

Private Percival Eric Gratwick



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

100640

Service number **WX10426**

Birth Date 19 October 1902

Birth Place Australia: Western Australia, Katanning

Death Date 26 October 1942

Death Place North Africa: Western Desert, Western Desert (Egypt), El Alamein

Final Rank Private

Service Australian Army

- [Australian Army](#)
- [Australian Army](#)
- [2/48th Australian Infantry Battalion](#)

Units

- [El Alamein](#)
- [Katanning](#)

Places

Conflict/Operation Second World War, 1939-1945

Gazettes Published in London Gazette in 1943-01-28
Published in Commonwealth Gazette in 1943-02-04

Description

Pte Percival Eric GRATWICK (1902-1942) VC recipient was a 38-year-old former gold prospector from Western Australia. He enlisted on 20th December 1940 and became a member of the 2/48th Battalion. On the night of 25-26th October 1942, in an attack at Miteiriya Ridge, Gratwick's company suffered heavy casualties and was held up by intense enemy fire; his platoon lost its commander, its Sergeant, and most of the men. Seeing the seriousness of the situation, Gratwick launched a single-handed attack with grenades, rifle, and bayonet on the German posts. He finally fell to a burst of machine-gun fire. His lone efforts had a big impact, inspiring all those around him and enabling the company to advance.

Gratwick is buried at EL ALAMEIN WAR CEMETERY GRAVE XXII. A. 6.