

**St. Mary Magdalene Churchyard,
East Ham, Greater London, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



7714 PRIVATE

A. E. LOW

15TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

12TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 29

Arthur Edwin LOW

Arthur Edwin Low was born on 16th May, 1889 in Brisbane, Queensland to parents Edwin & Eliza Alice Low (nee Ensor).

Arthur Edwin Low attended Ithaca Creek State School, Queensland.

The 1915 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Lilley, subdivision of Enoggera, Queensland listed Arthur Edwin Low, Dairyman, Waterworks Rd, Enoggera.

Arthur Edwin Low was a 28 year old, single, Dairyman from Red Hill, Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted on 4th July, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 7714 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. A. Low, Kenwyn Road, off Arthur Terrace, Red Hill, Brisbane, Queensland.

Private Arthur Edwin Low was posted to No. 1 Depot Company on 31st August, 1917 for recruit training. He was transferred to 26th Reinforcements of 15th Battalion on 29th September, 1917. Private Low was admitted to Clearing Hospital at Enoggera, Queensland from 3rd to 8th October, 1917 for observation.

Private Arthur Edwin Low embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on Troop Train on 29th October, 1917. He then embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 31st October, 1917 with the 15th Infantry Battalion, 26th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 26th December, 1917.

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.

Private Arthur Edwin Low was marched in to 12th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire on 26th December, 1917 from Australia.

Private Arthur Edwin Low was sent sick to Brigade Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire on 3rd February, 1918 with Pharyngitis & was discharged on 8th February, 1918. He rejoined the 12th Training Battalion the same day.

Private Arthur Edwin Low proceeded overseas to France via Dover on 1st April, 1918. He was marched in to M.B.B.D. (Medical Board Base Depot) at Calais, France on 1st April, 1918. Private Low was marched out to his Unit on 4th April, 1918 from M.B.B.D. & was taken on strength of 15th Battalion in the Field on 17th April, 1918 from 26th Reinforcements.

Private Arthur Edwin Low reported sick on 8th August, 1918. He was admitted to 55th Casualty Clearing Station on 8th August, 1918 – P/U/O/ (Pyrexia(fever) of unknown origin) then transferred to 41st Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Private Low was transferred to Ambulance Train 16 on 9th August, 1918 & admitted to 1st Australian General Hospital at Rouen, France the same day. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Esquibo* on 19th August, 1918.

15th Battalion

The 15th Battalion AIF was raised from late September 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. Three-quarters of the battalion were recruited as volunteers from Queensland, and the rest from Tasmania. With the 13th, 14th and 16th Battalions it formed the 4th Brigade, commanded by Colonel John Monash.....

In March and April 1918, the battalion helped stop the German spring offensive. In July 1918, as a result of his valorous actions during the fighting near Hamel, Private Henry Dalziel was awarded the battalion's only Victoria Cross. The battalion participated in the great allied offensive of 1918, fighting near Amiens on 8 August 1918. This advance by British and empire troops was the greatest success in a single day on the Western Front, one that German General Erich Ludendorff described as "...the black day of the German Army in this war..."

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Arthur Edwin Low was admitted to Bath War Hospital, England on 20th August, 1918 with Influenza. He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on 9th September, 1918. Private Low was discharged to furlo on 12th September, 1918 & was to report to Littlemoor Camp at Weymouth.

Private Arthur Edwin Low was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset on 28th September, 1918. He was marched out from No. 2 Command Depot on 4th October, 1918 & was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, on the same day. He was medically classified as B1 A2 (Fit for Overseas Training Camp in 3 – 4 weeks).

Private Arthur Edwin Low reported sick to Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 9th October, 1918 with Influenza (The Hospital Admissions form recorded "Pneumonia?"). He was transferred to Sutton Veny Hospital on 11th October, 1918.

Private Arthur Edwin Low died at 19.05 hrs on 12th October, 1918 at Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England from Influenza Pneumonia.

A death for Arthur E. Low, aged 29, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Private Arthur Edwin Low was buried on 18th October, 1918 in St. Mary Magdalene Churchyard, East Ham, Greater London, England – Family Grave. From the burial report of Private Arthur Edwin Low - *Coffin was good, polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance, supplied by the A.I.F. London. He was buried in a private family grave and many relatives were present. The coffin was borne to the graveside on a Gun carriage, draped with the Australia Flag, and surmounted by beautiful wreaths, sent from My & Mrs Mole. The Rev H. P. Young, officiated at the graveside, and the "Last Post" was sounded. An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented.*

Names of Relatives and Friends present at the Funeral – Mrs C. Mole & Daughters, East Ham, Irene Dunning, W. Hamstead, Ethel & Ernest Mole, East Ham, Florence Low, Wood Green, Mr & Mrs Thomas, Crouch End, Maggie Low, Homerton, Miss Chilwell, Forest Gate.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Arthur Edwin Low contains a letter from The Matron, The Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire which reads:

"Died 12-10-18 A. E. Low, 7714 & Died 18-10-18 V. H. Conley, 57663

Re the above named soldiers. They both died of Influenza and complications and were only in the Hospital a few days. They both came in so ill that they were unable to talk much and the only thing that Pte V. H. Conley did mention his Mother, and regretted being so far from Home. I very much regret we cannot tell you more about them, but we had no opportunity as they were delirious. They were both buried in Sutton Veny Churchyard."

Private Arthur Edwin Low requested in his Will dated 31st July, 1917 that The Public Curator of Queensland to be the Executor & Trustee & the whole of his estate both real & personal to be bequeathed to his mother – Eliza Alice Low "but should she predecease me then unto and to the use of my sister Florence Mabel Low."

The Public Curator's Office, Brisbane, Queensland wrote to Base Records on 13th November, 1918 requesting a Certificate of Death of No. 7714 Arthur Edwin Low, 15th Battalion. The Public Curator's Office wrote again on 28th January, 1919 the Military Certificate of Death of Arthur Edwin Low & again on 5th February, 1919 requesting a further Certificate of Report of Death of No. 7714 Private Arthur E. Low, 26th/15th Battalion.

The Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Co. Ltd., Sydney, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 18th November, 1918 requesting the death certificate of Arthur Edwin Low, No. 7714, 15th Battalion – Queensland. This was acknowledged on 21st November, 1918 by Base Records.

The Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Co. Ltd., Sydney, NSW, wrote to Base Records again on 20th January, 1919 requesting the death certificate of Arthur Edwin Low, No. 7714, 15th Battalion – Queensland.

Mrs E. A. Low, Kenwyn Rd., off Arthur Terrace, Red Hill, wrote to Base Records on 12th July, 1919: "*Will you kindly forward me (Eliza Alice Low) being the next of kin, the personal effects of my late son Private Arthur Edwin Low, No. 7714, late of 15th Battalion died at Sutton Veney Military Hospital Oct 12, 1918. Trusting you will forward at ___ very earliest.*"

Base Records replied on 18th July, 1919 advising the "... *personal effects of your son, the late No. 7714 Private A. E. Low, 15th Battalion, have been received at this Office and will be forwarded to you with as little delay as possible.*"

Eliza Alice Low signed on 12th August, 1919 for receipt of 2 packages containing the personal effects of her late son.

Base Records contacted Mrs E. A. Low, Kenwyn Rd., off Arthur Terrace, Red Hill, Brisbane, Queensland on 3rd June, 1921 stating she was noted as the registered next-of-kin on the records of the late No. 7714 Private A. E. Low, 15th Battalion, but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & was specifically asked if his father was still alive due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Base Records wrote to District Finance Officer, 1st Military District, on 27th November, 1922 with the following: "I shall be much obliged if you will let me know to whom the War Gratuity of the late No. 7714 Private A. E. Low, 15th Battalion was paid, and whether your records disclose a good and sufficient reason as to why the claims of the father, if he still survives, should be ignored in the disposal of the War Medals. etc. Kindly also advise the full postal address of the recipient."

A handwritten reply was sent advising "*The W.G. was paid to Mrs Eliza Alice Low – mother, Kenwyn Rd, Red Hill, Brisbane, Qld. The father is dead.*"

Private Arthur Edwin Low was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Low's widowed mother – Mrs E. A. Low, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent January, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Arthur Edwin Low – service number 7714, aged 29, of 15th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Edwin & Eliza Alice Low, of Kennyn St., Redhill, Brisbane, Queensland.

Private A. E. Low is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 76.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. E. Low is remembered on the Ithaca War Memorial, located in Ithaca War Memorial Park, Enoggera Terrace, Paddington, Queensland.



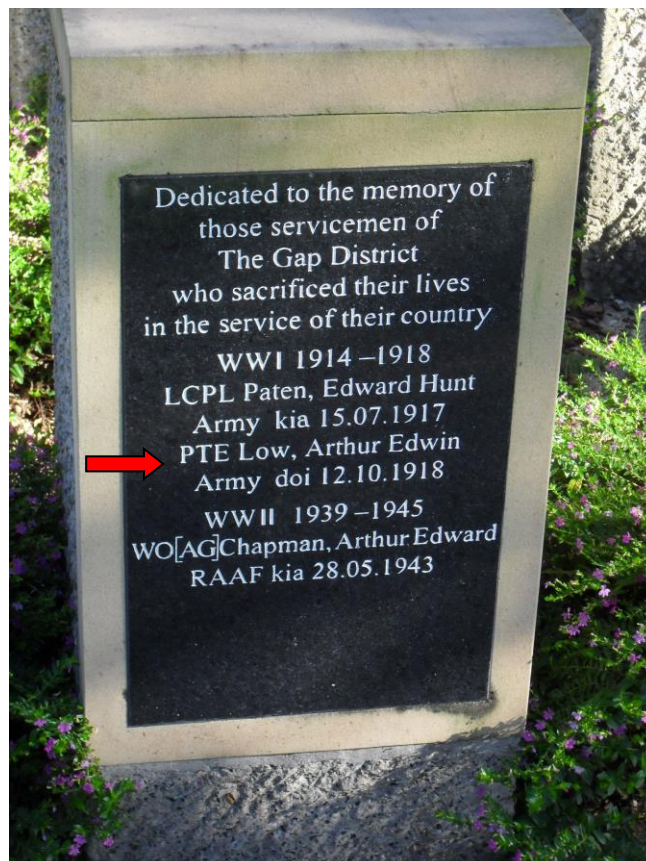
Ithaca War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Brendan Downs)



Arthur Edwin Low is remembered on The Gap War Memorial, located at Glen Affric Street, The Gap, Queensland.



The Gap War Memorial (Photo from AWM Places of Pride)



(60 pages of Private Arthur Edwin Low'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



Private Arthur Edwin Low

Newspaper Notices

SUB-DISTRICT OF LILLEY

SANDGATE COURT

The sittings of the Exemption Court were continued today, before Mr Harris, P.M., Lieutenant Fox appeared for the military.

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Arthur Edwin Lowe sought exemption, as he was a partner in a dairy business. He was willing to go, but he did not want to leave his partner in a fix. Temporary exemption till December 31 was granted.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 3 November, 1916)

Milk Mixers

More of the Reservoir Flock

LOW LIES LOW

A Utopian milk world is still but a dream, which has but little prospects of ever becoming a reality. Although the present Government has livened up the Department in the matter of prosecutions, the land still abounds with alleged milk-vendors who add a big dose of aqua pura to the precious production of Daisy. In the City Summons Court on Tuesday last, Arthur Edwin Low, of Ballarat Dairy, Waterworks-road, Ashgrove, was proceeded against, before Mr. G. A. Cameron, Acting P.M., for a breach of the Act. Arthur Edwin, however, for some inexplicable reason, failed to respond when the orderly had cried, "Arthur Edwin Low," in stentorian tones the regulation three times. It was thereupon decided that, as Mahomet wouldn't go to the mountain, the case would be heard whether the "mountain" (who, in this case was Low) was casting its shadows across the proceedings or not.

Mr. T. J. Lehane (Instructed by the Crown Law Office) prosecuted.

Inspector Stewart said that he saw defendant in charge of a cart at Ashgrove on the morning of September 9. Witness bought a sample of milk from defendant, who queried, "When will I hear about the analysis?" To this witness gave answer, "Never, if the milk is all right." Defendant there upon said, "Well, there is water in it. I put a little in, as I am short of milk this morning."

The analyst's certificate showed that the milk

HAD BEEN DOCTORED

with water to the tune of 20.7 per cent., while it was 20.2 per cent. short of the total solids required.

The penalty inflicted by his Worship was £10, with the costs totalling £3 6s. 6d.

On a second charge, of having conveyed water in a vehicle in which milk was conveyed for sale, Inspector Stewart also tendered evidence.

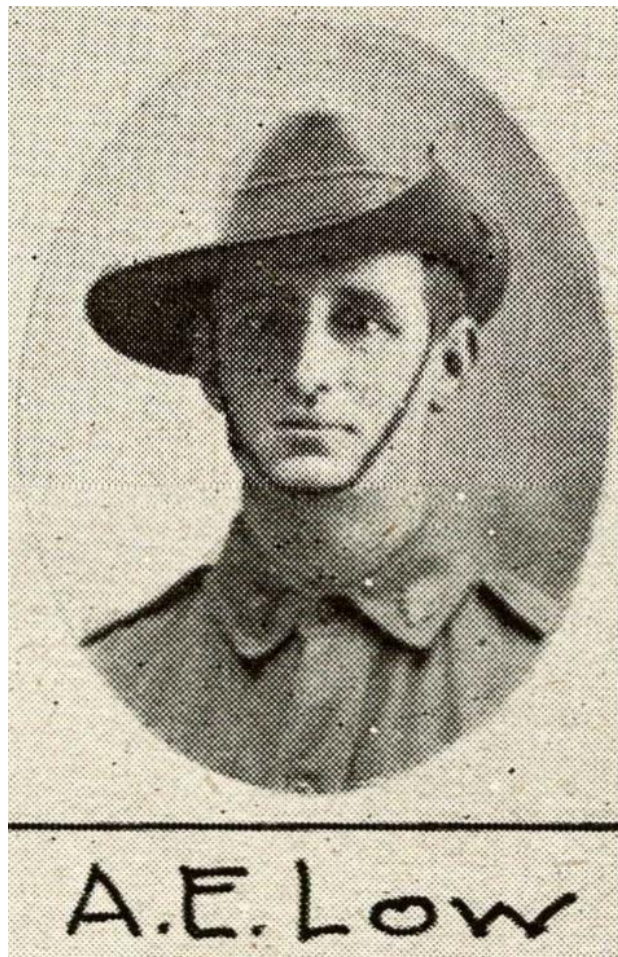
His Worship again decided to convict, and fined defendant £ 5, including costs.

(Truth, Brisbane, Queensland – 12 November, 1916)

YESTERDAY'S ENLISTMENTS

Seven men offered their services for the A.I.F. at the Adelaide-street depot yesterday. Five were declared fit, one referred to the P.M.O., and one unfit. Names: - J. P. Bryel, J. Galloway, Rockhampton; F. G. Edwards, Sandgate, W. Hughes, R. Paul, Brisbane; R. Brown, Mapleton; A. E. Low, Brisbane.

(*The Daily Mail*, Brisbane, Queensland – 5 July, 1917)



(*Queenslander Pictorial* – 15 December, 1917)

PERSONAL NOTES

Mrs E. A. Low, Kenwyn-road, off Arthur-terrace, Red Hill, has been advised that her son, Private Arthur Edwin Low, died on October 12, from pneumonia, at the Sutton Veny Military Hospital. The deceased soldier was highly esteemed in Ithaca, and will be mourned by a wide circle of friends. His brother Harold is still in the firing line.

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland – 29 October, 1918) & (*The Queenslander*, Brisbane, Queensland – 2 November, 1918)

CASUALTY LISTS

NOS. 445 AND 446

DIED OTHER CAUSES

A. E. Low, Red Hill, 12/10/18 (illness)

(Daily Standard, Brisbane, Queensland – 25 November, 1918)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Private Arthur Edwin Low is now commemorated on the new Memorial (Stone Plaque) in the Churchyard of St Mary Magdalene – near the entrance.

St. Mary Magdalene Churchyard, East Ham, Greater London, England

There are 60 Commonwealth War Graves located here – 47 relating to World War 1 & 13 relating to World War 2.

The churchyard was officially closed for burials in 1974 & has since become a nature reserve. As a result the war graves in this churchyard, which are no longer maintained, are now commemorated on a memorial erected in 1997.



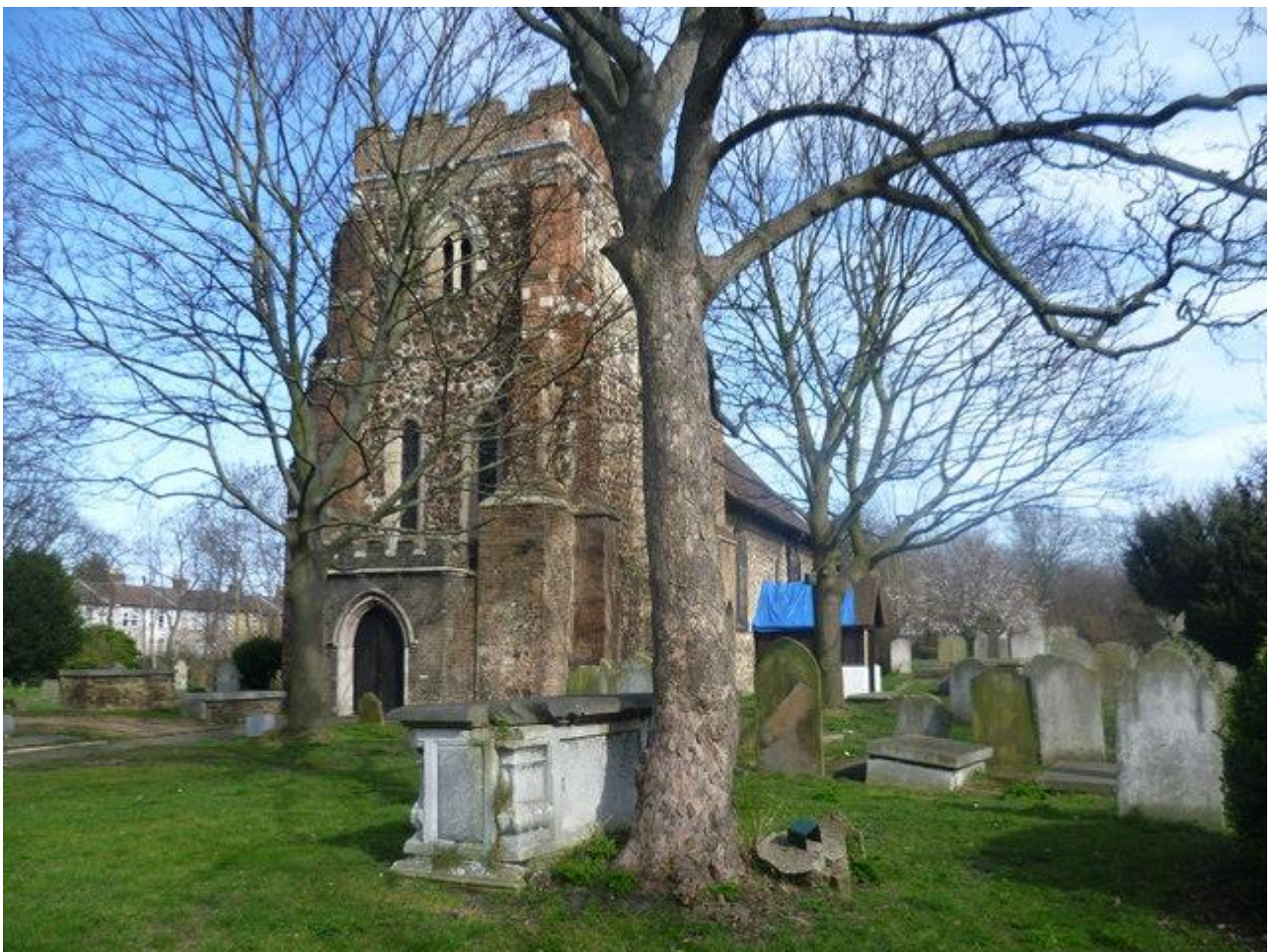
St. Mary Magdalene Churchyard, East Ham – red arrow showing Memorial Plaque for Commonwealth Graves



St. Mary Magdalene Churchyard, East Ham (Photo by Nigel Cox)

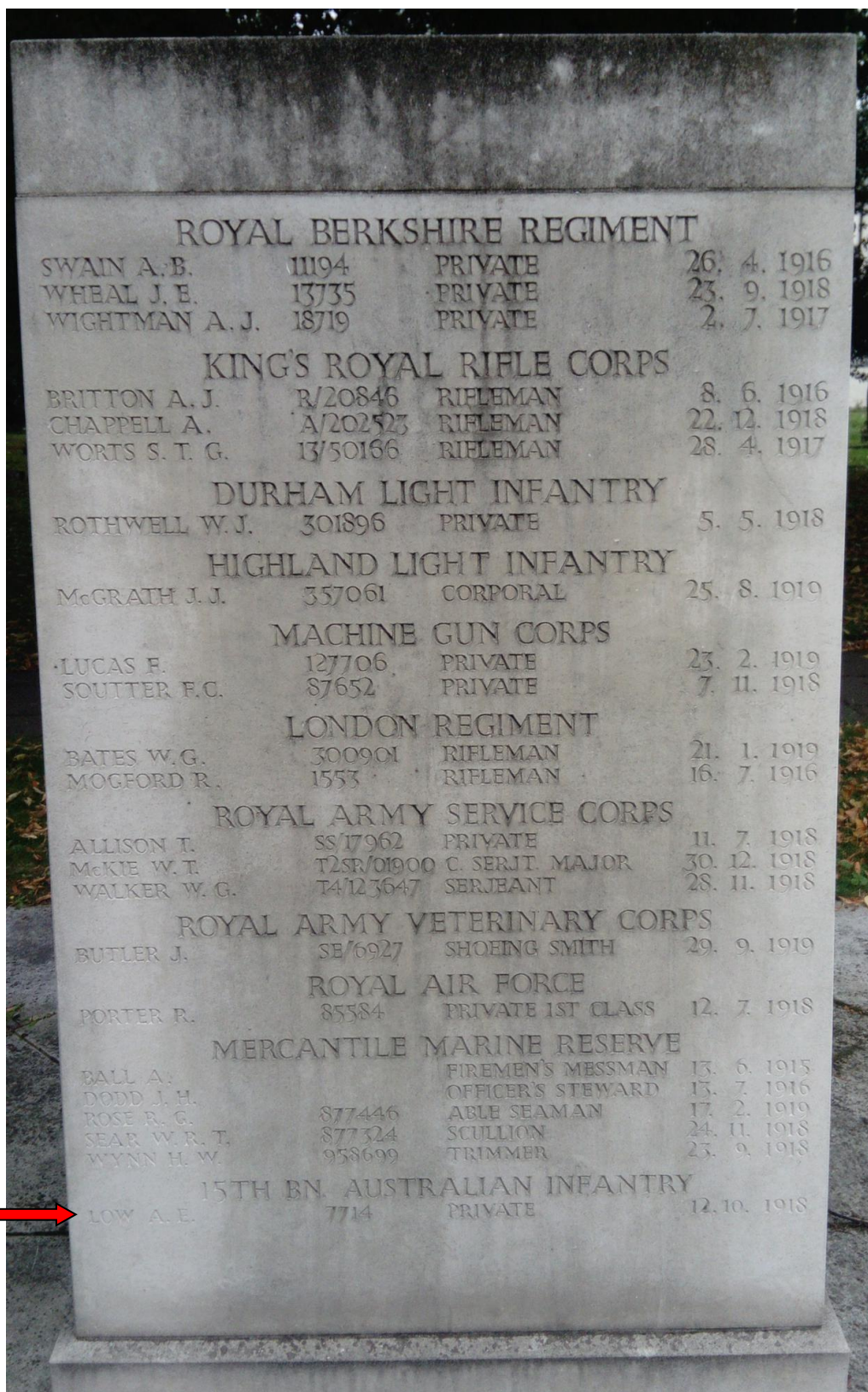


St Mary Magdalene Church, East Ham. Courtesy London Borough of Newham Library and Archive.



(Photo by Ian Yarham 2015)

Photo of Private E. A. Low's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Memorial Plaque in St. Mary Magdalene Churchyard, East Ham, Greater London, England.



(Photo from IWM)

