

**Ford Park Cemetery,  
Plymouth, Devon  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**4671 PRIVATE**

**W. L. ROWE**

**1ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**8TH AUGUST, 1916 Age 24**

## William Lanning ROWE

William Lanning Rowe was born at Plymouth, Devon, England in 1892 to parents William Lanning Rowe & Jane Rowe (nee Julian).

The 1901 England Census recorded William L. Rowe as a 9 year old living with his family at 40 Hill Park Ct., Charles, Plymouth, Devon, England, His parents were listed as William L. Rowe (Bank Clerk, aged 50, born St. Agnes, Cornwall) & Jane Rowe (aged 47, born Truro, Cornwall). William (Jnr) was one of seven children listed on this Census – Kate Rowe (Elementary School Teacher, aged 24, born Redruth, Cornwall – lame from childhood), Mary Rowe (Pupil Teacher – Board School, aged 16, born Redruth, Cornwall), George Rowe (School Student, aged 15, born Redruth, Cornwall), Emma Rowe (aged 10, born Plymouth, Devon), then William, Annie Rowe (aged 7, born Plymouth, Devon) and Marion Rowe (aged 6, born Plymouth, Devon).

Jane Rowe, mother of William Lanning Rowe (Jnr) died on 22nd July, 1901, aged 49 years.

Emma Rowe, sister of William Lanning Rowe (Jnr) died on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1906, aged 15 years.

The 1911 England Census recorded William Lanning Rowe as a 19 year old Bank Clerk, living with his widowed father & two sisters in a six roomed dwelling at 44 Alexandria Road, Plymouth, Devon, England. His father was listed as William Lanning Rowe (Bank Clerk, aged 60) & William's two sisters – Ann Arthur Rowe (aged 17) & Marion Rowe (Art Dealer's Apprentice, aged 16).

William Rowe, Student, was a passenger on the Ship *Ceramic* which had departed from the port of Liverpool, England & arrived in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia on 23rd February, 1914.

William Lanning Rowe was a 23 year old, single, Student, c/- Rev. E. R. Hargraves, Picton, NSW when he enlisted on 25th August, 1915 at Holsworthy, Sydney, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4671 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr W. Lanning Rowe, of 44 Alexandria Road, Plymouth, England. William Rowe stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 4 years with the 2nd Wessex Field Ambulance Corps.

Private William Lanning Rowe embarked from Sydney, NSW on RMS *Osterley* on 15th January, 1916 with the 1st Infantry Battalion, 14th Reinforcements.

Private William Lanning Rowe was taken on strength from 14th Reinforcements & joined his Battalion at Serapeum on 17th March, 1916.

Private William Lanning Rowe proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 22nd March, 1916 on HMT *Ivernia* & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 28th March, 1916.

Private William Lanning Rowe was detached for Guard Duty at Marseilles from 28th March, 1916 & rejoined his Battalion on 10th April, 1916.

Private William Lanning Rowe was wounded in action "22-25th July, 1916". He was admitted to No. 1 Field Ambulance on 24th July, 1916 with gunshot wounds to left buttock then transferred to No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station. From there Pte Rowe was transferred to No. 21 Ambulance Train on 25th July, 1916. He was admitted to No. 2 Australian General Hospital at Wimereux on 26th July, 1916 with gunshot wounds to left buttock. Pte Rowe was marked for transfer to England on 27th July, 1916 then embarked on Hospital Ship *Cambria* from Boulogne on 28th July, 1916.

### **War Diary – 1st Battalion**

#### **22nd August, 1916 – Contalmaison**

*Arrangements made for attack. Operation order attached. Extra store of bombs, ammunition, water & stores were brought to the firing line. Officers sent back Major Lindeman, Lieuts. Macgregor, McShane and Beavis while the attack took place. Bn. Headquarters moved at 17.30 to position in the firing line. A & B Coys left trench at 2345, C & D followed suit when ground was clear.*

### 23rd July, 1916 – Contalmaison

Artillery barrage for 2 minutes started at 0028 and at 0045. Message received from Lt. Burstall that German trenches on the right were taken at 0100. A message then received that German 2nd line trenches were taken but no particulars were forthcoming. 60 prisoners were brought into the old firing line and sent back to the A.P.M. at Albert at 0130 satisfactory information was not forthcoming so Lt. Col. J. Heane D.S.O. with Bombers, H.Q. Staff and signaller went to German first line leaving Lt.-Col. O.G. Howell-Price in charge of the old Bn Headqrs dugout. A message was then sent to the Brigadier that the line was taken. Col. Heane met Lt. Burstall in German 1st line and sent him immediately for information about the 2nd and 3rd lines. Word received that the 3rd line was taken about 0145. Work at consolidating the 1st line commenced. Signallers obtained communication with 3rd Bn. wires were run to D Coy. in the 2nd Lin. Lt-Col. Heane inspected the 2nd & 3rd German lines and found them missing \_\_\_\_\_. Our right was found to have progressed too far to the right as the 3rd Bde had not come sufficiently close to us. The 2nd line ran in & out, close to the Bapaume Road. A communication trench was then dug between the 1st & 1nd lines under heavy shell fire. Captain A. C. Mackenzie and Lts. Collier, Atkins and Blackmore were killed and Captain Maclean & Lts. Alford, McConnell and A'Beckett wounded during the attack. The German 2nd & 3rd lines were much damaged & had to be reconstructed. The first line was little better. The dugouts were not good, scooped out shelters only. Consolidation of position continued during the day, Instructions were received from Brigade to detail patrols to occupy certain position.

### 17.30 23rd July, 1916 Pozieres

Lt.Col Heane instructed Captain Harris 3rd Bn. personal to send them out at 17.30 At this time we were rather mixed, 2 Coys of the 3rd Bn in 1st line, the next two lines (1st & 2nd German lines) occupied by the 1st Bn and the German 3rd line by 2 Coys of the 3rd Bn. Lt Col Heane asked Bde to allot the first two lines to one Bn and the next two to another. Instructions were received later for the 1st Bn to take the two front lines and 3rd Bn to take the rear two lines and for the whole to be known as the Brigade right sub sector, under the command of Lt Colonel J. Heane D.S.O. The was carried out during the evening.

### 24th July, 1916 Pozieres

Later CO's went over a scheme with the Brigadier for a further advance, which was to be made by the 8th Bn who would be supported by the 3rd Bn. if necessary and the 1st Bn would occupy the trenches left by the 3rd Bn. Our losses to 12 noon on the 24th July were 5 Officers and 67 Other ranks Killed, 6 Officers and 147 other ranks wounded, 47 other ranks missing and 2 Officers died of wounds.

*(War Diary information from The Australian War Memorial)*

Private William Lanning Rowe was admitted to 1/5th Northern General Hospital, Leicester, Leicestershire, England on 28th July, 1916 with severe gunshot wounds to left buttock.

### **1st Battalion**

The 1st Battalion was the first infantry unit recruited for the A.I.F. in New South Wales during the First World War.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli in December 1915, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium.

*(Extract of Battalion information from The Australian War Memorial)*

Private William Lanning Rowe died on 8th August, 1916 at 1/5th Northern General Hospital, Leicester, Leicestershire, England from wounds received in action in France - gunshot wounds to left buttock.

A death for William L. Rowe, aged 24, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Leicester, Leicestershire, England.

The body of the late Private William Lanning Rowe were removed from the 1/5th Northern General Hospital, Leicester to his sister's residence – Mrs M. Dew, 18 Cheltenham Place, Plymouth for interment.

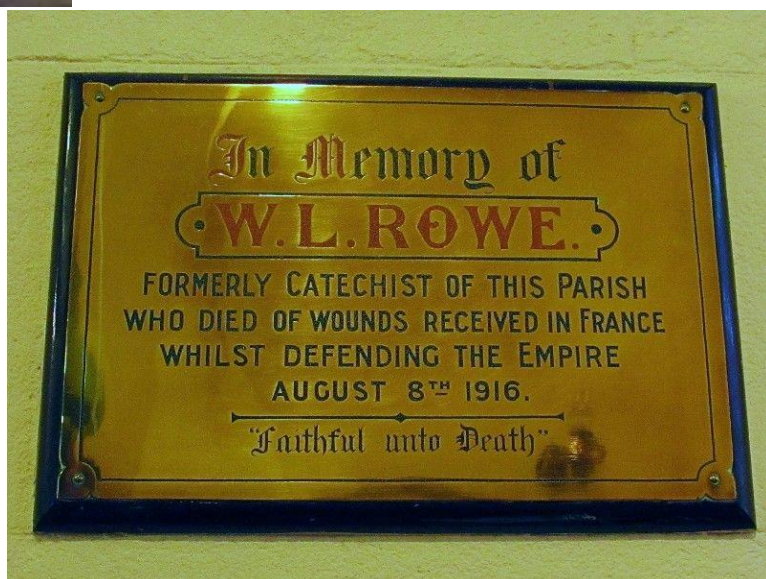
Private William Lanning Rowe was buried on 11th August, 1916 in Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England – Plot number General H.B. 23. 4. and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Reverend Edward Hargraves of The Rectory, Picton, NSW, Australia wrote to Base Records in September, 1916 requesting the death certificate for Private William Lanning Rowe as he was the Executer of the Will.

Private William Lanning Rowe was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Rowe's father in England – Mr W. L. Rowe, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent October, 1921).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private L. Rowe – service number 4671, of 1st Battalion Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

W. L. Rowe is remembered with a plaque located inside St. Mark's Anglican Church, 7-9 Menangle Street, Picton, NSW.

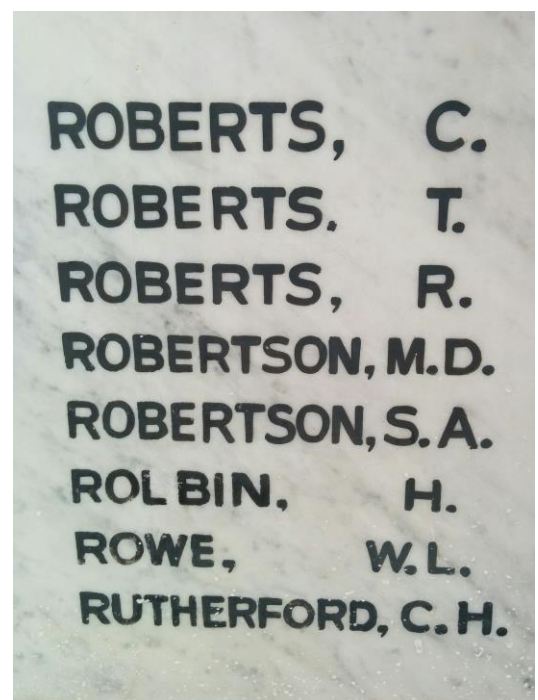
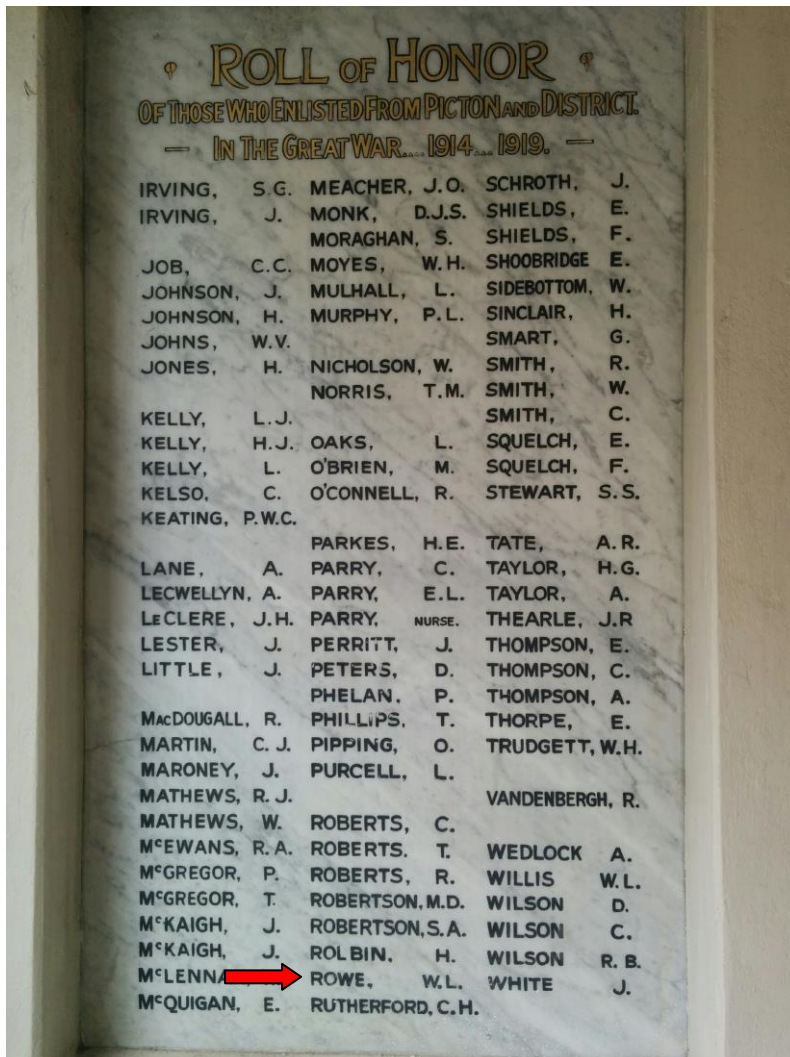


*(Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)*

W. L. Rowe is remembered on the Picton and District Roll of Honour located at the entrance to the Soldiers Memorial School of Arts, 65 Menangle Street, Picton, NSW.



Picton and District Roll of Honour at Soldiers Memorial School of Arts (Photos by Michael Sedgwick)



Private W. L. Rowe is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 30.



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

(34 pages of Private William Lanning Rowe'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**

### **Local War Casualties**

#### **PRIVATE W. L. ROWE**

Word was received on Monday that Private W. L Rowe had died of wounds received in France. He was wounded on the 30th July and died in Leicester Hospital, England, on the 8th August. Private Rowe, who was 23 years of age, was the second son of Mr W. L. Rowe, of Plymouth, England, and came to Australia over two years ago and entered Moore College to complete his studies with a view to entering the Ministry. On the day he landed in Sydney he came to Picton and entered upon his duties as Catechist of St. Mark's Church of England a position he retained until going into camp at Holdsworthy on the 25th October last. He sailed with A. Company, 9th Battalion, on the 15th January but was later transferred to B. Company, 1st Battalion. During his stay in Picton he was greatly respected by all sections of the community and he made a large circle of friends by whom the news of his death was received with profound regret.

*(The Picton Post, NSW – 16 August, 1916)*

## **MORE CASUALTIES**

### **NEW SOUTH WALES LOSSES**

#### **197TH LIST**

Wounded

Pte W. L. ROWE (England)

*(Evening News, Sydney, NSW – 21 August, 1916)*

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## **MORE CASUALTIES**

### **N.S.W. KILLED AND WOUNDED**

#### **TWO LISTS**

##### **THE 200th And 201st**

Killed in Action

Pte W. L. ROWE (England) 8/8/16

*(Evening News, Sydney, NSW – 29 August, 1916)*

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## **DIED OF WOUNDS**

### **PRIVATE W. L. ROWE**

Private William Lanning Rowe, who died from wounds received in France, arrived in Sydney from England in February, 1914, to training for holy orders at Moore Theological College, with a view to work in a Bush Brotherhood.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 29 August, 1916)*

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## **Local Volunteers**

Following are the names of those who have volunteered from Picton and District since the war started:-

.....W. L. Rowe.....

*(The Picton Post, NSW – 15 November, 1916)*

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P06253.001

**Private William Lanning Rowe & 2 unidentified soldiers**





## Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England

During the First World War, Plymouth, Devonport and Stonehouse contained between them the Royal Dockyard, Royal Naval Barracks (known as H.M.S. Vivid), the Royal Marine Barracks of the Plymouth Division, and naval and military hospitals. For the duration of the war, Devonport was made headquarters of the Auxiliary Patrol Area.

Plymouth was a naval station second only to Portsmouth during the Second World War. Devonport was also an important military station and there was a R.A.F station at Mount Batten, opposite Plymouth.

Ford Park Cemetery (formerly known as Pennycomequick or Plymouth Old Cemetery) contains 769 burials of the First World War, more than 200 of them in a naval plot, the rest scattered throughout the cemetery. All of the 198 Second World War burials are scattered, 1 of which is an unidentified airman of the Royal Air Force. There are a further 4 Foreign National and 1 non world war service burials here.

*(Information from CWGC)*



**Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth** *(Photo above from julia&keld, below from CWGC)*



Photo of Private William Lanning Rowe's Private Family Headstone in Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett Private Collection)

*In Loving Memory Of*

*JANIE*

*Dearly Beloved Wife Of*

*WILLIAM LANNING ROWE*

*Who Fell Asleep In Jesus*

*July 22<sup>ND</sup> 190. Aged 49.*

*Also EMMA*

*The Darling Child Of The Above*

*Who Died March 25<sup>TH</sup> 1906*

*Aged 15 Years & 10 Months.*

*“Safe In The Arms Of Jesus.”*

***Also WILLIAM LANNING***

***(Australian Imperial Force)***

***Dearly Beloved Son Of The Above***

***Who Was Wounded Whilst Fighting In***

***France And Died in Leicester Hospital***

***Aug<sup>T</sup> 8<sup>TH</sup> 1916 Aged 24 Years***

*Also WILLIAM LANNING ROWE*

*Beloved Husband And Father Of The Above*

*Who Died June 27<sup>th</sup> 1940*

*Aged 90 Years*