

William Leslie Morrison Gay 1898 - 1916

A local WWI soldier who did not return from war was William Leslie Morrison Gay. Known as Maurice, born on 9 June 1898 in Bangalow, NSW, he moved to a dairy farm outside Maleny as a boy. He attended both the Teutoburg and Maleny Schools. In January 1916, Maurice enlisted at 17 years of age. On 6 June 1916, he sailed from Melbourne with the 3rd Pioneer Battalion on the ship "Wandilla" but fell critically ill with Cerebral Spinal Meningitis several weeks later. With a temperature over 105 degrees F, he fell unconscious and died on 9 July 1916. PTE Maurice Gay, aged 18 years, was buried at sea approximately 500 kms off the coast of Angola.



Photo of the ship "Wandilla" was taken on his voyage.