Frank Burridge

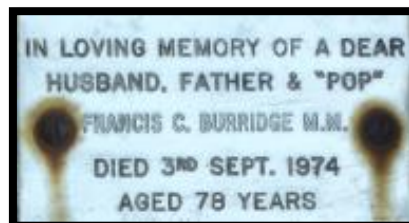……. was mentioned in the Rugby League News in 1924 while playing with the St George Club. His dedication and commitment to playing rugby league was noted as follows, "F. Burridge, who plays with St George Reserve Grade, stripped for Western Suburbs Second Grade in 1921, and on one occasion, against Newtown, pulled on the jersey in the two matches on the same afternoon. He rendered a good account of himself, but it was asking too much personal exertion." As Frank only played the one First Grade game with Wests, this article in the Rugby League News appears to refer to his First Grade debut. It was certainly a tough way to make the top grade.

Frank Burridge enlisted with the AIF on 7 March 1916. He was posted to the 4th Reinforcements, 56th Battalion as a Private. Frank Burridge was awarded the Military Medal for his actions in battle. On 1 September 1918 during the attack on Peronne in France, he went into action in charge of a Platoon and showed great gallantry, coolness and skill in leadership in the face of heavy fire from the enemy.

On 2 September 1918 he again displayed exceptional ability in leading his men and in addition to his other duties, saw to the bandaging of the wounded. At one stage, when his Platoon was suffering from machine gun enfilading fire, he placed his men in a comparatively safe place, and personally engaged and silenced an enemy machine gun with his Lewis Gun thus enabling his men to advance.

Frank Burridge enlisted again in the Second World War with the RAAF at Blakehurst, NSW in March 1942. He held the rank of Leading Aircraftsman and was based at the 2 Personnel Depot until the end of the war in 1945.

Between the wars, Frank was recorded refereeing rugby league in the St George District in 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1939 and 1941. He lived in the southern Sydney suburb of Cronulla and died there in September 1974. His memorial is at the Woronora Memorial Park, Sutherland, NSW, Evergreen Family Shb. Garden B, 0022.

Frank Burridge is also included on the Old Boys of Moorfield School World War 1 Honor Roll. The school was originally at Moorfield (now Kingsgrove), NSW. The school was replaced by a new school at Belmore South and the Honour Roll was relocated to the new school.