

The AIF Project



Francis James WALSH

Regimental number	2419
Place of birth	Dungog New South Wales
Religion	Roman Catholic
Occupation	School teacher
Address	Inverell, New South Wales
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	24
Next of kin	Father, James Walsh, Monaben, Brookfield via Dungog, New South Wales
Enlistment date	13 June 1916
Date of enlistment from Nominal Roll	27 April 1916
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	34th Battalion, 4th Reinforcement (/showUnit?unitCode=INF34REIN4)
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/51/2
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Sydney, New South Wales, on board HMAT A30 <i>Borda</i> on 17 October 1916
Rank from Nominal Roll	Private
Unit from Nominal Roll	34th Battalion
Fate	Killed in Action 6 May 1918
Place of burial	No known grave
Commemoration details	<p>Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France Villers-Bretonneux is a village about 15 km east of Amiens. The Memorial stands on the high ground ('Hill 104') behind the Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, Fouilloy, which is about 2 km north of Villers-Bretonneux on the east side of the road to Fouilloy.</p> <p>The Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux is approached through the Military Cemetery, at the end of which is an open grass lawn which leads into a three-sided court. The two pavilions on the left and right are linked by the north and south walls to the back (east) wall, from which rises the focal point of the Memorial, a 105 foot tall tower, of fine ashlar. A staircase leads to an observation platform, 64 feet above the ground, from which further staircases lead to an observation room. This room contains a circular stone tablet with bronze pointers indicating the Somme villages</p>

whose names have become synonymous with battles of the Great War; other battle fields in France and Belgium in which Australians fought; and far beyond, Gallipoli and Canberra.

On the three walls, which are faced with Portland stone, are the names of 10,885 Australians who were killed in France and who have no known grave. The 'blocking course' above them bears the names of the Australian Battle Honours.

After the war an appeal in Australia raised £22,700, of which £12,500 came from Victorian school children, with the request that the majority of the funds be used to build a new school in Villers-Bretonneux. The boys' school opened in May 1927, and contains an inscription stating that the school was the gift of Victorian schoolchildren, twelve hundred of whose fathers are buried in the Villers-Bretonneux cemetery, with the names of many more recorded on the Memorial. Villers-Bretonneux is now twinned with Robinvale, Victoria, which has in its main square a memorial to the links between the two towns.

Panel number, Roll of Honour, Australian War Memorial	124
Miscellaneous information from cemetery records	Parents: James and Mary Maud WALSH.
Other details	War service: Western Front Medals: British War Medal, Victory Medal

[Print format \(showPerson?pid=312336&printFormat=print\)](https://www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=312336&printFormat=print)

Postgraduate Opportunities at UNSW Canberra

Master of Public Leadership and Policy (<https://www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/degree/postgraduate-coursework/master-public-leadership-and-policy-8633>)

Master of Cyber Security, Strategy and Diplomacy (<https://www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/degree/postgraduate-coursework/master-cyber-security-strategy-and-diplomacy-8631>)

Master of Security and Defence Management (<https://www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/degree/postgraduate-coursework/master-security-and-defence-management-8573>)

Master of Special Operations (<https://www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/degree/postgraduate-coursework/master-special-operations-8632>)

Master of Strategy and Security (<https://www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/degree/postgraduate-coursework/master-strategy-and-security-8572>)

Master of War Studies (<https://www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/degree/postgraduate-coursework/master-war-studies-8571>)

[Learn More » \(https://www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/study/postgraduate-coursework\)](https://www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/study/postgraduate-coursework)

Donations Welcome

The purpose of the gift is to support activities carried out by the Australian Centre for the Study of Armed Conflict and Society (ACSACS), with particular focus on the AIF Database.

[Click here to donate » \(https://www.donate.unsw.edu.au/donate/form/donate_unsw.html?Fund=AIF%20Database\)](https://www.donate.unsw.edu.au/donate/form/donate_unsw.html?Fund=AIF%20Database)