

William was born at Point Piper, NSW, on 27th April 1893, the son of William Farley and his wife, Diana, nee Cater. On his enlistment into D Company, AN&MEF of 11th August 1914 he stated that he was a surveyor and single, giving his mother at "The Eyrie", Queenscliff Rd, Manly, as his next of kin.

He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expire, on 4th March 1915 having completed 206 days service.

On 19th May 1915 he enlisted in the AIF as part of the 6th Reinforcements, 13th Battalion, regimental number 2158. He sailed from Sydney on 14th June 1915 aboard the WANDILLA and landed on Gallipoli on 2nd August. He was slightly wounded the next day and on 24th August he was evacuated to Mudros with dysentery before being sent to the UK aboard the Hospital Ship CANAD and admitted to the Princess Club Hospital, Bermondsey with Dysentery.

He left the UK aboard the THEMISTOCLES on 8th May 1916 and discharged, medically unfit on 19th December 1916.

In 1923 he married Gretchen Lewers.

On 8th April 1940 he was appointed to the No3 Railway Construction Company as a Major, service number NX12165. On his Attestation Papers he listed himself as a Civil Engineering Contractor.

He served in the Middle East from 22nd September 1940 till 1st March 1943 where he was Mentioned in Despatches and awarded the MBE, the recommendation for which is; -

"The above mentioned soldier is highly commended for the manner in which he has administered his Company and carried out important work on Railway Construction during the past 11 months. As a result of his untiring energy and ability three large installations in Palestine were completed in record time and the earthworks for new railways were carried out well ahead of schedule.

Owing to the shortage of mechanical Plant a considerable amount of the work had to be done by Arab labour and in the organising of the labour and of obtaining the maximum efficiency from the Military Personnel and Plant at his disposal Major Farley has displayed considerable initiative and has not spared himself in his efforts to obtain speedy and satisfactory results."

On 9th July he was promoted Lt Col.



Lt Col Farley

On 15th April 1944 he was posted to New Guinea where he continued his service until 4th June 1945 when he returned to Australia and on 28th September he retired with the rank of Hon Col.



William died on 1st March 1975.