

Ernest George Beesley was born at Pimlico, London, on 4th July 1877, the son of Richard and Prudence Beesley. He married Mary Ann Hanney and had eight children, four born in England and 4 in Australia. He and his family moved to Australia aboard the CYCLE, arriving in 1907. In 1913 he ran foul of the law and was convicted on conspiracy to defraud (no mention of this conviction was made on his two attestations).

He enlisted into the AN&MEF on 11th August 1914 and stated that he was a Commercial Traveller (Life Insurance) and that his wife, Mary Ann Beesley, "Brighton", Auburn St, Auburn was his next of kin. He also stated he had previous military service with a number of UK regiments.

His final period of service in the UK was from 1900 to 1902 when he was a saddler with the 80th Coy, 21st Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry in South Africa in the Boer war (service number 21766).

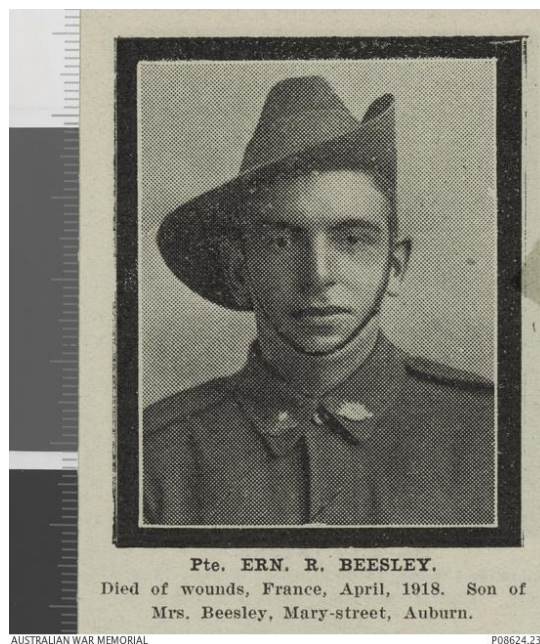
His was discharged, time expired, from the AN&MEF on 4th March 1915.

On 5th April 1915 he joined the AIF (service number 1501) as part of the 1st Reinforcements of the 20th Battalion. He was promoted to Sergeant and embarked aboard the BERRIMA (his second embarkation on this trip, having being previously on the BERRIMA on the voyage to Rabaul in Sept 1914) on 5th June 1915 for the Middle East, where he was united with his Battalion on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 3rd August.

On 29th August 1915 he was killed by a bomb at Brown's Dip and initially buried at Victoria Gully.

He is at present interred at the Lone Pine Cemetery and is remembered on Panel 90 at the Australian War Memorial.

On 4th November 1916, Ernest's eldest son, Ernest Richard Beesley (service number 3358) enlisted into the 9th Reinforcements of the 49th Battalion. On his attestation papers, Ernest stated that he was 21 years, 2 months old whereas, in fact, he was just 17.



On 17th December 1917, Ernest was transferred to the 11th Light Trench Mortar Battery and on 7th April 1918 he was killed in action, just 18 years old. Ernest is buried at Vignacourt War Cemetery, Picardie, France and is remembered on Panel 19 at the Australian War Memorial.