



Lt. Graham Holland Leaver



20th September 1917



Played with Adelaide University



Football Club: 1915 (B Grade)

Cricket Club: 1914/15 (B Grade)

Student: Applied Science (Engineering)

Background

Coinciding with the Centenary of Anzacs our incentive behind the series of biographical publications is the Adelaide University Football and Cricket Club's desire to honour our players who served in the Great War (1914 - 1918). These brave men put on hold their academic, professional and sporting careers for King and Country in the name of peace and freedom. The AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee is endeavouring to identify every one of our players who served and prepare life stories on all. This is to ensure their sacrifices and further contributions to society will be recognised by future generations.

On Anzac Day 2015, the Centenary of the Gallipoli landing, a memorial plaque was unveiled on the Adelaide University Oval Pavilion and this was followed by the erection of a picket fence between the pavilion and the scoreboard with each picket bearing a plaque with the name of an AUFC/AUCC player who served.

The following documentation relates to the life of Graham Holland Leaver. It is compilation of information and photographs collected from a variety of historical sources.

The AIF Project

<https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=173204>



Graham Holland LEAVER

Regimental number	2557
Place of birth	Walkerville, South Australia
School	St Peters (Catholic) College, South Australia
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Student
Address	Park Road, Kensington Park, South Australia
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	20
Next of kin	Mother, Mrs Lucia Roslie Leaver, Park Road, Kensington Park, South Australia
Enlistment date	2 August 1915
Rank on enlistment	Acting Sergeant
Unit name	27th Battalion, 6th Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/44/2
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Adelaide, South Australia, on board HMAT A24 <i>Benalla</i> on 27 October 1915
Regimental number from Nominal Roll	Commissioned
Rank from Nominal Roll	Lieutenant
Unit from Nominal Roll	10th Battalion
Fate	Killed in Action 20 September 1917
Place of death or wounding	Polygon Wood, Ypres, Belgium
Age at death	21
Miscellaneous information from cemetery records	Commemorated in North Road Church of England Cemetery, Adelaide, South Australia.

Service Record

<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8193126>

OFFICER
Z 1398

MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

ATTESTATION PAPER OF PERSONS ENLISTED FOR SERVICE ABROAD

No. 2554 Name LEAVER Graham Holland Unit 6/27 Inf Joined on August 2 1915.

6th. Reinf's.
27th. Batta

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

- What is your Name? ... Graham Holland Leaver
- In the Parish of ... in or near the Town of Adelaide in the County of the Australian
- Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... NB
- What is your age? ... 18 9/12
- What is your trade or calling? ... Student
- Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... No
- Are you married? ... No
- Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ... Mother, Mrs Lucia Rosalie Leaver, Park Rd, Kensington, Park SA
- Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? ... No
- Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with disgrace from the Navy? ... No
- Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge ... 3 yrs 10 months 18th Batt Trans 10. 78th Batt. Inf. Thee sewing.
- Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ... Yes
- Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ... No
- (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widows or mother)—Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you after embarkation during your term of service? ... Yes
- Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever? ... Yes

Graham Holland Leaver do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children

Date 26. 7. 15 Signature of Person Enlisted. G. Leaver

* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.
† Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

wo 54789

Army Form B. 103.

21398
10TH BATTALION. A.I.F.

Regimental Number... (1492)

Casualty Form - Active Service.

Regiment or Corps... ~~4th Battalion. A.I.F.~~ **27th Battalion. A.I.F.**
 Rank... ~~Sgt.~~ **Lieut.** Surname... **LEANKR.** Christian Name... **Graham Holland.**
 Religion... Age on Enlistment... years ... months
 Enlisted (a)... **2.8.15.** Terms of Service (a)... **Duration of War** Service reckons from (a)... **2.8.15.**
 Date of promotion to present rank... Date of appointment to lance rank...
 Extended { } Re-engaged { } Qualification (b)...
 or Corps Trade and rate...
 Occupation... Signature of Officer.

Report		Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received			
		Embarked ...		
		Disembarked ..		
27.2.16.	C.O. 7th Tng. Bn.	Alotted and proceeded to		
		join 10th Bn. ex	Zeitoun.	27.2.16.AP.4616.
11.3.16.	C.O. 10th Bn.	Reverts to ranks on		DO.21/2791.
		joining Battn.	Serapeum.	AP.5891.
28.2.16.	C.O. 10th Bn.	Taken on strength same Rfts,		28.2.16.B213/45.
		to 27th Battn.	do	28.2.16.DO.22/3801.
3.4.16.	O.C. Troops.	Proceeding to join B.E.F.	Alexandria.	27.3.16.AP.6499
	"Saxonia"	Disembarked at	Marseilles.	3.4.16.LR.5179.
18.8.16.	1st A.D.B.D.	To School of Instruction	Etaples.	16.8.16.DO.46/6799.
14.10.16.	AIF. List 103.	Joined Officers Cadet Bn.		AK.130/39.
		No. 4 Oxford.	England.	5.10.16.AK.343/18.

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.
 (b) Signaller, Sholing-Smith, & Co.

W. 5257-M2025 1000m 7/17 (24645) C. P. & S. Ltd. Forms B.103 B.103A.

P.T.O.

Report		Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received			
23.2.17.	A.I.F. Orders.	Having been passed as qualified for Commission in Inftry. Battns.		
		is appointed 2/Lieut. in A.I.F.		DO.12/E.24.2.17.
		and posted to Inf. Rfts.	England.	25.1.17.A.I.F. List No.144.
26.1.17.	4 Off. Cadet Bn.	M/Out to AIF., H.Q., London		
		and granted furlough.	Oxford.	3.2.17.FR.7504.DO.9/E.13.2.17.
19.2.17.	G.O.C., A.I.F.			DO.12/E.24.2.17.
	Depots. U.K.	Proceeded O/Seas France.	England.	13.2.17.CR.43 O/25/1.32/401/62.
11.2.17.	Inf. Dft. Depot.	M/In from 1 Comm. Depot. Perham Downs.		4.2.17.AX.5622.
16.2.17.	1st A.D.B.D.	Joined ex England.	Etaples.	16.2.17.AK.798/42.
20.2.17.	do	Proceeding to join Unit.	do	20.2.17.AK.798/47.
13.3.17.	A.I.F. Orders			AK.926/51. Corri. DO.70/641
		Lists 152 & 227. Taken on strength ex Cadet. Bn. France.	22.2.17.	A21/12.AK.1600/23.
15.6.17.	A.I.F. Lists 190.	Promoted Lieutenant.	do	1.6.17.AK.1263/59. A21/28.AK.1600/23.
30.6.17.	C.O. 10th Bn.	Proceeded to 5th Army		
		Sniping School.	do	24.6.17.A21/26. B213.
14.7.17.	do	Re-joined Bn.	do	8.7.17.B213.A21/28.
22.9.17.	D.A.A.G.(2)			(24.9.17.
	List 1116.	Killed in action.	Belgium.	20.9.17.AK.1600/49 VL.P.105 of
22.9.17.	C.O. 10th Bn.	KILLED IN ACTION.	BELGIUM.	20.9.17.B213.A21/38.DO.63/5345.
AMZAC SECTION, 3RD ECHELON. G.H.Q.		(Sgd.) Q.S. SPEDDING		
British Expeditionary Force.		OFFICER I/C RECORDS.		

1398 JR/FCF.

RBO/10729/21/3.

COPY OF STATEMENT D.16.

Lieut. LEAVER. G.H. 10th Battalion. A.I.F.
Killed in Action. 20.9.17.

"There is no record held in this Office of the grave of the above-named Officer. He was killed whilst leading an attack against a "pillbox", but the nature of the action did not permit of burials at the time. This action was near POLYGON WOOD."

(Sgd)Major.
for Commanding Officer,
10th Battalion,
A.I.F.

FC. 6.

Australian Imperial Force.

KIT STORE.



110, GREYHOUND ROAD.
HAMMERSMITH, LONDON.
W. 6.

TELEPHONES: HAMMERSMITH 1900, 1901.

Inventory of Effects of- the late Lieut G.H. Leaver, 10th Batt'n. A.I.F.

Forwarded to- Next-of-Kin
(Mother)

Mrs Lucia R. Leaver,
Park Road,
Kensington Park,
South Australia.

Ex. C.S.A. 10-10-17.

ONE VALISE (Sealed) containing:-

Photos, Letters, 1 Coin, Badges, 1 Shaving Set, Military
Brushes in Case, 1 Safety Razor, 1 Wallet, 1 Wristlet Watch,
2 prs Gloves, 2 Housewives, 1 Scarf, 1 Balaclava, 2 Mirrors,
3 Handkerchiefs, 3 Collars, 3 Ties, 1 Singlet, 1 Towel,
1 "Sam Browne" Belt, 1 pr Breeches, 1 Trench Coat,
1 S.D. Tunic.

No. of Package *11/24064 in Box 797*

Checked by *[Signature]*

Biography

Early Life

Graham Holland Leaver was born at Gilberton, South Australia, on the 5th September 1896, the son of Edward leaver and Lucia Rosalie Holland. He was known as "Mage" within his family.

His siblings were Joseph (b 1895, d 1926), Angus Paul (b 1901), Edward (b 1905) and Marjorie (1908).

Edward Leaver was the managing director of Leaver Bros Pty Ltd, hat manufacturers. He was vice-president of the Chamber of Manufactures (1908). Edward was a trustee for the debenture holders of the Kooyonga Golf Club and for several years he was president and captain of the club.

The family resided at Park Road, Kensington Park.

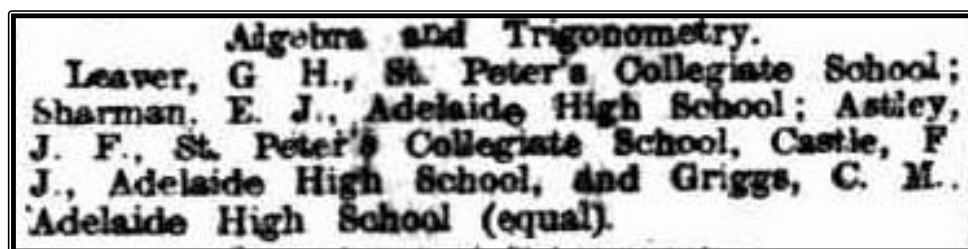
Schooling

Graham probably commenced his schooling in the Kensington Park area. He attended St Peter's College, Adelaide from 1908 to 1914. In 1908 Graham was in Form IV at St Peter's and he was awarded the 'Latin set ix' prize.

Graham passed the Primary Examinations (English, Arithmetic, Latin, French, Algebra and Geometry) in October 1910 and the Junior Examinations (Latin (credit), French, Arithmetic, Algebra (credit), geometry (credit), Physics and Inorganic Chemistry) in December 1911.

In 1912 Graham undertook the Senior Examinations and he came 23rd on the General Honours List. He passed Modern History, Latin, French, Arithmetic and Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry (credit) and Physics. In December 1913 Graham passed Higher Pubic Examinations in French, Algebra and Trigonometry, Geometry and Trigonometry and Physics. He was awarded Government Bursaries in December 1913 and December 1914.

Graham was 6th on the General Honours List for the Higher Public Examinations in December 1914, placing first in Algebra and Trigonometry (credit) and passing Geometry and Trigonometry, Applied Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry.



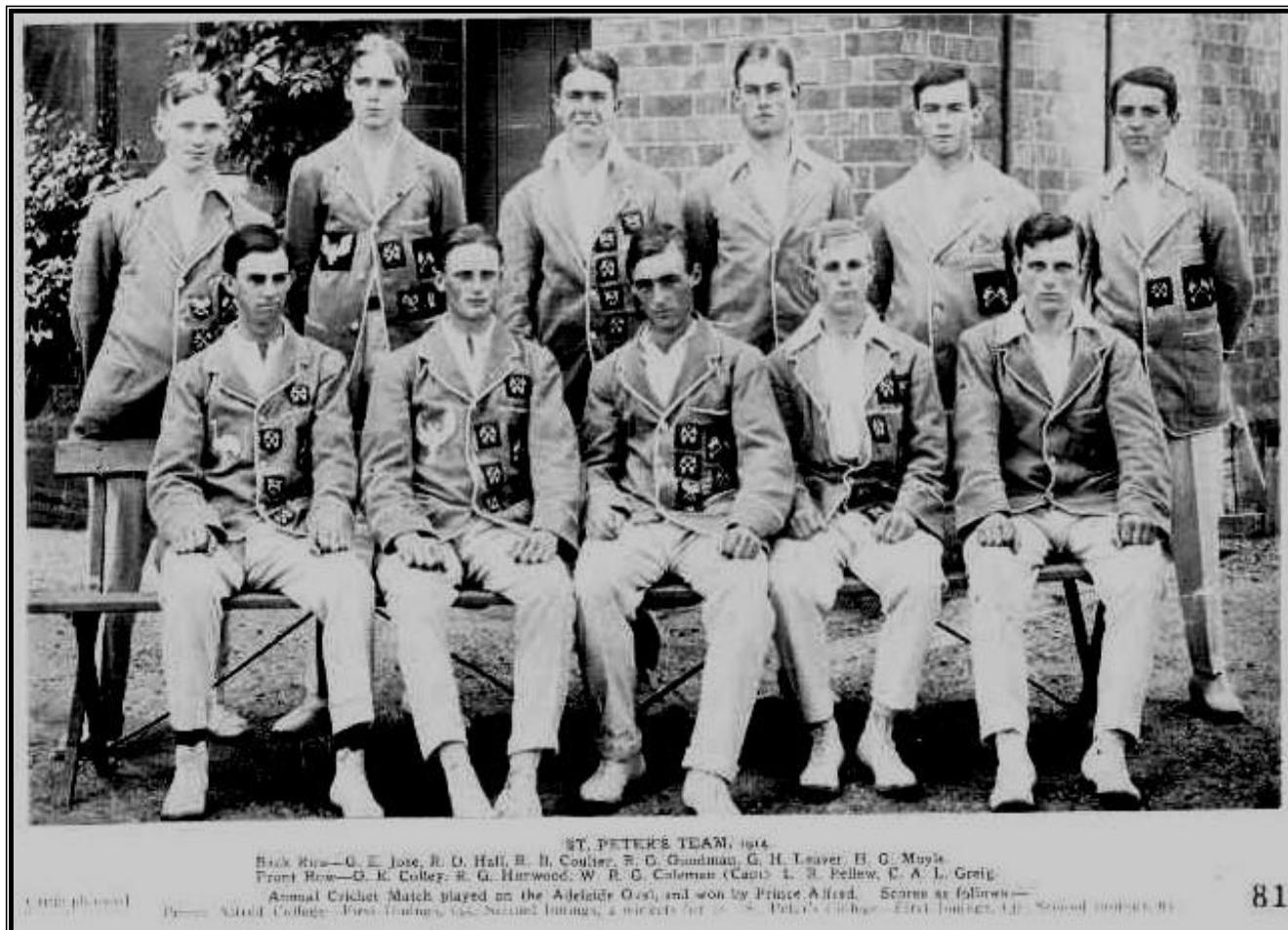
On the sporting front, Graham played cricket for Clayton Institute in the Church Association competition in the 1912/13 season.

At the St Peter's College Sports in August 1909 Graham won the 120 yards Flat handicap (under 13 years) and in April 1914 he was second in the 100 yards Flat handicap and first in the 440 yards Flat Handicap.

He played cricket for St Peter's College in the South Australian Cricket Association B Grade competition in the first half of the 1914/15 season, scoring 63 in an innings against East Torrens in November 1914. Graham was a member of the St Peter's College Inter-collegiate cricket team which played Prince Alfred College in December 1914.

St Peter's College Inter-collegiate Cricket Team
Critic (Adelaide, SA : 1897-1924) - 16 December 1914

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article212158652>



GH Leaver – Back Row – Second from Right



GH Leaver

University

Graham commenced studying toward a Bachelor of Applied Science (Engineering) in 1915. He passed the Senior Public Examination in English Literature in March 1915 and the Adelaide School of Arts Examinations in Intermediate Freehand in June 1915. He did not complete his first year as he enlisted to serve in WWI.

University of Adelaide – Student Card

NAME AND ADDRESS <i>Leaver, Graham Holland, Park Road, Kensington Park</i>		REGISTER No. <i>2666</i>								
COURSE <i>B.E.</i>	DATE OF BIRTH <i>8 Sep 96</i>	DATE OF MATRICULATION <i>31 3 15</i>	GRADE <i>Grad</i>							
<p><i>Government Bureau. 1915</i></p> <p>SENIOR 1912 Lat, Tr, Alg, Arith, Trig, Physics, Mod Sci, Geom, 17 1915 English.</p> <p>HIGHER 1913 Tr, 1914. Geom, Trig, Alg, Trig, Physics, Chem, Appl Maths. ON WAR MEMORIAL</p> <p>STATUS GRANTED Comp. Mathematics, Lecturer Physics I Sect.</p>										
YEAR	SUBJECT	RECEIPT	FIRST TERM	RECEIPT	SECOND TERM	RECEIPT	THIRD TERM	EXAMN.	RESULT	REMARKS
1915	Fitting & Turning I	100%	100%	100%	100%					Lat. change 1221
	Drawing I		100%		100%					
	Mechanical Engineering I		100%		100%					
	Mathematics I & II		100%		100%					
	Applied Mathematics		100%		100%					
	Physics I Lect.		100%		100%					
	Chemistry I & II		100%		100%					Exampl. 2234 Gen. Brought back 4.0.1916
	Physiography		100%		100%					
<p><i>Died - Great War. (Holland)</i></p>										

University Sport

Cricket

In the second half of the 1914/15 cricket season, Graham represented the Adelaide University Cricket Club in the SACA B Grade competition.

The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) - 15 February 1915

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article59121045>

GLENELG V. UNIVERSITY.	
GLENELG.	
R. Ward, b. Hurley	0
I. Hawkes, not out	76
C. C. Cooper, not out	63
Extras	4
Total for 1 wicket	133
UNIVERSITY.	
W. J. Price, b. Rehn	5
J. W. Northey, c. A. N. Haddrick, b. Rehn ..	31
W. R. Colman, c. Parslow, b. Jenkins ..	4
C. Richards, c. A. N. Haddrick, b. Rehn ..	22
H. C. Thrush, run out	4
W. B. Shannasy, not out	50
E. Mattner, b. Hawkes	1
G. H. Leaver, b. Hawkes	8
L. J. B. Hurley, c. Cooper, b. E. G. Haddrick ..	22
N. V. Mengerson, b. Rehn	0
F. H. Beare, run out	0
Extras	11
Total	194
Bowling—Jenkins, 1 for 33; Rehn, 4 for 50; Wigglesworth, 0 for 19; Hawkes, 2 for 19; Mathias, 0 for 10; Parslow, 0 for 12; E. G. Haddrick, 1 for 21.	

Football

Graham played football for the Adelaide University Football Club "B Grade" in the Adelaide Students' Association. He appeared in the Best Players on at least one occasion.

"ADELAIDE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION."

The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929) - 7 June 1915

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article59608640>

ADELAIDE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION.	
Varsity B, 12.18; School of Mines, 1.7. Best players.—Varsity — Appleby, Clark, Shannasy, O'Neil, Leaver, Power; School of Mines—Grey, Smith, Job, May, Welch (2). Goals.—Winners—Potts (4), Berriman, Shannasy (2), O'Neil, Power, Streich, Pomroy (1); losers—Welch.	

World War I

Graham enlisted on the 2nd August 1915, aged 18 years and 9 months. He was 5'5¾", 163 lbs, with a medium complexion, grey eyes and dark hair. Graham had been a Cadet for three years while at St Peter's College and was a member of the 78th Infantry (Citizens Forces). He enlisted with the permission of both his parents.

Leonard's service in WWI is well described in the extract from Robert Kearney's '*Fallen Saints*', published in April 2015 and reproduced on the Virtual War Memorial Australia (see below).

From the book *Fallen Saints*

Graham Holland Leaver of Kensington Park was born at Walkerville South Australia in September 1896. While at the School, he proved to be a fine student, an active member of the senior cadets for three years and a good sportsman who represented the School in inter-collegiate games.

These few lines, which appeared in an Adelaide newspaper on 13 October 1917, tell more about his sporting prowess.

Letters received recently mentioned that at the Australian sports held in France he was successful in the 120 and 220 yards Sheffield championships, in addition to the quick-firing competition. [i]

After leaving school he studied mine engineering at Adelaide University and when he enlisted at Keswick on 2 August 1915, was a serving member of the 78th Infantry.

While in transit at the Exhibition Camp, Adelaide he was made a provisional corporal and after successfully completing an NCO Course at Mitcham Camp in August, joined the 6th quota of reinforcements for the 27th Battalion as an acting sergeant.

He sailed from Adelaide aboard the HMAT Benalla on 27 October and after reaching Egypt was transferred to the 10th Battalion at Serapeum at the end of February 1916. As was the case for most men with provisional rank, he reverted to his substantive rank on the day he joined the battalion.



*Graham Leaver in camp at Heliopolis, Egypt in 1916
"There and Back with a Dinkum" W.R.G. Colman (Colman family records)*

Private Leaver proceeded to France with his unit aboard HMT Saxonia on 27 March 1916.

On 16 August, while the 10th Battalion were resting at Vadencourt Wood after Pozières, Private Leaver was sent to the School of Instruction at 1st Division's Base Depot, Étaples.

In early October 1916, he joined No 4 Officer Cadet Battalion at Oxford, England and after graduating in January was attached to AIF HQ in London as a second lieutenant. Following ten days furlough in London he returned to France where he returned to the 10th Battalion. He was promoted to Lieutenant at the beginning of June and later that month he attended 5th Army Sniping School and returned to the battalion on 8 July.

Lieutenant Leaver, was a platoon commander in one of two specially trained Storm Companies formed by the CO, Lieutenant Colonel Wilder-Neligan DSO, DCM, and so when the battalion encountered a pillbox on the morning of 20 September, he ordered Leaver to take his platoon forward and deal with it. With a brave German machine-gunner holding up the advance by raking the front of the 11th Battalion swift action needed to be taken so Lieutenant Leaver quickly got around behind the pillbox and was almost at the machine gun when a German with a revolver shot him in the head; only a fortnight earlier Lieutenant Leaver celebrated his 21st birthday.

Corporal Hodge of the 11th Battalion rushed forward, shot the man with the revolver, captured the gun, and for his courageous action, later received the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

[i] Adelaide Chronicle, 13 October 1917, p. 40

Death

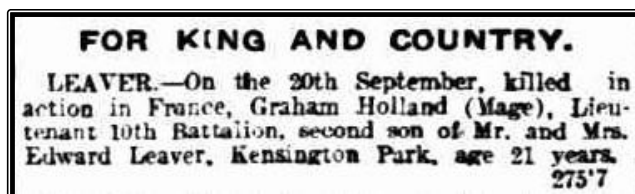
Graham Holland Leaver was killed in action in Polygon Wood, near Ypres, Belgium on the 20th September 1917 (during the Battle of Menin Road). He was just 21 years of age. He left an estate values at £625.

Graham was buried and Map Reference J.14.b.0.8 and a cross marked his grave, however on the 3rd April 1919 he was re-buried at the Hoge Crater Cemetery, near Ypres, Belgium. His headstone bears the inscription:

**"Son of Edward and Lucia Lever Adelaide
Through trials to glory"**

The Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1923) 3 October 1917

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article201911301>



"OUR HEROES WHO HAVE DIED FOR KING AND COUNTRY."

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931) 20 October 1917

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article164138983>



"THE LATE LIEUTENANT LEAVER."

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954) - 13 October 1917

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article87414554>

THE LATE LIEUTENANT LEAVER.

Lieutenant G. H. Leaver, who was killed in action in France on September 20, was the second son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Leaver, of Kensington Park. After a successful career at St. Peter's College he entered the University as a student in engineering, but a few months later, July, 1915, he enlisted. He embarked for Egypt in October that year, and left there for France in March, 1916, with the first Australian battalions, and took part in the capture of Pozieres and engagements on the Somme. Receiving his commission as second lieutenant at Oxford, he returned to France in January of this year, and gained his lieutenancy in June. The deceased was a good sportsman and played in inter-collegiate games. Letters received recently mentioned that at the Australian sports held in France he was successful in winning the 120 and 220 yards Sheffield championships, in addition to the rifle quick-firing competition.

Hooze Crater Cemetery, Belgium

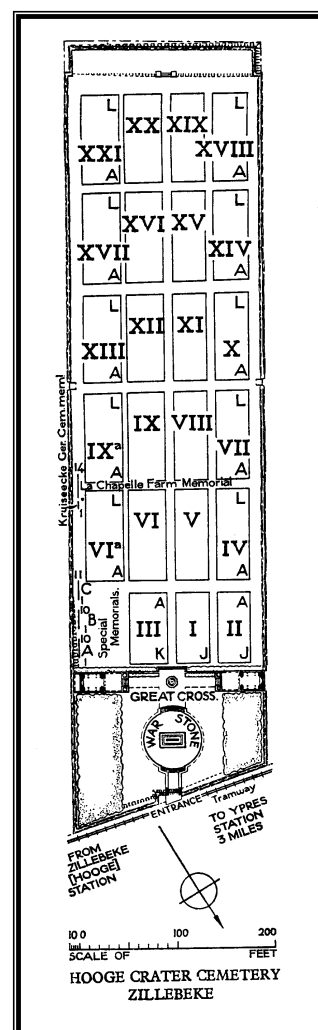


Fig. 19 Win Colman, John Carlton's 'Mary Drew' in the story, at the grave of Graham Leaver, some time after the war. The photo reveals that Colman and his wife revisited the battlefields. (Colman family)

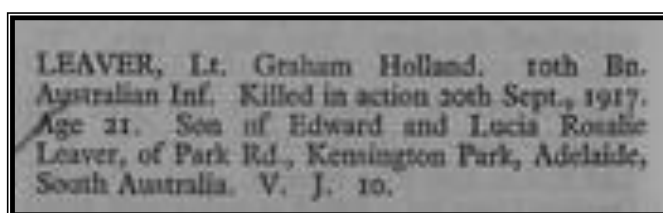
Win Colman (wife of WRG Colman) at Graham Leaver's Gravesite



Headstone of Lieut. GH Leaver

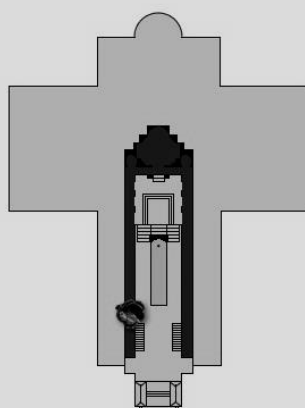


GH Leaver - Headstone : V. J. 10.

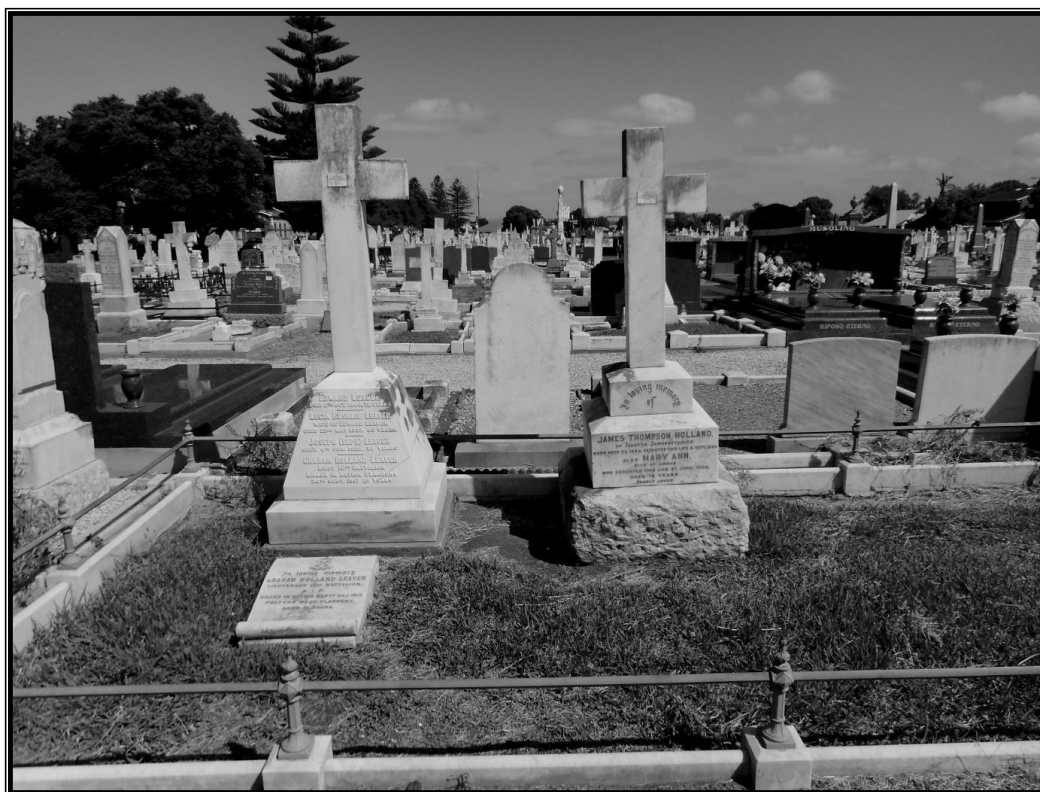


Australian War Memorial, Canberra

Graham Holland Leaver's name is located at panel 59 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial (as indicated by the poppy on the plan).



North Road Church of England Cemetery, Nailsworth



GH Leaver is commemorated on the stone scroll in front of the cross at left

North Road Church of England Cemetery, Nailsworth



St Peter's College Memorial to Graham Leaver

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Profile Compiled by: Beth Filmer (AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee)

Sources and Acknowledgements

The AIF Project <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/>

Virtual War Memorial Australia <https://vwma.org.au/>

<https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/364840>

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1639370/>

The National Archives of Australia <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/>

Australian War Memorial <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/>

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1639370/>

The Adelaide University <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/records/archives/>

The National Library of Australia <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>

(Trove Newspaper articles tagged – Graham Holland Leaver)

SA Genealogy <https://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html>

Ancestry.com.au

Anzac Spirit by Lauren Rowe <https://prezi.com/p/i76y0p9fxobp/anzac-spirit/>

Find a Grave

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12534289/graham-holland-leaver>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/178027093/lucia-rosalie-leaver>

Flanders Fields

<https://www.flandersfields.be/en/do/hooge-crater-cemetery>

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/458538/leaver,-graham-holland/>

Grave Secrets

<http://ww1sa.gravesecrets.net/le---lei.html>

"There and Back with a Dinkum" by W.R.G. Colman (photographs courtesy of Claire Woods and Sally Bates)

Rob O'Shannassy, Janne Filmer and (AUFC/AUCC WW1 Memorial Committee)

Kym Beilby (AUFC)

