

Wandsworth Cemetery, London, England War Graves

(also known as Earlsfield Cemetery, Magdalen Road Cemetery, Wandsworth Earlsfield Cemetery)



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4577 PRIVATE

W. R. PENNINGTON

15TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

24TH AUGUST, 1916 Age 26

William Robert PENNINGTON

William Robert Pennington was born on 20th April, 1890 at Isisford, near Longreach, Queensland to parents Thomas John & Margaret Ellen Pennington (nee Lee).

William Robert Pennington attended school at Longreach, Queensland.

The 1912 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Maranoa, subdivision of Longreach, Queensland recorded William Robert Pennington, Labourer from Longreach.

The 1913 & 1915 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Kennedy, subdivision of Longreach, Queensland recorded William Robert Pennington, Labourer from Longreach.

William Robert Pennington was a 24 year old, single, Coach Driver from Longreach, Queensland when he enlisted on 18th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr T. Pennington, of Kingfisher Street, Longreach, Queensland.

Private William Robert Pennington was posted to 14th Reinforcements of 15th Battalion on 18th August, 1915.

Private William Robert Pennington, Service number 4577, embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Wandilla* (A62) on 31st January, 1916 with the 4th Infantry Brigade, 15th Infantry Battalion, 14th Reinforcements.

Private William Robert Pennington was admitted to Government Hospital at Suez on 7th March, 1916 with Parotitis. He was discharged to duty on 22nd March, 1916 after recovering from Mumps. Private Pennington was posted to Overseas Base at Serapeum on 23rd March, 1916 & joined 15th Battalion at Serapeum on 2nd April, 1916.

Private William Robert Pennington proceeded from Alexandria on Troopship *Transylvania* on 1st June, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 8th June, 1916.

Private William Robert Pennington was absent without Leave from his billet at Bailleil from 11.30 on 11th June, 1916 to 21.00 on 11th June, 1916. He was awarded 24 hours Field Punishment No. 2 & forfeited a total of 2 days' pay.

Private William Robert Pennington was wounded in action in France on 8th August, 1916. He was admitted to 4th Australian Field Ambulance on 9th August, 1916 with G.S.W. right buttock. He was transferred & admitted to 10th General Hospital at Rouen on 10th August, 1916 & embarked on Hospital Ship *St Andrew* on 13th August, 1916 for England.

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.....

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. While there, the AIF was expanded and was reorganised. The 15th Battalion was split and provided experienced soldiers for the 47th Battalion. The 4th Brigade was combined with the 12th and 13th Brigades to form the 4th Australian Division.

In June 1916 they sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bloody trench warfare. Its first major action in France was at Pozieres in August 1916.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

From 15th Battalion War Diary:

Casualties from 6 pm on 5th August until arrival at Brickfields, Albert, at 9 am on August 12th were:-

	<i>Killed</i>	<i>Wounded</i>	<i>Missing</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Officers</i>	3	12	-	15
<i>O/R</i>	45	325	45	415
		<i>Total Casualties</i>		430

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private William Robert Pennington was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England on 14th August, 1916.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A01040

3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth

Private William Robert Pennington died on 24th August, 1916 at 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. of Pelvis.

A death for William R. Pennington, aged 26, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Wandsworth, London, England.

Private William Robert Pennington was buried in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England – Block 19; Grave No. 30.

This is now recorded by Commonwealth War Graves Commission as Plot number Aust. 2 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private William Robert Pennington was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque would have been sent to Private Pennington's father – Mr T. Pennington, as the closest next-of-kin.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Robert Pennington – service number 4577, aged 26, of 15th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of T. and M. E. Pennington, of Ibis St., Longreach, Queensland.

W. R. Pennington is remembered on the Longreach War Memorial, located in ANZAC Memorial Park, Landsborough Highway & Galah Street, Longreach, Queensland.



Longreach War Memorial

(Photo above from Monument Australia; below from Queensland War Memorials)



Private W. R. Pennington is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 77.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(13 pages of Private William Robert Pennington's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

[**Note: there are only 13 pages of Private Pennington's Service Record file which I believe is incomplete – many of the usual forms are not included in the 13 pages available for viewing.]

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





PTE. J. H. PENNINGTON,
Wounded.



PTE. T. J. PENNINGTON,
In France.



PTE. W. R. PENNINGTON,
D.F.C. 2 Wounds.

The Penningtons, of Longreach (Q.).

They are sons of Mr. and Mrs. T. Pennington, of Longreach, formerly of Finestra, Qld.



PTE. W. R. PENNINGTON,
D.F.C. 2 Wounds.

Pte W. R. PENNINGTON



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LISTS 212 AND 213

Died of Wounds

Private W. R. Pennington (Longreach)

(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Queensland – 18 September, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

Private A. H. PENNINGTON

41st Battalion. Killed in action 24th May, 1918, at Villers Bretonneux

also

Private W. R. PENNINGTON

15th Battalion. Died of Wounds received at Pozieres, 24th August, 1916.

They left their homes and country,

And all that men hold dear;

To face for us the battle,

Triumphant over fear.

(Inserted by their loving Father, Mother, Brothers, and Sisters)

(The Longreach Leader, Queensland – 25 May, 1923)

ROLL OF HONOUR

PENNINGTON – In loving remembrance of ALBERT HENRY PENNINGTON, 41st Battalion, killed in action at Villers Bretonneux, May 24, 1918; also

PRIVATE WILLIAM ROBERT PENNINGTON, 15th Battalion, died of wounds received at Pozieres, 24th August, 1916.

(Inserted by his loving parents, Father and Mother, Brothers, and Sisters)

(The Longreach Leader, Queensland – 23 May, 1924)

IN MEMORIAM

PTE Albert Henry Pennington, 41th Australia Inf., Killed in Action, 23rd May, 1918, at Villers Bretonneux.

Also

PTE William Robert Pennington, 15th Battalion, Died of Wounds, (Wandsworth, London), 24th August, 1916.

Inserted by their Father, Mother, Sisters and Brothers.

(The Longreach Leader, Queensland – 22 May, 1925)

ROLL OF HONOUR

PENNINGTON – In Loving Memory of our dear Sons and Brothers Private Albert Henry Pennington, 41st Battn., A.I.F., Killed in Action at Villers Bretonneux, May 23rd, 1918; also Private William Robert Pennington, 15th Battn., A.I.F., Died of Wounds received at Pozieres, 23rd August, 1916.

May they Rest in Peace.

(Inserted by their sorrowing Parents, Brothers and Sisters)

(The Longreach Leader, Queensland – 26 August, 1927)

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 W. R. Pennington does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London

This is to the North-East of Earlsfield Station and is bounded by the Magdalen Road on the East and the main railway line on the West.

It contains five 1914-1918 War Plots, (the general Military Plot, the Australian, the Newfoundland, the New Zealand and the South African plots). These are on the main path leading West from Magdalen Road and there are also over 200 burials in other parts of the cemetery. The Military Plot contains a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried in it and those in unmarked graves in other parts of the cemetery. The majority of the 1939-1945 burials are scattered throughout the cemetery but there is one group of six burials together in a War Plot near the main entrance. Again, those whose graves are unmarked are also named upon the Screen Wall, Panel 1.

Many of the 1914-1918 burials are from the 3rd London General Hospital which was at Wandsworth. There are 477 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 115 of the 1939-1945 war here. There are also 5 non-war service burials here.

There are 34 Australian World War 1 Soldiers buried here & 1 Australian Soldier from 1925.

(Information from CWGC)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H16917

A group of Soldiers' graves in the Australian Section of Wandsworth Cemetery, London *(taken 15 April, 1931)*



(Photo by Scotch Mist 2013)



The Australian Plot in Wandsworth Cemetery, London *(Photos from CWGC)*





Cross of Sacrifice (Photos from CWGC)

Photo of Private W. R. Pennington's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England.



(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright)