

Bulford War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



155 PRIVATE

H. E. RICKENBERG

26TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

19TH JULY, 1917 AGE 21

In Memory

Of The Dearly Loved Son

Of Mr. & Mrs. Rickenberg

Of Pialba

Harry Edward RICKENBERG

Harry Edward Rickenberg was born on 2nd November, 1894 at Pialba, near Maryborough, Queensland to parents Lawrence Ludwig (Louie) Rickenberg & Mina (Minnie) Rickenberg (nee Herrenberg).

Harry Edward Rickenberg attended Pialba State School.

Edward Harry Rickenberg was a 20 year old, single, Farmer from "Piab", Pialba, Maryborough Road, Queensland when he enlisted on 7th April, 1915 at Maryborough, Queensland with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 26th Infantry Battalion, "A" Company of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 155 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his mother - Mrs M. Rickenberg of Torquay Road, Pialba, Queensland. Harry's younger brother – Frank William Rickenberg also enlisted the same day. He was given the service number of 160. Mrs Rickenberg, mother of Harry Edward Rickenberg signed her consent to allow her son to volunteer for the war as he was under 21 years of age.

Pte Harry Edward Rickenberg & his brother Frank William Rickenberg embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Ascanius* (A11) on 24th May, 1915 & disembarked at Egypt (no date recorded).

Pte Harry Rickenberg was written up on 30th August, 1915 for being absent without leave. This was admonished.

Pte Harry Rickenberg embarked from Alexandria on 4th September, 1915 to join the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force at Gallipoli.

Pte Harry Rickenberg disembarked from Mudros at Alexandria on 9th January, 1916. He proceeded to join the British Expeditionary Force & embarked from Alexandria on 15th March, 1916.

Pte Harry Rickenberg was written up for being absent from embarkation parade on 15th March, 1916. He was awarded forfeiture of 7 days' pay & Field punishment No.2.

Pte Harry Rickenberg disembarked at Marseille, France on 21st March, 1916.

Pte Harry Rickenberg was written up for being in Doullens, France without a pass & being absent without leave from 0700 hrs on 14th August, 1916 to 1700 hrs on 15th August, 1916. He was awarded 12 days Field Punishment No. 2 & forfeited 14 days' pay.

Pte Harry Rickenberg was sent sick to Hospital (5th Australian Field Ambulance) in France on 10th January, 1917 with a cold. He was transferred to Anzac Casualty Clearing Station on 11th January, 1917 & transferred to 5th General Hospital at Rouen on 14th January, 1917 & invalided on Hospital Ship *Lanfranc* at Havre on 23rd January, 1917 bound for England, suffering from Bronchitis. He was admitted to 1st Birmingham War Hospital on 24th January, 1917. On 19th March, 1917, Pte Rickenberg was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, England.

Pte Rickenberg was on furlough from 23rd March to 7th April, 1917 & was then to report to Perham Downs, Wiltshire.

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.

Pte Harry Rickenberg was admitted sick to Bulford Hospital, while on furlough, on 5th April, 1917 with V.D. He was discharged on 5th May, 1917 and transferred to No. 1 Camp, Convalescent Training Company at Parkhouse the same day.

Pte Harry Rickenberg was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Bulford, Wiltshire on 21st June, 1917. He was medically classified as B 1 A – Observation.

Pte Harry Rickenberg was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford on 6th July, 1917 with V.D.

Private Harry Edward Rickenberg died at 5.50 p.m. on 19th July, 1917 at 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire. A Post mortem was held & the cause of death was found to be Gonorrhoeal Sepsicaemia. He was aged 21 years & 9 months.

A death for Harry E. Rickenberg, aged 22, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Harry Edward Rickenberg was buried on 22nd July, 1917 in Bulford Church Cemetery, Wiltshire - Grave No. 7 Australian Reserve Section (CWGC Plot number 3. 1. 7.) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Harry Rickenberg - *Coffin was stained wood – good condition. Military Funeral. Deceased was given the very best of attention whilst in hospital, and his death was a very quiet one without any struggle. He was attended by the Chaplain, who intends communicating with you.*

Pte Harry Edward Rickenberg was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Rickenberg's next-of-kin, his father – Mr John Louis Rickenberg (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Harry Edward Rickenberg – service number 155, as being 21 years old & served with 26th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of John Louis and Minnie Rickenberg, of Pialba, Queensland.

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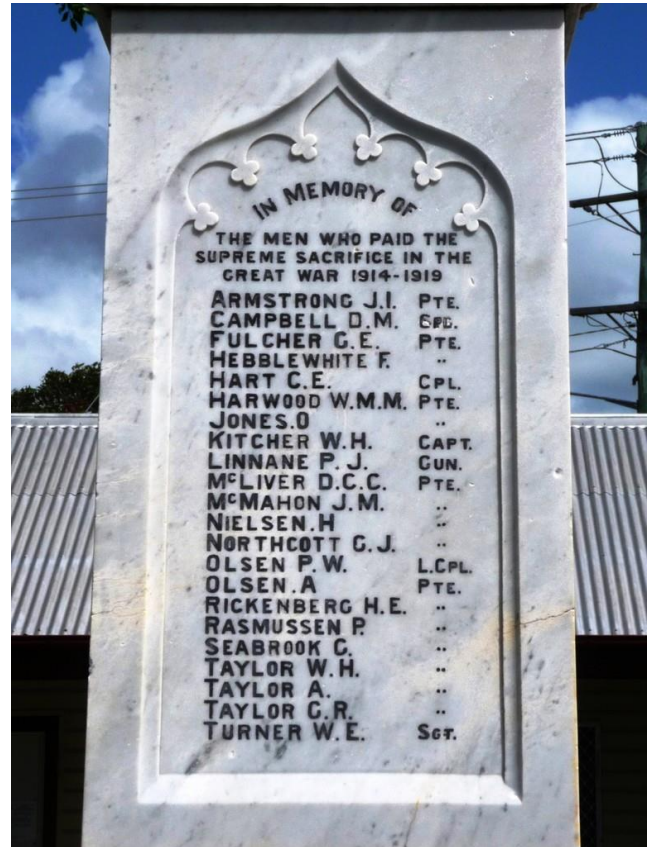
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Harry Edward Rickenberg – service number 155, as being 21 years old & served with 26th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of John Louis and Minnie Rickenberg, of Pialba, Queensland.

Private H. E. Rickenberg is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 108.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

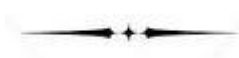
H. E. Rickenberg & his brother F. W. Rickenberg are both remembered on the Hervey Bay War Memorial, located in Freedom Park, Main Street, Pialba, Queensland.



Hervey Bay War Memorial, Pialba (Photo from Fraser Coast Regional Coast – Queensland War Memorials)

(34 pages of Pte Harry Edward Rickenberg'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



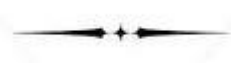
** [Connected to Pte Harry Edward Rickenberg](#)

Younger brother - Pte Frank William Rickenberg, Service number 160, 26th Battalion. Wounded in action in France. Returned to Australia February, 1919. Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War medal & Victory Medal.





Pte Harry Edward Rickenberg (*The Queensland Pictorial* 5 June, 1915)



Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

RICKENBERG – On July 19th, 1917, Private Harry Rickenberg, who died in the Dermatological Hospital, England.
(Inserted by his fond parents)

(*Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser, Qld – Thursday 26 July 1917*)

PIALBA

Another Pialba boy has given his life for his country, and we sympathise with Mr and Mrs L. Rickenberg the parents of the late Private Harry Rickenberg, in the great loss they have sustained by the untimely death of their son. He enlisted very early in the war, and had been ill for a long time before his death. The flag was half masted at the Pialba State School on Wednesday where the deceased was a pupil in his school days.

(*Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser, Qld – Monday 30 July 1917*)

The LATE PRIVATE HARRY RICKENBERG

Miss V. Baxter has received a letter, dated England, 11th July, from Private Harry Rickenberg (son of Mr and Mrs L. Rickenberg, of Pialba), whose sad death from illness in England was recently reported, in the course of which he says:- " I have been in hospital in England practically since last Christmas; but I am getting on well, and am expecting to go back into the field sometime before next Christmas; but I am looking forward for it to finish before that, as things are going on well for us on all fronts now. I suppose you have heard about Paddy getting his right leg taken off above the knee, and as far as I have heard he will be back in Australia at any time now, so you will not be able to have a dance with Paddy any more. Frank is still on the western front boxing on, and he has been a marvel to me, the way he has stuck to it for over 28 months. I tell you it is no joke being in the fields of a wintertime especially when it is snowing and raining week in and week out, and bogging up to our necks in mud and water. When our infantry hopped over the top the ground was so soft and muddy from the artillery that our chaps used to get stuck in the mud and they would never have got out if somebody did not help them. When I left France you could hardly walk amongst the dead men in the field, and it used to make me feel a bit funny for a start; but I take no notice of seeing pieces of one another lying about now. I have just seen the best part of this country here, which is worth seeing, and Scotland is my pick of the lot. It is just like being at home when you get amongst the Scotch people, as they think a lot of the Australian boys, and while I was up in Glasgow on furlough I always got an invitation to some private place for Sunday night's tea, and of course if there were any young lasses in the family, I could not see my way clear to get away early after tea.

(Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser, Qld – Tuesday 18 September 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

RICKENBERG –In loving memory of Private Harry Edward Rickenberg, who died of illness in England on 19th July, 1917, aged 21 years and 8 months.

No mother's love did him attend,
Nor; o'er him did a father bend;
No sister by to shed 'a tear,
No brother his last words to hear.
Sick, and dying in a far-off land.
Not one friend to take his hand;
No comrades near to close his eyes,
Far. from his native land he lies.
 God be with you till we meet again.

(Inserted by his loving parents and sisters, Lil., Violet. Ivy, and brother Frank, on Active Service.)

RICKENBERG –In loving memory of Private Harry Edward Rickenberg, who died of illness in England on 19th July, 1917, aged 21 years and 8 months.

"Somewhere in England" where poppies mark
 The last home of the brave,
In fancy's thought, methinks I see
 My soldier brother's grave.
Somewhere ! Oh cruel, cruel fate
 To bring such grief and pain,
And tell me that I ne'er shall see
 His smiling face again.

(Inserted by his loving sister, Lil.)

(Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser, Qld – Friday 19 July 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 in Bulford Church Cemetery. 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 H. E. Rickenberg does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Memory
Of The Dearly Loved Son
Of Mr. & Mrs. Rickenberg
Of Pialba*



Bulford Church Cemetery *(Photo courtesy of Andrea Charlesworth 2012)*

Photo of Private H. E. Rickenberg's Headstone at Bulford Church Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Andrea Charlesworth 2012)