

## Percival John Rollins

Private (Pte) 2012 Percival John Rollins enlisted in the 58<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion in the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade of the 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Division at Broadmeadows on 28 April 1916.

He embarked overseas on 8 July and disembarked in Devonport on 31 August, where he was admitted to the Devonport Military Hospital with an unknown illness from 1 – 15 September, then joined the 15<sup>th</sup> (Brigade) Training Battalion at Larkhill on 18 September.

He left England on 6 December and landed in France the next day, where he was taken on strength of the 58<sup>th</sup> Battalion at Ribemont on 23 December 1916, one of 125 reinforcements received that day. Two days later, according to the battalion diary, the men “*greatly enjoyed a Christmas dinner of roast beef, sauce, vegetables, fruit, plum pudding and beer*”.

During February 1917, the Germans strategically withdrew much of their front line to a more easily defensible line known as the Hindenburg Line. From late February onwards, the Australian forward patrols discovered evacuated enemy trenches and cautiously moved forward to occupy them. The 58<sup>th</sup> Battalion was in the front line during this period and fired upon several German rearguard patrols around the Ligny-Thillois area between 24 – 27 February.

The battalion was manning an outpost line near Morchies on 25 March 1917, where Pte Rollins was killed in action by a direct artillery hit on the dugout he was occupying.



*Private Percival Rollins' grave at Queant Road Cemetery, Buissy, France*

Private 2012 Percival John Rollins was initially buried near where he fell, “*in a sunken road, front of Morchies, near Bapaume*”, but his body was subsequently re-interred in the Queant Road Cemetery, Buissy, France, around June 1920.

Name: Rollins, Percival John	
Service Number	2012
Date enlisted	28 April 1916
Place enlisted	Broadmeadows, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	58 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion
Previous military service	29 <sup>th</sup> Light Horse (CMF) – 3 years
Date and ship embarked for overseas	8 July 1916 HMAT A31 <i>Ajana</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	30 years 8 months
Place of birth	Curlewis, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Labourer
Religion	Church of England
Next of kin and address	Lewis, Mrs Miriam, mother, “Sea View”, Curlewis, Victoria
Permanent address	Curlewis, Victoria
Appearance	Fair complexion, fair hair, blue eyes, height – 5 feet 4 inches, weight – 10 stone, 8 lbs, chest measurement – 36/38 inches
Final Rank	Private
Final Unit	58 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion
Theatres of war served in	France, Belgium
Fate	Killed in action
Date and place died	25 March 1917 Morchies, France
Cemetery details	Queant Road Cemetery, Buissy, France. Plot VIII, Row D, Grave 6
Honours/medals	British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Also remembered on the Leopold State School Honor Roll, Leopold & District Honor Roll, Leopold War Memorial and East Geelong St Albans & Moolap War Memorial.