

**Fenny Stratford Cemetery,
Bletchley, Buckinghamshire, England**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



56644 L. CPL

W. R. ASH

ROYAL ENGINEERS

15TH DECEMBER, 1916

William Rowland ASH

William Freeman Ash was born at Aberdare, Wales on 24th June, 1876 to parents James and Mary Ann Ash (nee Rowe).

William Ash, aged 4, along with his parents & younger sister, were passengers on the *Glamis* which had departed from Plymouth, England & arrived in Sydney, NSW on 10th January, 1881. His parents were listed as James Ash (Labourer, aged 27, born Somerset) & Mary Ash (aged 30, born Somerset). His sister was listed as Beatrice Ash (aged 1, born Glamorganshire).

From the NSW Police Gazette – 10 January, 1894:

Apprehensions, &c.

William Ash (17), charged with breaking and entering the Railway Office at Blayney on the night of the 31st ultimo, and stealing therein £1 11s. 7d., also seventy-two railway tickets (recovered), the property of the Railway Commissioners, have been arrested by Senior-sergeant Roche and Constable Leprow, Blayney Police, Committed for trial at Bathurst Quarter Sessions, Bail Allowed.

NSW Gaol Description and Entrance Books – Bathurst 1890-1899:

No. 907 *William Ashe.*

Born – *England* Year of Birth – *1877* Arrived in Colony – *Glamase 1882* Trade – *Telegraph Operator*

Religion – *C of E* Education – *R & W (read & Write)* Height - *5 feet 2 ¼ inches.* Colour of Hair – *Fair*

Colour of Eyes – *Blue*

Where and when tried – *Bathurst 5th February, 1894* Offence – *Larceny* Sentence – *6 Months H.L.*



NSW Gaol Description and Entrance Books – William Ashe

William Ash, employed at Blayney, NSW, was listed in the NSW Government Gazette for May-June, 1894 as a Probationer in the Electrical Engineer's Branch.

William Rowland Ash married Ethel Montague Lowe (also known as Ethel Montague Ormerod) in September quarter, 1907 in the district of Glamorgan, Wales.

According to details in a letter in the Service Record file for Lance Corporal William Rowland Ash – he was employed as Foreman of Telegraphs in the Gold Coast from 30th April, 1900 until 28th October, 1910 when he was pronounced physically unfit to return to service in tropical Africa. The letter continues with "*At the time of your retirement the head of your Department reported that you had discharged your duties with diligence and fidelity and recommended that you should be awarded a pension of the full amount form which you were eligible and full pension was accordingly granted to you.*"

The 1911 Wales Census recorded William Ash as a 34 year old Electrical Engineer, living with his wife & son at 31 Llanbleddian Gardens, Cardiff, Glamorgan, Wales in an eight roomed dwelling. His wife was listed as Ethel Ash (aged 32, born Manchester) & his son George Ash was listed as a 12 year old Scholar (born Cardiff). Also listed was a Boarder – Hilda Marie Warter (Actress (?), aged 29 – married) & a Visitor – Marie Cass (married aged 27).

William Rowland Ash was a 38 year old Electrical Engineer when he enlisted on 2nd November, 1914 with the British Army. His service number was 56644 & his religion was Church of England. He was 5 feet 5 inches & his next of kin was listed as his father - Mr James Ash, Glenavon, Blayney, NSW, Australia. William Ash stated on his Attestation Papers that he had been an apprentice with New South Wales Government. He also stated he had previously served with Colonial Office in London but had been discharged by being invalided.

Sapper William Rowland Ash was posted with Royal Engineers on 2nd November, 1914 for recruit training.

Sapper William Rowland Ash was transferred to 30th Signal Company on 12th November, 1914.

Sapper William Rowland Ash was appointed Lance Corporal (paid) from 16th July, 1915.

Lance Corporal William Rowland Ash was transferred to Fenny Stratford T.D. on 21st July, 1915.

Lance Corporal William Rowland Ash embarked to join Mediterranean Expeditionary Force on 14th January, 1916.

Lance Corporal William Rowland Ash was reported to be "wounded seriously" on 11th September, 1916.

Lance Corporal William Rowland Ash was admitted to The Lord Derby Hospital, Warrington, Lancashire, England on 7th November, 1916 with multiple Gemmata of skull. The Hospital Admissions form records the following: "*Bone ___ in patches. Large Sequestrum over left Rolandie area, seizures and paralysis extending from rt. arm to rt. leg and involving finally the face & speech areas.*"

Lance Corporal William Rowland Ash died at 1.50 am on 15th December, 1916 at The Lord Derby Hospital, Warrington, Lancashire, England from "multiple Gemmata of skull" & "Encephalitis from Septic extension of above lesion."

A death for William R. Ash, aged 40, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Warrington, Lancashire, England.

Lance Corporal William Rowland Ash was buried in Fenny Stratford Cemetery, Bletchley, Buckinghamshire, England – Plot number OC.137F (listed by CWGC as Bletchley Cemetery) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

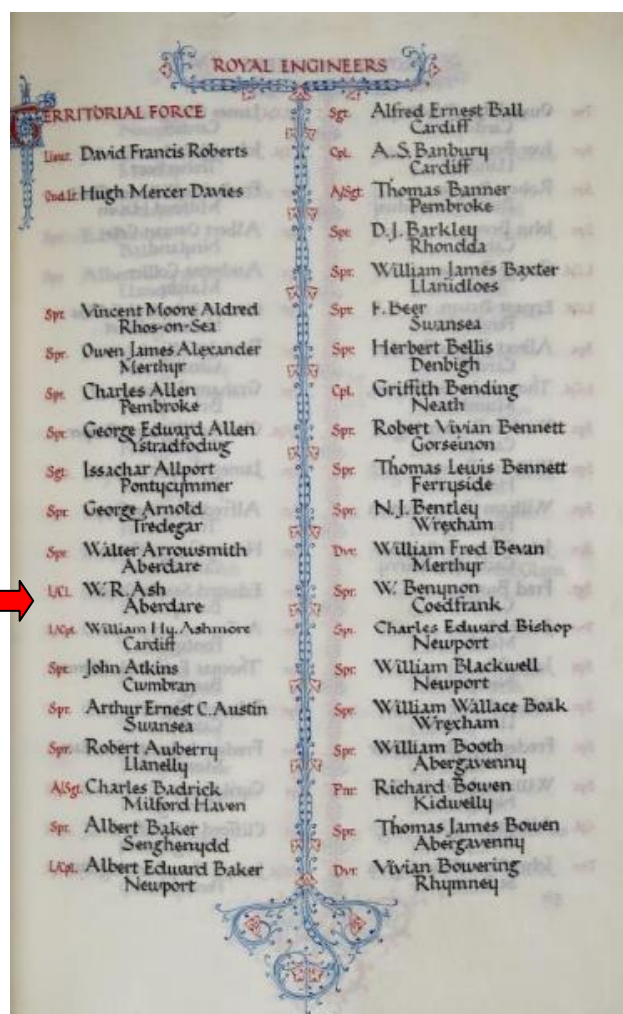
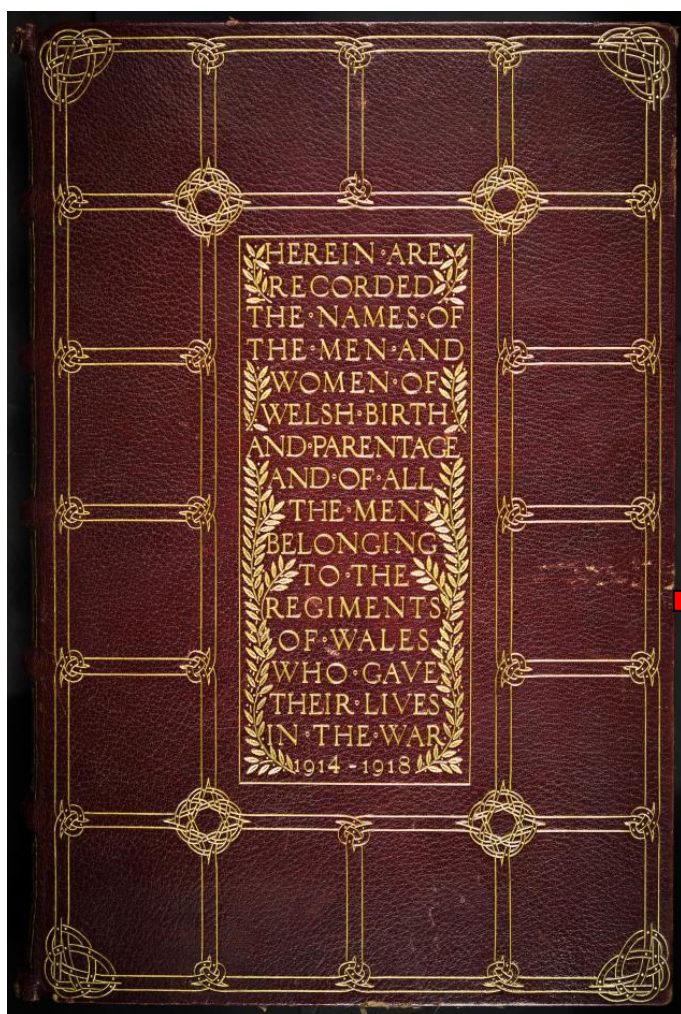
Army form "Statement of the Names and Addresses of all Relatives of the above named deceased Soldier in each of the degrees specified below that are now living" was completed by Ethel Hyman, of 7 Cathays Terrace, Cathays, Cardiff – remarried widow of the late Lance Corporal William Rowland Ash on 28th July, 1919. She listed that there were no children of the marriage. The father of the late Lance Corporal Ash was listed as James Ash, Australia; his

mother was not known. His brother was listed as Walter Ash, Australia; no sisters were known, grandparents were listed as dead & nephews, nieces, uncles and aunts were not known.

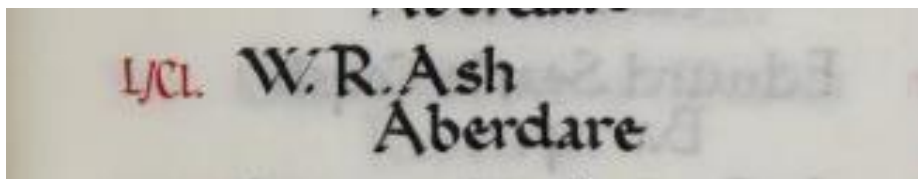
Lance Corporal William Rowland Ash was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. His Medal Index card has his rank listed as Sapper. A Memorial Scroll & Plaque were also sent to the late Lance Corporal Ash's widow.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal W. R. Ash – service number 56644, of 40th Signal Coy., Royal Engineers. No family details are listed.

L.Cpl W. R. Ash is remembered in the Welsh Book of Remembrance is remembered in the Welsh Book of Remembrance for World War 1 (page 43). It contains the names of 35,000 servicemen and women, as well as members of Welsh Regiments, who lost their lives in the First World War. These individuals are listed according to regiment and battalion.



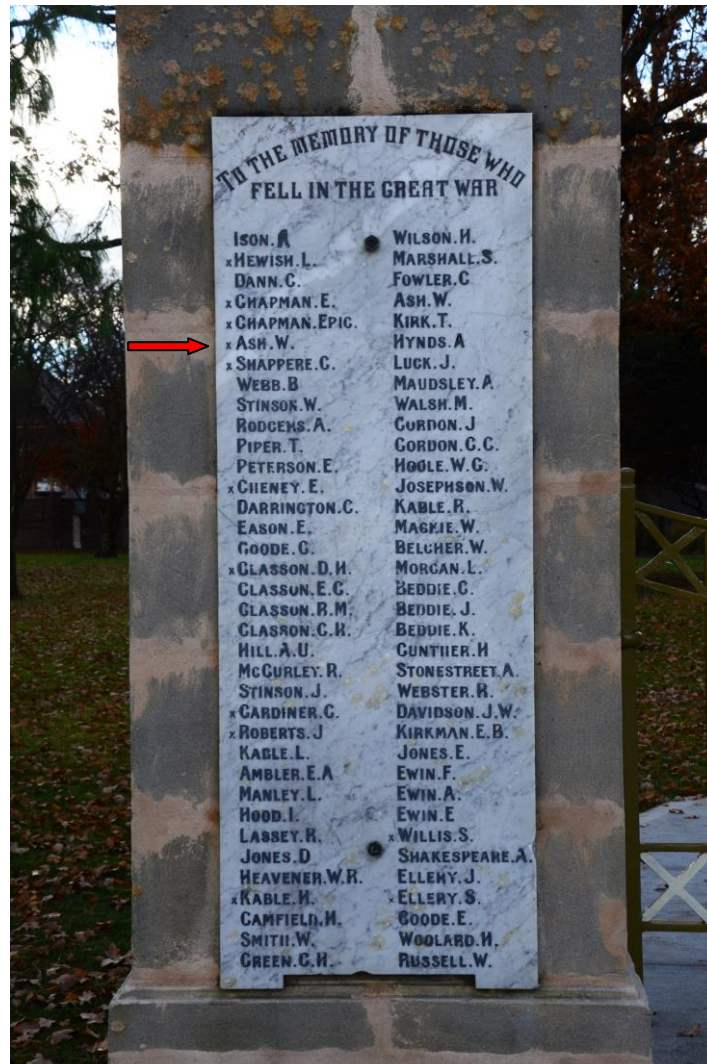
Welsh Book of Remembrance



W. Ash is remembered on the Blayney War Memorial, located in Carrington Park, Church & Osman Streets, Blayney, NSW.



Blayney War Memorial (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



Lance Corporal William Rowland Ash is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (*Capital Photographer*)



Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Commemorative Roll) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

Personal

William Ash, eldest son of Mr Jas. Ash, is another Blayney boy who has paid the supreme penalty for his country. A cable reached Mr Ash on Friday night that his son had died of wounds on December 15. A strange circumstance is that on Friday last Mr Ash had a cable from his son, stating that he had been wounded in the head, and was in hospital in London, but expected to be about again in a few days. Lance Cpl. Ash was 39 years of age. He enlisted in England early in the war, joined the Royal Engineers, and was twice previously wounded.

(Leader, Orange, NSW – 15 January, 1917)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Lance Corporal William Rowland Ash has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone.

Fenny Stratford Cemetery, Bletchley, Buckinghamshire, England

Fenny Stratford Cemetery, Bletchley (listed as Bletchley Cemetery by Commonwealth War Graves Commission) has 22 Commonwealth War Graves – 14 from World War 1 & 8 from World War 2.



Fenny Stratford Cemetery, Bletchley *(Photo by Vonderene – Find a Grave)*

Photo of Lance Corporal W. R. Ash's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Fenny Stratford Cemetery, Bletchley, Buckinghamshire, England (listed by CWGC as Bletchley Cemetery).



(Photo by Ian Chambers)



(Photo by Ian Chambers)