

Arnold Henry Thomas Ralph



Private (Pte) 7040 Arnold Henry Thomas Ralph enlisted in the 8th Infantry Battalion in the 2nd Infantry Brigade of the 1st Australian Division in Melbourne on 22 September 1916.

He embarked overseas on 23 November and disembarked in Plymouth on 29 January 1917, where he spent the next three months with the 2nd (Brigade) Training Battalion in Wiltshire.

He departed England on 3 May and arrived in France the next day, where he was taken on strength of the 8th Battalion, in the field at Brevillers, on 21 May 1917. Pte Ralph became ill with a fever on 29 August and was hospitalised at the 7th Canadian General Hospital at Etaples from 31 August – 11 September.

He relapsed on 18 September and was treated at the 5th Convalescent Depot at Cayeux until 6 October, following which he rejoined the 8th Battalion, then in the field at Reninghelst, on 15 October.

The battalion manned the front line on Westhoek Ridge, Belgium between 23 – 27 October, during which time they sustained 134 casualties, one of whom was Pte Ralph, who received a shrapnel wound to his right thigh on 27 October 1917.

He was evacuated to the 2nd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station at Lijssenthoek, where he died of his wounds later the same day.

Private 7040 Arnold Henry Thomas Ralph was subsequently buried in the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Lijssenthoek, Belgium.

Name: Ralph, Arnold Henry Thomas	
Service Number	7040
Date enlisted	22 September 1916
Place enlisted	Melbourne, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	8 th Infantry Battalion
Date and ship embarked for overseas	23 November 1916 HMAT A20 <i>Hororata</i>
Previous military service or enlistment attempts?	3 years Australian Infantry Regiment (Militia), Castlemaine
Stated age/DOB (if known)	26 years 7 months
Place of birth	Maldon, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Fireman (Railways)
Religion	Methodist
Next of kin and address	Ralph, Mr Richard, father, Chapel Street, Maldon, Victoria
Permanent address in Australia	Chapel Street, Maldon, Victoria
Appearance	Fresh complexion, brown hair, hazel eyes, height – 5 feet 10 inches, weight – 11 stone, 11 lbs, chest measurement – 38/40 inches
Final Rank	Private
Final Unit	8 th Infantry Battalion
Theatres of war served in	France, Belgium
Fate	Died of wounds
Date and place wounded	27 October 1917 Westhoek Ridge, Belgium
Nature of wounds	Shrapnel wound to right thigh
Date and place died	27 October 1917 2 nd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, Lijssenthoek, Belgium
Cemetery details	Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Lijssenthoek, Belgium Plot XXII, Row F, Grave 18A
Honours/medals	British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Also listed on Maldon Methodist Church Roll of Honor and Maldon State School Roll of Honor