

**St. Michael's Churchyard,  
Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, England  
War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**13644 PRIVATE**

**G. ROLFE**

**AUST. ARMY MEDICAL CORPS**

**3RD NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 31**

## George ROLFE

George Rolfe was born at Aston Clinton, near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England in 1887 to parents George Foskett Rolfe & Alice Rolfe (nee Shurvell). His birth was registered in the December quarter, 1887 in the district of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

The 1891 England Census recorded George Rolfe as a 3 year old, living with his family in a 4 roomed dwelling at Cromwell Villas, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England. His parents were listed as George Rolfe (Estate Labourer, aged 41, born Aston Clinton, Bucks) & Alice Rolfe (aged 34, born Medmenham, Bucks). George was one of seven children listed on this Census, all born at Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire – Harry Rolfe (Scholar, aged 12), Edith A. Rolfe (Scholar, aged 10), Annie Rolfe (Scholar, aged 8), Frederick Rolfe (Scholar, aged 7), Allan Rolfe (Scholar, aged 5) then George & Margaret Rolfe (aged 1).

George Rolfe attended school at Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire.

The 1901 England Census recorded George Rolfe as a 13 year old House Boy, living with his family at Brook Street, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England. His parents were listed as George Rolfe (Gardener, aged 51) & Alice Rolfe (aged 44). George was one of five children listed on this Census – Alan Rolfe (Plough Boy, aged 15) then George, Margaret M. Rolfe (aged 11), Alice Rolfe (aged 9, born Aston Clinton) & Elsie M. Rolfe (aged 4, born Aston Clinton).

According to information supplied by George Rolfe's father for the Roll of Honour – his son, George Rolfe, was aged 24 years when he came to Australia.

A death was registered for Alice Rolfe, aged 56, in the district of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire in the June quarter, 1913.

George Rolfe was a 28 year old Cook from Woombye, Queensland when he enlisted at Brisbane, Queensland on 1st October, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 13644 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr G. Rolfe of Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, England. Information from the Roll of Honour, provided by George Rolfe's father listed that George Rolfe was an Agricultural Farmer & was also trained as a Gardener.

According to information supplied by George Rolfe's father for the Roll of Honour – his son, George Rolfe, had served with 20th Hussars in England for 7 years.

Pte George Rolfe was attached to No. 1 Depot A.M.C. (Army Medical Corps) from 1st October, 1915 to 15th March, 1916. He was transferred to A.M.C. Special General Reinforcements on 16th March, 1916.

Private George Rolfe embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Kanowna* (A61) on 29th March, 1916 with the Army Medical Corps, Special Reinforcements.

Private George Rolfe embarked from Alexandria for England on 28th May, 1916.

Private George Rolfe proceeded overseas to France from A.M.C. Training Depot (Army Medical Corps) on 1st October, 1917 via Folkestone. He was marched in at Rouelles, France from England on 3rd October, 1917. Private Rolfe was marched out on 6th October, 1917 to 2nd Div. A.M.C. & was taken on strength with 6th Australian Field Ambulance in the Field on 8th October, 1917.

Private George Rolfe was still with his Unit in France on 17th April, 1918.

Private George Rolfe was on leave to Paris on 15th July, 1918. While on leave he was sent sick to 3rd Stationary Hospital on 24th July, 1918.

Private George Rolfe was written up for an Offence - Drunkenness 23rd July, 1918 – Smashing a pane of glass property of Rouen Tramway Company. He was awarded a forfeiture of 15 days' pay on 6th September, 1918 by order Col. Peyton, Cyclists Base Depot, Rouen.

Private George Rolfe had an injury to his hand & was admitted to 10th General Hospital at Rouen on 25th July, 1918.

Private George Rolfe was marched in at Havre from Rouen on 12th September, 1918 & medically classified as B2 on 16th September, 1918 due to an injury to his wrist & loss of grip in his hand. Private Rolfe was transferred to England on 22nd September, 1918.

Private George Rolfe was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, England on 23rd September, 1918 from France.

A Medical Report was completed on Private George Rolfe on 25th September, 1918 at No. 2 Command Depot, Weymouth in regards to his accidental injury of wrist, which occurred on 23rd July, 1918 in France. The injury occurred when Private Rolfe in order to save himself in a train jolt put his arm through the window & injured the tendon of his arm. The movement of his hand was limited. The Medical Board found that Private George Rolfe was temporarily unfit for General Service & temporarily unfit for Home Service – Unfit for all service for 6 months.

Private George Rolfe was marched out for return to Australia from England – due to an accidental injury of the wrist on 16th October, 1918 on Transport Duty.

Private George Rolfe embarked from Devonport, England on Carrier D 27 *Marathon* on 20th October, 1918. He was admitted to H.M.T. *Marathon's* Hospital on 28th October, 1918 with Influenza & Pneumonia.

Private George Rolfe died at 11 pm on 3rd November, 1918 aboard the Carrier D 27 (H.M.T. *Marathon*) while at sea from Influenza, Pneumonia & Heart failure. Hospital Admissions form states date of death as 2nd November, 1918. Some forms state the Private Rolfe's death on *Marathon* was while it was in Port. (Some Family Trees on Ancestry have that Pte George Rolfe died at Sea – Sulawesi Tengah, Indonesia).

Private George Rolfe was one of six soldiers to die on *Marathon* from 24th October, 1918 to 24th November, 1918. Four of the deaths were from Influenza, Pneumonia & Heart failure with three of those within 24 hours – Pte Rolfe being the first. The other deaths were – Pte A. S. Eskildsen, 7474, 3rd Battalion – Ptomaine Poisoning, 6.50 am, 24/10/1918; then Pte G. Rolfe; Pte S. F. Smillie, 3384, 34th Battalion, Influenza, Pneumonia & Heart failure, 5.25 am 3/11/18; Sgt. P. G. Walker, 4366, 2nd Pioneer Battalion, Influenza, Pneumonia & Heart failure. 11 pm, 3/11/18; Pte F. O. Porter, 2952, "DCM" 6th Battalion, Influenza, Pneumonia & Heart failure, 5.50 am, 10/11/18; & Pte A. Jackson, 19548, A.A.M.C. Details, Pulmonary Pthisis & Heart failure, 12.30 am, 24/11/18.

A death for George Rolfe, aged 31, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Plymouth, Devon.

Private George Rolfe's body was transferred to Plymouth, England on 3rd November, 1918 & taken to mortuary of York House Military Hospital. He was buried on 9th November, 1918 in St. Michael's Churchyard, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire – Near east end of church and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

From the burial report of Private George Rolfe - *Coffin was oak with Brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, firing party, bugler, and pall bearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent from Father, George and Minnie, Mr and Mrs Annandale, Mrs Munger & family, Maggie, Alice, Elsie, Grave (Aust), Fred (Salonika), Sister Annie, and many others. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside & the Rev. Cohn officiated. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the Administrative Headquarters, London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral. Relatives present at the funeral – Father, Brother, 4 Sisters and 5 Cousins.*

Private George Rolfe requested in his Will, dated 25th September, 1917, that he bequeathed £100 to Miss Grace Kerslake of Coombe Hill, Woombye, Queensland, Australia. The Rest of his money, after settling up his property he bequeathed to his father – Mr George Rolfe of Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, England.

Private George Rolfe was entitled to British War Medal and the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Rolfe's father – Mr G. Rolfe in England (Scroll & Plaque both sent 24th, November, 1922).

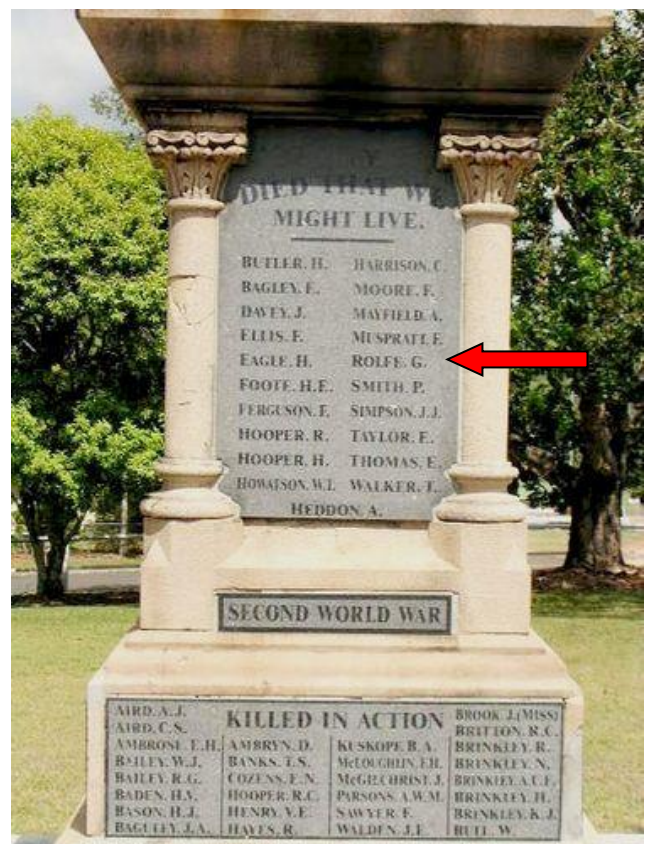
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private George Rolfe – service number 13644, aged 31, of 6th Field Amb., Australian Army Medical Corps. He was the son of George Rolfe, of Brook St., Aston Clinton.

Private G. Rolfe is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 183.



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

G. Rolfe is remembered on the Woombye War Memorial located in Memorial Park, Blackall Terrace, Woombye, Queensland.



**Woombye War Memorial** (Photo from Monument Australia – Diane Watson)



G. H. Rolfe and his brother A. Rolfe are both remembered on the Aston Clinton War Memorial located at London Rd, opposite the junction with Brook Street, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire.



**Aston Clinton War Memorial** (Photo from War Memorials Online – Chris Leach, 2015)



(53 pages of Private George Rolfe'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



**Connected to Private George Rolfe:**

Sapper Alan Rolfe, 148598, 254th Tunnelling Coy., Royal Engineers died of wounds in France on 15th July, 1916, aged 29. Buried in Gorre British and Indian Cemetery, France Grave – I. H. 8.

Private Frederick William Rolfe, 5249, 7th Battalion, Leinster Regiment died on 31st July, 1917, aged 40. Buried in Potijze Chateau Lawn Cemetery, Belgium B. 25



**Private George Rolfe** *(Photo from Brett Williams – Find a Grave)*





## Newspaper Notices

### SOME OF THE BOYS FROM QUEENSLAND AT SALISBURY PLAIN



#### SOME OF THE BOYS FROM QUEENSLAND, AT SALISBURY PLAIN.

Back row, from left to right: Private Kears, Driver Douglas, Driver M. Bergin, Private T. Woods. Second Row: Private G. Woods, Private J. South, Private G. Roli. Front row: Private P. Ranniger, Private T. Brierley.



(*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland – 30 December, 1916)

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## ROLL OF HONOUR

CASUALTY LISTS NOS. 448-449

DIED OF OTHER CAUSES

George Rolfe, England 3/11/18 (Illness)

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Qld. – 2 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)*

Private G. Rolfe does not have a personal inscription on his Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone, however a stone plaque is located at the foot of the headstone which reads:

*A Token Of  
Loving Remembrance  
From Relatives In  
Australia And His  
Loving Friends*

### **St. Michael's Churchyard, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire**

St. Michael's Churchyard, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire contains 4 War Graves – 3 from World War 1 and 1 from World War 2.



**St. Michael's Churchyard, Aston Clinton** *(Photo from CWGC)*



Photo of Private G. Rolfe's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Michael's Churchyard, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, England.



*(Photo by julia&keld)*