

**Tottenham Cemetery,
Greater London, Middlesex, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



553 PRIVATE

D. LOW

32ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

4TH AUGUST, 1916

David LOW

David Low was born on 6th April, 1887 at North Adelaide, South Australia to parents David & Helen Fife Low (nee Malcolm).

David Low was a 28 year old, married, Machinist from King Street, Alberton, South Australia when he enlisted on 9th July, 1915 at Keswick, South Australia with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Presbyterian & his next of kin was originally listed as his mother – Mrs Helen Malcom Low, Gladstone Road, Mile End, South Australia.

Private David Low was posted to “M” Group, Base Infantry on 9th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was written up on 25th July, 1915 while at Mitcham Camp for being drunk on return to Camp. He was awarded 7 days confined to Barracks. Private Low transferred to “B” Company, 32nd Battalion, A.I.F. on 16th August, 1915. He was written up again while posted at Mitcham Camp – Absent without Leave on 4th & 5th September, 1915 & was awarded 2 days confined to Barracks.

David Low married Augustine Margaret Colgan on 23rd October, 1915 at Presbyterian Manse, St. Peters, Norwood, South Australia.

Private David Low, Service number 553, embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Geelong (A2)* on 18th November, 1915 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 32nd Infantry Battalion, “B” Company. His next-of-kin was listed on the Embarkation Roll as his wife – Mrs A. M. Low, King Street, Alberton, South Australia. Private Low disembarked at Suez on 16th December, 1915.

Private David Low was admitted to No. 15 Field Ambulance on 9th May, 1916 with Influenza. He was discharged on 14th May, 1916 & rejoined his Battalion at Ferry Post on 18th May, 1916.

Private David Low was reported to be Absent without Leave from 17.00 hrs to 18.30 hrs on 7th June, 1916 while posted as Moascar. He was awarded 3 days’ Field Punishment No. 2.

Private David Low embarked from Alexandria on 17th June, 1916 on *Transylvania* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 23rd June, 1916.

Private David Low was wounded in action in France on 19th July, 1916. He was admitted to 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 20th July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Back. Private Low was transferred to 7th Ambulance Train on 20th July, 1916 & admitted to 14th General Hospital at Wimereux on 21st July, 1916 with G.S.W. to Left Shoulder & Right Thigh. He was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *St. David* on 22nd July, 1916.

32nd Battalion

The 32nd Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Mitcham, on the outskirts of Adelaide, on 9 August 1915. Only two companies were raised from South Australian enlistees - another two were formed in Western Australia and joined the battalion at the end of September. The battalion sailed from Adelaide on 18 November 1915.

The 8th Brigade joined the newly raised 5th Australian Division in Egypt, and proceeded to France, destined for the Western Front, in June 1916. The 32nd Battalion fought its first major battle at Fromelles on 19 July 1916, having only entered the front-line trenches 3 days previously. The attack was a disastrous introduction to battle for the 32nd - it suffered 718 casualties, almost 75 per cent of the battalion's total strength, but closer to 90 per cent of its actual fighting strength. Although it still spent periods in the front line, the 32nd played no major offensive role for the rest of the year.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 32nd Battalion

19th July, 1916:

A & C Coys repairing Trenches.

2 pm – B & D Coys left billets at FLEURBAIX and took up

4.15 pm - position in 300 × Trench

5.30 pm - A & C Coys closed to right to take up position for attack.

5.45 pm - B & D Coys arrived in front line in position for attack.

5.53 pm - 1st wave went over parapet

7.30 pm - Bn withdrew to 300 × line

8.30 pm - Bn marched to billets at FLEURBAIX.

Casualties Killed 4 Officers (names listed) Wounded 8 Officers (names listed) Missing 5 Officers (names listed)

O.R. Killed 67 Wounded 367 Missing 214

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private David Low was admitted to Edmonton Military Hospital, London, England on 23rd July, 1916.

Mrs H. M. Low, Gladstone Road, Mile End, S.A. was advised by Base Records on 4th August, 1916 that her son Private David Low had been wounded.

Private David Low died on 4th August, 1916 at Edmonton Military Hospital, London, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. shrapnel Back.

A death for David Low, aged 29, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Edmonton, Middlesex, England.

Private David Low was buried in Tottenham Cemetery, Greater London, Middlesex, England – “Heroes Corner” - Grave No. 7331.

Base Records wrote to Mrs A. M. Low, c/o Mr Frank Colgan, King Street, Alberton, S.A. on 20th April, 1920 to advise that the remains of her husband the late No. 553 Private D. Low, 32nd Battalion *“have been exhumed from grave No. 7331 Tottenham, Cemetery, Tottenham, London, and re-interred in grave No. 7318 in the same Cemetery. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain.”*

Private David Low is now remembered on CWGC Screen Wall – Gen. 7318 as he has no headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private David Low contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives to obtain details regarding his death & burial. The Sister, Alex. East Ward, Edmonton Military Hospital replied with the following letter: *“Pte Lowe died after being in Alex. Ward for about 10 days. He appeared fairly comfortable and was always happy and cheerful up to about 3 days before his death. Gas gangrene set in and we then realised that his case was hopeless. He was conscious up to a few minutes of his death. The men in the Ward were all attached to him and several asked and obtained leave to attend the funeral. I have already written to Mrs Lowe, grandmother of Pte Lowe, giving her a detailed account of his illness and death.”*

The D.A.A.G. 4th Military District advised Base Records on 17th August, 1916 that the *“next of kin of the late No. 553 Private D. Low, 32nd Battalion, Australian Imperial Force has removed from Gladstone Road, Mile End, S.A. to Richmond S.A.”*

Base Records wrote to D.A.A.G. 4th Military District on 23rd April, 1918 stating the *“Next-of-kin of the late No. 553 Private D. Low, 32nd Battalion, is shown as mother, Mrs H. M. Low, Richmond, S.A., but a communication so addressed has been returned by the postal authorities. Kindly advise whether you have any later address; the Press may like to assist in the matter.”*

The 4th Military District replied to Base Records on 25th April, 1918 advising that the records show next-of-kin for the late No. 553 Private D. Low, 32nd Battalion as Wife – Mrs Augustine Margaret Low, c/- Mr F. Colgan, King Street, Alberton, S.A. *“On the application form for the nearest female relative Medal lodged in this District, the Mother’s address is recorded as c/- Mrs Shepherd, Myrtle Street, Prospect, S.A.”*

Mrs G. S. Low, Sterling West, South Australia wrote to Base Records on 29th August, 1916 with the following: *“I wrote to you some ago about my Boy Private W. Low, wounded and a real nice reply from you. My grandson Private Dave Low, 553, B Company, 32nd Battalion 8th Brigade. Listed from Islington Government Workshops South Australia. He was in France. We saw in the morning paper He was wounded and on the same day we got a Telegram to say He was killed on the 4th August. We would be pleased to know some more about Him if possible.”*

Base Records replied to Mrs G. T. Low on 4th September, 1916 advising *“... the only particulars received here concerning the death of your grandson No. 553 Private D. Low, 32nd Battalion, was contained in a brief cable message dated London 8/8/16, reporting him as have died from the effects of Gunshot wound back, at Edmonton Hospital, on 4/8/16. Detailed circumstances of his death, will not, it is anticipated be known here, until the receipt at a later date of the final official confirming document from the Front, when all such particulars which may then come to hand, will be made available to you upon receipt of your request.”*

Mrs G. S. Low, Sterling West, South Australia replied to Base Records on 12th September, 1916 thanking them for their kindness in writing to let her know about her grandson. The letter continues with *“...a letter from a soldier said David Low and another and myself jumped over the parapet together after that I did not see them again. We were fighting the Prussian Guards...”*

A Pension was granted to Augustine Margaret Low, of King St, Alberton, widow of the late Private David Low, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 4th October, 1916.

Letters advising of the death & burial of the late Private David Low were sent from Base Records on the following dates – 15th January, 1917 to Mrs H. Malcolm, Richmond, S.A.; 1st May, 1918 to Mrs A. M. Low, c/- Mr F. Colgan, King Street, Alberton, S.A.; 1st May, 1918 to Mrs H. Malcolm, c/- Mrs Shepherd, Myrtle Street, Prospect, S.A. Letters to Mrs H. Malcolm. c/- Mrs Shepherd & to Mrs A. M. Kent. c/o Mrs Shepherd were returned “Unknown”.

Base Records wrote to Headquarters, 4th Military District on 23rd December, 1920 with the following: *“With reference to your communication...of the 25th April, 1918, stating that the next of kin of the late No. 553 Private D. Low, 32nd Battalion is – (wife) Mrs August Margaret Low, c/o Mr Frank Colgan, King Street, Alberton, S.A., it is noted from the file that deceased enlisted as a single man, nomination as next of kin, his mother, Mrs Helen Malcolm Low. As it is desired to dispose of War Medals etc., issuable on account of deceased’s service, I shall be obliged if you will arrange for discreet enquiries to be made with a view to ascertaining who is the person entitled to receive.”*

4th Military District replied to Base Records on 18th January, 1921 regarding the *“disposal of War Medals etc, issuable on account of the late No. 553 Private D. Low, 32nd Battalion, the attached report from the Provost Staff is forwarded for your information:”*

Special Inquiry re Legal Next-of-kin No. 553 Private D. Low, 32nd Battalion:

Provost Sergt. Major Wauchope reports having made the following enquires:-

“I interviewed Nurse A. M. Low now residing at the Mental Hospital Parkside, who states – I am the Widow of the above late Soldier, we have no children. My Husband’s brother resides c/o Priest Bros, Pt. Pirie.”

Private David Low was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Low’s widow - Nurse A. M. Low, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent June, 1922).

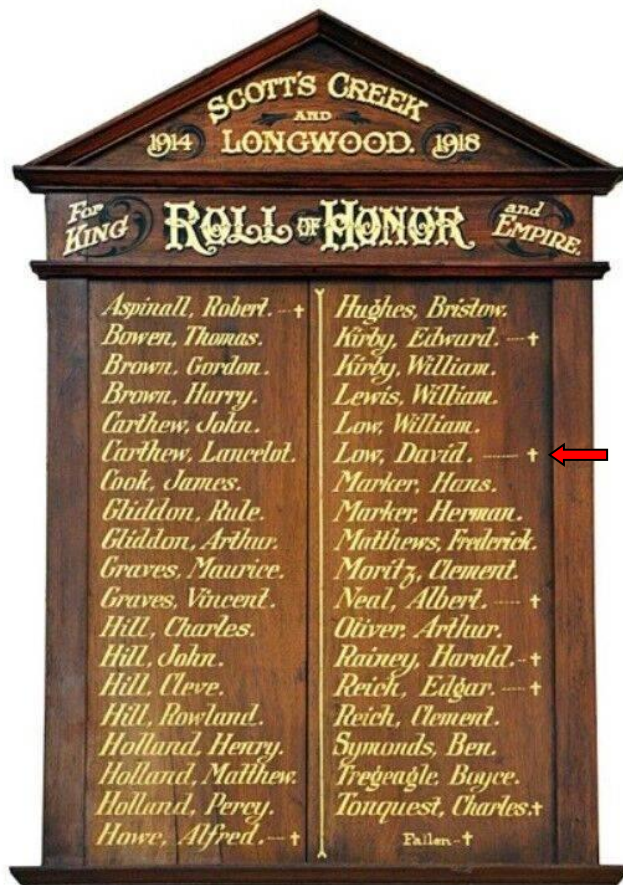
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private David Low – service number 553, of 32nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private D. 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 120.



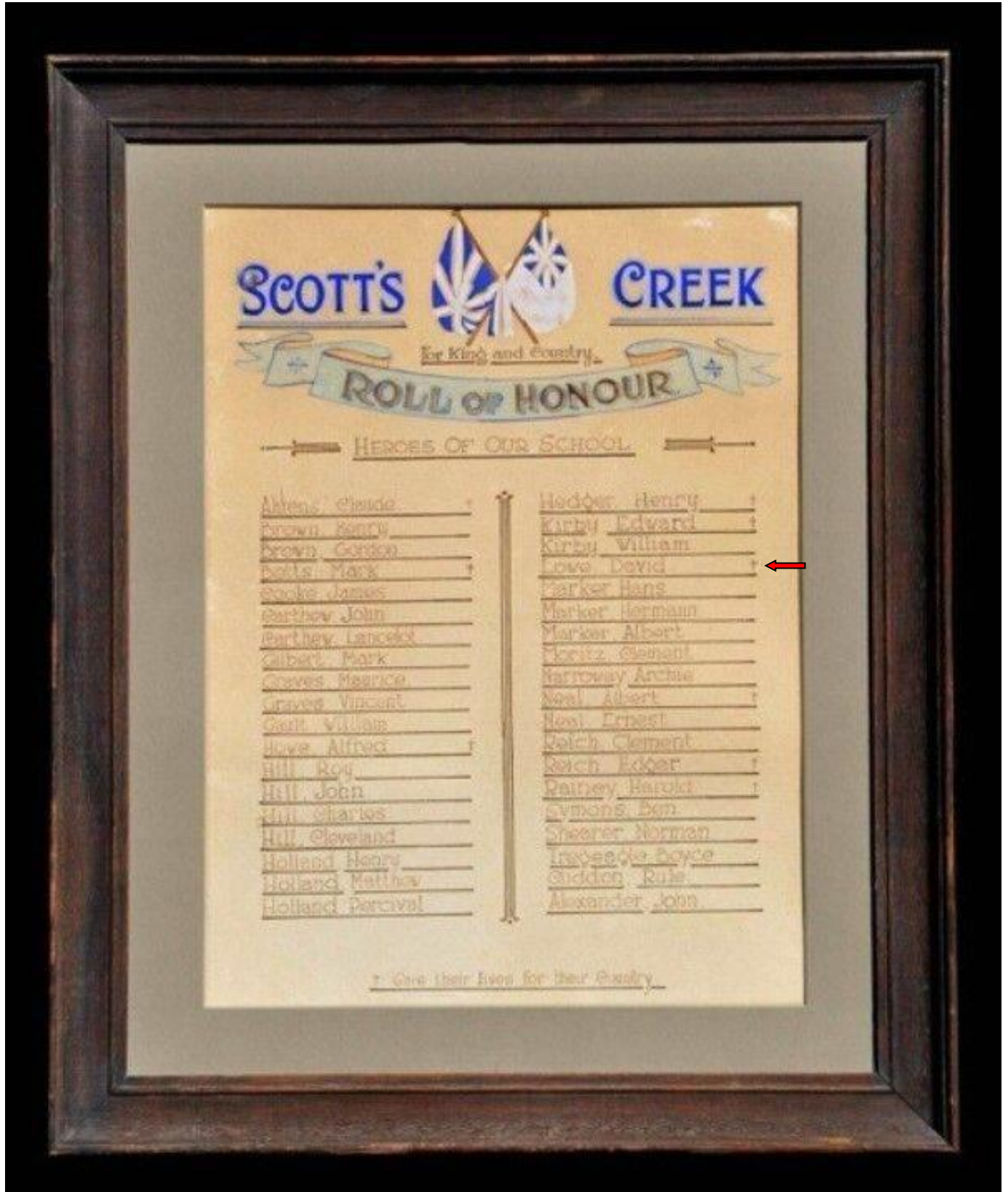
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

David Low is remembered on the Scott's Creek & Longwood Roll of Honour, located in Scott Creek Soldiers Memorial Hall, 517 Scott Creek Road, Scott Creek, South Australia.



Scott's Creek & Longwood Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Peter Holderness)

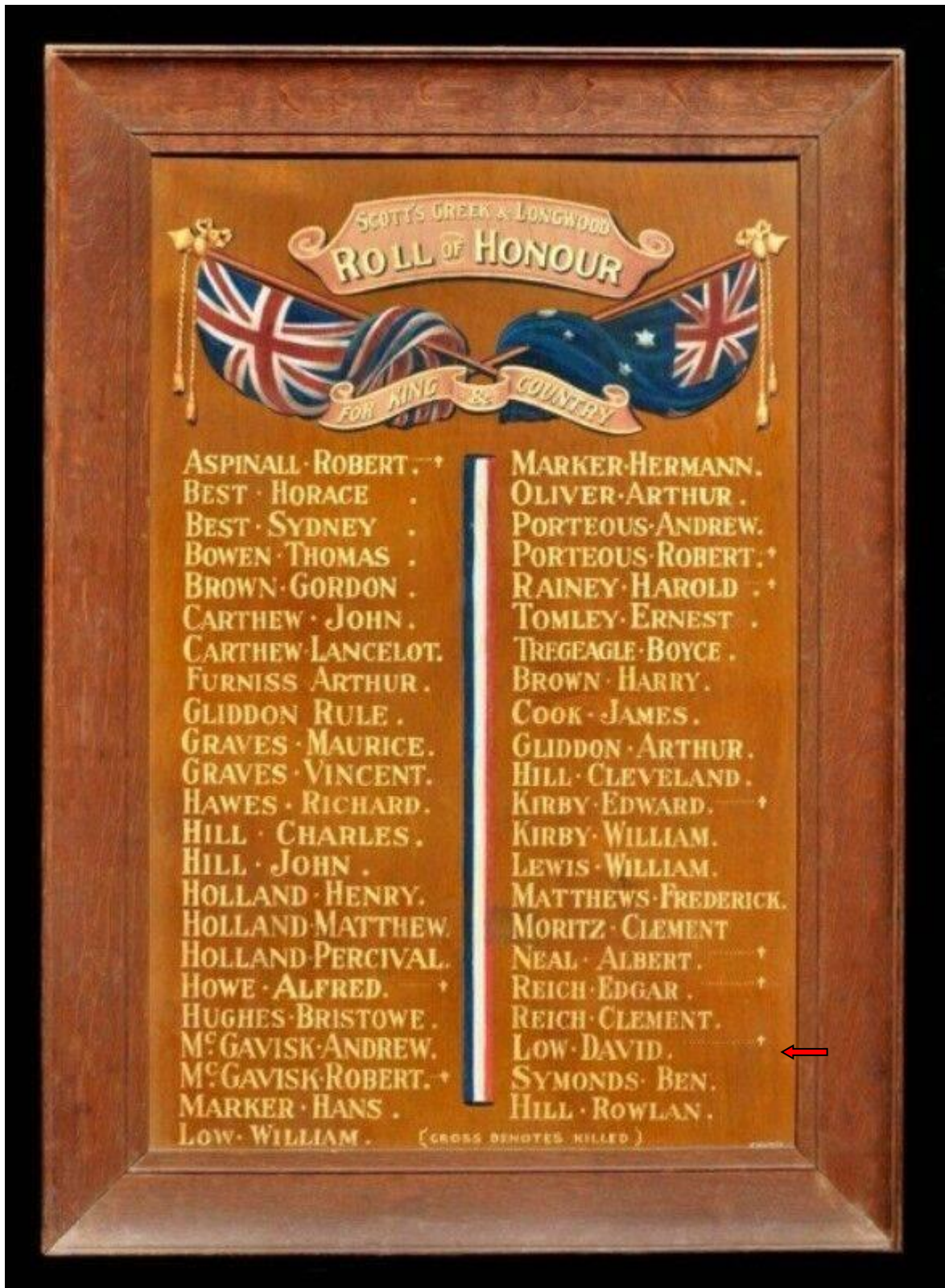
David Lowe is remembered on the Scott's Creek School Roll of Honour, located in Scott Creek Primary School, 519 Scott Creek Road, Scott Creek, South Australia.



Scott's Creek School Roll of Honour

(Photo from Monument Australia – Peter Holderness – Mount Lofty Historical Society)

David Low is remembered on the Scott's Creek & Longwood Roll of Honour, located in Scott Creek Soldiers Memorial Hall, 517 Scott Creek Road, Scott Creek, South Australia. It was found in a shed and restored by Artlab Australia with grant funding.



Scott's Creek & Longwood Roll of Honour

(Photo from Monument Australia – Peter Holderness – Mount Lofty Historical Society)

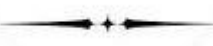
D. Low is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

(63 pages of Private David 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



LAST POST CEREMONY

Private David Low was remembered in the Last Post Ceremony held at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on 28th March, 2014.

Commencing at approximately 4.45 pm AEST, the Memorial farewells visitors with its moving Last Post Ceremony in the Commemorative Courtyard. Each night the ceremony shares the story behind one of the names on the Roll of Honour.

The ceremony begins with the Australian national anthem followed by the piper's lament. Visitors are invited to lay wreaths and floral tributes beside the Pool of Reflection. An individual's story is told, and the Ode is recited by Australian Defence Force personnel. The ceremony ends with the sounding of the Last Post.

(Information from The Australian War Memorial)



Speech transcript

Today we remember and pay tribute to Private David Low.

Dave Low was born to David and Helen Low in North Adelaide but grew up in Broken Hill, where his father was the Chief of the Caledonian Society. A talented footballer, Dave played Aussie Rules for North Adelaide Football Club, winning "best all round man" for them as a junior in 1905. Eventually, Low's talent came to the attention of the secretary of the West Torrens Football Club in Adelaide, and he moved south to play football with the SANFL. During the week he worked at the Islington government workshops as a machinist, but on the weekends he played as a defender in the back lines. In 1912 he was voted "the best man in the West Torrens Football Club" in a public vote. That same year he won the Magarey medal, South Australia's highest footballing honour presented to the player "whom the umpires consider to be the fairest and most brilliant in the league".

Dave Low enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in early July 1915. On 23 October that year he married Augustine Margaret Colgan in the Presbyterian Manse at St Peters. Less than two months later he was on his way to Egypt on HMAT Geelong.

Low was posted to the 32nd Battalion, and trained with them in Egypt before leaving for France in June 1916. The battalion fought its first major battle at Fromelles on 19 July. During this operation the 32nd Battalion captured its objectives, but strong German counter-attacks combined with heavy machine-gun fire from a nearby German position forced them to retire. Their casualty rate was estimated to be between 75 and 90 per cent of the battalion's fighting strength.

One casualty was Private Dave Low. He was taken to Edmonton Hospital in London with shrapnel wounds to his left shoulder and gunshot wounds to his right side. Although he initially appeared "fairly comfortable and was always happy and cheerful", after some time gangrene set in, and it was soon realised that his case was hopeless. He was conscious up until a few minutes before he died on 4 August 1916.

Dave Low was described as a "gentleman both on the field and off of it". He was always very popular and had a wide circle of friends in Adelaide. He continued to be a great favourite, and people became "much attached" to him during his stay in hospital. When he died many men requested leave to attend his funeral, and on the day he was buried in the "Heroes Corner" of Tottenham Cemetery in London more than 50 wounded soldiers attended in a "tribute to his great popularity".

Dave Low was survived by his wife and his widowed mother. He was 29 years old.

His name is listed on the Roll of Honour on my right, along with more than 60,000 others from the First World War. There is no photograph in the Memorial's collection to display beside the Pool of Reflection.

This is but one of the many stories of courage and sacrifice told here at the Australian War Memorial. We now remember Private David Low, and all of those Australians who have given their lives in the service of our nation.

(Australian War Memorial)



Private David Low (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 19 Aug 1916)



Newspaper Notices

THE AUSTRALIANS

192ND CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

WOUNDED

Pte D. LOW, Mile-end.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 14 August, 1916)

NOTABLE FOOTBALLER DEAD

News was received in Adelaide on Monday that Pte. 'Dave' Low (a well-known league footballer) had died from illness at the front. The deceased was a brilliant exponent of the winter pastime, and was looked upon as one of the finest back players Australia has produced. He came to Adelaide from Broken Hill, and threw in his lot with the West Torrens Club. He remained with the blue-and-gold until his enlistment about a year ago. He gained interstate honours on several occasions, and won the Magarey medal in 1912. For years he was the mainstay of the West Torrens Club, and his fine play gave pleasure to thousands of football followers. Mr. Low was of a genial disposition, and made many friends. Prior to enlistment he was employed at the Islington Workshops. He has left a widow and a widowed mother.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 15 August, 1916)

DEATH OF A CHAMPION FOOTBALLER.

Much regret will be expressed at the death of Private "Dave" Low at the front. His mother was informed of the sad event by the defence authorities on August 14. His death will be lamented by the football public, not only in this State, but all over the Commonwealth, as he was a brilliant exponent of the pastime, and one of the finest back men Australia ever had. He came from Broken Hill to Adelaide several years ago at the instance of Mr. J. Andrews, and threw in his lot with the West Torrens club, remaining with it until he enlisted about a year ago. He played in inter-State matches on several occasions, and was a member of the carnival team that visited New South Wales in 1914. In 1911 he was awarded the Magarey medal for the fairest and most brilliant player in the league. He was employed at the Islington workshops, and left that position to enlist. Private Low was a good fellow, and had a wide circle of friends. He was a gentleman both on the field and off it."



Private D. Low.

(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia - 19 August 1916)

THE AUSTRALIANS

202ND CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

KILLED IN ACTION

Pte D. LOW, Mile-end.

(The Journal, Adelaide, South Australia – 31 August, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN GRAVES

FLOWERS IN TOTTENHAM CEMETERY

Eight Australian soldiers are lying in Tottenham Cemetery, England. News of the tending of their graves has been received by Miss G. Limmer, of 299 Avoca street, Randwick, in a letter from a friend, Miss Lillian Short whose address is 130A Gladstone Avenue, Wood Green, London N. The letter says:

In Tottenham Cemetery there are eight Australian soldiers buried, and a few friends and myself have under taken to place flowers on the graves once every month, so that they are not forgotten. The graves are beautifully turfed and looked after by the cemetery authorities, but we supply the flowers. We have been wondering whether the relatives of the men would like to know that we are doing this. It seems so dreadful to think that the poor boys are lying here and their friends cannot get to them. I went to the cemetery yesterday and put daffodils, narcissus and marguerites (yellow) there. They looked so nice when they were finished. The men's names and numbers are as follow:

3959 Pte. W. Whitehead, 23rd Battn., died October 2, 1916.

4654 Pte. W. G. Staveley, 58th. Battn.. died November 12, 1916.

651 Pte. E. J. Willis, 29th Battn., died August 2, 1916.

3558 Pte. E. Smith, 6th Battn., died September 9, 1916.

2778 Pte. H. L. Beaumont, 10th Battn., died September 25, 1916.

4146 Pte. F. A. Beard, 59th Battn., died July 30, 1916.

553 Pte. D. Low, 32nd Battn., died August 4, 1916.

2466 Pte. R. V. Feehan, 10th Battn., died September 22, 1916.

(Advocate, Burnie, Tasmania – 17 June, 1921)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

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.

Tottenham Cemetery, Greater London, Middlesex, England

Tottenham Cemetery contains burials of both wars. Most of the 293 First World War graves are in a plot on the western side of the cemetery, backed by a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried both there and elsewhere in the cemetery, whose graves could not be individually marked.

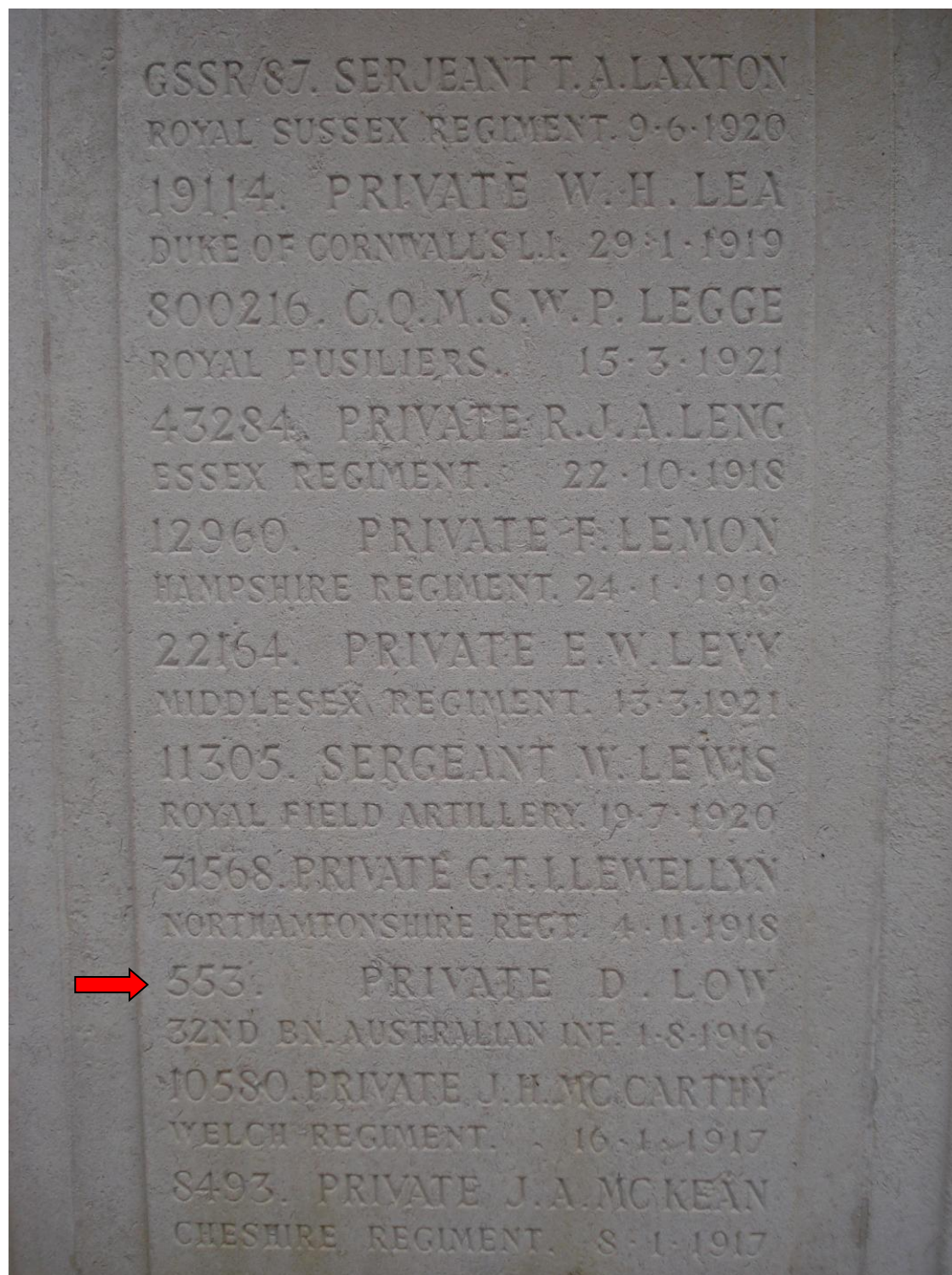
There are 212 burials of the Second World War, mostly scattered, but 30 graves form a small plot facing the First World War plot. Again, some graves could not be individually marked and these casualties are commemorated on supplementary panels to the Screen Wall.

(Information from CWGC)



Tottenham Cemetery *(Photo from Find a Grave – Mike Ganly)*

Photo of Private D. Low's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Tottenham Cemetery, Greater London, Middlesex, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Julia&keld)





(Photo from CWGC)



Tottenham Cemetery Map (Photo from Find a Grave – Justin)