

**St. Serf's Parish Churchyard,
Dunning, Scotland**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1300 LANCE CPL.

W. L. CROWE

5TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

6TH JULY, 1918 Age 24

His Shall Be

The Crown Of Life

Thy Ways O Lord

Are Wonderful

William Lauder CROWE

William Lauder Crowe was born at Dunning, Perthshire, Scotland in 1893 to parents David D. & Elizabeth Lauder Crowe.

William Lauder Crowe attended Public School at Dunning.

The 1901 Scotland Census recorded William Lander Crow as a 7 year old Scholar, living with his family at Ochil View House, Dunning, Perthshire, Scotland. His parents were listed as David D. Crow (Journeyman Baker, aged 50, born Dunning, Perthshire) and Elizabeth L. Crow (aged 51, born Dunning, Perthshire). William was one of five children listed on this Census, all born at Dunning, Perthshire – David (Slater, aged 20), Walter Lander (Grocer's Assistant, aged 18), Elizabeth (Servant General Domestic, aged 16) then William & Nellie (aged 1).

According to information supplied by his sister, Helen Smith Crowe, for the Roll of Honour - William Lauder Crowe came to Australia when he was 19 years old. A "Wm. Crowe", Grocer's Assistant, aged 19, was a passenger on *Irishman* which departed from Liverpool, England on 20 March, 1913, destined for the port of Melbourne, Australia.

William Lauder Crowe was a 21 year old, single, Station Hand from Douglas, Wheatland, Rainbow, Victoria when he enlisted at Broadmeadows, Victoria on 5th January, 1915 with the 5th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1456 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – David Crowe, of Dunning, Perthshire, Scotland.

Private William Lauder Crowe was posted to Broadmeadows Depot on 5th January, 1915.

Private William Lauder Crowe embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Clan McGillivray (A46)* on 2nd February, 1915.

Private William Crowe was taken to Field Ambulance at Anzac on 29th August, 1915. He was admitted to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 30th August, 1915 – Febrile (Showing symptoms of a fever). Pte Crowe was transferred the same day to Mudros & admitted to No. 1 Australian Stationary Hospital at Lemnos on 1st September, 1915 with Diarrhoea. He was transferred to Convalescent Depot on 9th September, 1915.

Private William Crowe rejoined his Unit on 24th September, 1915 from Lemnos.

Private William Crowe was transferred to 2nd Infantry Brigade Headquarters as Transport Driver on 29th February, 1916 at Serapeum. His regimental/service number was changed to 1300.

Driver William Crowe rejoined his Battalion as a Private at Serapeum on 14th March, 1916.

Private William Crowe embarked from Alexandria to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) on 25th March, 1916 on Troop Ship *Empress of Britain* & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 30th March, 1916.

Private William Crowe was promoted to Lance Corporal on 19th April, 1916 with "C" Company, 5th Battalion.

Lance Corporal William Crowe was still with his Unit on 6th January, 1917.

Lance Corporal William Crowe was sent sick to Hospital on 23rd August, 1917. He was admitted to 2nd Australian Field Ambulance with a sprained ankle then transferred to 1st A.D.R.S. (Rest Station). Lance Corporal William Crowe rejoined his Unit in France on 28th August, 1917.

Lance Corporal William Crowe was on furlough to UK from 2nd February, 1918 & rejoined his Unit from Furlough on 19th February, 1918.

5th Battalion

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt and, in March 1916, sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion was heavily involved in operations against the German Army. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. After Pozieres the battalion fought at Ypres in Flanders then returning to the Somme for winter.

In 1917, the battalion participated in the operations that followed-up the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line,

and then returned to Belgium to join the great offensive launched to the east of Ypres. In March and April 1918, the battalion helped to stop the German spring offensive.

(Information from the Australian War Memorial)

Lance Corporal William Crowe was sent to hospital injured on 17th May, 1918. He was taken to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance then transferred to 15th Casualty Clearing Station with abrasions to shoulder & cut head. L/Cpl Crowe was transferred to 13th General Hospital at Boulogne on 17th May, 1918. He was invalided to UK with abrasions to scalp on 21st May, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Pieter de Conick*.

Lance Corporal William Crowe was admitted to 2nd Southern General Hospital at Bristol on 22nd May, 1918 with wounds to scalp & right shoulder due to an accident. The Hospital Admissions form states "*Fall from Waggon. X. Ray shows fracture of Great Tuberosity of Humerus.*"

Lance Corporal William Crowe was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford on 14th June, 1918.

Lance Corporal William Crowe was discharged for furlough from 20th June, 1918 & was to report to No. 4 Command Depot, Hurdcott, Wiltshire, England.

Lance Corporal William Crowe was admitted to Perth War Hospital, Scotland on 3rd July, 1918 with Influenza while on leave.

Lance Corporal William Lauder Crowe died at 11.30 am on 6th July, 1918 at War Hospital, Perth, Scotland from Pneumonia.

Lance Corporal William Lauder Crowe was buried at 1.30 pm on 10th July, 1918 in St. Serf's Parish Churchyard, Dunning, Scotland and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. Lance Corporal William Lauder Crowe was buried with his deceased father and mother in a private family grave. From the burial report of Lance Corporal Crowe - *The deceased soldier was buried privately, by his relatives at Dunning, Scotland. Australian Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented. Names of relatives present at the funeral – Next-of-kin (Sister) Nellie Crowe, 18 Westend, Dalry, Perth & Elizabeth Crowe, Melville Castle, Laswede, Midlothian.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Lance Corporal William Lauder Crowe contains a letter from O.C. R.A.M.C., War Hospital Perth, Scotland which reads: "*L/Cpl W/ L/ Crowe was admitted to this hospital on 3/7/18 while on leave. He was most thoroughly examined shortly after admission and beyond the fact he had a high temperature and a debilitated state of health general, there were no discoverable signs of disease. Within twenty-four hours Pneumonia of the right lung developed and rapidly spread all over the chest and in spite of every possible treatment, care and attention he died of heart failure on 6/7/18. The body was claimed by his relatives in Perth and buried in their own ground.*"

A letter was sent from the Office of the Curator of Estates of Deceased Persons, Melbourne on 24th June, 1919 to Base Records which reads:

"Re: No. 1300 L/Cpl. W. L. Crowe, 2nd I.B. Hdqrs. dec'd.

In the particulars furnished to me by the above-named deceased soldier's sister, Miss Helen S. Crowe, who is sole beneficiary under his will, she states that he had two sets of Bagpipes. One of these was left in France, and one "at the Base, Gallipoli, and I shall be glad to learn whether you have any record of any effects belonging to him having been received at your office."

Base Records replied that no personal effects belong to the late Lance Corporal W. L. Crowe had been received at this office to date.

Lance Corporal William Lauder Crowe was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Crowe's sister - Miss N. S. Crowe, as the closest next-of-kin as both parents were now deceased. (Scroll & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal William Lauder Crowe – service number 1300, aged 24, of 5th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Elizabeth Lauder Crowe and the late David D. Crowe. Born at Dunning, Perthshire, Scotland.

Private W. L. Crowe is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 43.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. Crowe is remembered on the Rainbow War Memorial located on Federal Street, Rainbow, Victoria.



Rainbow War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders & Roger Johnson)

Lance Corporal William Lauder Crowe is remembered in the Roll of Honour Books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad shelf in front of each of the bays, the names of the dead are listed in leather-bound books.



The Scottish National War Memorial & the Hall of Honour & the Roll of Honour Books.

(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)



(55 pages of Lance Corporal William Lauder Crowe'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



Newspaper Notices

VICTORIA'S ROLL OF HONOUR

411th CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED

Lance-Corp. W. L. Crowe, Scotland.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 25 June, 1918)

418th CASUALTY LIST

VICTORIAN NAMES

DIED OTHER CAUSES

L-Cpl. W. L. Crowe, Scotland.

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 24 July, 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)

Lance Corporal William Lauder Crowe does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

His Shall Be The Crown Of Life

Thy Ways O Lord Are Wonderful

Photo of Lance Corporal W. L. Crowe's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Serf's Parish Churchyard, Dunning, Scotland.



(Photo courtesy of Simon Warren)

St. Serf's Parish Churchyard, Dunning, Scotland

St. Serf's Parish Churchyard, Dunning contains just 2 Commonwealth War Graves – one from World War 1 & one from World War 2.



St. Serf's Parish Churchyard, Dunning *(Photo from CWGC)*