

**Towcester Road Cemetery,  
Northampton, Northamptonshire  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3558 PRIVATE**

**R. DOUST**

**54TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**30TH OCTOBER, 1916 Age 22**

## Roy DOUST

Roy Doust was born at Lower Southgate, near Grafton, New South Wales on 1st February, 1893 to parents William Colin & Ann Emily Doust (nee Apps).

Roy Doust attended School at Lower Southgate.

Ann Emily Doust, mother of Roy Doust, died on 7th September, 1902 at Ulmarra, New South Wales.

Roy Doust was a 22 year old, single, Farmer from Clarence River, NSW when he enlisted on 5th November, 1915 at Holsworthy, Sydney, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3558 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr W. C. Doust, of Lower Southgate via Grafton, NSW.

Private Roy Doust was posted to 8th Reinforcements of 18th Battalion on 5th November, 1915 for recruit training.

Private Roy Doust embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Aeneas (A60)* on 20th December, 1915 with the 18th Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements.

Private Roy Doust was transferred to 54th Battalion on 3rd April, 1916 at Moascar & taken on strength of 54th Battalion on 3rd April, 1916 at Ferry Post from 18th Battalion.

Private Roy Doust embarked from Alexandria on H.T. *Caledonian* on 19th June, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 29th June, 1916.

Private Roy Doust was wounded in action in France on 19th/20th July, 1916. He was admitted to No. 2 Casualty Clearing Station on 20th July, 1916 & then transferred to No. 18 Ambulance Train the same day. Pte Doust was admitted to 14th General Hospital on 21st July, 1916 with gunshot wounds to chest – severe. He embarked from Boulogne, France on Hospital Ship *St. David* for England on 27th July, 1916.

### 54th Battalion

The 54th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 16 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 2nd Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 2nd, the 54th was predominantly composed of men from New South Wales. The battalion became part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Moving to France in June 1916, the 54th fought its first major battle on the Western Front at Fromelles, on 19 July. It was a disaster. The 54th was part of the initial assault and suffered casualties equivalent to 65 per cent of its fighting strength. Casualty rates among the rest of the 5th Division were similarly high, but despite these losses it continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months.

*(Extract of Battalion information from The Australian War Memorial)*

### War Diary – 54th Battalion

*Bac-St.-Maur 19th July, 1916 – 20th July, 1916*

*The Battn moved from Bac-St.-Maur at 2 pm to front line trenches. The Battn attacked the enemy trenches at 5.50 pm & occupied his front line trenches at about 6 pm. The Battalion withdrew from its new position & returned to Billets at Bac-St.-Maur at 7.30 am. Our Casualties were Killed 3 Officers 70 Other Ranks. Wounded 11 Officers 277 Other ranks Missing 4 Officers 169 other ranks.*

*(Extract of War Diary information from The Australian War Memorial)*

Private Roy Doust was admitted to Northampton War Hospital at Northampton on 27th July, 1916 with gunshot wounds to chest.

Base Records advised Mr W. C. Doust, Lower Southgate, Clarence River, NSW, on 11th August, 1916 that his son had been admitted to 14th General Hospital on 21st July with gunshot wounds to chest – severe. Mr Doust was advised on 17th August, 1916 that his son, Pte Roy Doust, was seriously ill & on 24th August, 1916 that his son's condition was stationary.

Private Roy Doust was reported to be "*improving*" on 27th August, 1916 & his condition was reported as "*unaltered*" on 5th September, 1916.

Base Records advised Mr W. C. Doust, Lower Southgate, Clarence River, NSW, on 3rd September, 1916, 9th September, 1916 & again on 3rd October, 1916 that his son's condition was still improving. Mr Doust was advised on 8th October, 1916 that Pte Doust's condition was stationary.

Private Roy Doust was reported to have kidney Trouble & was seriously ill on 15th October, 1916.

Base Records advised Mr W. C. Doust, Lower Southgate, Clarence River, NSW, on 31st October, 1916 that his son had developed kidney trouble. Mr Doust was advised that his son was progressing favourably on 1st November, 1916.

Private Roy Doust died on 30th October, 1916 at War Hospital, Duston, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England from wounds received in action in France – gunshot wounds to chest & Acute Nephritis.

A death for Roy Doust, aged 23, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Northampton, Northamptonshire, England.

Private Roy Doust was buried on 3rd November, 1916 in Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England – Plot number 465. I. 18058 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Roy Doust was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Doust's father - Mr W. C. Doust, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1921).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Roy Doust – service number 3558, aged 22, of 54th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William Colin Doust, of Lower Southgate, Clarence River, New South Wales, and the late Emily Doust.

Private R. Doust is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 158.



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

R. Doust is remembered on the Brushgrove District Soldiers Helpers League Memorial, located in Brushgrove-Tyndale Hall, Clarence Street, Brushgrove, NSW.



**Brushgrove District Soldiers Helpers League Memorial** (Photo from Register of War Memorials in NSW)

R. Doust is remembered on the Doust Park Memorial, located on Lawrence Road, Lower Southgate, NSW.



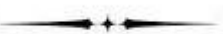
(50 pages of Pte Roy Doust's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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



**Connected to Roy Doust:**

Younger brother – Private Arthur Clyde Doust, 2555, 37th Battalion. Enlisted 18th August, 1916. Embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Benalla* on 9th November, 1916. Wounded in action in France on 7th-9th June, 1917 (Back wound – shell explosion). Wounded in France (2nd occasion) 10th February, 1918 (Gunshot wounds to right arm (fractured) & back. Pte Arthur Doust was returned to Australia for medical discharge & embarked from England on 17th June, 1918. He returned to Australia on 16th August, 1918 & was medically discharged on 30th October, 1918. He was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal.



**Pte R. DOUST**

(*Sydney Mail*, NSW – 22 November, 1916)



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **SOCIAL EVENING AT SOUTHGATE**

Mr. Roy Doust, son of Mr. W. C. Doust, of Lower Southgate, who has been accepted for active service, was entertained at "Hillside," Lower South gate, on Monday night. A pleasant time was spent in games, dancing and musical items. After refreshments Messrs. C. Ensbey, S. Paine and E. Lee eulogised Mr. Doust as a very service able and obliging townsman, and a good sportsman. Mr. Doust suitably replied. Owing to the function having been arranged at short notice, presentations which it was intended should be made to Messrs. Roy and Hilton Doust were postponed till Friday (tonight).

*(The Grafton Argus and Clarence River General Advertiser, NSW – 22 October, 1915)*

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### **PERSONAL**

Mr W. C. Doust, Lower Southgate, has been informed that his son, Private Roy Doust, has been seriously wounded while on active service. He is a cousin to Pte Hilton Doust (son of Cr. A. H. Doust, of Lower Southgate), whose death was reported last week.

*(The Grafton Argus and Clarence River General Advertiser, NSW – 14 August, 1916)*

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### **War Notes**

Pte Roy Doust, of Lower Southgate, a nephew of Mr A. Apps, of Coraki, has been severely wounded in the chest while in action in France.

*(The Richmond River Herald and Northern Districts Advertiser, NSW – 22 August, 1916)*

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### **PERSONAL**

Further word has been received regarding Private Roy Doust, of Lower Southgate, who was seriously wounded in action by a gun shot wound in the chest, stating that he is seriously ill.

*(The Grafton Argus and Clarence River General Advertiser, NSW – 23 August, 1916)*

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### **AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION**

#### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

The 199th casualty list....

#### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

The wounded include:-

Pte R. Doust, Lower Southgate

*(Northern Star, Lismore, NSW – 28 August, 1916)*

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### **PERSONAL**

A cable received at the latter part of last week stated that Private Roy Doust was slightly better.

*(Daily Examiner, Grafton, NSW – 29 August, 1916)*

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## **PERSONAL**

The many friends of Private Roy Doust, who was seriously wounded in action, will be glad to hear that further word has been received stating that he is improving.

(Daily Examiner, Grafton, NSW – 9 September, 1916)

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## **BRUSHGROVE VOLUNTEERS FAREWELLED**

Two Brushgrove volunteers, Messrs Cliff Henderson and William Smith, were entertained at a social evening in the Literary Institute on Wednesday, and made the recipients of presentations.

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Mr Arthur Doust, who has also enlisted and was present at the invitation of the League, was called on to the stage and welcomed by the chairman. Mr Doust, who enlisted from Lower Southgate, is a brother of Private Roy Doust, who was seriously wounded in action in France, and his action in enlisting to fill his brother's place called forth many complimentary remarks from the various speakers. The chairman explained that the Lower Southgate branch of the League would accord their volunteers a suitable farewell the following evening.

(Daily Examiner, Grafton, NSW – 11 September, 1916)

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## **PERSONAL**

The death has been reported of Private Roy Doust, of Lower Southgate, from wounds received whilst fighting in France. Rev. J. E. A. Chapman received a cable stating that Private Doust had died in a London hospital on 30th ult., and asking that he be the bearer of the sad news to Mr W. C. Doust, his father. The late Private Doust was well known on the Mid Clarence. He was a splendid tennis player and one of the best sportsmen that ever handled a racquet.

(*Northern Star*, Lismore, NSW – 10 November, 1916)

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## **WAR NOTES**

The death has been reported of Pte. Roy Doust, son of Mr. W. C. Doust, of Lower Southgate, from wounds received whilst fighting in France. The late private enlisted with his cousin, the late Hilton Doust, also of Lower South gate, and was seriously wounded by a shot in the chest, the bullet penetrating one of the lungs and passing out the back. His cousin was killed during the same engagement. Pte. Roy Doust was doing well in hospital till last month, when kidney trouble supervened, and he passed away on 30th ult. Pte. Arthur Doust, his brother, expects to leave for the front during the latter end of the present week.

(*The Richmond River Herald and Northern Districts Advertiser*, NSW – 10 November, 1916)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **SERVICE AT METHODIST CHURCH BRUSHGROVE**

#### **“OUR HEROIC DEAD”**

Yesterday morning an “In Memoriam “ service was held at the Methodist Church, Brushgrove, conducted by Rev. J. E. A. Chapman (minister of the Church).....

Rev. J. E. A. Chapman said it was with feelings of sorrow, mingled with joy, that he spoke of their comrade, Roy Doust, who was known to them better than to himself. However, he was pleased to have been associated with him, and regretted he did not know him better. He believed he was a young man who would have in future years, had he lived, exerted a strong influence over the lives of others. He heard a young man say that Roy was one of the best sports on the river, not that he meant he excelled in athletics more than others, but simply that in whatever

engagement he took part in he did it for pleasure, and in a spirit none other excelled. He believed Roy could take a defeat cheerfully and pleasantly, just as he took a victory, and he had gone forward to do his duty at the front in the same spirit — not in a spirit either of adventure or excitement; there was nothing of that in the lad. He went with his cousin Hinton — both brave and courageous lads — inspired with a sense of duty. He remembered their farewell, and the presentation to them of a couple of New Testaments, and both lads promised to make the precepts therein the guide of their lives, which he believed they fulfilled. The letters he had received from them were full of promise, confidence and encouragement, and both spoke of the good influence the Y.M.C.A. had over them. In one letter from Egypt Roy said from something he had seen he had been led to think more deeply of God, and saw things revealed in a clearer light. So in that spirit they volunteered and remained together till the last. He believed they were wounded at the same time — Hinton mortally, and Roy to linger on for a few months longer, but in the infinite wisdom of God, Who doeth all things well, he was finally taken home, and there awaits the coming of his friends and loved ones. We cannot help sorrowing or mourning, but while we sorrow at the great loss, we are assured that Roy is safe, and if we play our part faithfully and well, we shall meet him bye and bye. We loved him, but Christ loved him best, and if we trust in Christ and go forward with confidence, we shall enter into eternity with Him.

Our district is the poorer for the loss of our hero, but Heaven is the richer, and Christ is but taking one here and another there and adding them to His Kingdom above. May we all finally be in the company of the Redeemed, who for ever sing the songs of triumphant victors.

The congregation then engaged in silent prayer for a few moments, remembering those who have gone and are at the front, after which the rev. gentleman prayed for all at the front and their final victory; that while we cannot understand all mysteries we must keep our hearts and minds stayed upon Christ, in order that our lives may ultimately be crowned with victory; that Christ may comfort all sorrowing hearts, and they be borne up, through the spark of Divine Life.

The well-known hymn, "Peace, Perfect Peace," was then sung, after which the congregation joined in the singing of "God Save the King."

*(The Grafton Argus and Clarence River General Advertiser, NSW – 20 November, 1916)*

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## **216 DEAD**

### **Another Casualty List**

The 243rd casualty list contains the names .....

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte R. Doust, Lower Southgate

*(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 21 November, 1916)*

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## **ROLL OF HONOUR**

DOUST – In loving memory of Private Roy Doust, who died of wounds on the 30th October, 1916.

Great love hath no man then he who lays down his life for his friends.

Inserted by his loving father, sister and brothers.

*(Daily Examiner, Grafton, NSW – 31 October, 1917)*

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### 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. Doust does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

### **Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England**

Northampton (Towcester Road) Cemetery contains 116 First World War burials and 17 from the Second World War, most of which form a combined war graves plot to the left of the chapel. The cemetery also contains five non-war service burials and three Czech war graves.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*



**Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton**

Photo of Private R. Doust's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England.



*(Photo from Great War Forum - Biffo)*



**Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton** (Photos from CWGC)

