

Soldier dedication by Zoe Rogers

Private Arthur Enman was born on 2 January 1887 to parents James Francis and Matilda Enman. He grew up in Sandy Bay on Montpelier Street with his 10 siblings. In 1909 Enman married his first wife, Florence Theresa Enman in August. Months later in November the couple split. Tragically Florence Theresa died in early 1910. At this time Arthur Enman was working as a labourer, more specifically a painter. Years after the death of his first wife, Arthur Enman remarried to Minnie Enman and was living on Harrington Street in Hobart. Notably Arthur Enman's brother Private James Francis Enman enlisted on 26 July 1915 and joined the 1st Pioneer Battalion.

Arthur Enman enlisted in Claremont on 27 September 1915, only two months after his brother James enlisted. He embarked on the HMAT Afric on 5 January 1916. Following enlistment and after basic training, Arthur Enman assumed the rank of Private and kept this rank for the rest of his service in the Australian Imperial Force. He travelled to Egypt on the Oriana and received training in Alexandria. Reinforcements such as Enman experienced extensive training whilst in Egypt. New recruits also had the opportunity to train alongside veterans learning skills such as grenade throwing, artillery warfare and signal operations. From Alexandria he joined the Second Division base, situated in Etaples on 29 March 1916. Enman then became a part of the 8th reinforcement for the 26th Battalion and then joined the 26th Battalion in the field in France during April 1916.



Figure 1: Private Arthur Enman

On joining the 26th Battalion, Arthur Enman was thrown into the thick of trench warfare on the Western Front and the 26th Battalion later fought in the battle of Pozieres. A report by Lieutenant George Arthur Ferguson detailed the 26th Battalion's efforts in gaining land and

making new entrenchments on the night of 28/29 July. Their efforts were largely unsuccessful, disorganised and frustrating ordeals with Lieutenant Fergusson detailing the battalion's troubles by saying "While approaching the attack became somewhat confused in that the whole of the troops veered to the left, and the left of the Bn. on our right became intermixed with our right Company." He suggested in

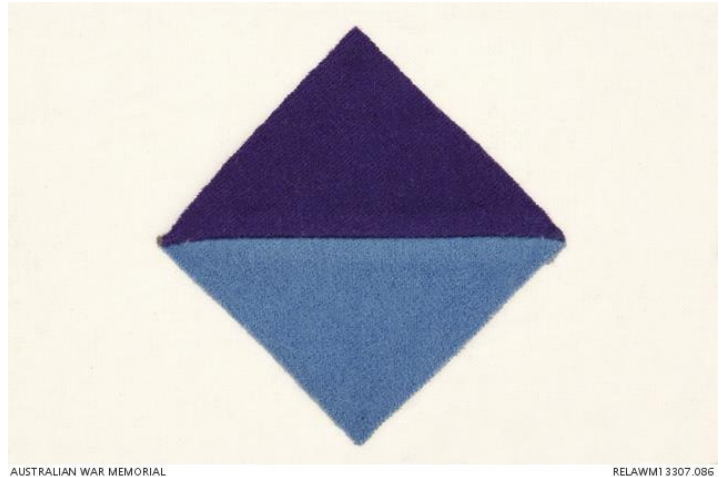


Figure 2: The 26th Battalion patch.

his report that the attack would have been more fruitful "if the artillery preparations had been more complete" and "if units had had no doubt regarding direction". After months in the field, Private Arthur Enman was wounded in action on 28 August 1916. Following his injury, he was admitted to the 5th Field Ambulance for shell shock, a psychological condition likened to PTSD. Only two days later he was discharged to duty. For the 26th Battalion, much of December 1916 was spent away from the front lines, training in skills such as live bomb throwing and working with a Lewis gun. Like many Australian soldiers, Private Arthur Enman struggled with authority. This came to a head when he failed to obey orders in January 1917 and was admonished by the commanding officer three days later. On 1-2 March the 26th Battalion also engaged in the Battle of Warlencourt.

Private Arthur Enman was killed in action by a bursting shell on 26 March 1917 during the battle of Lagincourt. Allied forces attacked the village of Lagincourt in France after Germans withdrew to the Hindenburg line due to their loss at Somme. The Hindenburg Line, as it was known by the Allies, referred to as Siegfried Stellung by the Germans was heavily entrenched and well defended. Australian units including the 26th Battalion planned to flank the village before enveloping and clearing it. While the battle was ultimately an Allied success, German troops deployed numerous counterattacks. The primary attack was the bombardment of the three major roads into the village. It is probable that these counterattacks were responsible for the death of Arthur Enman. The battle of Lagincourt was one of the most detailed battles entered in the 26th Battalion war diary. By the end of March, the 26th Battalion's war diary reported 443 men from the Battalion were killed, hospitalised or missing - sadly Private Arthur

Private Arthur Enman's service and sacrifice is commemorated in multiple ways today. He is remembered on Soldier's Avenue by tree number 207. The original tree was planted on 3 August 1918 during the first planting of the Avenue and was replaced by an Italian cypress tree in the 1960s. His name is also on the Hobart Town Hall Roll of Honour and the Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour on panel 107.



Figure 4: Me visiting Pte Arthur Enman's name in the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial.