

## PAGAN George 2906



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL P07048.001

George Pagan was a 24 year old farmer of Gilgandra when he enlisted on 9 July 1915 at Sydney. He was 5'7 ¾" tall, 154 lbs (69.8kgs), chest 34"-37", dark complexion, blue eyes, good vision, brown hair and no distinctive marks. His father, also George Pagan, was his next of kin and his religion was Presbyterian.

George embarked from Sydney on board HMAT A8 'Argyllshire' on 30 September 1915 with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Reinforcement and transferred to the 54<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 14 February when training at Tel el Kebir, Egypt. In May 1916 George was promoted to Lance Corporal and arrived in France on 29 June 1916 with the 54<sup>th</sup> Battalion in time to fight their first battle at Fromelles. The War Unit Diary for 19-20 July 1916 reported 534 casualties. George was one of 169 men and four officers who were reported missing; 288 men wounded and 73 killed. Eight months later his identification disc was returned by the Germans and he was declared killed in action. His mate, Thuillius Cardew, was also killed on that day. Both men's bodies were not found so they were commemorated at VC Corner, an Australian Cemetery at Fromelles. In 2008 a mass grave was found containing hundreds of bodies from World War One. They were exhumed and through a large scale DNA testing, many were identified and given a full military funeral in the newly formed Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery. George was identified through his grand-nephew, Roger Pagan. Thuillius Cardew has also been identified. The cemetery was officially dedicated in July 2010 with the family present. After the dedication the family had a private ceremony in front of George's grave and selected the inscription which reads:

'A farmer from Gilgandra  
Who gave his all  
Never forgotten by his family'

George's father received the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal, the Victory Medal, the Memorial Plaque and Scroll on behalf of his son.

