

2012 Premier's ANZAC Spirit School Prize

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Year: 10

Age: 16

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From 1914 to 1918, World War One ravaged through countries globally, killing thousands of men and women. World War One was fought largely throughout Europe, where the issue of war originated. Australia being a part of the Commonwealth was forced to enter the war, due to Britain's involvement. Many Australian soldiers and nurses were sent to the Western Front, arriving in France to discover the horrors of trench warfare. Trenches extended across Belgium and North East France. World War One was one of the most costly conflicts in Australian history in terms of casualties and deaths. Over 300,000 men enlisted, 60,000 were killed and 156,000 were wounded, gassed or taken prisoner. Today the memory of those soldiers that gave their lives in the war lives on through the ANZAC legend. One of the Australian soldiers that gave his life was William Morley from Adelaide, who fought and gave his life for his country. Travelling from Australia to Cairo and then eventually to battle on the Western Front, he knew little of the horrors he would have to face. While he has no grave, his ANZAC spirit lives on both locally at the Burnside War Memorial Gates at his old school Burnside Primary and internationally, as his name can be seen on the memorial plaque at Villers Bretonneux.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of October, 1898 in Queenstown South Australia, William Morley was born to George Friedrich Morley and Mary Watson. His Father was a barman. There was no record of his parents ever being married - an unusual circumstance given the time period. Morley had one sister, Gertrude Turner nee Morley. His Mother passed away four years prior to him departing for war. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of October, 1914 at the Adelaide registry office, his father George Morley was married to Selena Munro. Prior to this, William Morley moved away from home. This may have possibly been due to not agreeing with, or liking his stepmother. This is also seen through a document in his files dated the 18/3/15, as he states: "I, William Morley certify that my mother died about four years ago, I have not spoken to my father since then. " (Appendix A) This shows possibly a strained relationship with his family. In his Attestation of Persons enlisted for Service Abroad papers (Appendix B), it is stated William Morley's religious denomination was the Church of England. His trade or calling is recognised as a Labourer. He was listed as single, having no wife or children. William Morley on first records lists his sister Miss Gertrude Turner as his next of kin, living on Young Street Parkside. No house number is given, so the exact house is unknown. This is most likely due to having not spoken with his father for over four years. The amended next of kin became his father, Mr George Fredrick Morley, who lived on 42 Alfred Street Parkside. (Appendix C) It seems unusual to attend a school some distance away from his residence, yet Parkside is a suburb within the radius of the Burnside Council; it is assumed that this is why he attended the Burnside Public School. This is why he is recognised on the Burnside Old Scholars' Memorial Gates.

William Morley enlisted on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March, 1915 in Keswick South Australia. He gave his age as 18 years and 5 months when he enlisted; when in fact he was only 17 years and 5 months old. He advanced his age by 12 months so he could sign up, a common practice with young men at the time. In many cases, authorities turned a blind eye to this, as they needed recruits. Morley served in the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion as a Private. Throughout his time as a soldier in the Australian Army, he was not promoted. His Regimental Army Number was 2412. He departed for war on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June, 1915 on the Ship, H.M.A.T Kanowna. The ship was owned by the AUSN Co Ltd, London, and manned by Australia officers and crew. First he travelled to Alexandria in Egypt to train. He joined the base at Lemnos on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December, 1915, before being taken on strength. He began fighting in the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion in Mudros on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December, 1915. He was taken sick on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December, 1915 in Alexandria. From there he was moved to Serapeum on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 1916, where he contracted Mumps. He was later discharged from Hospital on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 1915, taken on strength and re-joined fighting on the Front Line on the 29<sup>th</sup> of February, 1916. From there, William Morley was taken on strength and fought in Serapeum until the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 1916. He travelled to Heliopolis, where he suffered Rheumatism, a condition which causes extreme pain in the joints and connective tissue. It is possible from the dates listed and the places visited that he fought in the

Gallipoli Campaign. He was discharged from the base on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, 1916 to train in the 4<sup>th</sup> training Battalion on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May, 1916. After finishing training, he boarded a ship from Alexandria on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July for England. From the England he arrived in Etaples France on 17<sup>th</sup> of September, 1916, then proceeding to the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September, 1916. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November, William Morley was taken to the hospital sick; he stayed there for four days before being taken on Strength and re-joining battle. On the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of December, William Morley was admitted to the Hospital in Rouen for Trench Foot, a condition which many soldiers suffered in trench warfare during World War One. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of December, 1916, he was transferred to the second depot. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of February, he joined the base in Etaples. He marched out on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March to the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion and re-joined the Battalion from Hospital on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April. He fought in France for over one month and then on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May, 1917 William Morley was tragically killed in Action. His body was never recovered. William Morley spent almost one and a half years on the field before being killed in Action in France. The particulars of where he died, where never discovered. He served in three main places across the Mediterranean: Egypt, France and Gallipoli. A Map has been included marking the main areas in which William Morley fought in. (Appendix D) When he died, none of his effects were ever recovered and sent home. His Father George Morley sent numerous letters about receiving his effects, but the Army could find none that belonged to him. It is most likely that they were destroyed in the battle that occurred when he died in the light of the fact that his body was not recovered and buried. (Appendix E)

ANZAC Spirit is a concept which shows Australian and New Zealand soldiers possessing and sharing characteristics and qualities that were displayed on the battlefield during World War One. These qualities revolve around the principals of endurance, courage, ingenuity, good humour, laricism and mateship. During his service, William Morley demonstrated and exhibited the ANZAC spirit. William Morley's war records show that as a young soldier he was well behaved and well respected. As he was under the age limit, he never consumed alcohol and was never punished for unruly behaviour. Morley had an immaculate record and never committed any offences while in the army. He received great recognition for his service in World War One. He was awarded three different medals: The Victory Medal (Appendix F), 1914/15 Star (Appendix G) and the British War Medal (Appendix H.) In 1922 a Memorial Scroll and Memorial plaque was presented to Morley's sister as he died while serving during the First World War. The last award received was the letter from King George V, sent to the next of kin to recognise the lives given fighting in the war. All the medals and awards were presented to William Morley's sister, as his father died shortly before hand. All these medals and awards show the great bravery that William Morley displayed in going to fight for his country, as well as the representation of the tragic loss of his young life. Morley is a fine representative of the ANZAC spirit because he is an example of stoic, battle, striving against the odds. Looking at the records it can be seen he suffered setbacks in health, but always pushed ahead and returned dutifully to battle resignedly heroically playing his part in the force. While he is recorded to be young, physically small in stature, and not holding a high rank or status, he was a hero all the same. He displayed the ANZAC Spirit, through his bravery and has come to signify the characteristics and qualities that Australians have exhibited in war for over 100 years.

World War One ravaged through countries globally killing both men and women. Australian soldiers and Nurses were sent all over the world, one of these being the Western Front. They arrived in France to discover the true horrors of the war. An Australian soldier that gave his life was William Morley from Adelaide, fighting bravely displaying the true ANZAC Spirit. While he has no grave, his spirit lives on both locally in Adelaide, and in France. His bravery will never be forgotten. Lest We Forget.

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Appendices

Appendix A – Document Declaring The Death of William Morley's Mother

NEWBICK

18/3/15.

I, William Morley certify that my ~~parents are~~ <sup>mother died about</sup>  
~~both dead. five years ago & have not seen my~~ <sup>father since then.</sup> W.M.

W. Morley.

William  
C. Howard  
Cable

Appendix B - Attestation of Persons enlisted for Service Abroad

**D**

24449

AN



MILITARY FORCES.

**AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.**

**ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD.**

No *2442*

Name *MORLEY William*

Unit *1st Battalion*

Joined on *1915/10*

*Port Adelaide*  
*1915/10*

*D24449*

**Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.**

1. What is your Name? *William Morley*
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? *near the Town of Port Adelaide in the County of South Australia*
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or Naturalized British Subject? (N.B. If the latter, papers to be shown) *N.B.*
4. What is your age? *15 yrs*
5. What is your trade or calling? *Labourer*
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? *N*
7. Are you married? *N*
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) *Sister, Miss Gertrude Turner, Young Street, Parkside, South Australia*
9. Have you ever been punished by the Civil Power? *N*
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces with ignominy or as incorrigible and worthless, or on account of conviction of felony, or of a sentence of penal servitude, or have you been dismissed with disgrace from the Navy? *N*
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge. *N*
12. Have you stated the whole of any of your previous service? *Yes*
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's service? If so, on what grounds? *N*
14. (For married men and widowers with dependants) Do you undertake that no Separation Allowance will be claimed to you either before or after embarkation during your term of service? *N*
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against Smallpox and Enteric Fever? *Yes*

*43*

*W Morley* do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

I hereby agree to give not more than two-thirds of the pay payable to me during my term of service for the support of my wife and children.

Date *15 3 15*

*W Morley*

Signature of Person enlisted

\* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without dependants under 21 years of age.

Description of *William Morley* on Enlistment

Age	15 years 5 months	DISTINCTIVE REMARKS. <i>No Y or R Y/L</i> <i>None</i>
Height	5 feet 7 inches	
Weight	137 lbs.	
Chest Measurement	32 3/4 inches	
Complexion	<i>Fair</i>	
Eyes	<i>Blue</i>	
Hair	<i>Fair</i>	
Religious Denomination	<i>Prof Eng</i>	

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I HAVE examined the above-named person, and find that he does not present any of the following conditions, viz.:

Scrophula; phthisis; syphilis; impaired constitution; defective intelligence; defects of vision, voice, or hearing; hernia; hemorrhoids; varicose veins, beyond a limited extent; marked varicocele with unusually pendent testicle; inveterate cutaneous disease; chronic ulcers; traces of corporal punishment, or evidence of having been marked with the letters D. or B.C.; contracted or deformed chest; abnormal curvature of spine; or any other disease or physical defect calculated to unfit him for the duties of a soldier.

He can see the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs; and he declares he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him fit for active service.

Date *3-15*

Place *Weston*

*[Signature]*  
Signature of Examining Medical Officer. *Capt. F. F. M. G.*

CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.

I CERTIFY that this Attestation of the above-named person is correct, and that the required forms have been compliant with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to *Base Rifle Training Co. 10*

Date *10/3/15*

Place *Witcham*

*[Signature]*  
Commanding

*[Signature]*  
Company Commandant



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14

CERTIFICATE OF ATTESTING OFFICER.

The foregoing questions were read to the person enlisted in my presence.  
I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to by him.

~~I have examined his naturalization papers and am of opinion that they are correct.~~

(This to be struck out except in the case of persons who are naturalized British Subjects.)

Date 10-3-16

*C. Woodcock*

Signature of Attesting Officer

*Capt*

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY PERSON BEING ENLISTED

I, *William Morley* swear I will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lord the King in the Australian Imperial Force from *10th Nov 1914* until the end of the War, and a further period of three months thereafter unless sooner lawfully discharged, dismissed or removed from; and that I will resist His Majesty's enemies and cause His Majesty to be kept and maintained; and that I will in all matters appertaining to my service, faithfully discharge my duty according to law.

SO HELP ME, GOD.

*W. Morley*

Signature of person enlisted.

Taken and subscribed at *Nowra* in  
the State of *South Australia*  
the *10<sup>th</sup>* day of *March* 1916, before me—

*C. Woodcock*

Signature of Attesting Officer.

*Capt*

\*A person enlisting who objects to taking an oath may make an affirmation in accordance with the Third Schedule of the Act, and the above form must be amended accordingly. All amendments must be initialed by the Attesting Officer.

Appendix C – Photograph of Friedrich Morley's House



Appendix D – Map of Areas William Morley Visited



Appendix E – Letter from Friedrich Morley



Morley : 42 Alfred St  
 Parkside  
 Will you please forward  
 me a copy of my Son's  
 Will as I am his Father  
 No 2112  
 Private W. Morley  
 10 Battalion  
 I George Frederick  
 Morley  
 Father  
 next of kin  
 I am drawing his  
 OMS Margaret

BASE REC'D  
 MAY 9 1915  
 RECEIVED

Appendix F- The Victory Medal



The Victory Medal was awarded to Morley. It was authorised in 1919 to commemorate the victory of the allied forces over the central powers

Appendix G- The 1914- 1915 Star



The 1914/15 Star was awarded to Morley It was authorised in 1918 and was awarded for service in specified theatres of war between 5th of August 1914 and 31 December 1915.

Appendix H- The British War Medal



The British war medal was awarded to Morley. It was instituted by King George V in 1919 to mark the end of World War 1 and recognise the service given.