

BECKENSALL, W. A.

Our research indicates that this soldier was Walter Herbert Beckensall, and that the signwriter made a mistake with his second initial when preparing the St Jude's Honour Roll. When Walter enlisted in 1914 his son, still a minor, was nominated as his next of kin.

The McIlwraith Street address that Walter gave to the authorities may refer to the Drill Hall associated with his previous military service.

Walter was one of three men associated with St Jude's who died on the first day of the landing at Gallipoli. The others were Sydney Smith and Harold Diedrich.

AIF Project Entry

Walter Herbert BECKENSALL

Regimental number	190
Place of birth	Timaru, New Zealand
School	Faraday Street State School, Carlton, Victoria.
Age on arrival in Australia	7 months
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Bootmaker
Address	McIlwraith Street, North Carlton, Victoria
Marital status	Widower
Age at embarkation	31
Height	5' 7.5"
Weight	150 lbs
Next of kin	Son, Francis Walter Beckensall, 94 Canning Street, Carlton, Victoria.
Previous military service	Served in the 5th Australian Infantry Regiment, Carlton, Victoria.
Enlistment date	22 August 1914
Date of enlistment from Nominal Roll	22 August 1914
Place of enlistment	Melbourne, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	7th Battalion, A Company
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/24/1
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board Transport A20 <i>Hororata</i> on 19 October 1914
Rank from Nominal Roll	Private
Unit from Nominal Roll	7th Battalion

Other details from Roll of Honour
Circular

On enlistment he stated he was a widower. in fact his wife, Henrietta Louisa Beckensall, whom he married on 17 June 1903 according to Roman Catholic rites, and whom he had not divorced, was still alive (Statutory Declaration, 29 March 1920).

His mother wrote to Defence, 6 June 1916, stating that 'perhaps he thought she [his wife] was dead or better she had been. She cleared away with another man eight years ago and left him with the little boy F. W. Beckensall.' His medals were therefore sent to his former wife for keeping in trust for eldest son.

Fate
Place of death or wounding
Age at death
Place of burial

Killed in Action 25 April 1915
Gallipoli, Turkey
32
No known grave

Commemoration details

The Lone Pine Memorial (Panel 28),
Gallipoli, Turkey.

The Lone Pine Memorial, situated in the Lone Pine Cemetery at Anzac, is the main Australian Memorial on Gallipoli, and one of four memorials to men of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Designed by Sir John Burnet, the principal architect of the Gallipoli cemeteries, it is a thick tapering pylon 14.3 metres high on a square base 12.98 metres wide. It is constructed from limestone mined at Ilgardere in Turkey.

The Memorial commemorates the 3268 Australians and 456 New Zealanders who have no known grave and the 960 Australians and 252 New Zealanders who were buried at sea after evacuation through wounds or disease. The names of New Zealanders commemorated are inscribed on stone panels mounted on the south and north sides of the pylon, while those of the Australians are listed on a long wall of panels in front of the pylon and to either side. Names are arranged by unit and rank.

The Memorial stands over the centre of the Turkish trenches and tunnels which were the scene of heavy fighting during the August offensive. Most cemeteries on Gallipoli contain relatively few marked graves, and the majority of Australians killed on Gallipoli are commemorated here.

Panel number, Roll of Honour,
Australian War Memorial
Other details

49

War service: Egypt, Gallipoli

Embarked Alexandria to join
Mediterranean Expeditionary Force
(Gallipoli Campaign), 5 April 1915.

Killed in action, Gallipoli, 25 April 1915.

Medals: 1914-15 Star, British War Medal,
Victory Medal

Sources

NAA: B2455, BECKENSALL Walter
Herbert

Source: © *The AIF Project*, UNSW Canberra. Used with permission.

Walter's older brother, Francis Julius Beckensall, service number 4739, enlisted in 1915 and returned to Australia in 1916, due to his poor health. He is not listed on the St Jude's Honour Roll.

NAA: B2455, BECKENSALL W H, SERN 190