

1041 MICHAEL DAMIEN HEALY
358 WILLIAM PATRICK HEALY MC

William Patrick Healy was born in Wellington, NZ, in 1887, and his brother, Michael Peter Chanel (Michael Damien) was also born in Wellington twelve years later. They were the sons of William Francis Healy and his wife Annie Marie, nee Delahunty. Both joined the AN&MEF on 11th August 1914, William in C Company and Michael in D Company. Michael stated he was a salesman with David Jones in Sydney and William was an Accountant. William was appointed lance corporal on 28th Dec 1914 and then promoted Corporal on 1st Feb 1915.

Both brothers returned to Sydney from Rabaul and were discharged, time expired, on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

Michael went to Brisbane where, on 30th March he joined the AIF, initially unallocated with a Depot Battalion. On the 16th May he was transferred to the 25th Battalion and given the regimental number 1072. He left Brisbane on the 29th of June 1915 aboard the AENEAS. After a period in Egypt, Michael and the Battalion arrived on Gallipoli on 4th September.

Meanwhile William had remained in Sydney and joined the 17th Battalion on 20th March 1915, regimental number 1328 and sailed with the battalion from Sydney on 12th May aboard the THEMISTOCLES. With his battalion he landed on Gallipoli on 18th August and on 19th November was transferred to join his brother in the 25th Battalion.

They both returned to Egypt after the evacuation. On 16th Jan 1916 William was promoted corporal and then sergeant on 8th Feb, before the brothers moved from Alexandria to Marseilles in March. On 27th May 1916 William was appointed battalion RSM, Warrant Officer Class 1 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on 29th July. He was posted to B Company. On 2nd September 1916 he was awarded the MILITARY CROSS. The citation read:

"This Officer carried out in daylight a very daring reconnaissance in front of our foremost positions. After most of Infantry and other Officers had become casualties, 2nd. Lieut. Healy rallied the men and took command of part of the Battalion in the captured trenches, displaying skill and courage."

On 15th November 1916 William was killed in action. In a report on his death, Pte John Brown # 4535 stated – "He was in charge of 4 Platoon. I was not 5 yards away from when he was practically blown to pieces by a shell which burst right beside him just as we hopped over our own line at Flers."

Meanwhile brother Michael was appointed CQMS on 4th May 1916 and then CSM, Warrant Officer Class 2, on 20th August 1916. On 6th April 1917 he received his commission as a Second Lieutenant and was promoted Lieutenant on 2nd Sept 1917.

On 20th September 1917, the Battalion commenced a major offensive at the battle of Menin Road in Belgium, and Michael was killed in action on that day.

William is buried at the Warlencourt British Cemetery, France and Michael is remembered on the Menin Gate, Belgium. The brothers are both remembered on Panel 104 at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

