

**Wareham Cemetery,
Wareham, Dorset
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1718 PRIVATE

L. V. RANKIN

55TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

10TH MAY, 1917 Age 37

Rest In Peace

Leo Vincent RANKIN

Leo Vincent Rankin was born on 8th October, 1879 in Melbourne, Victoria to parents John and Mary Rankin (nee Donoghue).

Leo Vincent Rankin attended Xavier College, Kew, Victoria.

Leo Rankin, aged 19 years, played 1 game for the Melbourne Football Club in the Victorian Football League.

The 1903-1904 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Corowa, New South Wales, listed Leo Vincent Rankin, Clerk, of Corowa. His father John Rankin was listed as Hotelkeeper, of Corowa.

From the New South Wales Police Gazette – 13 November, 1912:

Apprehensions

Leo Rankin (34) and Roy Williams (23), charged with assaulting Edward Gallagher, with intent to rob him, have been arrested by Constables Wright and Thompson, Sydney Police. Committed for trial at Quarter Sessions.

From The New South Wales Police Gazette – 8 January, 1913:

Name	Offence	On whom committed	Where and when tried	Sentence
Roy Williams <i>al. Adams</i>	<i>Attempt to steal</i>	<i>Edward Gallagher</i>	<i>Sydney Q.S. 4th Nov. 1912</i>	<i>Postponed to next Quarter Sessions</i>
Leo Rankin	<i>Attempt to steal</i>	<i>Edward Gallagher</i>	<i>Sydney Q.S. 4th Nov. 1912</i>	<i>Postponed to next Quarter Sessions</i>

From The New South Wales Police Gazette – 29 January, 1913:

Name	Offence	On whom committed	Where and when tried	Sentence
Roy Williams <i>al. Adams</i>	<i>Assault with intent to rob</i>	<i>Edward Gallagher</i>	<i>Sydney Q.S. 2nd Dec. 1912</i>	<i>Acquitted</i>
Leo Rankin	<i>Assault with intent to rob</i>	<i>Edward Gallagher</i>	<i>Sydney Q.S. 2nd Dec. 1912</i>	<i>Acquitted</i>

From New South Wales Gaol Description & Entrance Books:

No. 13165

Name - Leo Rankin

Native Place – Melbourne Victoria.

Year of Birth – 9-10-78

Trade or occupation – Labourer

Religion – RC

Height – 5 feet 9 ½ inches

Weight – 154 lbs

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Colour of Hair – Dark Brown

Colour of eyes – Brown

Marks or special features – Scar under left ear, dimple in chin, brown scars on left shin, varicose veins on right shin.

Convictions:

Where and When	Offence	Sentence
Central P.C 22/8/13	Have supposed stolen property	£3.11 or 2 mon HL }accum
Central P.C 22/8/13	Stealing	£21.5 or 4 mons HL }
Central P.C 22/8/13	Have supposed stolen property	£3. or 1 mon HL }
Central P.C 22/8/13	do do	£3.4 or 1 mon HL }conct
Central P.C 22/8/13	do do	£3.8 or 1 mon HL }
Central P.C 22/8/13	do do	£3.7.6 or 1 mon HL }



Gaol Portrait taken 23rd August, 1913

Leo Vincent Rankin was a 36 year old, single, Clerk when he enlisted at Yass, NSW on 8th December, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1718 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr John Rankin, of 13 Dalgety Street, St. Kilda, Victoria. Leo Vincent Rankin was 5ft 10 in, weight 161 lbs with a dark complexion, brown hair & eyes. He had a scar at base of left thumb, scars to both shins & a crooked nose.

Private Leo Vincent Rankin was posted to "B" Company at Goulburn on 8th December, 1915 for recruit training.

Private Leo Vincent Rankin embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 14th April, 1916 with the 55th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Reinforcements & disembarked at Port Said on 16th May, 1916.

Private Leo Vincent Rankin was absent from 19.15 hrs on 22nd July, 1916 until apprehended by Military Police at 06.15 hrs on 26th July, 1916. He forfeited 5 days pay & 7 days extra fatigues.

Private Leo Vincent Rankin embarked from Alexandria on 29th July, 1916 on H.M.T. *Arcadian* & disembarked at Southampton, via Marseilles on 9th August, 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 Leo Vincent Rankin was absent without leave from Camp at Larkhill, Wiltshire from 9.30 pm on 9th August, 1916 till 8.30 am on 13th August, 1916. This was admonished & he forfeited 5 days pay.

Private Leo Vincent Rankin was absent without leave from 9pm on 21st August, 1916 until 6 am. He was awarded 21 days confined to camp & forfeited 5 days' pay.

Private Leo Vincent Rankin was written up for an Offence – absent without leave from 14th Training Battalion at Larkhill, Wiltshire from 10 pm on 29th August, 1916 until 6 am on 7th September, 1916. He was awarded 14 days Field Punishment No. 2 & forfeited 10 days pay.

Private Leo Vincent Rankin embarked for overseas on 31st August, 1916 (9th September, 1916 had been crossed out) from 14th Training Battalion in England.

Private Leo Vincent Rankin was marched in to 5 D.B.D. (Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 11th September, 1916.

Private Leo Vincent Rankin was admitted to 26th General Hospital at Etaples on 8th October, 1916 with Varicose Veins. He was transferred to Calais on 9th October, 1916 & embarked on 10th October, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Dieppe* for England with Varicose veins.

Private Leo Vincent Rankin was admitted to Military Hospital at Herne Bay, England on 10th October, 1916 with varicose veins in both legs. He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on 24th November, 1916.

Expeditionary Force Pay Office, Victoria Barracks, Sydney, NSW wrote to Base Records, Melbourne on 8th December, 1916 to advise they had been notified of the death of Private Leo Vincent Rankin's father & that his mother – Mrs Mary Rankin, c/o 210 Bridge Road, Richmond, Victoria would be noted as the next-of-kin.

Private Leo Vincent Rankin was written up for an Offence while at No. 1 Command Depot, Perham Downs - absent without leave from 9.45 pm on 18th December, 1916 till apprehended at 9 pm on 10th January, 1917 & making a false statement to Military Police. He was awarded 24 days F.P. (Field Punishment) No. 2 & forfeited 28 days' pay on 15th January, 1917.

Private Leo Vincent Rankin was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 18th January, 1917. He was medically classified as B1 A4 (fit for overseas training camp when passed dentally fit).

Private Leo Vincent Rankin was marched into No. 4 Command Depot at Wareham, Dorset on 20th January, 1917 from No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire.

Private Leo Vincent Rankin was sent sick to Wareham Military Hospital & admitted on 1st February, 1917. He was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Wareham from Hospital on 16th February, 1917.

Private Leo Vincent Rankin was reported absent from No. 4 Command Depot, Wareham, Dorset from 13th March, 1917. He reported back at No. 4 Command Depot on 30th March, 1917.

Private Leo Vincent Rankin was sent sick to 16th Field Ambulance (Isolation Hospital) at Wareham on 4th April, 1917. He was then admitted to Military Hospital, Wareham on 5th April, 1917 with Haematuria. Pte Rankin was reported to be seriously ill at Military Hospital, Wareham on 4th May, 1917.

Private Leo Vincent Rankin died at 7 pm on 10th May, 1917 at Military Hospital, Wareham, Dorset, England from Hepatitis. (Several forms in the service record file for Pte Rankin record that he died of Nepatitis).

A death for Leonard Rankin, aged 41, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Wareham, Dorset, England.

Private Leo Vincent Rankin was buried on 14th May, 1917 in Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset, England – Plot number B. D. 19. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte L. V. Rankin - Coffin was polished oak. He was given a Military Funeral, officiated by Chaplain J. D. Murphy, No. 4 Command Depot, Wareham.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Leo Vincent Rankin contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives to obtain the fullest details possible into his wounds, death and burial. A letter from O.C. reads: *“Inform Father died 13th March. Admitted to Herne Bay (Kent) mil. Hosp. 10-10-16 with varicose veins in both legs. He is suffering from varicose veins in both legs; his condition is such as need give his friends no undue anxiety. He has been operated on and is doing well.”*

Another letter in the Red Cross file from the Medical Officer in Charge, Wareham Hospital reads: *“This man died of Hepatitis (Inflammation of Liver) on 10.5.17 at 7 pm. He was buried in the cemetery of St. Mary’s Church, Wareham, Dorset.”*

Private Leo Vincent Rankin was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Rankin’s mother – Mrs M. Rankin, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent May, 1922 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Leo Vincent Rankin – service number 1718, aged 37, of 55th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Mary Rankin, of 67 Bromley St., South Yarra, Victoria, Australia. Born at Melbourne.

Private L. V. Rankin is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 161.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

L. Rankin is remembered on the Corowa War Memorial, located at Honour Avenue & Sanger Street, Corowa, NSW.



Corowa War Memorial (Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW)



(70 pages of Pte Leo Vincent Rankin'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

Corowa

(From Our Own Correspondent)

Recent casualty lists are adding to the list of local soldiers who have given their lives for the Empire. In a recent list I notice the name of Private Garland, who was a clerk at the local branch of the Commercial Banking CO. of Sydney. I hear also that Private Leo. Rankin, whose father was the host of the Royal Hotel here for many years, has also been killed.

(Albury Banner and Wodonga Express, NSW – 25 May, 1917)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST No. 304

DIED OF ILLNESS

NEW SOUTH WALES

L. V. Rankin

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 May, 1917)

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 L. V. Rankin does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Rest In Peace

Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset, England

Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset contains 71 Commonwealth War Graves. Wareham Military Hospital, with 185 beds, was at Worgret Camp during the First World War and the regimental depot of the Royal Armoured Corps was at nearby Bovington during the Second World War. Wareham Cemetery contains 49 First World War burials and 15 from the Second World War, 5 being unidentified. The cemetery also contains 12 German burials, 1 being an unidentified airman. *(Information from CWGC)*



Wareham Cemetery, Wareham *(Photos courtesy of Tracy Dunne)*

Pte L. V. Rankin's headstone marked by red arrow *(below)*



Photo of Private L. V. Rankin's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset, England.



(Photo courtesy of Tracy Dunne)



(Photo from ["Following the Twenty-Second"](#))