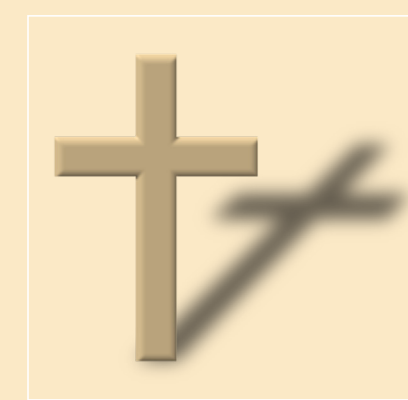


# GUNNER HENRY ALPHONSUS TORPEY



Born Limerick, Ireland 1884

Arrived with family in Melbourne 1897

Lived at 376 Albert Street, East Melbourne c1902-1915

Worked in the Parcels Office, Central Station (Flinders Street), Victorian Railways

Enlisted 9 August 1915

Appointed to Medical Corps, 8th Field Artillery Brigade

Transferred to 32nd Battery, 8th FAB as gunner

Embarked on HMAT *Medic* 20 May 1916

Trained in England and transferred to 108th Howitzer Battery, 8th FAB during 1916

Fined 5/- (50c) for being Absent without Leave

Proceeded to France 30 December 1916

Killed in action 5 June 1917



Corner of Albert and Lansdowne Streets, East Melbourne. Torpey's house is second door from right.

An eye witness stated:

*Casualty was standing with myself and another man talking, we were wondering if we could go over to the battery position Ploegsteert Wood, behind the piggery. The Germans had blown us out of our battery position on the Sunday 5th June, and the guns had been taken to the rear of that position. We started for the old position leaving it as late as possible as there was a chance of the Germans not knowing our guns had been sent to the rear and still shelling that position, but had only got about half way when an E.E. shell exploded in the centre of us killing Casualty instantly*

*He was one of the best men in the battery and was greatly missed by all his mates.*

Left a few personal effects including postcards and a religious book

Buried at the Strand Military Cemetery, Ploegsteert Wood, 4kms SSW of Messines

Torpey's sister Josephine received a war pension of £2 (\$4) a fortnight following his death.



*Medic* leaving Port Melbourne. AWM Po8000.001



Private Henry Alphonsus Torpey. AWM Po9659.001



The Strand Military Cemetery. AWM H12650



108th Howitzer Battery in action. AWM E03114



Torpey and another soldier on the Medicine Hut Trail, Ploegsteert, Messines area. AWM A00779



Two soldiers beside a sign reading 'Piccadilly' on a track in Ploegsteert Wood. AWM H02093