



In Memory of

**Private**

**STEPHEN GRAINGER RABONE**

7840, 35<sup>TH</sup> Bn Australian Infantry, A.I.F.

who died age 23

on 22 August 1918

Son of Stephen Thomas Rabone and Margaret Ellen Totton, his wife, of  
Kilmallie, Victoria St., Strathfield, New South Wales.

Native of Townsville, Queensland.

Remembered with honour

COTE 80 FRENCH NATIONAL CEMETERY, ETINEHEM



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**STEPHAN GRAINGER RABONE**  
35<sup>TH</sup> BN, AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY  
SERVICE NUMBER: 7840



A number of the men on the Memorial served with battalions from interstate. One of these is **Stephen Grainger Rabone**. He was a Queenslander by birth, born in Townsville on 12 June 1895, but his father Stephen Thomas Rabone was living at Burwood in Sydney during the war years. Stephen's mother had died and his father had remarried, his step-mother being Mrs E.L. Rabone in the file. Stephen was educated at Toowoomba Grammar School (grad. 1912) and was a bank clerk with the Bank of Australasia in Toowoomba when he decided to enlist. He travelled to Sydney, perhaps to discuss his decision with his father, and enlisted there on 6 December 1917.

By late 1917 enlistments in the AIF had slowed to a trickle, as men and their families realised the enormous risks of front-line service. The long casualty lists from Gallipoli and France made signing up a courageous decision - a type of courage quite different perhaps from the exhilaration and exuberance of the early enlistments. Stephen was 22 years and 6 months old, 5'6" tall, weighing 144 pounds; he had a dark complexion, brown eyes and brown hair, and was of the Church of England religion.

Stephen was inducted at Liverpool in Sydney's west, and moved immediately to the Show Ground Camp near the CBD. He was attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Depot Battalion before joining the 26<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. With this body he embarked for Europe at Melbourne on the transport A71 *Nestor* - a voyage that was to last nearly two months. He disembarked at Liverpool in England on 30 April 1918, and was immediately sent to the training facility at Sutton Veny. As he prepared for service at the front he was transferred to the 35<sup>th</sup> Battalion, a 9<sup>th</sup> Brigade battalion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, made up mainly of men from Newcastle and known as "Newcastle's Own".

He crossed the Channel on 22 July and passed through the depots to be taken on strength by his battalion on 31 July. Just eight days later Stephen found himself in the first phase of the great offensive - the "Black Day" of the German army - as the Allies began the continual advance that would lead to an armistice in November. Unfortunately, after just three weeks' front-line service Stephen was killed in action on 22 August, on a day that the battalion took all its objectives, but still lost sixteen men killed as it pushed the Germans closer to defeat.

Stephen Rabone was buried nearby at the Point 80 French Military Cemetery, known today as the Cote 80 National Cemetery, Etinehem (grave D.16). It is located about 8 kilometres south of Albert. On his body were found a few possessions that were sent home to his father in Sydney. Among them was a cheque book of the Bank of Australasia, a wallet, cards and photos.

The medals, plaque and scroll for Stephen were collected by his father and step-mother at ceremonies in Sydney in the early 1920s. In the larger cities these ceremonies were public expressions of the pride felt by communities trying to assuage their grief and find some meaning in the sacrifices made by all - their children and themselves.

In later correspondence the army wrote to the officer in charge of the Toowoomba Drill Hall, Newtown, advising him of the loss of a former member of the local militia. The Taxation Office wrote to the army to verify the details of Stephen's service for reconciliation with the Bank of Australasia's income tax records. Stephen Rabone was 23 years old when he died.

External Links:

[Australian National Archives Military Records](#)

[CWGC](#)

[Australian War Memorial Honour Roll](#)

[AWM4 AIF unit war diaries 23/52/14 PART 1 35BN OCT 1918](#)

[AWM4 AIF unit war diaries 23/53/14 PART 2 35BN OCT 1918](#)