

WWI – Benjamin Francis West



This photo, originally from Barry Smith and passed onto us by Karen Hough, shows Private Frank West, circa 1915.

Martha Coleman (1858-1924), the second child to Bridget Carrucan and John Coleman, married William West in 1878. They had 13 children between 1879 and 1896, the first 8 born in Eltham and the remaining 5 born in Research where they moved in 1890.

Robert James (Bob) (1879)
John (Jack) (1880)
William (1882)
Ethel May (Polly) (1883)
George William (1885)
Margaret Francis (Maggie) (1886)
Elizabeth Martha (1888)
Mabel Alice (1889)
Lilian Blanche (Dot) (1890)
Alfred Ernest (1893)
Olive Myrtle (Tot) (1895)
Benjamin Francis (Frank) (1896)
Evelyn Agnes (1896)

They lived the remainder of their lives in the Research Hotel where William was the proprietor.

One of their sons, Benjamin Francis (Frank), enlisted in the AIF November 1915, aged 19, and served in France in the 4 FAB, Field Artillery Brigade, as a shoeing smith.

His WWI service record reads as follows

Name	West, Benjamin Francis
Service number:	6634
Rank:	Shoeing Smith
Roll title:	4 FAB [Field Artillery Brigade] (November 1915)
Conflict:	First World War, 1914-1918
Date of embarkation:	18 November 1915
Place of embarkation:	Melbourne
Ship embarked on:	HMAT Wiltshire
Ship number:	A18

He is listed in the WWI Nominal Role – see

http://www.awm.gov.au/cms_images/AWM8/13_32_1/PDF/0532.pdf. The Role documents his as Church of England and his contact address is given as PO Research.

He died in 1970 at Research.