

**Cambridge City Cemetery,
Cambridge, Cambridgeshire**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3085 PRIVATE

G. E. HENNING

59TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

16TH AUGUST, 1916 Age 20

In Our Home

You Are Always Remembered

Dear George

George Ernest HENNING

George Ernest Henning was born at Lakes Entrance, Victoria in 1896 to parents Rudolph Oscar and Margaret Henning (nee Carstairs).

George Ernest Henning was a 19 year old, single, Labourer from Cunninghame, Victoria when he enlisted on 26th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3085 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs M. Henning, of Cunninghame, Lakes Entrance, Victoria. As George Henning 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. Rudolph Henning & Margaret Henning both signed their consent on 25th July, 1915.

Private George Ernest Henning was posted to Depot Battalion on 27th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 10th Reinforcements of 8th Battalion on 3rd August, 1915.

Private George Ernest Henning embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on RMS *Osterley* on 29th September, 1915 with the 8th Infantry Battalion, 10th Reinforcements.

Private George Ernest Henning was allotted to and proceeded to join 59th Battalion at Tel-el Kebir on 26th February, 1916 from 2nd Training Battalion at Zeitoun. He was taken on strength of 59th Battalion on 26th February, 1916 from 8th Battalion.

Private George Ernest Henning embarked from Alexandria on 18th June, 1916 on *Kinfauns Castle* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 29th June, 1916.

Private George Ernest Henning was wounded in action in France on 19th July, 1916. He was admitted to 13th General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 22nd July, 1916 with gunshot wounds multiple. Pte Henning embarked for England on 24th July, 1916 on Hospital Ship *St David* with gunshot wounds to legs.

59th Battalion

The 59th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 21 February 1916 as part of the expansion of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits came from the veteran 7th Battalion, and the other half were fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 7th, the 59th was predominantly composed of men from rural Victoria. The battalion became part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

On 19 July 1916, the 59th became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front, less than a month after it arrived in France. The battle of Fromelles was a disaster for the 59th. Attacking in the first wave, the 59th suffered heavy casualties at the hands of German machine-gunners, and its advance faltered far short of its objective. Despite grievous losses, the units of the 5th Division manned the front line around Fromelles for a further two months.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 59th Battalion

SAILLY – 19th July, 1916:

12 noon – Heavy bombardment of enemy line. 60th Battalion relieved half our front from PINNEY AVENUE inclusive.

7 p.m. – 59th Battn. attacked enemy position in four waves. First wave going over parapet at 6.45 p.m. other three waves following at five minute intervals. Attack did not penetrate enemy trenches being held up by intense rifle and machine gun fire approximately 100 yds from enemy front line.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private George Ernest Henning was admitted to War Hospital at Newcastle, England on 24th July, 1916 with “*W. L. side . Dangerously.*”

Mrs M. Henning, of Cunningham, Victoria, mother of Private George Ernest Henning, was advised on 8th August, 1916 that her son had been reported wounded. She was advised on 21st August, 1916 that Pte Henning was in the 13th General Hospital from 22nd July, 1916 suffering from gunshot wound to leg and fracture (mild).

Private George Ernest Henning died on 16th August, 1916 at 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England from wounds received in action in France. A Post mortem was held on 17th August, 1916 by Captain W. Malden, Pathologist. *"Thin man left leg amputated at hip joint. Thorax – right lung: adhesent lower lobe behind large abscess cavity containing incised lung substance and pus with characteristic smell. Rest of lung normal. Left Lung - normal. Heart – normal. Abdominal – organs normal. A good deal of ecchymedia behind purl_____ starting in left pelvis & spreading round to left side. Cause of death – G.S.W. left femur, Septic Abscess right lung."*

A death for George E. Henning, aged 20, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England.

Private George Ernest Henning was buried in Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England – Plot number "D" No. 2608.

In April, 1920 Mrs M. Henning, mother of the late Private George Ernest Henning, was advised by Base Records that the remains of her late son had been exhumed from former site & re-interred in Grave No. 3319 Section "B", Cambridge Cemetery, Cambridge, England. *"This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain."*

Private George Ernest Henning has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A letter was written to Base Records on behalf of Mrs Henning on 29th August, 1916 stating that Mrs Henning had received 2 notices that her son had been wounded then a wire from Colonel Hawker informing her that her son had died & that he would have been dead about a fortnight when the second message was sent. The letter went on to say that it was thought that there may be two men of the same name and the wrong one had been reported. Base Records replied stating that the first cable message was sent from London date 4th August, 1916 & the second cable message regarding the 13th General Hospital had been sent on 16th August, 1916. The message stating that Private Henning had died had been sent from London on 17th August, 1916 & the cause of death – *"gunshot wound femur, septic abscess, lung"* was cabled from London on 22nd August, 1916.

A War Pension was granted to Margaret Henning, Lakes Entrance, mother of the late Private George Ernest Henning, in the sum of £1 per fortnight from 26th October, 1916.

Base Records contacted Mrs M. Henning, Cunningham, Lakes Entrance, mother of the late Private George Ernest Henning in August, 1920 stating that she was listed as the next-of-kin but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relations than herself living – for example Father. Mrs Henning replied stating that there were no relations nearer than herself for she was his mother & he was not married. Base Records wrote back to Mrs Henning on 26th August, 1920 stating that her reply to the enquiry was *"hardly sufficient to enable me to dispose of your son's 1914/15 Star, and other War Medals, etc.....I shall be much obliged of you will favour me with a definite statement as to whether deceased's father is living."* Mrs M. Henning replied that her deceased's son's father was still alive.

Private George Ernest Henning was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Henning's father – Mr R. Henning, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

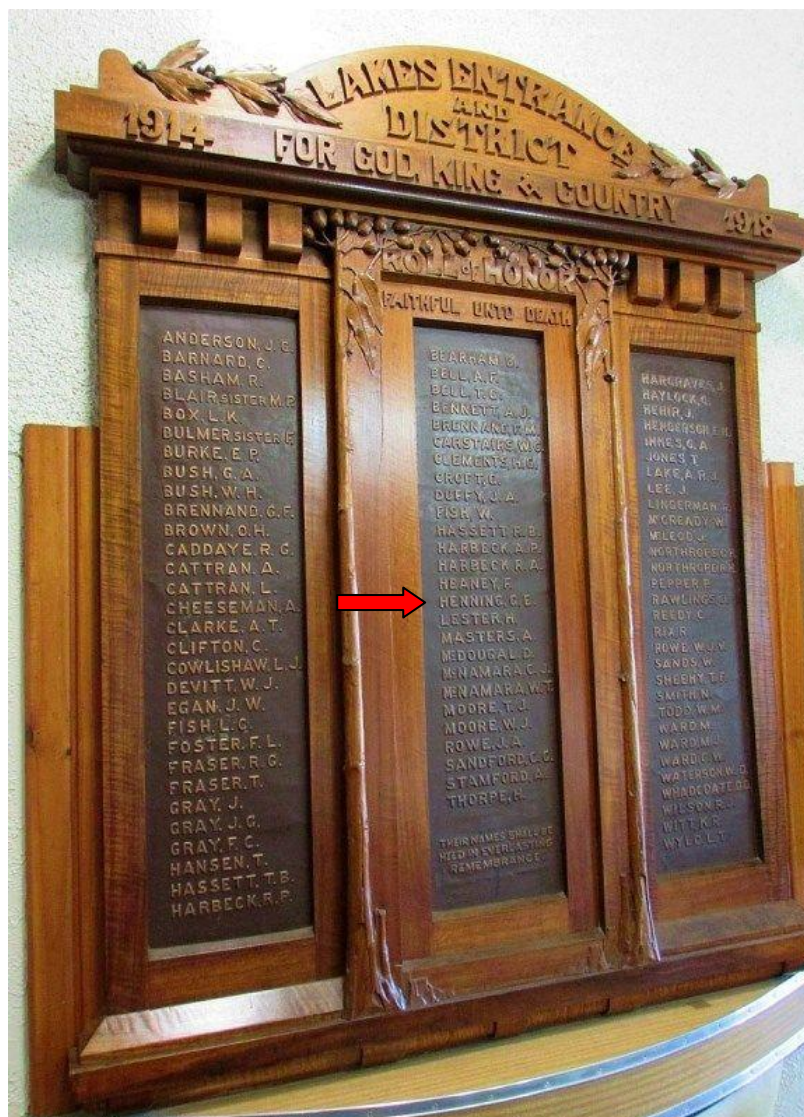
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private George Ernest Henning – service number 3085, aged 20, of 59th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Rudolph and Margaret Henning, of Lake's Entrance, Victoria, Australia.

Private G. E. Henning is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 167.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

G. E. Henning is remembered on the Lakes Entrance & District Roll of Honour, located at Lakes Entrance RSL, 221 Esplanade, Lakes Entrance, Victoria.



Lakes Entrance & District Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

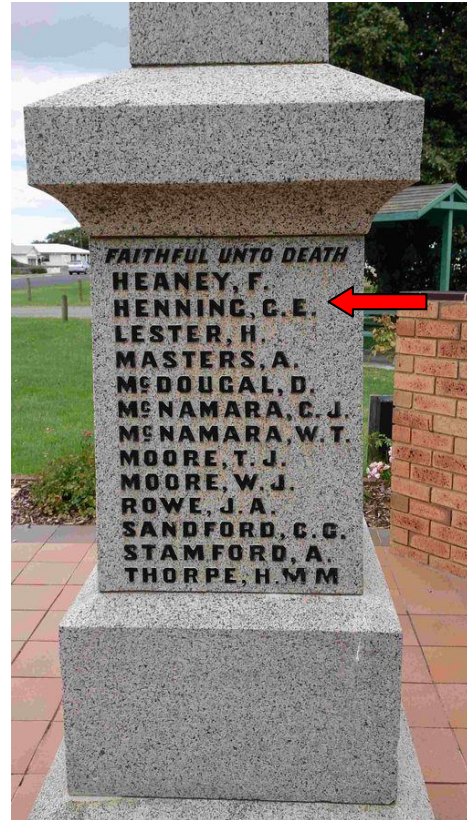
G. E. Henning is remembered on the Lakes Entrance World War One Memorial, located at The Esplanade, Lakes Entrance, Victoria.



Lakes Entrance World War One Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Diane Watson)

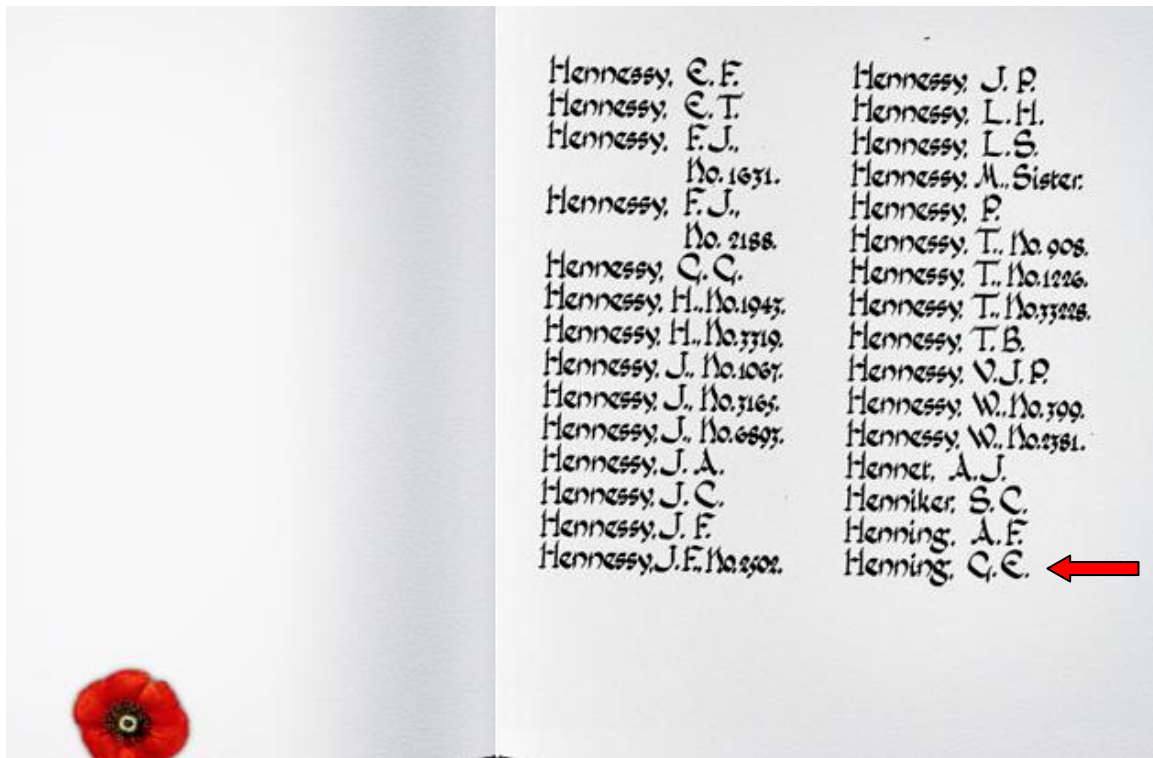


G. E. Henning is remembered on the Lakes Entrance & District War Memorial located at Marine Parade, Lakes Entrance, Victoria.



Lakes Entrance & District War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Chris McLaughlin)

G. E. Henning is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.

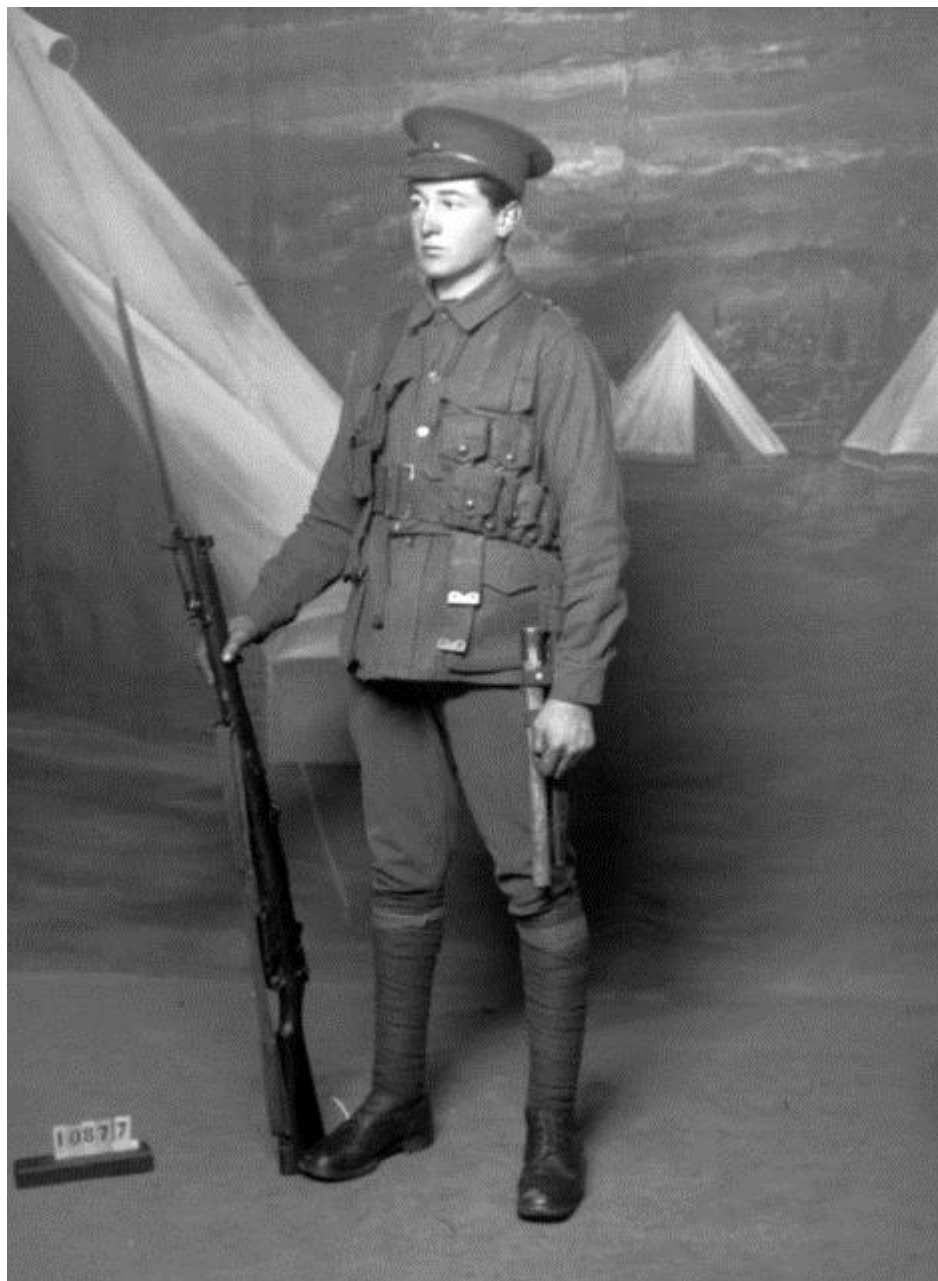




(64 pages of Pte George Ernest Henning's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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

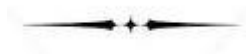




AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DA10877

Private George Ernest Henning



Newspaper Notices

BAIRNSDALE AND THE WAR

NUMBER OF ENLISTMENTS, 353

Bairnsdale and district has responded nobly to the call to arms, as will be seen from the list of volunteers given below.....

George Ernest Henning

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(*Bairnsdale Advertiser and Tambo and Omeo Chronicle*, Victoria – 24 July, 1915)

196th CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED

Private G. E. Henning, Cunninghame

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 23 August, 1916)

206th AND 207th LISTS

DIED (Cause Not Stated)

Pte G. E. Henning, Cunninghame

(*Gippsland Mercury*, Sale, Victoria – 8 September, 1916)

DEATHS

On Active Service

HENNING – On the 16th August, of wounds received in action in France. George Ernest, dearly beloved son of Mr and Mrs R. Henning, of Lakes Entrance, beloved brother of Bosie, Willie and Bert, aged 20 years.

Asleep in Jesus.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 9 September, 1916)

FIELD OF HONOUR FOR KING AND COUNTRY



PRIVATE GEORGE E. HENNING

Pte George Ernest Henning died of wounds received in France on the 16th ult. He was a native of Lakes Entrance, where he enlisted, and was 20 years of age. He left home on the 26th July, 1915 and sailed two months later. He was wounded in France in the third week in July and taken to England, where he died, as stated.

(*Bairnsdale Advertiser and Tambo and Omeo Chronicle*, Victoria – 13 September, 1916)

On Active Service

HENNING – In sad and loving memory of our dear son, Pte George Ernest Henning, 59th Batt., A.I.F., died 16th August, 1916, from wounds received at the Battle of Armentieres, 19th July, 1916. Aged 20 years.

We who loved you, sadly miss you,

As it dawns another year.

In the lonely hours of thinking,

Thoughts of you are ever dear.

Away in an English graveyard,

Beneath the lonely sod,

Lies our hero of the 59th Battalion,

Resting in peace with God.

Could we have been there in that hour of death

And caught one sigh of his parting breath,

One faint whisper we might have heard

And breathed in his ear one parting word.

- Inserted by his sorrowing parents.

(Every Week, Bairnsdale, Victoria – 16 August, 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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 15th July, 1921, to Mr Henning, of Cunninghame, Lakes Entrance, Victoria advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late Pte G. E. Henning had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private G. E. Henning does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Our Home

You Are Always Remembered

Dear George

Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England

Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge (known locally as Newmarket Road Cemetery) contains 1,019 Commonwealth War Graves – 186 from World War 1 & 833 from World War 2.

The 1st Eastern General Hospital, with 1,173 beds, was posted to Cambridge during the First World War, initially at the Leys School and Trinity College, later in huts. The First World War burials in Cambridge City Cemetery are mostly in two plots, one in the southern part of the burial ground, known as the Dominion Plot, and the other on the northern boundary. The Cross of Sacrifice stands on the western border of the Dominion Plot, while in the centre of the other is a memorial cross of Portland stone which was erected by private subscription. The Second World War graves are also mainly in two War Graves Plots with a few others scattered throughout the cemetery. The general Service plot was established in 1940, and the Air Force plot in 1942 for the burial of casualties from the Air Force stations set up in the eastern counties during the war. These included Bomber Command bases in Lincolnshire and fighter stations in Norfolk and Suffolk. The Stone of Remembrance, which was unveiled by Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Tedder in July 1951, stands near the centre of the Air Force plot. Cambridge City Cemetery contains 181 Commonwealth burials of the First World War and 829, (inclusive 3 unidentified), from the Second World War. The cemetery also contains four non-war service burials and ten war graves of other nationalities.

(Information & photos from CWGC)





Photo of Private G. E. Henning's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England.



(Photo by Julia&keld – Find a Grave)



Entrance to Cambridge City Cemetery & Map (below) (Photos by Julia&keld – Find a Grave)

