

**Southern Cemetery,  
Manchester, Lancashire**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2180 PRIVATE**

**J. H. LOWE**

**54TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**23RD OCTOBER, 1918**

## James Henry LOWE

James Henry Lowe was born at Singleton, NSW in 1875 to mother Ruth Jordan – no father listed for the birth. (Father was William Edgeworth Lowe).

James Henry Lowe married Elizabeth Bale on 18th November, 1898 in Sydney, NSW.

Births were registered in the district of Glebe with parents James H. & Elizabeth Lowe - 1900 (6th January) for James Leslie Lowe & 1905 for Albert T. Lowe. A death was registered in 1907 for Albert T. Lowe.

Ruth Jordan, mother of James Henry Lowe, died on 26th March, 1906 at 148 St. John's Road, Glebe, NSW.

William Edgeworth Lowe, father of James Henry Lowe, died on 16th November, 1911. He was buried in Rookwood Cemetery – Zone F, Independent Section General H, Plot 618.

James Henry Lowe was listed in the New South Wales Police Gazette dated 7th April, 1915:

*“Sydney – A warrant has been issued by the Children's Court Bench for the arrest of James Henry Lowe, charged with wife desertion. He is 39 years of age, 5 feet 10 inches high, slight build, thin features, fair complexion, dark hair, clean shaved, blue eyes; dressed in a brown suit and brown soft-felt hat; an engineer. Complainant, Elizabeth Florence Lowe, 27 Bunn-street, Pyrmont.”*

James Henry Lowe was a 40 year old, married, Engineer from West's Freezing Works, Wellington, NSW when he enlisted on 4th April, 1916 with the 54th Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2180 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Elizabeth Florence Lowe of “Toorak” Percy Street, Wellington, NSW. James Henry Lowe was 5 feet 10 inches with blue eyes, brown hair & medium complexion with “J.L” tattooed on his left forearm.

Pte James Lowe was posted to A.I.F. Camp at Dubbo, NSW from 4th April, 1916. He was transferred to 54th Battalion at Bathurst, NSW on 24th April, 1916. Pte Lowe was admitted to Hospital while at Bathurst from 6th June, 1916 to 11th June, 1916 suffering from Influenza – mild.

Private James Henry Lowe embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Boorara (A42)* on 19th August, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 13th October, 1916.

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 James Lowe was transferred to Bulford Hospital, Wiltshire on 17th October, 1916 from No. 3 Command Depot at Bovington Camp, Dorset.

Private James Lowe proceeded overseas via Folkestone from 14th Training Battalion on 31st December, 1916 on *Princess Henrietta*.

Private James Lowe was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 1st January, 1917.

Private James Lowe was marched out from A.D.B.D. on 6th February, 1917 & was taken on strength with 54th Battalion, in the field on 8th February, 1917.

Private James Lowe was sent to Hospital sick on 1st June, 1917 & admitted to 5th D.R.S. with Influenza on 2nd June, 1917. He was transferred to 9th Casualty Clearing Station on 9th June, 1917 then transferred by Ambulance Train 29 on 10th June, 1917 to the General Hospital at Rouen where he was admitted with trench Fever on 11th June, 1917. Pte Lowe was transferred to No. 2 Convalescent Depot at Rouen on 24th June, 1917 & was discharged to Base Depot on 5th July, 1917.

Private James Lowe was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre on 5th July, 1917. He was marched out to join his Unit on 31st July, 1917 & rejoined his Unit in the field in France from Hospital on 1st August, 1917.

Private James Lowe was on furlough to England from 23rd August, 1917 & rejoined from leave on 3rd September, 1917.

Private James Henry Lowe was wounded in action on 22nd March, 1918. He was admitted to 11th Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds to right thigh & hand then transferred by Ambulance Train to 32nd Stationary Hospital on 24th March, 1918. Pte Lowe was invalided to England from 32nd Stationary Hospital on 31st March, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Ville de Liege*.

Private James Lowe was admitted to Reading War Hospital, England on 31st March, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to thighs & right hand. He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on 2nd May, 1918 & was on furlo on 3rd May, 1918 & was then to report to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Private James Lowe was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire from furlo on 17th May, 1918.

A Medical Report was completed on Pte J. H. Lowe. 2180, 54th Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 22nd May, 1918. His hearing was tested as he was suffering from concussion deafness & Catarrhl Otitis Media (Left & right). Pte Lowe was considered at the time of the report to be unfit for General Service but fit for Home Service.

Private James Lowe was written up for an offence at while attached to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 19th August, 1918 – Absent without leave from midnight on 15th August, 1918 to 9pm on 17th August, 1918. He was awarded 4 days Field Punishment No. 2 & forfeited 6 days' pay.

Private James Lowe proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone from Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 29th August, 1918. He was marched into Base Depot on 1st September, 1918.

Private James Lowe rejoined his Unit in the field in France on 6th September, 1918.

Private James Henry Lowe was wounded in action (2nd occasion) on 1st October, 1918. He was taken to 132nd Field Ambulance then transferred & admitted to 53rd Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds to right hand. Pte Lowe was transferred by Ambulance Train to 5th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 2nd October, 1918 & was invalided to UK on 4th October, 1918.

Private James Lowe was admitted to 2nd Western General Hospital, Manchester, Lancashire, England on 5th October, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to right index finger – slight. The Hospital Admissions form reports Pte Lowe was admitted with "*concussion deafness & \_\_\_ R index finger. On same evening began with Influenza & Temp 102. On 9th October, 1918 – Double Broncho Pneumonia*".

Private James Henry Lowe died on 23rd October, 1918 at 2nd Western General Hospital, Manchester, Lancashire, England from Pneumonia. The Hospital Admission's form states that Pte James Lowe died at midnight 00.01 hours. however the Morning Tate of Sick form reports the death occurred at 12.55 am both on 23rd October, 1918.

A death for James Lowe, aged 43, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Prestwich, Lancashire, England.

Private James Henry Lowe was buried on 28th October, 1918 in Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England – Plot number Q. CE. 170 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte James Henry Lowe - *Coffin was good, Polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by many beautiful wreaths. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the Rev. Major C. M. Ambrose, officiated at the graveside. The grave will be turfed, and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral. Relatives and Friends present at the Funeral: Pte Warburton 26 Stockton Rd. Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Australian Red Cross Representative; Mrs H. Harper, Australian Red Cross; 2640 Pte H. W. Dixon, 56th Bn.; 3889 Pte R. Simpson, 31st Bn.; 3036 Pte R. Drysdale, 51st Bn.; 751 Pte G. Walsh, 54th Bn.; 99 Pte J. Martin, 44th Bn.; 1955 Pte S. H. Macartney, 55th Bn. (The last mentioned six persons being comrades of the deceased soldier).*

## 54th Australian Infantry 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.

After a freezing winter manning trenches in the Somme Valley, in early 1917 the 54th Battalion participated in the advance that followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line. It was spared the assault but did, however, defend gains made during the second battle of Bullecourt. Later in the year, the AIF's focus of operations switched to the Ypres sector in Belgium. The 54th's major battle here was at Polygon Wood on 26 September.

With the collapse of Russia in October 1917, a major German offensive on the Western Front was expected in early 1918. This came in late March and the 5th Division moved to defend the sector around Corbie. The 14th Brigade took up positions to the north of Villers-Bretonneux and held these even when the village fell, threatening their flanks.

Once the German offensive had been defeated, the Allies launched their own offensive in August 1918. The 14th Brigade did not play a major role in these operations until late in the month, but its actions, including those of the 54th Battalion at Anvil Wood, were critical to the capture of Peronne, which fell on 2 September.

*(Information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Elizabeth F. Lowe, wife of the late Pte James Henry Lowe, wrote to Base Records on 24th July, 1919 stating that she had seen in the daily press that communications addressed to Mrs E. F. Lowe of Rose St, Annandale had been returned as unclaimed. Mrs Lowe was writing to advise that she was the widow of the late Pte Lowe & had previously lived at Rose St., Annandale & that she could be contacted at 53 St. John's Rd, Glebe. Base Records advised that the communication referred to in the Press was a package of the personal effects of her late husband & would be forwarded to the new address.

Pte James Henry Lowe was entitled to British War Medal & The Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Lowe's widow – Mrs E. F. Lowe, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private J. H. Lowe – service number 2180, of 54th Battalion Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private J. H. Lowe is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 159.



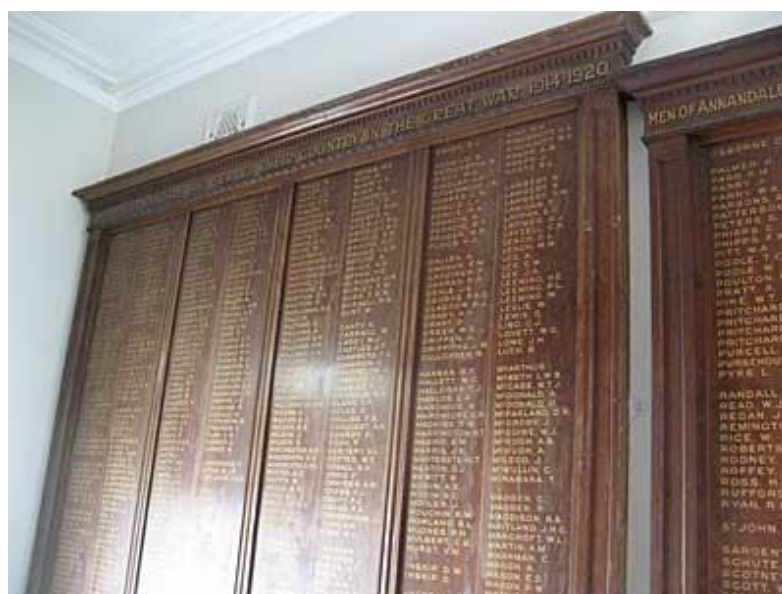
*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

J. H. Lowe is remembered on the Former Annandale Council WW1 Roll of Honour located at the top of the staircase on the old Annandale Council Chambers, now the Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, 79 Johnston Street, Annandale, NSW.



### Former Annandale Council WW1 Roll of Honour

(Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW – David Roden)



(85 pages of Pte James Henry Lowe's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

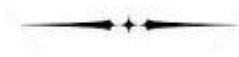
Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P04082.011

**Private James Henry Lowe**



### **Newspaper Notices**

#### **NEARING THE END TWO CASUALTY LISTS**

**No. 445**

WOUNDED

J. H. LOWE, Annandale (2nd Occ.)

(*The Sun*, Sydney, NSW – 25 November, 1918)

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#### **AMONG THE LAST CASUALTIES AND PRISONERS**

**No. 451**

DIED OTHER CAUSES

J. H. LOWE, Annandale (Illness, p.r.d of illness)

(*The Sun*, Sydney, NSW – 14 December, 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)*

Pte J. H. Lowe does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

### **Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England**

During the First World War, Manchester contained between thirty and forty war hospitals, including the 2nd Western General Hospital and the Nell Lane Military Hospital for prisoners of war. Many of those buried in the cemeteries and churchyards of the city died in these hospitals. During the Second World War, there was a Royal Air Force Station at Heaton Park, Manchester.

Manchester Southern Cemetery contains burials of both wars, the majority of them scattered. There are also separate plots for First and Second World War burials, but in neither case are the graves marked individually; instead, each plot has a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried there. Each plot has a Cross of Sacrifice. In all, 803 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War, including 1 unidentified, and 475 from the Second World War, including 3 unidentified, are now commemorated in the cemetery; there is also 1 non-war service grave.

The Screen Wall in the Second World War plot also bears the names of 177 servicemen and women whose remains were cremated. Further memorials in this plot commemorate 17 Polish servicemen buried there, and a number of casualties of both wars buried in other cemeteries and churchyards in the Manchester area whose graves could no longer be maintained.

Casualties buried in the following cemeteries and churchyards are now alternatively commemorated on Screen Wall Memorials in Manchester Southern Cemetery:

Ashton-under-Lyne (St Michael) Churchyard Extension  
Birch-in-Rusholme (St James) Churchyard  
Bury (Brunswick) United Methodist Cemetery  
Cheetham Hill (St Luke) Churchyard  
Eccles (St Mary) Churchyard  
Eccleston (St Thomas) Churchyard Extension  
Edgeworth Congregational Chapelyard  
Hey (or Lees) (St. John the Baptist) Churchyard Extension  
Manchester General Cemetery  
Newton Heath (All Saints) Church Cemetery  
Openshaw (St Barnabas) Churchyard  
Swinton Unitarian Chapelyard.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*



**Southern Cemetery, Manchester – showing the 14 Australian War Graves from WW1**



Photo of Pte J. H. Lowe's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of CWGC)*

