

The CWGC details for Edwin Percy state that he was the son of James and Eliza Percy, of Braintree, Essex. Husband of Meta Rose Percy, of 16, Townley Terrace, Weymouth.

On the 1911 census return, Edwin Percy is listed as being in the Royal Artillery, and garrisoned in Gibraltar. The 1901 census records him as being a 14 year old railway clerk, and living with his parents and two siblings in Shoeburyness. His father is listed as being a police sergeant, many of whom were employed at Tilbury Dock during the war, and which possibly explains as to why his name was recorded upon the war memorial in Tilbury.

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#### TILBURY GUNNER'S STORY OF THE ADVANCE




Bomb. W. Lydamore, R.G.A., of Tilbury, writes home: *"I came out of the trenches yesterday after a week I shall never forget. I expect you have heard about our big bombardment and the attack. We did some good work with our guns for about four days before they attacked, and when they did attack all we could do was to look at our boys going across, but we were soon busy helping to carry the wounded. I shall never forget the First of July! I cannot tell you how things are going on, as we only know what's doing in our own part, and you will know more about the whole affair than I do, for we have a job to get a paper. Most of our casualties were wounded."*

(GTG: 22.7.16)

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The next two memorial-named casualties, both being killed as a result of the ongoing Somme offensive, were by coincidence also the only two memorial-named Australians to be listed among Tilbury's war dead.

The first of these was Arthur Greaves who died from wounds he received in action on 26th July 1916.

	<p><b>Arthur Greaves</b> *****</p>	
	<p><b>26th July 1916 Aged 24 Private Australian Infantry (A.I.F. 19th Bat.) 1085</b></p>	<p><b>62</b></p>
<p>Warloy-Baillon communal cemetery, extension, France.</p>		

The 1901 census return for Tilbury records Arthur as being the six year old and eldest of the three children of parents Arthur and Mary. The family's residence was listed as being 24, Toronto Road, Tilbury.

The Gazette included the following short notice, under its heading of 'Local men lost in the advance', within its issue of August 26th 1916:  
*Another Grays man was Lance Corporal A. Greaves, who was serving in the Australian Expeditionary Force, and was felled early in the great advance.*

As can be seen from the service records of Arthur Greaves, he had already been wounded, once before, at Gallipoli in 1915 before receiving his mortal wounding, almost a year later, on the Somme.

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc. during active service as reported on Army Form B. 103, Army Form A. 30, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Enter from Army Form B. 103, Army Form A. 30, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				
		AT GALLIPOLI	Embarked ... Disembarked...	ALEX. MERIA 16.8.15	
5.9.15	C O 19th Batt	WOUNDED IN ACTION	GALLIPOLI	26.8.15	B213 B018-240
4.9.15	HE WAREHO	B.W. B. ARM Admit Trfd to 'A12'		27.8.15	AB600 DCT-283
				29.8.15	IPC 17656-7
30.8.15	HUNTSGREEN	INVAL TO ENGLAND Embkd	MUDROS	30.8.15	B.160 DC 7-287
16.9.15	Nom Roll	CSF R ARM R SIDE. Admit MILT HOS BETHNAL GREEN	ENGLAND	16.9.15	P397 B013-280
5.3.15	KINGSTONIAN	DISEMBARK EX DAVENPORT	ALEXANDRIA	5.3.15	P.5495
11.3.15	C.O.19th Batt	RETURNED TO DUTY	MOASCAR	9.3.15	B213 AP6899 13 DC 15-1412 TL
		PROCEED TO JOIN P.E.F. DISEMBARKED AT	ALEXANDRIA MARSEILLES	16.3.15 25.3.15	
5.8.15	C O 19th Batt	WOUNDED IN ACTION	FRANCE	28.7.15	B213 AB6899
28.7.15	2nd P Amb 48th Divn.	GEN THIGH. DIED OF WOUNDS	FRANCE	28.7.15	AT3028 Death Report Cabled. I.O.48-2836
	Location of Graves 21209	BURIED WARLOY PAILLON CEMETERY 5 miles W of ALBERT Reptd by Rev H Maude-Roxby atdhd 2nd S V Field Ambulance.	FRANCE		A.T. 3625

The Service and Casualty Record of 1085, Private Arthur Greaves, (19th Battalion) A.I.F.

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William John Godden was killed in action during the assault by the 48th Battalion of the A.I.F., upon Pozieres Plateau, on 6th August 1916. The 1901 census records William Godden as being the twenty year old and eldest of the four children of his widowed mother Margaret. He had been born in Grays, Essex, and was employed as a railway carriage cleaner.

It was not until August 4th 1917 that the Gazette was finally able to include the following report into his demise:

**TILBURY AUSTRALIAN'S DEATH**

*Mrs. Godden, 1, Montreal Road, Tilbury, has received information that her son, Sergt. W.J. Godden, Australian Imperial Force, formerly reported wounded and*



missing in September, 1916, is now officially reported as dead. He resided in Tilbury until ten years ago, when he went to the West Australian gold mines. In September, 1914, he joined the Australian Forces, and was wounded at Gallipoli. He also served in Egypt, and went to France in May 1916.

488	Hurley, Robert ..	"	34	"	S.	..	..	Mrs. M. Hurley, mother, Temora, N.S.W.	C. of E.	24.9.14
513	Carr, Thomas John ..	"	38	Engine-driver ..	M.	..	..	Mrs Fanny Carr, wife, Gwalia, W.A. ..	R.C.	25.9.14
514	Window, Allan ..	"	23	Carter ..	S.	..	..	Clara Muggadun, sister, Leonora, W.A.	C. of E.	25.9.14
515	Godden, William John ..	"	34	Miner ..	S.	..	..	Mrs. Maragret Godden, mother, 43 Montreal-road, Tilbury, London England	C. of E.	25.9.14
516	Joyce, Edward William ..	"	29	Miner ..	S.	..	..	Mrs. Mary Ann Joyce, mother, St John-street, West Perth, W.A.	C. of E.	25.9.14

Australian embarkation roll showing the name of 515, Sgt. William John Godden, A.I.F.

Army Form B. 103 Regimental Number 515

**Casualty Form—Active Service.**

Sergeant  
**Corporal**  
 Rank *Private* Surname **GODDEN** Christian Name *William John*

Regiment or Corps **48th Battalion (late 16th Bn) A.I.F.**

Religion .. Age on Enlistment .. years .. months

Enlisted (a) **20.9.14** Terms of Service (a) **War & 4 Mths** Service reckons from (a) **20.9.14**

Date of promotion to present rank .. Date of appointment to lance rank ..

Extended ( ) Re-engaged ( ) Qualification (b) ..  
 or Corps Trade and Rate ..

Occupation .. Signature of Officer ..

Report		Remarks <small>Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B.103, Army Form A.10, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.</small>	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks <small>Taken from Army Form B.103, Army Form A.10, or other official documents.</small>
Date	From whom received				
		Embarked ..			
		Disembarked ..			
		Proceeded to join M.E.F.	Gallipoli	12.4.15	
2.5.15	HMT Galeka	G.S.W. Left Leg	-do-	26.4.15	MFC1839/40 B213 Cabled 10.5.15 01/277
3.5.15	-do-	Transf to HS"DELTA" for	England	3.5.15	
12.5.15		Disembarked at Southampton	England	12.5.15	c/805
12.5.15	Southern Gen Hosp	G.S.W. Left Leg Adm.	Birmingham	12.5.15	c/1771 01/591
2.9.15	A&N2 Base Dep NO4	Draft to return MEF	Weymouth	2.9.15	P137 DO/2558 P325
19.9.15	C.O.16th Bn	Rejoined unit from Weymouth	Mudros	19.9.15	B213 DO/3324
14.11.15	Fd Return	Promoted to Corp. to Date	Gallipoli	9.11.15	B213 DO/5573
30.12.15	"Ascarius"	Disembarked ex Mudros	Alexandria	30.12.15	D3155
10.3.16	Fd Return	Transf to 48th Bn	Tel-el-Kebir	3.3.16	AP5529 DO/2150
11.3.16	C.O.48th Bn	Taken on Strength 48th Bn	Tel-el-Kebir	3.3.16	AP5609 DO/135
24.3.16	-dp-	Promoted Sergt (temp)	-do-	9.3.16	AP6795B213 DO/1192
25.5.16	-do-	Temp rank of Sgt Confirmed	-do-	9.3.16	AL2487 B213 DO/2681
		H.M.T. Proceeded to join B.E.F.	Alexandria	2.6.16	AP8622
		"Caledonia" Disembarked	Marseilles	9.6.16	IR5762
12.8.16	C.O.48th Bn	Wounded in Action	FRANCE	6.8.16	AC2701/B213 DO29/3332 VL59/W .8.16
9.12.16	C.O.48th Bn	Placed on Supernumary List	-do-	1.12.16	AQ12502 DO53/6616
25.10.16	C.O.48th Bn	PREVIOUSLY REPORTED WOUNDED			
		6.8.16 Now Reported Wounded			VL25 0/7.2.17
		& Missing	France	6.8.16	121/404/7 DO8/574
4.5.17	C.O.48th Bn	PREVIOUSLY REPORTED WOUNDED			VL349/17.5.17
	COURT OF ENQUIRY	& MISSING NOW REPORTED	FRANCE	6.8.16	19/537/4
		KILLED IN ACTION			DO23/2696

The Service and Casualty Record of 515, Sergeant William John Godden, (48th Battalion) A.I.F.

The following two Red Cross reports were made into the death of William Godden whose fate and whereabouts could not, at first, be ascertained following the assault in which he had met his death. The eye-witness reports quite clearly show that he had initially been wounded in the attack that would finally kill him.

GODDEN, Sgt. 515. H.Q. Grenade.  
MOORE, Pte. No. not known. H.Q. Grenade.

These two men were lying in the same shell hole as myself. Sgt. Godden was badly wounded and he said himself that he thought he was done for, and Pte Moore had his knee blown out, and the leg was quite crooked, though I did not see that it was bleeding, but it entirely prevented him from moving. This happened last Sunday July 8th. at Pozieres about 3.30 p.m. I left them there as I was so badly wounded and had to go about 400 yds, and I told the stretcher bearers that they were there when I got down, but these two men were so far up that I do not know whether they could have been brought in, and the shelling on both sides was very severe, that they may not have lived there through it.

Informant: Sgt. Davis. 1150.  
No. 13 Stationary Hospital.  
BOULOGNE. August 11th. 1916.

EFN.

48th Batt. A.I.F.

Sergt  
GODDEN, Pte W.J. No. 515.  
Hqrs Bombers, 48th Batt.

W. and M. Aug. 6/16.

"The sergeant was hit by the same shell that caught Moore and myself and others. I heard him say "I am done" and saw him fall back. I did not see what became of him afterwards. I heard from a sergeant that he was not removed to a Dressing Station. I knew him on the Peninsula and had been with him ever since."

Description. Height 5'11", fair complexion, hair going grey, Age 40 or over. Heavy moustache.

Witness. Cpl Leach. S.C. No. 1380, Hqrs Bombers, 48th Batt.

17th May, 1917.  
S.V.

Worret Camp,  
WARHAM.

Red Cross reports into the demise of 515, Sgt. William John Godden, (48th Battalion) A.I.F.

The following 'Special Order of the Day' included with the 48th Battalion's War Diary and dated August 10th 1916, clearly shows the importance of the assault on Pozieres Plateau undertaken by the Australian Forces during this early stage of the Somme offensive;

Excerpt from the 48th Battalion (A.I.F.), war diary,  
10th August 1916.

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

By Lieut-Col H.L. Leane D.S.O. Commanding 48th Battalion, A.I.F.

'After a short, but strenuous period in the front line of trenches, the 48th Battalion has been withdrawn to rest and re-organise, but not to relax. The Battalion in forty-eight hours has won itself a name that every officer, every N.C.O. and every man should deem it his sacred duty to uphold a name for unflinching courage, and stoical endurance. It is true that in those two stern days, many of our comrades were lost to us, but let it not be thought that their sacrifice was in vain. We were given a most important trust; we were called upon to hold at all costs, the ground won by the preceding battalion, and we held it, in spite of the most determined efforts of the enemy to regain



the position. The following copy of a special order issued by General von Bulow which was taken from a German prisoner, bears witness to the importance placed by our enemy on the position of the POZIERES PLATEAU:-

*"At any price the POZIERES PLATEAU must be recovered, for if it remained in the hands of the British, it would give them an important advantage. Attacks will be made by successive waves 20 yards apart. Troops which first reach the plateau must hold on until reinforced, whatever their losses. Any officer or man who fails to resist to the death on the ground won, will be immediately court marshalled."*

We were subjected to a bombardment of an intensity, that has not been surpassed by any previous bombardment in the history of the war until our ranks were most appallingly depleted. This was followed by an infantry attack, the first waves of which, although in places penetrating our line, were driven out and back, leaving a large proportion of their number dead, or prisoners in our hands. The succeeding waves were caught in our artillery barrage, which followed most rapidly on our call for retaliation and large numbers of the enemy were accounted for in the valley below our lines, and the attack was finally broken up and abandoned.

To the medical section, special praise belongs. Although we suffered such heavy casualties, it is satisfactory to know, that through the fearlessness and untiring zeal of our medical staff and our stretcher bearers (much of whose work had to be performed in the open under heavy fire) when we were at last relieved from the trenches, we had not only brought in our own wounded, but also all those who had been left by the Brigade which preceded us.

The General Officer Commanding 1st ANZAC; the G.O.C. 4th Division, and the G.O.C. 12th Australian Inf. Bde. have all been pleased to express their appreciation of the good work achieved by this battalion, and the commanding officer wishes to say that he is deeply proud of his command.

As we have begun, so we must continue, so that the battalion shall always have a name for endurance, for courage, and for stern determination. See to it men, that your N.C.O.'s and officers have your loyal support; that new reinforcements who come to build up our strength again are made to know what standard of soldier-ship is required of them; and that that spirit of *Esprit de Corps*, which comes from dangers shared, and battles fought together, is maintained and fostered as long as the Battalion shall last'.



**William  
John  
Godden**

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**6th August 1916  
Aged 36  
Sergeant  
Australian Infantry  
(A.I.F. 48th Bat.)**

**515**

**Pozières British cemetery.  
Ovillers-la-Boisselle, France.**

**58**