

Wandsworth Cemetery, London, England War Graves

(also known as Earlsfield Cemetery, Magdalen Road Cemetery, Wandsworth Earlsfield Cemetery)



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4001 PRIVATE

H. T. ROWLEY

3RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

24TH JUNE, 1916 Age 44

Harry Thomas ROWLEY

Harry Thomas Rowley was born at Lichfield, Staffordshire, England around 1867 to parents John & Alice Rowley (nee Barlow). He was baptised on 14th August, 1870 at St. Mary's, Lichfield, Staffordshire, England.

The 1871 England Census recorded Harry Rowley as a 4 year old Scholar, living with his family at Old Sandford Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire, England. His parents were listed as John Rowley (Coachmaker employing 3 men & 1 boy, aged 55, born Lichfield, Staffordshire) & Alice Rowley (Coachmaker's wife, aged 40, born Lichfield, Staffordshire). Harry was the youngest of five children listed on this Census (all born Lichfield, Staffordshire) – William Rowley (Errand Boy, aged 16), Charley Rowley Coachmaker's son, aged 14), Thomas Rowley (Scholar, aged 10), Agnes Alice Rowley (Scholar, aged 6) then Harry.

The 1881 England Census recorded Harry Rowley as a 13 year old in Militia Band, living with his family at Wade Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire, England. His parents were listed as John Rowley (Coachmaker, aged 65) & Alice Rowley (aged 43). Harry was one of six children listed on this Census – Thomas Rowley (Blacksmith, aged 20), Agnes Rowley (Domestic Servant, aged 15) then Harry, Annie Rowley (Scholar, aged 11, born Lichfield, Staffordshire), David Rowley (Scholar, aged 8, born Lichfield, Staffordshire) & John Rowley (Scholar, aged 5, Lichfield, Staffordshire).

Harry Thomas Rowley, Wheelwright, aged 21, of Wade Street, Lichfield applied to be a Candidate for the situation of Constable in the Borough of Birmingham on 22nd February, 1888.

Harry Thomas Rowley, aged 23, enlisted to 3rd Dragoon Guards in 1890. His Regimental number was 3298.

Harry Thomas Rowley married Amelia Moore. Their marriage was registered in the March quarter, 1898 in the district of Bridgnorth, Shropshire, England.

Harry Thomas Rowley was a 44 year old, single, Labourer from 43 Foucart Street, Rozelle, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Holdsworthy (Holsworthy), Sydney, NSW on 19th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4001 & his religion was Church of England. No next of kin was listed on his Attestation Papers & he answered "No" to the question "Are you married?". Harry Rowley stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with 3rd Dragoon Guards & 1st Royals for 12 3/12 years.

Private Harry Thomas Rowley was posted to 12th Reinforcements of 3rd Battalion (no date recorded).

Private Harry Thomas Rowley embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Medic* (A7) on 30th December, 1915 with the 3rd Infantry Battalion, 12th Reinforcements.

Private Harry Thomas Rowley embarked from Alexandria on 29th March, 1916 for B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 4th April, 1916.

Amelia Rowley, Government House, Perth, Western Australia, wrote to The Defence Department, Melbourne on 12th April, 1916 with the following: "*Not having heard from my husband, Harry Thomas Rowley since he enlisted in Sydney about October last, and passed through Fremantle on January 17th aboard the "Medic", I shall be pleased if you will furnish me with full particulars concerning him.*"

Base Records replied to Mrs A. Rowley on 27th April, 1916 with the following: "*.... You are informed that no report to any effect has been received, in respect of this soldier, consequently it is to be assumed he is with his unit. His postal address is suggested as:- No. 4001 Private H. T. Rowley, 12th Reinforcements, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry Brigade, Australian Imperial Force, Egypt. Your attention is invited to the fact that Private Rowley enlisted as a single man and should you desire your name recorded in the relationship of wife, it will be necessary to forward to this office your marriage certificate or a certified copy of same, in support of your claim, and if same is in order, the adjustment will be made.*"

Amelia K. Rowley, Government House, Perth, Western Australia, wrote to The Defence Department, Melbourne on 4th May, 1916 with the following letter: "*In reply to your notice concerning Pvt H. T. Rowley, 4001, 12th Rein. 3rd*

Batt. 1st Inf. Brigade, A.I.D. please find enclosed Marriage Certificate also Birth Certificate of two girls. There is also a boy, born March 11th, 1899."

Base Records replied to Mrs A. K. Rowley on 25th May, 1916 informing her that her name had "been noted on the records of No. 4001 Private H. T. Rowley, 12th Reinforcements, 3rd Battalion, as "stated to be wife", and should any reports be received concerning him you will be promptly notified. The marriage and birth certificates (2) are returned herewith under registered cover."

Private Harry Thomas Rowley was admitted to 26th General Hospital at Etaples on 9th June, 1916 from 1st Australian Base Depot. He was transferred to Boulogne, France on 18th June, 1916 & embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Aberdonian*.

Amelia Rowley, Government House, Perth, Western Australia, wrote to The Manager, Defence Department, Melbourne on 9th June, 1916 with "*The Wife of Private H. T. Rowley, No. 4001, 12th Rein. 3rd Batt. 1st Inf. Brigade, A.I.F.; would like to know how and where she may receive payment for self; also for her two daughters; from October last, to date. The money is badly needed.*"

3rd Battalion

The 3rd Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 2nd and 4th Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these battalions, formed the 1st Brigade.

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After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, 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. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. Later the battalion fought at Ypres, in Flanders, before returning to the Somme for winter....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

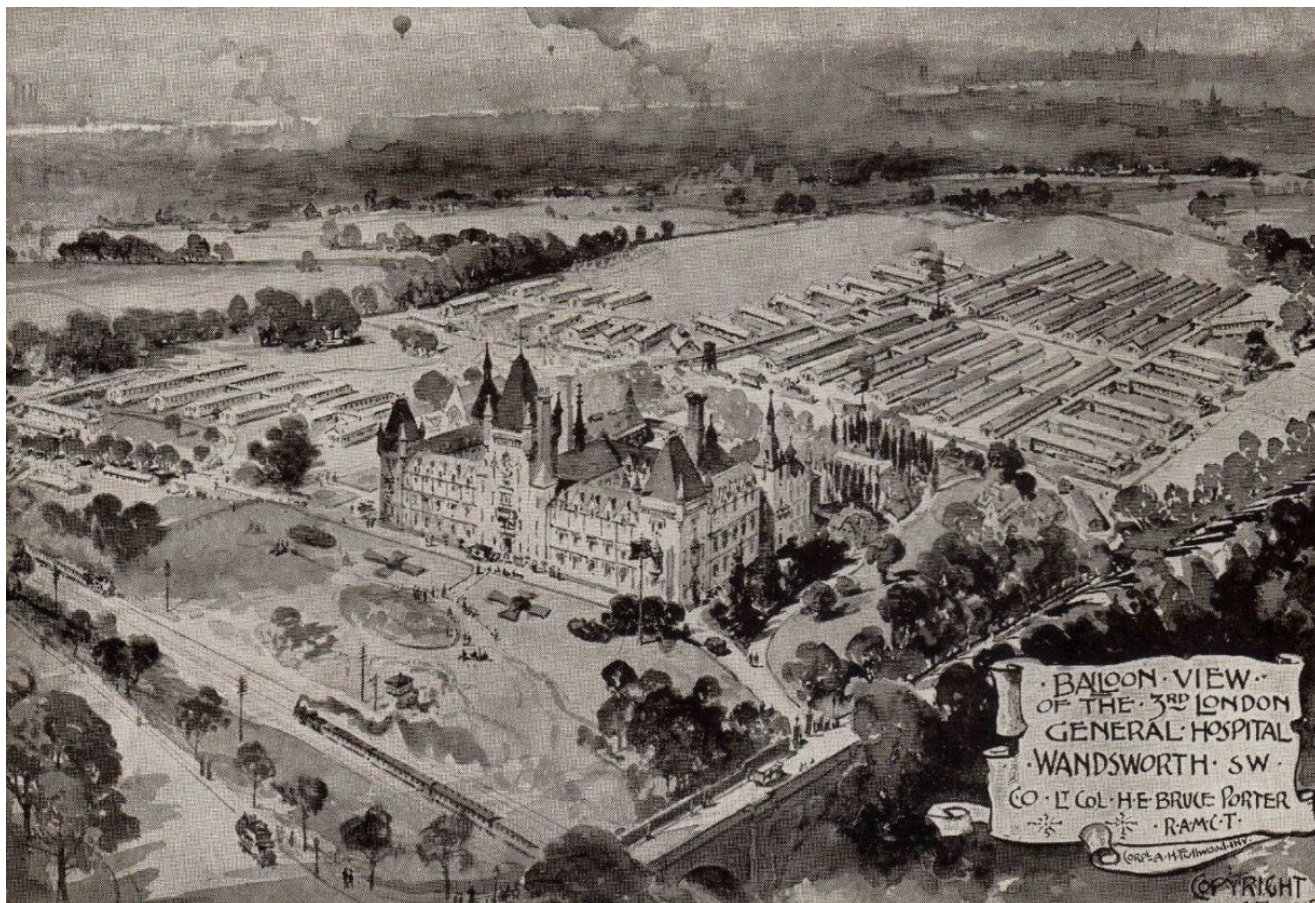
Private Harry Thomas Rowley was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, England on 19th June, 1916 with Trachritis.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A01040

3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth



Private Harry Thomas Rowley died on 24th June, 1916 at 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England from an Aneurism of Aorta & rupture.

A death for Harry T. Rowley, aged 45, was registered in the June quarter, 1916 in the district of Wandsworth, London, England.

Mrs A. K. Rowley, Government House, Perth, Western Australia, was advised by Base Records on 27th June, 1916 that No. 4001 Private H. T. Rowley had been admitted to 3rd London General Hospital on 19th June, 1916 suffering from tracheitis – mild.

Private Harry Thomas Rowley was buried on 28th June, 1916 in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England – Plot number Block 19 Grave No. 29F.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Plot number Aust. 24 and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Base Records wrote to Mrs A. K. Rowley, "Astoria Flats" Milson's Point, North Sydney, NSW, on 17th April, 1920 to advise that "With reference to my communication of 25th August, 1917, regarding the regrettable loss of your husband, the late No. 4001 Private H. T. Rowley, 3rd Battalion, I am now in receipt of further advice which shows that his remains have been exhumed from former site, and re-interred in Grave No. 24, Australian Section, Wandsworth Cemetery, Wandsworth, London. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain. The utmost care and attention is being devoted to the graves of our fallen soldiers, and photographs are being taken as soon as possible for transmission to next-of-kin."

Amelia Rowley, 500 Fitzgerald St., N. Perth, W.A., wrote to Base Records on 17th October, 1917 requesting the death certificate of 4001 Private H. T. Rowley "3 Rein. 12 Batt – A.I.F. Paddington Camp, NSW. I'm in correspondence with the Commonwealth Bank. I cannot claim his account until I produce same. Sorry to have to trouble you again, would you also give me the actual date of enlistment & oblige."

Base Records replied to Mrs A. Rowley on 26th October, 1917 enclosing a certificate of report of death of the late No. 4001, Private H. T. Rowley, 3rd Battalion. "He enlisted at Holdsworthy, NSW on the 24th August, 1915."

Base Records wrote to District Finance Officer, 2nd Military District, on 31st March, 1922 asking "if you will inform me whether any claim has been received for the War Gratuity of the late No. 4001 Private H. T. Rowley, 3rd Battalion, and if so, does your file disclose the present address of deceased's widow?..."

The District Finance Officer, 2nd District Base, replied to Base Records on 7th April, 1922 stating "the last known address of the abovenamed deceased soldier's widow was:- "Astoria Flats" Milson's Point, North Sydney, NSW."

Base Records wrote to the Deputy Commissioner of Pensions, Department of Repatriation, Sydney, NSW on 10th March, 1923 with the following: "I shall be glad to learn whether any pension is being paid to the widow and three children of the late No. 4001 Private H. T. Rowley, 3rd Battalion. The last known address of the widow, Mrs Amelia Rowley, is shown in this office as:- "Astoria Flats" Milson's Point, North Sydney, New South Wales but communications so addressed have been returned unclaimed. Can you supply me with any later address than this please; failing that, the Post Office at which pensions, if any, are being paid, in order that I may get into touch with the Postmaster there on the subject. The information is required in connection with the disposal of war medals, etc."

The Deputy Commissioner of Pensions replied to Base Records on 16th March, 1923 advising that the latest address for the widow of the late No. 4001 Private H. T. Rowley, 3rd Battalion, was 27 Pitt Street, Milson Point. The pension was paid at the George Street North Post Office.

Base Records wrote to Mrs A. Rowley, 27 Pitt Street, Milson's Point, NSW on 22nd March, 1923 with the following "I shall be obliged if you will kindly let me know whether communications addressed as this is will reach you, as I desire to be in a position to dispose of certain war mementoes issuable on account of the service of your husband, the late No. 4001 Private H. T. Rowley, 3rd Battalion...."

Amelia Rowley replied to Base Records on 26th March, 1923 advising it would "be perfectly safe to forward any war mementoes issuable on account of the services if my husband to the above address."

Private Harry Thomas Rowley was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Rowley's widow – Mrs A. K. Rowley, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque both sent May, 1923).

Mrs A. Rowley, 41 Pitt Street, Milson's Point, Nth Sydney, NSW wrote to Base Records on 14th November, 1923 regarding No. 4001 Private H. T. Rowley, 3rd Battalion: "Would you please send me the photograph or copy of photo taken of my late husband Pte H. T. Rowley before he sailed. He died in the 3rd London General Hospital in June, 1916."

Base Records replied to Mrs A. Rowley on 20th November, 1923 "I have to advise you that photographs of soldiers were not required by the Department, and I regret I am unable to furnish you with a photograph of your husband, the late No. 4001 Private H. T. Rowley, 3rd Battalion, prior to his embarkation for active service abroad."

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Harry Thomas Rowley – service number 4001, aged 44, of 3rd Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private H. T. Rowley is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 38.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(66 pages of Private Harry Thomas Rowley'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



Newspaper Notices

DEATHS

ROWLEY – On June 24, at the Third London General Hospital, Private H. T. Rowley, late of Bridgenorth, Salop, England, died of sickness contracted while serving with the A.I.F. beloved husband of Amelia, and father of Harry, Eva and Violet, Perth. Tasmanian and Sydney papers please copy.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 8 July, 1916) & (Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 14 July, 1916)

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

184th Official List

2nd MILITARY DISTRICT

Private H. T. Rowley (Perth), died of illness.

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – 13 July, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

WEST AUSTRALIA

Died of Illness – Pte H. T. Rowley

(Daily Post, Hobart, Tasmania – 14 July, 1916)

Australian Casualties

List No. 184

New South Wales

Died of Illness

Pte H. T. ROWLEY (Perth, W.A.), 24/6/16

(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 19 July, 1916)

On Active Service

ROWLEY – In loving memory of Private Harry Rowley, died June 24, 1916. Inserted by his wife and family.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 25 June, 1919)

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 from Base Records, dated 8th August, 1921, to Mrs A. K. Rowley, "Astoria Flats," Milson's Point, North Sydney, NSW, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her husband, the late No. 4001 Private H. T. Rowley, 3rd Battalion, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private H. T. Rowley does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London

This is to the North-East of Earlsfield Station and is bounded by the Magdalen Road on the East and the main railway line on the West.

It contains five 1914-1918 War Plots, (the general Military Plot, the Australian, the Newfoundland, the New Zealand and the South African plots). These are on the main path leading West from Magdalen Road and there are also over 200 burials in other parts of the cemetery. The Military Plot contains a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried in it and those in unmarked graves in other parts of the cemetery. The majority of the 1939-1945 burials are scattered throughout the cemetery but there is one group of six burials together in a War Plot near the main entrance. Again, those whose graves are unmarked are also named upon the Screen Wall, Panel 1.

Many of the 1914-1918 burials are from the 3rd London General Hospital which was at Wandsworth. There are 477 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 115 of the 1939-1945 war here. There are also 5 non-war service burials here.

There are 34 Australian World War 1 Soldiers buried here & 1 Australian Soldier from 1925.

(Information from CWGC)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H16917

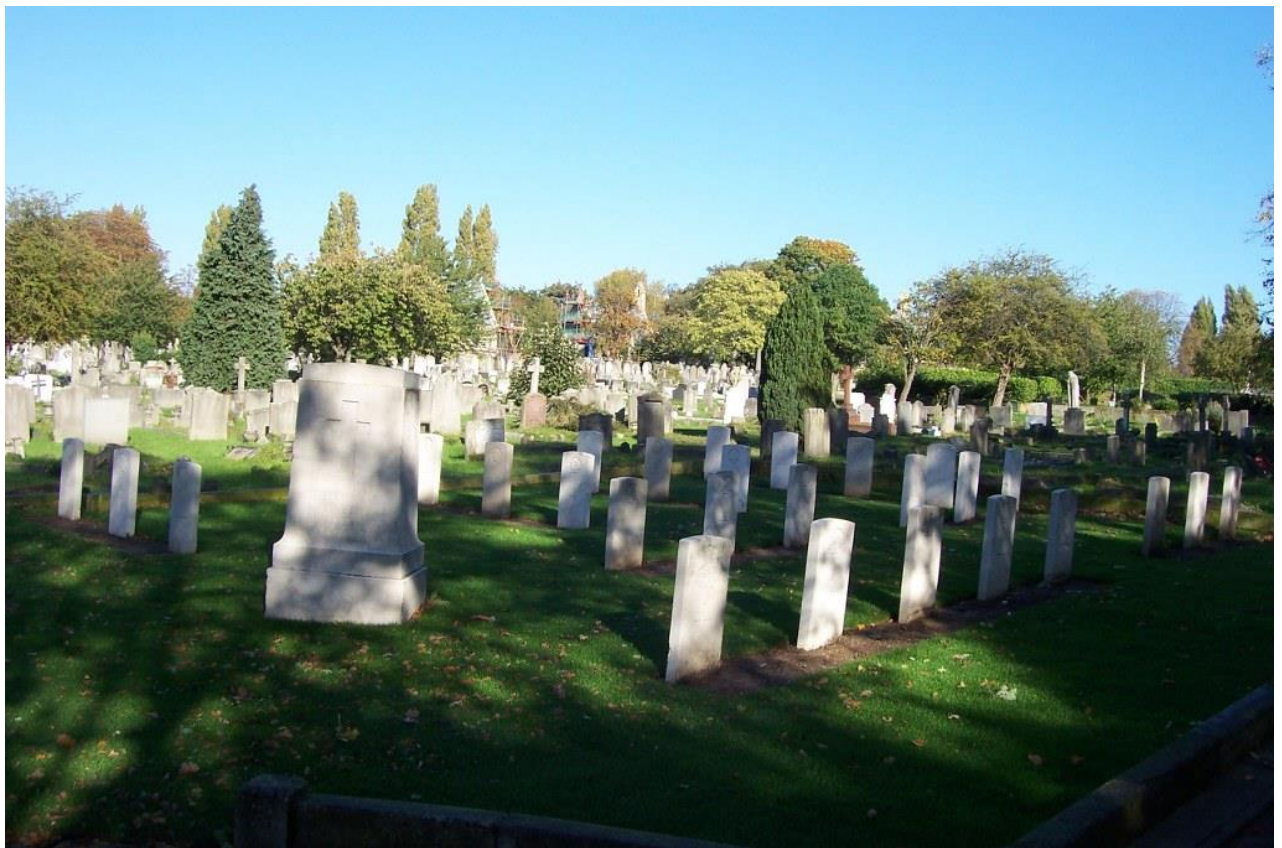
A group of Soldiers' graves in the Australian Section of Wandsworth Cemetery, London *(taken 15 April, 1931)*



(Photo by Scotch Mist 2013)



The Australian Plot in Wandsworth Cemetery, London *(Photos from CWGC)*





Cross of Sacrifice (Photos from CWGC)

Photo of Private H. T. Rowley's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England.



(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright)