Next of kin	Father, Edmond Thomas Churchill, Hexham, New South Wales
Previous military service	Served in the Senior Cadets.
Enlistment date	18 July 1915
Place of enlistment	Liverpool, New South Wales
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	30th Battalion, B Company (/showUnit?unitCode=INF30CB)
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/47/1
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Sydney, New South Wales, on board HMAT A72 <i>Beltana</i> on 9 November 1915
Rank from Nominal Roll	Private
Unit from Nominal Roll	30th Battalion
Fate	Killed in Action 20 July 1916
Place of death or wounding	Somme Sector, France
Age at death	19.9
Age at death from cemetery records	19
Place of burial	Rue-Petillon Military Cemetery (Plot I, Row K, Grave No. 56), France
Panel number, Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial	116
Miscellaneous information from cemetery records	Parents: Edmond Thomas and Emily Harriet CHURCHILL, 22, Ada Street, Waratal Wales. Born at Goulburn, New South Wales
Other details	War service: Egypt, Western Front Embarked Sydney, 9 November 1915; disembarked Suez, 11 December 1915. Admitted to 15th Field Ambulance, Ferry Post, 22 May 1916 (not yet diagnosed); duty, 25 May 1916; rejoined unit, 26 May 1916. Embarked Alexandria to join the British Expeditionary Force, 16 June 1916; disembarked Marseilles, France, 23 June 1916.

Killed in action, 20 July 1916.

Buried Eaton Hall Cemetery by Rev.G. Cranston.

Statement, Red Cross File No 730811, 511 Pte C. PIGERSGILL, B Company, 30th Bn (patient, 3rd Southern General Hospital, The Base, Oxford, England), 11 November 1916: 'I was killed at Fromelles on the night of July 19-20. We were attacking at the time, I later. He was hit in the stomach with a piece of shell and died in a dug out shortly was buried the following morning at Fromelles in a big grave with other Australian marked and a record kept ... I did not see him killed, but I have seen his grave.'

Second statement, 568 Lance Corporal W.H. WEBB, B Company, 30th Bn (patient, General Hospital, Wandsworth, England), 13 November 1916: 'Informant states that Churchill was killed by a shell wound in the abdomen. He died shortly after drinking of water, but having an abdominal wound had to be refused. He died shortly after a dug-out. He was buried in a cemetery close by Fromelles in a large trench grave with his comrades.'

Third statement, 492 Pte F. MALONEY, B Company, 30th Bn (patient, No 1 Canadian Hospital, Etaples), 28 November 1916: 'Whilst in front of Fleurbaix we were endeavouring to consolidate a ditch which lay between the lines; this was late in the evening of 19th July this we had to carry our supplies across the open: Churchill had crossed 5 times but on the 6th attempt he was shot in the mouth by a bullet and killed instantly. Our men put him in a dug-out where I saw him. I am almost certain he was buried in a cemetery, just behind our line of that date.'

Fourth statement, 436 Lance Sergeant J.W. LAING, B Company, 30th Bn (patient, General Hospital, Bristol, England), 10 December 1916: 'Informant states that Churchill was killed by a piece of shell at Fromelles on July 20th and died immediately. His body was dug out in our lines and I saw it.'

Fifth statement, 502 Pte J.W. NICHOLSON, B Company, 30th Bn (patient, Grayling Chichester, England), 2 January 1917: 'Informant states that on July 20th, 1916 at Fromelles Churchill was carrying ammunition to the German 1st line of trenches which our men were attacking and was killed. There was an Armistice granted and unfortunately it was not until after the Armistice that Churchill's body was brought in for burial.'

#### Sources

NAA: B2455, CHURCHILL Walter Edmund  
(<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/AutoSearch.asp?O=I&Number=3248966>)  
Red Cross file 730811 ([https://www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search/people?roll=Australian+Red+Cross+Wounded+and+Missing+Files&people\\_preferred\\_name=Walter+Edmund](https://www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search/people?roll=Australian+Red+Cross+Wounded+and+Missing+Files&people_preferred_name=Walter+Edmund))

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