

**St. Lawrence Churchyard,
Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



22253 GUNNER

F. P. CROW

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

28TH DECEMBER, 1916 Age 19

A Loved Son And Brother

Greater Love

Gath No Man Than This

Francis Peter CROW

Francis Peter Crow was born at East Melbourne on 28th December, 1897 to parents James Francis & Margaret Crow (nee Hill).

Francis Peter Crow attended Trinity Grammar, Kew, Victoria.

Francis Peter Crow was an 18 year old, single, Labourer from "Torwood", Riddell, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 24th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 22253 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. F. Crow, "Torwood", Riddell, Victoria. Francis Peter Crow stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 3 ½ years with Senior Cadets 53rd Battalion.

As Francis Peter Crow was under the age of 21 years, his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. J.F. Crow & Margaret Crow both signed their consent.

Gunner Francis Peter Crow was posted to Field Artillery Brigade Reinforcements on 9th February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 23rd Howitzer Brigade, 109th Battery on 1st May, 1916.

Gunner Francis Peter Crow embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 20th May, 1916 with the 23rd Howitzer Brigade, 109th Battery, Australian Field Artillery & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 18th July, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

[Note: there is no record in the Service Record file of Gunner Francis Peter Crow as to where he was posted in regards to his training while in England.]

Gunner Francis Peter Crow died at 3.30 pm on 28th December, 1916 at Isolation Hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire from Scarlet Fever. ("His 19th Birthday" – as listed on the Roll of Honour by his father James Francis Crow.)

A death for Francis P. Crow, aged 19, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

Gunner Francis Peter Crow was buried on 1st January, 1917 in St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England – Plot number 104 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Gunner Francis Peter Crow 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 Gunner Crow's father – Mr J. F. Crow, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner Francis Peter Crow – service number 22253, aged 19, of 23rd Howitzer Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of James Francis and Margaret Hill Crow, of Torwood, Riddell, Victoria.

Gunner F. P. Crow is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 19.



Roll of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

F. P. Crow is remembered on the Trinity Grammar, Kew, Victoria - World War 1 Roll of Honour.



Trinity Grammar, Kew World War 1 Roll of Honour (Photo by Kevin Cameron)

F. P Crow is remembered on the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Honor Roll for World War 1, located at 10 Sutherlands Road, Riddells Creek, Victoria.



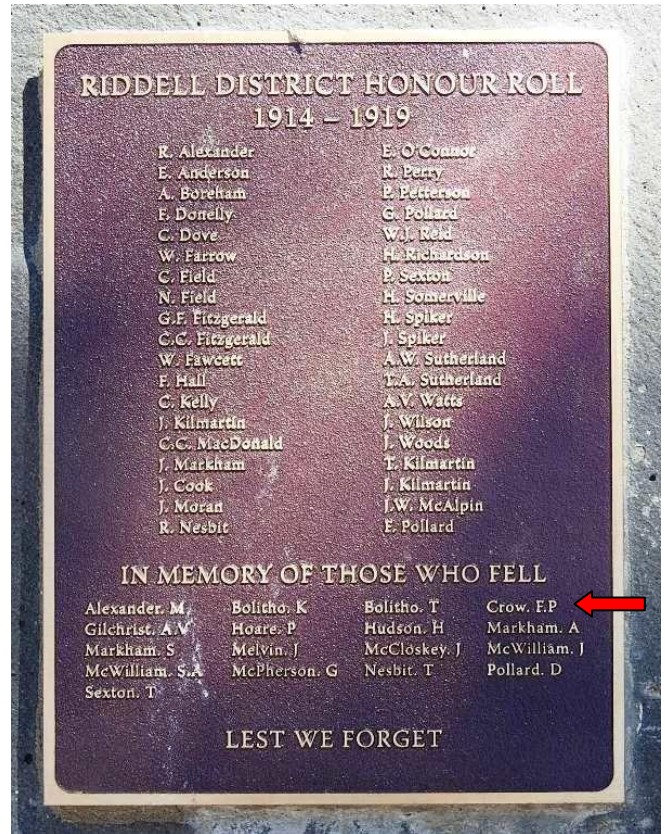
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Riddell's Creek Honor Roll (Photo from VHD)

F. P Crow is remembered on the Riddell District Honor Roll, located in Riddells Creek Hall, 63 Main Road, Riddells Creek, Victoria.



Riddell District Honor Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Tim Fitzgerald)

F. P Crow is remembered on the Riddell District Honor Roll located at 67 Main Road, Riddells Creek, Victoria.



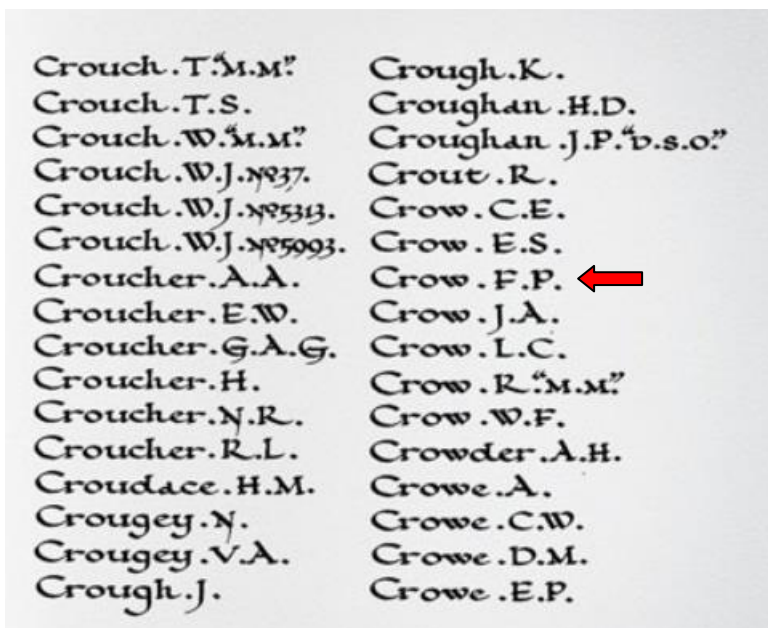
Riddell District Honor Roll (Photos from Monument Australia – Tim Fitzgerald)

F. P. Crow is remembered on the Honour Roll of Romsey Soldiers, located in Mechanics Institute, 122 Main Street, Romsey, Victoria.



Honour Roll of Romsey Soldiers (Photo from VHD)

F. P. Crow is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.



(49 pages of Gunner Francis Peter Crow'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) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

264TH LIST

Died of Illness

Gnr. F. P. CROW, Riddell, 28/12/16

(The Bendigo Independent, Victoria – 6 January, 1917)

DIED ON SERVICE

CROW – Died from illness at Salisbury on December 8, his 19th Birthday, Gunr. Francis Peter Crow, loved son of Mr and Mrs J. F. Crow, and loved brother of Aggie, Maisie, and Alan, of Riddell's Creek.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 9 January, 1917) & (The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria – 13 January, 1917)

We regret to report the death of Gunner Francis P. Crow, son of Mr and Mrs J. F. Crow, of Riddell, which occurred in England from illness on December 28.

(The Romsey Examiner, Victoria – 12 January, 1917)

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)

Gunner F. P. Crow does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*A Loved Son And Brother
Greater Love Hath No Man Than This*

St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards. Most of the 47 First World War burials in Stratford-sub-Castle (St Lawrence) Churchyard were made from the local hospital and more than half of them are of Australian servicemen who were based at the many Australian depots and training camps in the area. There are also two burials of the Second World War in the cemetery. (*Information from CWGC*)



St. Lawrence Church, Stratford-sub-Castle



Churchyard of St. Lawrence, Stratford-sub-Castle with CWGC Cross of Sacrifice



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)

Photo of Gunner F. P. Crow's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)

Stratford-sub-Castle War Graves

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A	RAF	British Army			NZ	NZ	Rogers 3 AIF		Robson Nurse	NZ	
B			Nicol AFC	Mason 5 Aus Pioneer	Dundas 29 AIF	Thorsby 20 AIF	Walpole (Wilson) 3 AIF	O'Grady 10 AIF	Kubank 40 AIF	NZ	
C	NZ	Jacob 31 AIF	Wood 9 AIF	Smith 55 AIF	British Army	British Army	Smith Aus ASC	O'Donnell 16 AIF	Knight 52 AIF	Lawrence 54 AIF	Edmonds 48 AIF
D		Lewis 30 AIF	British Army	Whitchurch 51 AIF	British Army	Dee 52 AIF	Greenslade 17 AIF	British Army	Thorburn 13 AIF	Knight 13 AIF	Hannabry 16 AIF
E					Adams 13 AIF	Crow Aus FA	British Army	Bolton 40 AIF	British Army	British Army	
F		British Army		British Army	British Army	British Army		Canada		British Army	

(Information for layout of graves – courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)



Original Grave Markers at Stratford-sub-Castle Churchyard