Day, Kenneth Maitland

ASC “Britten” period 1898-1910.

Rank: 2nd Lieutenant

Unit: 35th Battalion

Date of death: 12 October 1917: Killed in action

Cemetery or memorial details: Tyne Cot Cemetery, War Grave Notes. Age 30. Son of John Dickinson Day and Archanna Day, of “Corrunal”, Benton Avenue, Artarmon, N.S.W. Native of Parkes,

Particulars Required for the Roll of Honour of Australia in the Memorial War Museum.
1. Name (in full) of Fallen Soldier: Day, Kenneth Maitland

2. Unit and Number (if known): Unit 4th, Brigade, Imperial Reinforcements: 1399

3. With what Town or District in Australia was he chiefly connected (under which his name ought to come on the Memorial):
   - Town (if any): Parkes
   - District: New South Wales

4. What was his Birthplace: Parkes, New South Wales

5. Date of Death: 12 / 10 / 17

6. Place where Killed or Wounded: Passchendaele, Belgium

Particulars Required for the Nation's Histories.
1. What was his Calling: Station Agent

2. Age at time of Death: 30 years

3. What was his School: All Saints College, Bathurst, New South Wales

4. What was his other Training: Certified Auditor, under the Local Government Act

Note in above “card” in answer as to whether he had a relative in the AIF. The answer was no. Thus the Editor was not given any clue that Mervyn Day was his brother. See next dossier.

His enlistment papers have his occupation as “Accountant.” Note in the record below, most of his service was in administrative postings. After officer’s school, he only served on the front line for 3½ months, before his death.
“War service: Egypt, Gallipoli, Western Front”

Above line is copied from Day’s AIF Project record. Looking at the card below, from his file on National Archives it appears that he did not serve Gallipoli? Seems that he was in the administration back in Egypt.

Mr. Ken Day, secretary of the Molong P.P. Board, has passed the Local Government examination entitling him to fill either the position of a shire or town clerk.
Mr. Kenneth M Day late secretary to the Molong Pastures Protection Board has been appointed town clerk at Molong. 2/6/1911.

Canowindra Star and Eugowra News 2/6/1911 P.1

**Gas Workers Wages Board Takes Evidence at Molong.**

The members of the Gas Workers Wages Board visited Molong on Saturday last and in view of the proposed award to employees of gasworks, took evidence relative to the condition of---------

On resuming at 2.30 the Chairman called **Kenneth Maitland Day, Town Clerk**, who on being sworn stated ----He had been Town Clerk two years and four months; for the half-year ending 30th June, 1913, the amount of gas sold to the public was 718,000 feet

Molong Express and Western District Advertiser. 25/10/1913 P.3

Every person so proposed must be qualified in manner provided by Part IX of the Local Government Act, 1906-7-8.

Every Candidate must be proposed on a separate Nomination Paper.

No Nomination Paper shall be valid unless the person therein proposed for nomination has consented thereto in writing, attested by a witness.

Forms of Nomination and Consent are obtainable from the Town Clerk.

K. M. DAY,

Town Clerk and Returning Officer. Town Hall, Molong, 27th March, 1913. Municipality of Molong.

1906-7-8, 1, KENNETH MAITLAND DAY, will act as Returning Officer, for the Council.

Molong Express and Western District Advertiser 29/5/1913 P.11

The Town Clerk of the Molong Municipal Council (Mr. Ken Day) has applied for and been granted 14 days leave of absence. He will go to the metropolis in a day or two to enjoy this brief respite by the seaside.

Molong Express 9/11/12 P.7

Mr Ken Day, now of Parkes, paid a visit to Molong on Tuesday night last and attended the fortnightly social of the School of Arts. He reports very good business at Parkes.

20/6/14 P.7

Mr. Ken Day, of Messrs. G. W. Seaborn and Co’s., who volunteered and has been accepted for active service, visited Parkes on Wednesday to bid good-bye to his many friends. Mr. Day has been enrolled in the 13th Infantry Battalion (Melbourne) commanded by Colonel Burney.

Forbes Times 24/11/14 P.4

The following have enlisted from Molong and district to fight in defence of the Empire and the freedom of the world. (There may be others who enlisted in the outer portions of the district whose names we have not been able to ascertain. We will be glad to include them in the above "Roll of Honour" if kind friends will send their names along): -

Molong
The Competition Cup was handed over to this year’s premiers, the Cudal Club, at the Commercial Bank court on Saturday. The occasion, he added, was tinged with sorrow, for of the four members of the Bank Club who had won the cup two years previously, only two remained; Mr. Macpherson had died at the front and Mr. Ken. Day was serving his King in Egypt.

Following are extracts from letters received from their son Ken, by Mr. and Mrs. Day, of the Commercial Bank, written from Alexandria, Egypt, on the 4th and 11th of last month:

At present it looks likely that the NCO’s of the reinforcements, (our lot) may be left behind, as there are 110 vacancies at present. If we are left behind I'm afraid we will have a very poor chance of seeing the firing line, as our division will probably go to the Dardanelles and if so, it will be mainly garrison work they will do, and there may not be any call for us. The Battalion is very much over strength at present. But Major Edmonds says that there is just a chance that there may be a vacancy for me to go with A Company.

Kilminister, who used to be curate at Molong, and "Bob" Pitendrigh, who was a member of the Methodist Church, are in A Company. Pitendrigh is in the band. Tell Mr. Scoles that Christie, who worked at the gasworks, is also in the Company.

Some of the troops went in for a bit of rioting in Cairo on Friday night last, causing the military police to fire on them, and as a consequence all leave from camp has been stopped.

April 11.
I have been transferred to the Records Office at Alexandria, as a sergeant, to look after the records of the 13th Battalion and the 4th Infantry Brigade Head Quarters’ matters. I hope they do not keep me here the whole of "the time during the war. Perhaps there will be a chance to exchange later on.

Mr. and Mrs. Day, of the Commercial Bank, have received letters from their sons, Mervyn and Kenneth. The former was "Somewhere in France," and the latter was at Rouen, attached to the Australian Records Office. Mervyn laments the fact that he was not able to give much news, on account of the censor; "but we are all looking forward to the time," he adds, "when we will be able to talk about our experiences. I do not think it will be long." Kenneth says
that he and his brother officers were living on an island between two branches of the river Seine, in very comfortable circumstances.

Molong Express 26/8/1916 P.10

Three more district soldiers have made the supreme sacrifice in France — Privates Owen Bartlett, Eric Baker, and Fred Paekham. Lieut. Ken Day, of Molong, who was employed in Mr. Seaborn’s office, has also been killed.

Forbes 6/11/17 P.14

DEATH OF LIEUT. KEN DAY.

On Wednesday last tho Rev. C. W. Leavers received a wire from Victoria Barracks, conveying the sad announcement that First Lieut. Kenneth Maitland Day, second son of Mr and Mrs. J. D. Day, of the Commercial Bank, had been killed in action in France. The late gallant young officer, who was 30 years of age, was born at Parkes, coming to Molong with his parents when quite a youth. After receiving a sound education, he entered the office of the New Zealand Loan Coy and left there to take the secretaryship of the Molong P.P. Board, resigning that office to join; the staff of Messrs. Bedford, Taylor and Weston, Orange: subsequently he became Town Clerk at Molong, finally relinquishing that position to become a member of the auctioneering firm of Messrs Seaborn and Co., Parkes. Shortly afterwards the war broke out and the deceased officer heard the call of duty and enlisted in 1914, leaving for Egypt about Xmas time. He was in the Desert, for a time, and was then appointed as clerk in the Records Office at Alexandria, from whence he was transferred to a similar position in France. Evidently the monotony of office work became irksome, and he went to England and qualified as an officer at Cambridge. He received his appointment in June last and at once went on active service. Since then his parents received a letter from him and he was in good health and spirits. Lieutenant Day was a most exemplary young man, possessing admirable traits of character, and a dutiful and loving son and brother. He had proved himself honest, efficient, and painstaking in the responsible positions he held in Molong, and invariably courteous and obliging to the public. The lamentable death of the brave young officer comes as a great blow to his highly respected parents and the other members of the family, especially occurring so soon after the death of poor Mervyn in the fighting line and profound sympathy is felt for the sorrowing family.

But how can a man die nobler,
Than fighting against fearful odds,
For the honour of his country,
For the temples of his God.

Molong Argus 2/11/17 P.4

Extract from War Diary 35th Battalion:

11/10/17 Cavalry Farm (Ypres) Battalion leaves camp on approach march to tape line-3.30am on 12/10/17-difficult track constantly shelled.

12/10/17 Passchendaele very muddy ----- (?) 5.25am Battalion followed 34th Battalion which captured “Red Line” to their objective-the Blue Line. After being temporarily held up by machine guns. Won objective, about 10 am on 12/10/17. Heavy casualties from machine gun fire. Consolidation was commenced and continued until 3pm when the Battalion was forced to withdraw to vicinity of Augustus Wood.
Total casualties 326 all ranks.

**From Australian War Memorial:**

35th Infantry Battalion (New South Wales) [9th Infantry Brigade]

The 35th Battalion was formed in December 1915 in Newcastle, New South Wales. The bulk of the battalion’s recruits were drawn from the Newcastle region and thus it was dubbed “Newcastle’s Own”. Reflecting the demographics of the area, there were a high proportion of miners among the battalion’s original members.

The 35th Battalion became part of the 9th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division. It left Sydney, bound for the United Kingdom in May 1916. Arriving there in early July, the battalion spent the next four months training. It crossed to France in late November, and moved into the trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 26 November, just in time for the onset of the terrible winter of 1916-17.

The battalion had to wait until the emphasis of British and Dominion operations switched to the Ypres Sector of Belgium in mid-1917 to take part in its first major battle; this was the battle of Messines, launched on 7 June. The 35th’s next major battle was around Passchendaele on 12 October (Ed. Note Day killed this day). Heavy rain, though, had deluged the battlefield, and thick mud tugged at the advancing troops and fouled their weapons. The battle was a disaster for the 35th; 508 men crossed the start line but only 90 remained unwounded at the end.

“After passing a copse on its right, the 35th settled down on what its officers took to be the second objective, although on the extreme right they were actually short of the first. Captain Carr, now senior officer on the spot, reported:

On objective, with about 100, with Captain Dixon and three officers Casualties 25 or 30 per cent. Captain Cadell (35) Lieuts. Main (36) and Day (37) reported killed.

(37) Lieut. K. M Day, 35th Bn. Stock and Station agent; of Molong, N.S.W.; b. Parkes, N.S.W. 1887.”

Official History Vol. 1V P.916.
25th Australians.

25th Australians, 8/Lt. K. E.

K. October 12/1917. D/B.

He was killed at Zanabahdala by shrapnel and was lying down when he was hit and did not get up again. He was hit at 8 a.m. and Sergeant Longworth took charge of the Platoon and was killed the following day. We were obliged to leave him but he was dead in five minutes. He was medium build, thin, sharp featured, about 23 or 26, he came from N. J. Wales.

Inf.: W. H. Lambert, 2344.
25th Australians, A. 3.
H. S. "Esquibo".

36th Australians.

36th Australians, 8/Lt. K. A.

K. October 12/1917. D/B.

Information as to the burial of Dr. Day can be had from Sergeant Game, 25th Battalion, H. 9, in charge of Pioneers. I saw him about two weeks ago.

Inf.: Private J. Metcalf, 152.
35th Australians, A.
Australian Camp
Rouelles.
On the 12th October, 1917, we went over at Passchendaele - a “Whizz-bang” shell burst and hit Lieut. Day, killing him outright.

He was an exceptionally plucky fellow, and liked by every man I would like to see his people.

INFORMANT: - PLUMMER, F.,
35th Battn.,
No.4 Aust. General Hospital,
B.M. 5/6/18.
Home address:
G/o Mrs. Stewart,
First Street,
ROULAND, N.S.W.

35th Battn.,
A.I.F.,

"Killed in Action" 12-10-17.

DAY: Kenneth Kaitland. 2/Lt.

Re 2/Lieut. K.M. Day of my unit who was reported missing 12-10-17. I can only confirm the information you have already received, but am sorry to say we were unable to bury him as we could not hold out objective on that particular date. His body was left behind at Passchendaele and we have not seen it since. Whether he was buried by the German burial party, I am unable to say. On the other hand he may have been buried by the Canadian Sgt which relieved us. I am very sorry I cannot offer you any more information concerning the said 2/Lt, because he was a friend of mine.

Note: As this letter is unsigned we acknowledged it to Sgt Gane to whom we had written for information. 20-5-18.

London 5-5-18
Killed 12/10/17.

Day was killed while we were attacking Passchendaele at Kersalakech between Passchendaele and Zonnebeke. He was killed by a shell outright.

Informant: Lieutenant J.T. Prentice,
Clanville Road,
ROSEVILLE.

No. 4 General Hospital, (Australian)
R A N D W I C K.

30/9/18.

Sydney Bureau.

Killed 12/10/1917.

Informant states that they both belonged to "A" Company, No. 1 Platoon, of which the Lieutenant was Commanding Officer.

On 12/10/17 the Battalion was in action at Passchendaele. They hopped over at 5.15 a.m., and about 10 minutes afterward before much progress had been made, the Lieutenant was killed outright by a burst of machine gun fire, while telling the members of his Platoon to extend. There was only one man between the Lieutenant and Informant, who, of course, saw the Lieutenant killed. The man next to the Lieutenant went over to him, but Informant kept going and never saw the Lieutenant again, neither could he tell me where he was buried. The Battalion got the first and second objectives but were knocked back the next day. Day was of a very quiet disposition and was well liked by the boys.

Informant: No. 4899A, Private R.N. Clarke,
"A" Company = 35th Battalion.

Private address: C/o Mr. Lackey, Hugh St., ASHFIELD.

W.A.C.
A.I.F. Western Suburbs
Sydney 21/5/19

Note below a report dated "Sydney, 21/5/19" some 19 months after the war indicating a search had been made to determine if he had been a prisoner of war?
**A.I.F. 35th Bn**

**late 13th**

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**"X/A. 13-10-17"**

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No trace Germany
Cert. by Capt. Mills 10-10-19.

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London 18-10-19

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13.6.16</td>
<td>O.C.Troops</td>
<td>Embarked at Alexandria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.6.16</td>
<td>&quot; Criana</td>
<td>Disembarked at Marseilles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.10.16</td>
<td>O/C Records</td>
<td>Attached to Aust Records Rouen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.10.16</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Absent with leave &quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>25.11.16</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Rejoined from leave &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.1.17</td>
<td>3rd Echelon</td>
<td>On command at AIF Hq, London &quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2.17</td>
<td>O/C Records</td>
<td>Rejoined from on command &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.3.17</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Attached from attachment with Adm. Hqtrs and proceeded O/Seas to 3rd Ech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.2.17</td>
<td>No 5 Off Cadet Bn. S/Sgt.</td>
<td>Detached from Anzac Sec, 3rd Echelon and transferred to Officers Tng. Coll. Placed on supernumerary list.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.6.17</td>
<td>AIF List 185</td>
<td>for pay etc from 6.2.17 Cambridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>25.6.17</td>
<td>AIF Depots</td>
<td>Promoted 2nd Lieut. Tidworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.6.17</td>
<td>O.C. 37th ADEB</td>
<td>Proceeded O/Seas France Tidworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.6.17</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Marched in from England Henry Rouaule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.7.17</td>
<td>6th O.35th Bn.</td>
<td>Marched out to 3rd Div. &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.10.17</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Taken on strength from C.Bn. Field &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.10.17</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Killed in Action Field, Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>30.10.17</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>Struck off strength &quot;</td>
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“The 356th and 357th lists of casualties were issued on Saturday---.”
2nd Lieut Kenneth Maitland Day.”

Private Mervyn Day, son of Mr and Mrs Day, of the Molong Commercial Bank, was killed in France on September 20. A cable to this effect was received from Sergeant Kenneth Day last week. The deceased, soldier was 27 years; of age, and enlisted in New Zealand, about a year ago, reaching the trenches in May. He was very popular in Molong, where he was secretary of the P.P. Board prior to his departure for Queensland, four years ago.
Above form is application (with a payment!) to get copy of grave inscription.

Western Front (Belgium), Passchendaele Area. A section of the Tyne Cot Cemetery. This contains 11848 service graves. Which include 609 of members of the A.I.F.

Below, are photographs of Day’s Memorials in Parkes and Molong.
2nd. Lt K Day 13th Bn. Passchendaele Ridge Belgium
St George’s Anglican Church, 45 Currajong Street, Parkes NSW

(Note, he died with the 35th not 13th.)

Day also listed on War Memorial Parkes RSL

St John’s Anglican Church, Molong

In proud and loving memory of
Lieut. Kenneth Maitland Day
35th Battalion, A.I.F.
Killed in Action 12th October 1917 at Passchendaele aged 30 years.

MEMORIAL AND DEDICATION SERVICE.

There was a large and representative attendance at St. St John’s Anglican Church on Saturday afternoon last to witness the dedication and unveiling of a memorial tablet placed in the church by Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Day in memory of their two sons Lieut. Kenneth Maitland Day and Rifleman Mervyn Dove Day—who were killed at the war. Among those a present were Mr. and Mrs. J. Day (parents of the deceased soldiers), Mr. and Mrs. Ken Smith (brother-in-law and sister) and Miss Thea Day (sister); also Brigadier-General Goddard, Major Dudley Smith. Major Lowing and Lieut. Dawson, The service was of an impressive and solemn character. The altar, pulpit, lectern and prayer desk were draped with Australian flags and Union Jacks.
The flag that covered the tablet was the New Zealand flag. Mervyn Day having enlisted in that dominion.