

**St. Mary's Additional Churchyard,  
Clifton-on-Dunsmore, Warwickshire**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3871 SERJEANT**

**W. R. PICK**

**46TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**28TH JUNE, 1918      Age 22**

*A Dearly Loved Son*

*And Brother*

## Walter Reginald PICK

Walter Reginald Pick was born at North Fitzroy, Victoria on 15th May, 1896 to parents William Henry & Jane Pick (nee Corben).

Walter Reginald Pick attended Melbourne High School, Victoria (the School started in 1905 as the Melbourne Continuation School, the first State Secondary School in Victoria & was renamed as Melbourne High School in 1912).

Walter Reginald Pick was a 19 year, single, Clerk (in Commonwealth Treasury – Premier's Department) from North Fitzroy, Victoria when he enlisted on 7th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3871 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr William H. Pick, of 5 Barkly Street, North Fitzroy, Victoria.

Private Walter Reginald Pick was posted to Depot Battalion on 26th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 12th-14th Reinforcements on 28th October, 1915.

Private Walter Reginald Pick embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 23rd November, 1915 with the 4th Infantry Brigade, 14th Infantry Battalion, 12th Reinforcements.

Private Walter Reginald Pick was allotted to & proceeded to join 46th Battalion on 6th March, 1916 from 4th Training Battalion at Zeitoun. He was taken on strength of 46th Battalion from 14th Battalion on 6th March, 1916 at Tel-el-Kebir.

Private Walter Reginald Pick was admitted to 12th Field Ambulance at Serapeum on 9th April, 1916 & transferred to Dental Corps.

Private Walter Reginald Pick proceeded overseas from Alexandria on 2nd June, 1916 on *Kinfauns Castle* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 8th June, 1916.

Private Walter Reginald Pick was appointed Acting Corporal in the Field (without pay) from 10th September, 1916.

Acting Corporal Walter Reginald Pick was written up for "Neglect of Duty" on 7th November, 1916. He was reprimanded by C.O. 46th Battalion on 8th November, 1916.

Acting Corporal Walter Reginald Pick was sent sick to Hospital on 19th November, 1916. His rank reverted to that of Private from 19th November, 1916 on being evacuated out. Private Pick was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance on 19th November, 1916 with Influenza & transferred the same day M. D. Station. He rejoined his Unit on 8th December, 1916 & was appointed Lance Corporal.

Lance Corporal Walter Reginald Pick was sent sick to Hospital on 11th December, 1916. He was admitted to 4th Field Ambulance on 11th December, 1916 with defective vision then transferred to Amiens on 13th December, 1916.

Lance Corporal Walter Reginald Pick was appointed Corporal on 1st January, 1917 to complete establishment.

Corporal Walter Reginald Pick was admitted to 4th Australian Field Ambulance on 6th February, 1917 then transferred to D.R. (Divisional Rest) Station on 7th February, 1917 with a septic toe. He was transferred to 45th Casualty Clearing Station on 22nd February, 1917 then transferred to Ambulance Train 21 on 25th February, 1917. Corporal Pick was admitted to 11th Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 26th February, 1917 with "I.C.T. Toe Rt slight." Corporal Pick was transferred to 2nd Convalescent Depot at Rouen on 28th February, 1917 then discharged to Base Depot on 9th March, 1917.

Corporal Walter Reginald Pick was marched in to 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 13th March, 1917. He was medically classified as "A" (ready for active service) on 6th April, 1917. Corporal Pick was marched out to his unit from 4th A.D.B.D. on 18th April, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion in France on 19th April, 1917.

Corporal Walter Reginald Pick was promoted to Sergeant to date from 15th May, 1917 – vice Sgt. L. Byrne promoted CSM.



Sergeant Walter Reginald Pick died on 28th June, 1918 – his body having been found on the railway line at Rugby Railway Station.

A Coroner's Court was held into the death of Cadet Walter Reginald Pick, Australian Flying Corps, A.I.F.

WALTER REGINALD PICK --- Deceased.

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VIVIAN R. BISHOP. Lieut. Australian Flying Corps  
identified the body the jury had viewed as that of:-

WALTER REGINALD PICK.

22 years of age. Cadet 6th. Officers' Cadet Battalion  
who had been stationed for training purposes at Oxford  
for the last six months.

His parents reside in Melbourne.

He was in full possession of all his faculties.

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FRED PERCY CLARE, 23 Essex St. Rugby. a shunter, states  
that on the 28th. June 1918 he was on the up platform at  
Rugby L.& N.W.Rly station at 2.30 a.m. opposite No.3.  
Signal box (see plan) when he saw a body lying across the  
rails face downwards, head towards the platform, body was  
across the outer rail of the up line.

He informed the Inspector and together they placed the body  
on a stretcher. The corpse was fully dressed but had no hat  
or cap on. A search failed to reveal any headgear.

The last train before the discovery of the body, left the  
station at 2.12 a.m. Although on the platform at that time  
he saw and heard nothing of the fatality.

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ALBERT WHITING, 237 Railway Terrace, RUGBY. an inspector on the L.& N.W.Rly was on duty at 2.30 a.m. 28th. June when witness Clare informed him a body was on the line.

He went to point indicated on plan and found body as described by Clare. From position of body he surmised that the wheels had passed over the middle. The clothing was not disarranged. Although on the platform both before ~~and~~ and after the departure of the train, he ~~after~~ the arrival

(2)

saw nothing of the accident.

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ERNEST W. LINES, 87, Abbey St. RUGBY. a carriage examiner employed by the L.& N.W.Rly. went on duty at 6.30 p.m. on 27th. June. At 2 a.m. on the 28th. June he was on the ballast side of the up platform when the Preston train came in. He examined the wheels and brakes from the engine to the rear of train. There was no one then lying or standing on the footway. He was about 5 minutes working down the train, which left some 4 or 5 minutes later. There were three carriages below No.3. Signal Box. Twenty minutes later having heard of the accident he went to the place and saw the body on the stretcher. There were no doors open when he worked down the train.

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CORONERS NOTE.

Deceased's cap was found in the last compartment of the 4th. coach from the rear of the train.

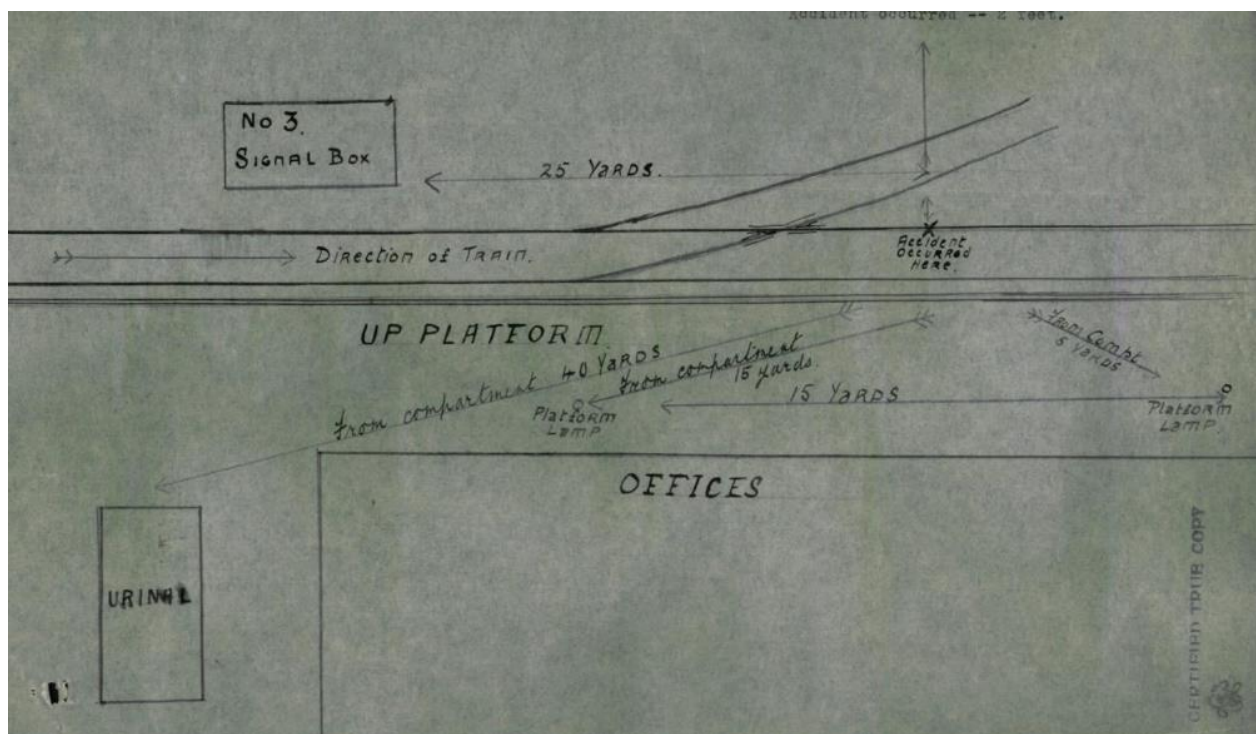
It is presumed that deceased got out of train on the off side to void urine, traces were found on the ballast, slipped in trying to remount step and fell between the 4th and 3rd. coaches, the last 3 going over him.

A VERDICT OF DEATH BY MISADVENTURE WAS RETURNED.

(Sgd) Ernest F. Hadon.

H.M. Coroner.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY



Coroner's Report – Killed accidentally

A death for Walter R. Pick, aged 22, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Rugby, Northamptonshire, England.

Sergeant Walter Reginald Pick was buried at 2 pm on 2nd July, 1918 in St. Mary's Additional Churchyard, Clifton-on-Dunsmore, Warwickshire, England (grave not numbered) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Sergeant Walter Reginald Pick - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag and surmounted by two beautiful wreaths sent from A.L. & T. and Lieut Bishop. Members of the A.I.F. acted as Pallbearers. The Last Post was sounded at the graveside. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Newspaper item – Rugby Advertiser, England – 6 July, 1918:

### **THE FATAL ACCIDENT AT RUGBY STATION**

*The inquest on the young Australian cadet, Walter Reginald Pick, aged 22, whose dead body (as we reported in our last issue) was found lying on the line at Rugby Station on Friday, June 28th, was conducted by Mr E F Hadow on Monday. Lieut William Richard Bishop, Australian Flying Corps, deposed that deceased was a cadet in the 6th Officers' Cadet Battalion, and was stationed at Oxford. He was preparing to take up a commission, and he left Australia in November, 1915. Fred Percy Clare, 23 Essex Street, carriage shunter, employed by the L & N-W Railway Company, deposed that at about 3.20 a.m on June 28th, he saw an object which he at first thought was a brown paper parcel, lying across the rails on the up line, but on a closer examination he found it was deceased, lying face downwards, with his head in the 4-foot way. The Preston train had shortly before gone over the rails, and the body could not have been lying there long, or it would have been seen, because a number of people crossed the rails at that spot. He informed the signalman of the discovery, and the train from Carlisle, which was then due, was stopped. With the help of the assistant stationmaster the body was removed. There was no sign of any struggle having taken place. A telephone message was sent through to London, and deceased's stick and coat were found in a carriage in the Preston train at Euston. Albert George Whiting, assistant station master, deposed that the platform at Rugby was on the reverse side to that at most stations. After the discovery of the body he sent a message along the line, asking that the train should be searched. The first-class compartments were searched without success at Willesden, and deceased's possessions were found in a 3rd-class carriage at Euston. No door was found open, and had there been any passengers in the carriage they could have left the train at Willesden. Deceased was travelling in a Caledonian coach, the doors of which shut automatically. There was no means of detecting whether such doors were shut deliberately, or whether they shut through the movement of the train. There was nothing to suggest that deceased fell out of the train ; but from the evidence witness was of opinion that he got out deliberately, and when the train moved off he tried to jump in again, and fell on to the line. Ernest Wm Lines, 87 Abbey Street, carriage examiner, deposed that he examined the Preston train when it was in Rugby Station, and everything was then in order. No doors were open, and he saw no one outside. From the position of the body, he concluded that three vehicles passed over it. The Coroner described the accident as a mystery, and said, in his opinion, the theory of Mr Whiting was borne out by the external evidence. It was for the jury to say how the accident occurred, for that it was an accident he thought they were all agreed. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned, the jury adding that there was no evidence to show how he got on to the line.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Sergeant Walter Reginald Pick contains a letter to I.E.J. Green, Esq., Y.M.C.A., 1 Saxby Street, Leicester which reads: " *In reply to you enquiry as to the death and burial of 3871 Cadet Walter Reginald Pick, 46th Bttn A.I.F who was killed on the Railway line at Rugby on 26.6.18, we beg to inform you that the finding of the Coroner was that this soldier met his death by misadventure, there being nothing to show how he came on the Railway line. His cap was found in the fourth Coach from the end of the train and it is presumed he was trying to enter his compartment, from the side away from the platform and slipped, the last three carriages passing over his body. He was on leave at the time.*

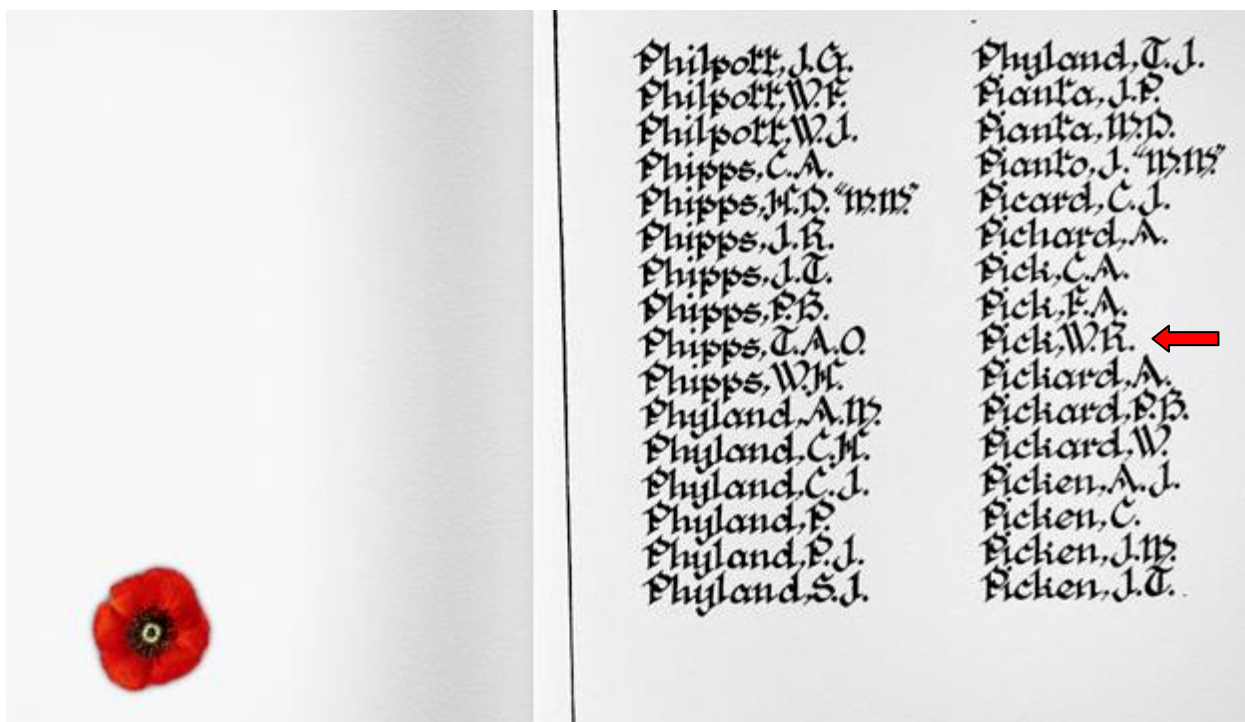
*Cadet Pick was buried in the Parish Church Yard at Clifton near Rugby by the Rev. E. Morton of the Vicarage Clifton. Please convey our sincere sympathy to the relations of Cadet Pick, in their sad loss."*

Sergeant Walter Reginald Pick was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sergeant Pick's father - Mr W. H. Pick, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent June, 1923).



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant Walter Reginald Pick – service number 3871, aged 22, of 46th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of W. H. and Jane Pick, of 5 Barkly St., North Fitzroy, Victoria, Australia.

W. R. Pick is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.



W. R. Pick is remembered is remembered on the Brunswick South State School Honour Roll for World War 1. located in Brunswick South State School, 56 Brunswick Rd., Brunswick East, Victoria.



Walter Pick is remembered in the Melbourne High School Honour Roll Book which is on display in the foyer of the school. The Memorial Hall is behind & is a Memorial to the Old Boys and Staff who served in WWI (the school moved in 1927 to a new site).

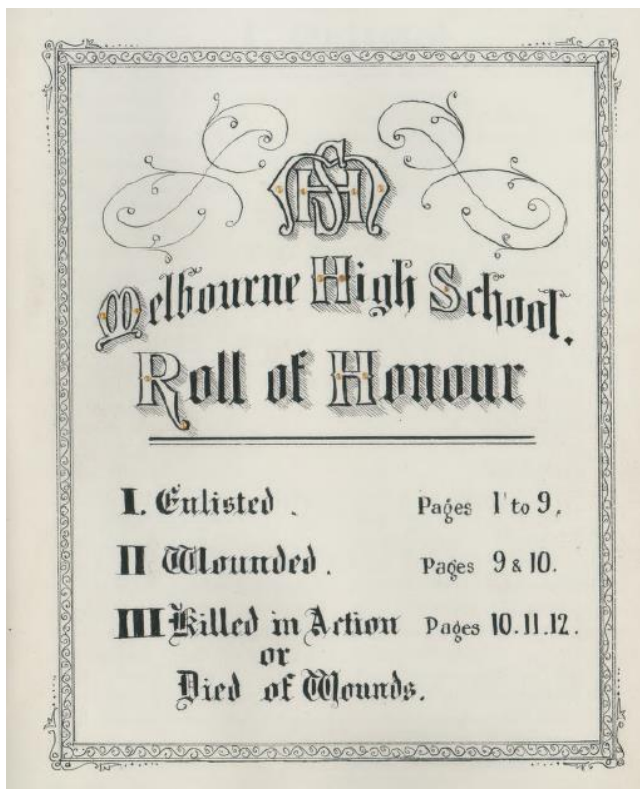
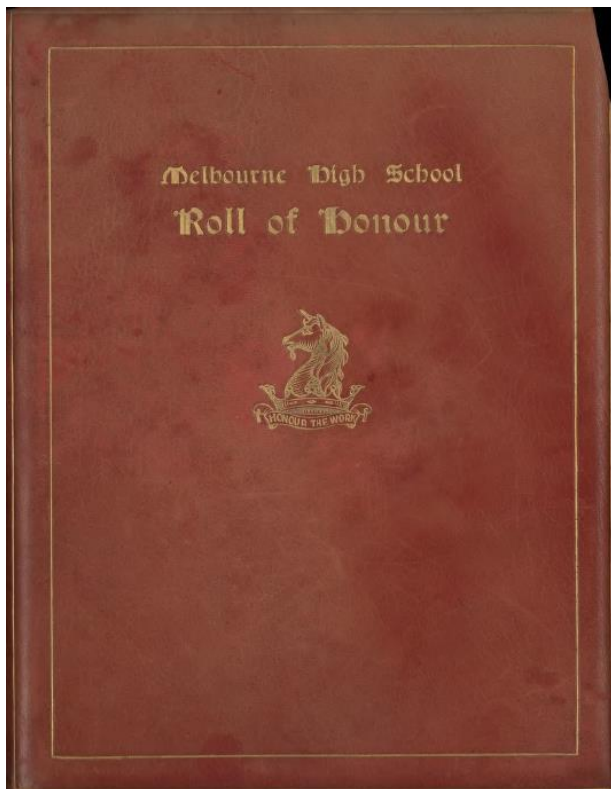
There are 9 former Students of Melbourne High School who served in World War 1 & who are buried in the UK.



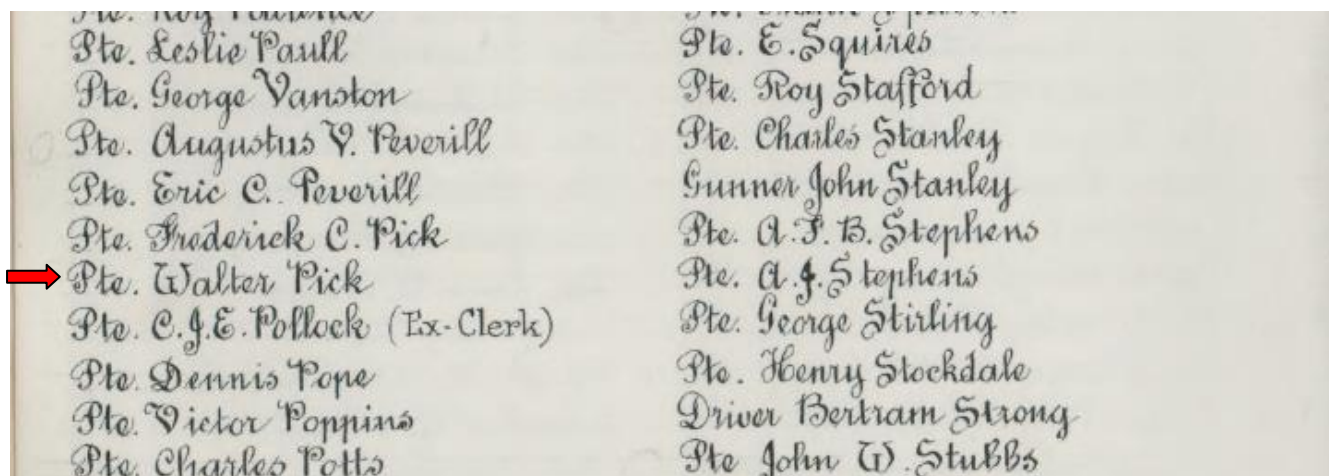
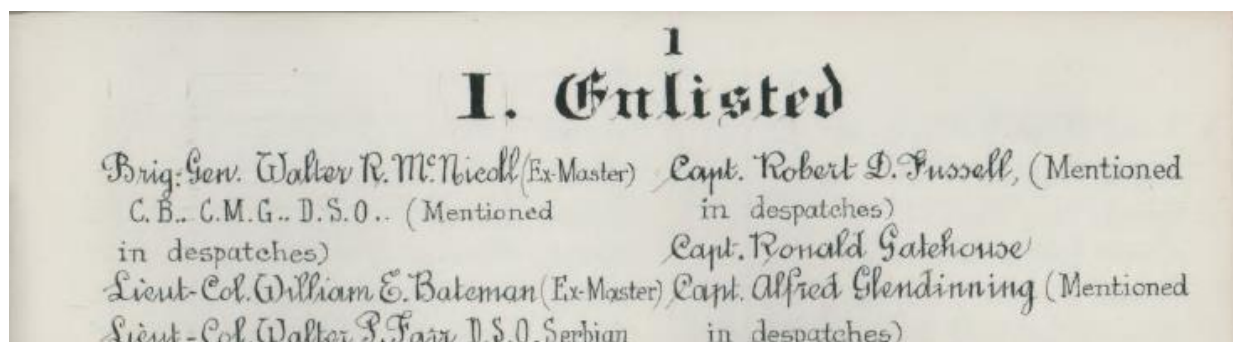
**Melbourne High School Honour Roll Book**



**Melbourne High School Memorial Hall**



Private Walter Pick is named on the Melbourn High School Honour Roll Book – under those who I. Enlisted (page 8).



(Melbourn High School information & photos courtesy of Luke Savage, Honorary School Archivist, Melbourn High School)



Sergeant W. R. Pick is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 142.



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

(59 pages of Sergeant Walter Reginald Pick'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*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **Presentations to Soldiers**

At the Pensions Office, Flinders-street, yesterday afternoon, the Deputy Commissioner, Mr A. R. Weire, presented Mr W. R. Pick, a member of the Old Age Pensions staff, who intends leaving on active service, with a suitably transcribed gold medal as a token of the esteem in which he is held by his colleagues.

*(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia – 24 July, 1915)*

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### **Nicholson St. Church**

The large Sunday school building at the Nicholson-street Church, North Fitzroy, was crowded on Monday, September 13th, when a send-off was given to 15 of our young men who are in camp preparing for active service for God, King, and Country. The minister of the church, the Rev. L. Tait, presided, and the meeting was one of brightness and enthusiasm. Regret was expressed at the absence of Company Sergeant-Major S. Ackeroyd and Private Sid Tivey, who were unable to be present, but the following were in attendance:- Quartermaster-Sergeant H. V. Gration, Sergeants V. R. Bishop, B. H. Strong, and Len. Moody, Corporals W. E. Mitchell, F. G. Thorpe, and H. E. Bishop, Signaller H. Olver and **Privates** H. R. Thorpe, **W. R. Pick**, L. R. Mitchell, H. Anderson, and J. Hallifax. After singing the first verse of the National Anthem, the whole company joined in the Lord's Prayer, A few introductory words were spoken by the chairman, and, appropriate addresses were given by the Rev. Robert Kelly, who spoke for the circuit; Mr. A. E. Corben represented the church; the Sunday school superintendent of over 24 years' standing ,



Mr. J. Odgers, voiced the sentiments of the school; Mr. W. McKelvie, teacher, of the Young Men's Class for over 20 years', under the influence of whose life, and work many of the young men have been helped Godward, spoke for the class. At this stage of the proceedings, the chairman unveiled the Mutual Improvement Association Honour Board, which bore the names of 13 young men, members of the association, who have joined the Australian Imperial Force. The board was much admired by all. Mr. Frank Rouch, one of our young men, who was chosen to represent the Mutual, then addressed the meeting. On behalf of the Sunday school, the chairman presented to ten of the young men who were members of the school, a handsome gold medallion each, suitably inscribed; and to all a cutlery roll or wallet from the Mutual Improvement Association. Ringing cheers were given for them, and after singing "God bless our splendid men," the Rev. Robert Kelly commended them to God in prayer. Signaller Harry Olver responded on their behalf. The musical items rendered by Miss Dickinson (vocal), and Miss Campbell (violin), and Mr. Fred. Olver's recitations were much enjoyed. We are proud of our boys. God bless them. A vote of thanks to the artists, voiced by Messrs L. Tait, Junior, and E. Veitch, was followed by refreshments provided by the ladies, which brought this memorable meeting to a close.

*(Spectator and Methodist Chronicle, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia – 24 September, 1915)*

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### **AUSTRALIAN CADET KILLED AT RUGBY STATION.**

After the Preston to London express had left Rugby yesterday (Friday) morning at 2.40 the body of an Australian cadet was found on the line, with evidence of the wheels of the train having passed over him. The deceased had evidently travelled by the train, which had a stop of ten minutes at Rugby, for he was travelling from Llandudno to London. From the position of the body, he had got out on the opposite side of the train to the platform, and probably in endeavouring to re-enter the carriage he fell under the wheels. He had no hat or tunic on. From papers on him it was ascertained that his name was Pick. He joined up at the commencement of the war as a private, rising to the rank of sergeant, and had passed all his examinations for a commission.

*(Rugby Advertiser, England - 29 June, 1918)*

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### **DEATHS**

#### **On Active Service**

PICK – Officially reported died in 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital on 28th June, Sergeant Walter Reginald, A.I.F., dearly beloved son of William Henry and Jane Pick, of 5 Barkly-street, North Fitzroy, and loving brother of Edie, Jessie, Bertha, Arthur and Ernie, and late of Commonwealth Treasury, pensions branch, aged 22 years. Enlisted for active service July, 1915. Our dear Wally, How we looked forward to his safe return.

*(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia – 13 July, 1918)*

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### **419TH CASUALTY LIST**

Killed, Accident

Cadet W. R. Pick, North Fitzroy, 28/6/18 (P.R. Died, C.N. Std.)

*(The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia – 27 July, 1918)*

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Walter Pick is remembered on his parents' headstone in Melbourne General Cemetery, Victoria (Grave H No 6).



**Melbourne General Cemetery** (Photo by Rebecca McIntosh – Find a Grave)



(Photos from Facebook page – How We Served)





*In Loving Memory of*

*William Henry PICK*

*Died 28TH Sept. 1938 Aged 80 years*

*Also his sons*

*Edgar died in infancy*

*and **WALTER late 46TH BATT A.I.F.***

***Died Abroad 28TH June 1918***

*Also Jane*

*Loved wife & mother of above*

*Died 17TH May 1947*

*"Safe, Home"*



### 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 was sent from Australian War Graves Services, London, England to Base Records, Melbourne, Australia on 2nd August, 1921 stating the "A" Form which was submitted by the relatives of the late Sergeant W. R. Pick had listed the following inscription and were enquiring if the relatives wanted the last line inscribed on the headstone:

*"A Dearly Loved Son And Brother  
Please place Flowers on his Grave."*

Base Records replied to Australian War Graves Services, London, England in October, 1921 stating they had been in contact with the late soldier's father & his reply was *"It was our wish to have the words, please put flowers on his grave, inscribed in addition to the words a dearly loved son and brother."*

Serjeant W. R. Pick does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*A Dearly Loved Son And Brother*

### **St. Mary's Additional Churchyard, Clifton-on-Dunsmore, Warwickshire, England**

St. Mary's Additional Churchyard, Clifton-on-Dunsmore contains 7 Commonwealth War Graves – 5 from World War 1 & 2 from World War 2.



*(Photo from Find a Grave)*





**St. Mary's Churchyard, Clifton-on-Dunsmore** (Photo from CWGC)



**St. Mary's Churchyard, Clifton-on-Dunsmore** (Photo by Giles Smith)



Photo of Serjeant W. R. Pick's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary Additional Churchyard, Clifton-on-Dunsmore, Warwickshire, England.



*(Photo by Giles Smith)*