

**St. John the Baptist Churchyard,  
Keele, Staffordshire  
War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**54636 PRIVATE**

**R. V. BROUGH**

**AUSTRALIAN REINFORCEMENT**

**10TH JUNE, 1920 Age 31**

## Ralph Vincent BROUGH

Ralph Vincent Brough was born in Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire, England to parents John Walley Brough & Florence Matilda Brough (nee Rollison). His birth was registered in the March quarter, 1890 in the district of Wolstanton, Staffordshire.

The 1891 England Census recorded Ralph Vincent Brough as a 1 year old living with his family at Stone Cotes, Wolstanton, Stafford. His parents were listed as John Walley Brough (Earthenware Manufacturer, aged 32, born Biddulph, Staffordshire) & Florence Matilda Brough (aged 35, born Chesterton, Staffordshire). Ralph Vincent Brough was one of six children listed on this Census – Edith Brough (aged 11, born Biddulph, Staffordshire), Fredk. Arthur Brough (aged 7, born Stone Cotes), Gertrude Ellen Brough (aged 5, born Stone Cotes), John Wm. Brough (aged 2, born Stone Cotes) then Ralph & Charles Henry Brough (aged 6 weeks, born Stone Cotes). Also listed with the family were two visitors – Mary Marjorie Ross (Governess, aged 22, born London, Middlesex) & Charles Harry Rollison (Schoolmaster, aged 24, born Norton, Staffordshire). The family also had a Servant – Louisa Brough (aged 17, born Harseahead, Staffordshire).

The 1901 England Census recorded Ralph Brough as an 11 year old living with his family at Thistleberry House, Keele Road, Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire. His parents were listed as John W. Brough (Earthenware Manufacturer – employer, aged 43) & Florence M. Brough (aged 45). Ralph was one of seven children listed on this Census – Edith Brough (aged 21, born Biddulph, Staffordshire), Frederick (Potter's Clerk, aged 17, born Wolstanton, Staffordshire), Gertie (aged 15, born Wolstanton, Staffordshire), William (aged 12, born Wolstanton, Staffordshire), then Ralph, Harry (aged 10, born Wolstanton, Staffordshire) & Leonard (aged 8, born Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire).

From *The London Gazette* – 6th May, 1898:

*“Notice is hereby given that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned John Walley Brough and William Hiram Jones carrying on Business as Earthenware Manufacturers at Wharf Street Pottery, Stoke-upon-Trent in the county of Stafford under the style or firm of Brough and Jones has been dissolved by mutual consent as and from the 27th day of April, 1898. All debts due to and owing by the said late firm will be received and paid by the said John Wally Brough. – Dated the fourth day of May 1898.*

JOHN WALLEY BROUGH

WILLIAM HIRAM JONES

Ralph Brough, Farmer, aged 19, was listed as a passenger on *Geelong* which had departed from the port of London on 2nd March, 1909 bound for Sydney, Australia.

[The 1911 England Census listed Ralph's parents – John Walley Brough (Traveller for a Corn Miller, aged 54) & Florence Matilda Brough (aged 55) Ralph's parents had been married for 34 years & had a total of 9 children, with 1 child deceased). Still living at home & listed on the Census were – John William Brough (Railway Clerk, aged 23), Gertrude Ellen Brough (Assisting at Home, aged 25) & Albert Leonard Brough (Brewer's Clerk, aged 19). The family were living at “Wested” Seabridge Road, Newcastle-under-Lyme, in a 7 roomed dwelling.]

Ralph Vincent Brough was a 29 year old, single, Farmer when he enlisted on 9th May, 1918 with the 8th (NSW) Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 54636 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. W. Brough, of Bridge Rd., Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, England. Ralph Vincent Brough listed his postal address as Cast Vale, Rye Park Road, Burrowa, NSW (near Young).

Ralph Vincent Brough was sent to Recruit M & D Depot at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 9th May, 1918. He was transferred to the 1st Infantry Depot Battalion, Liverpool – “A” Company on 15th June, 1918.

Private Ralph Vincent Brough embarked from Sydney on SS *Field Marshal* on 19th June, 1918. Pte Ralph Vincent Brough was admitted to the Ships' Hospital – (Mental) on 21st August, 1918. The Ship arrived in England on 26th August, 1918.

Private Ralph Vincent Brough was admitted to Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich (Mental) on 26th August, 1918.

Robert Poole, Florence Villa, Boorowa, NSW wrote to Base Records on 2nd April, 1919 enquiring into the state of health of Private R. V. Brough – *“... I have heard from a friend of his who went with him that he went out of his mind a week before he landed England. I would be pleased if you could give me his state of health & where he is as I am a partner of his & Attorney. I have never heard from him since he left so I would be very much obliged if you could enlighten me on the matter.”*

A letter was sent from Base Records on 9th April, 1919 to Mr R. Poole, Florence Villa, Boorowa, NSW which reads: *“I have to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 2nd inst. and to state in a recent cabled message to hand it is reported that No. 54636, Private R. V. Brough, 8th (NSW) General Service Reinforcements, who had been admitted to Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, England, on 26/8/18 and transferred to Lord Derby War Hospital, Warrington, England on 21/9/18, suffering from mental trouble, was on 15/3/19 seriously ill. It is anticipated that a progress report will be received shortly and when to hand you will be communicated with, your address having been placed on the records.”*

Notification was sent from Base Records on 30th April, 1919 to Mr R. Poole, Florence Villa, Boorowa, NSW advising that Private R. V. Brough's condition was slightly improved.

Notification was sent from Base Records on 24th June, 1919 to Mrs R. Poole, Florence Villa, Boorowa, NSW advising that Private R. V. Brough's condition was stationary.

Notification was sent from Base Records on 12th August 1919 to Mr R. Poole, Florence Villa, Boorowa, NSW advising that Private R. V. Brough was now a patient at Lord Derby War Hospital, Warrington, England. His general health was fair but remains stuporous.

Notification was sent from Base Records on 2nd October, 1919 to Mr R. Poole, Florence Villa, Boorowa, NSW advising that there was no change in Private R. V. Brough's condition. The same notification was sent on 13th November, 1919.

A Medical Report was completed on Private Ralph Vincent Brough at the Lord Derby War Hospital, Warrington, England on 21st January, 1920 & it was found that he had Dementia Praecox. *“He has to be washed & dressed etc. Speaks only in monosyllables. Catatonic.”* The treatment recommended was for an Asylum. It was also recommended that Private Brough be discharged as permanently unfit for War Service, Home Service or light duty.

Ralph Vincent Brough was transferred from the Lord Derby War Hospital, Warrington to County Mental Hospital, Cheddleton on 18th May, 1920. Ralph Brough's father was informed of the transfer.

Private Ralph Vincent Brough died on 10th June, 1920 at Staffordshire Asylum, Cheddleton (also referred to in Service Record of Ralph Brough as County Mental Hospital, Cheddleton, Leek, Staffordshire) from Broncho Pneumonia.



**Staffordshire Asylum, Cheddleton – St. Edward's Hospital**

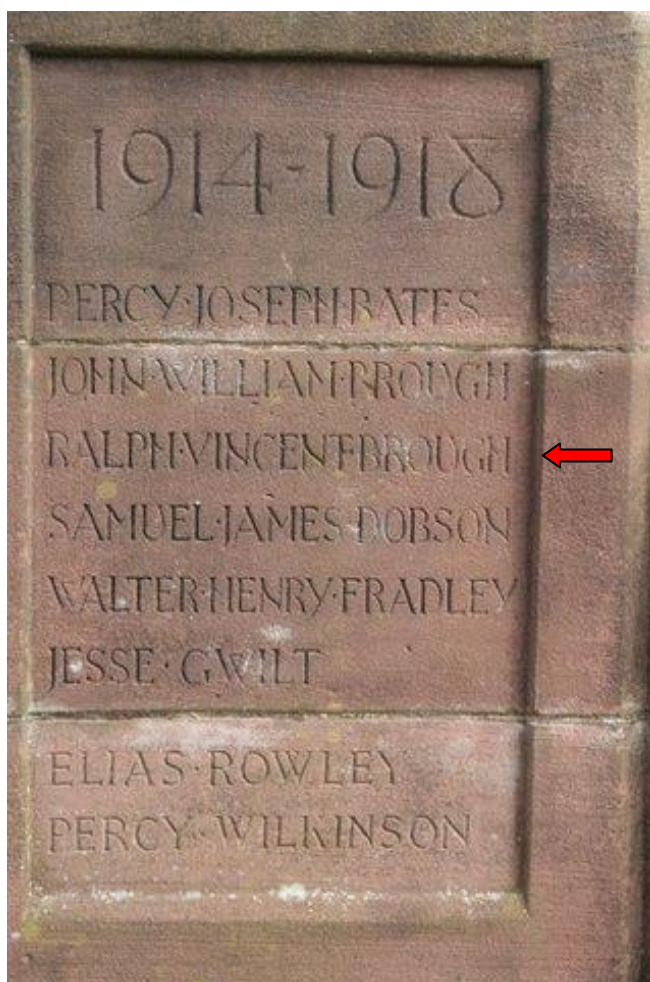
A death for Ralph V. Brough, aged 29, was registered in the June quarter, 1920 in the district of Cheadle, Staffordshire.

Private Ralph Vincent Brough was buried in St. John the Baptist Churchyard, Keele, Staffordshire – south east corner and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Ralph Vincent Brough was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Brough's father – Mr J. W. Brough, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll was issued in England & Plaque sent February, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Ralph Vincent Brough – service number 54636, aged 31, of Australian Reinforcement. He was the son of Mr J. W. Brough, of "Wested", Seabridge Rd., Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Ralph Vincent Brough & his brother John William Brough are both remembered on the Keele War Memorial, located at the entrance of the parish church of St. John the Baptist, Keele, Staffordshire.



**Keele War Memorial, Staffordshire** (Photos courtesy of Alf – Military Images)



Private R. V. Brough is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 185.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

(66 pages of Private R. V. Brough's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

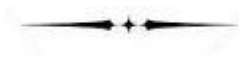
*Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*



### **Connected to Private Ralph Vincent Brough:**

Older brother - Lieutenant - Quartermaster John William Brough, of 1st Staffordshire Yeomanry died on 20th October, 1918, aged 30. Twice Mentioned in Despatches. Buried in Beirut War Cemetery, Lebanon.

Younger Brother – Quartermaster Sergeant Albert Leonard Brough, 4035, Staffordshire Yeomanry. – Enlisted 26th November, 1915. Discharged 5th December, 1919.



### **Newspaper Notices**

#### **PERSONAL**

Included amongst the enlistments at Young from the 15th to 19th April we notice the names of James Farqharson & R. V. Brough, both of Burrowa.

*(The Burrowa News, NSW – 26 April, 1918)*

### Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

*(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)*

Private R. V. Brough does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

### **St. John the Baptist Churchyard, Keele, Staffordshire**

St. John the Baptist Churchyard, Keele, Staffordshire contains only two War Graves, both relating to World War 1 – the other death occurred in 1919.



**St. John the Baptist Church, Keele, Staffordshire** *(Photo by Geoff Pick)*



Photo of Private R. V. Brough's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. John the Baptist Churchyard, Keele, Staffordshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Jo Blake)*