

Padman, Eric George (Army 2857)



Image 1 © State Library of South Australia, 2014
Studio portrait

Name	Padman, Eric George Lance Corporal
Service Number	Army 2857
Date of Birth	9th March 1896
Died	27th September 1917
Place of Birth	Middleton SA
Resident	Adelaide SA
Cemetery	Aeroplane Cemetery Belgium

Eric George Padman was born at Middleton on 9 March 1896, the third son of Samuel Waterhouse Padman and Annie Elizabeth Jane Padman (nee Ragless). He had five siblings. The family was prominent in Middleton, owning the general store, with Samuel also a Magistrate at the Port Elliot Court. Eric's father Samuel served in the military during the Boer War and during the First World War enlisted twice in the Citizens Force. His two brothers Vernon Ragless Padman (AIF 17418 WWI/ S70157 WWII) and Clarence Swann Padman (AIF 6891 WWI) also served in the AIF.

Eric was educated at Middleton Public School and Victor Harbor High School where he was awarded a scholarship for Roseworthy Agricultural College. There he completed his Diploma with some Honours. By then the family had moved to Adelaide.

On completion of his studies, he immediately enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 26 April 1916. In a short time at Mitcham Camp, he demonstrated leadership qualities and was promoted to Sergeant in the 7th Reinforcements for the largely South Australian 50th Infantry Battalion.

On 6 November 1916, the group sailed from Adelaide aboard the HMAT Afric, reaching England on 9 January 1917. At the Australian Codford Training Camp, Eric was retained as an instructor, until he relinquished his Sergeant's rank to go to the Front. There he joined his Battalion on 15 July 1917 in the frontline near Ploegstreert Wood, Belgium. The last week of July was spent rebuilding and training near Steenwerck. By mid-August he had been promoted to lance corporal before the Battalion returned to the front near Ploegstreert Wood.

During September 1916, the Battalion underwent extensive assault training near Ludy. On 25 September, it was in position to attack across a 600-metre front to capture Westhoek Ridge. At 5:50 am on the 26th, the unit attacked and gained its objective. Eric was killed the next day while the unit was consolidating its gains. He was among the 179 men of the 50th Battalion killed during that action. Two months later on the 29 November 1916, the Padman family would lose their other son, Clarence Swann Padman on the Western Front in France. Eric's brother Vernon and his father Samuel Waterhouse were the only family members who served during WWI and survived.

In 1919 Vernon, still with the AIF, visited Westhoek Ridge and located the area not far from the Anzac House pillbox where Eric was killed and buried. The debris of war littered the battlefield. There at the place that marked Eric's death, he placed a cross in memory of his brother. Vernon described his feelings in his diary:

"I felt it a privilege even to be at the place where Eric was. I knew I had walked up the road from Ypres along which our boys advanced and had walked along the duckboards that he used to tread and now I stood on the ridge where he was killed."

Later Eric, along with many other casualties from the area, were reinterred at Aeroplane Cemetery, near Ypres, Belgium. After the war, Eric's parents received his British War Medal and Victory Medal, together with a Memorial Plaque and Memorial Scroll.

Staff Sergeant Vernon Ragless Padman returned to Australia at war's end.

Eric and his brother Clarence are commemorated on the Middleton War Memorial and the Port Elliot War Memorial and by Norfolk Island Pine trees in the Soldiers Gardens.

Vernon Padman kept a wonderful photographic record and diary of his travels around France, Belgium and England at the end of the war. Most of these diaries and albums came into the possession of Mr Glenn Beck of Melbourne, formerly of Adelaide. Glenn purchased them online at eBay; he has kindly allowed us to scan those records, copies of which are now on display in the RSL's Clubrooms.

References:

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Eric George Padman., 2025. awm.gov.au. [accessed 20/11/2025]
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Flickr Photographs., 2025., “Number 817 PADMAN, Eric George”, 2014., State Records of South Australia. [accessed 20/11/2025]
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PADMAN, Eric George., 2025., “Pa index.”, 2018., World War I Pictorial Honour Roll of South Australians. weebly.com. [accessed 20/11/2025]
<https://www1sa.weebly.com/pa.html>

Padman, V. 1919, Diary extract., The Glenn Beck collection.

Terrace, V., 2025., *Padman Eric George.*, naa.gov.au. [accessed 20/11/2025]
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Watson, D., 2018., Roll of Honour Board Middleton photograph

Compiled by the Victor Harbor RSL History Research Team, March 2018. Updated by T.Young & M.Young 20/11/2025

Appendix



Image 2 © Glen Beck Collection 2018
This photograph shows Vernon Padman standing next to his brother Eric's grave.

Location on the Roll of Honour

Eric George Padman's name is located at panel 151 in the [Commemorative Area](#) at the Australian War Memorial (as indicated by the poppy on the plan).

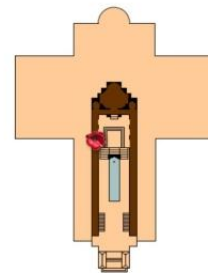


Image 3 © awm.gov.au 2025
Location of name at the Australian War Memorial Canberra

Roll of Honour name projection

Eric George Padman's name will be projected onto the exterior of the Hall of Memory on:

Friday, 20 March 2026 at 3.18 am

Monday, 22 June 2026 at 4.42 am

Thursday, 10 September 2026 at 12.22 am

Sunday, 17 January 2027 at 3.55 am

For more information view the [Roll of Honour name projections page](#).

Please note: These dates and times are estimates. The actual time of projection could also change as a result of weather and other factors, so it is advisable to check closer to the date. In the rare event of a temporary loss of electrical power, the names scheduled for display in that period will not appear until the next time listed.

Image 4 © awm.gov.au 2025
Roll of Honour visual name projection display at the Australian War Memorial Canberra .



Image 5 Ian Milnes ©2018
Eric's grave at Aeroplane Cemetery .



Image 6 Ian Milnes ©2018
The entrance to the Middleton Soldiers Memorial Gardens 1914-1918.



Image 7 Ian Milnes ©2018
The Memorial Tablet in the Middleton Soldiers Memorial Gardens showing the casualties of World War One.

FIELD SERVICE Army Form B. 2090.A.

REPORT of Death of a Soldier to be forwarded to the War Office with the least possible delay after receipt of notification of death on Army Form B. 213 or Army Form A. 26, or from other official documentary sources.

REGIMENT: 50th Battalion. A.I.F. Squadron, Troop, Battery or Company
OR CORPS: LARGE CORPORA.

REGIMENTAL NUMBER: 2827 Rank

Surname: PADMAN. Christian Name Eric, George.

Date: 27th September 1917. Place Belgium

Place of Death: Killed in Action.

Nature and Date of Report: Army Form B. 213 dated 30th September 1917.

By whom made: Commanding Officer 50th Battalion. A.I.F.

* Specially state if killed in action, or died from wounds received in action, or from illness due to field operations or to fatigue, privation or exposure while on military duty, or from injury while on military duty.

State whether he leaves a Will or not: (a) in Pay Book (Army Book 61) (b) in Small Book (if at Base) (c) as a separate document

All private documents and effects received from the front or hospital, as well as the Pay Book, should be examined, and if any will be found it should be at once forwarded to the War Office.

Any information received as to verbal expressions by a deceased soldier of his wishes as to the disposal of his estate should be reported to the War Office as soon as possible.

A duplicate of this Report is to be sent to the Field Centre Paymaster at Home, or to the D.F.A.G., Indian Expeditionary Force, or Field Discharging Office, as the case may require, together with the Deceased's Pay Book, (after withdrawal of any will from the Army). If the Deceased's Small Book is at the Base, it should be forwarded to the War Office with this Report.

Station and Date: 18th Oct. 1917. Signature of Officer in charge of Section [Signature] OFFICER I/O RECORDS.
Adjutant-General's Office at the Base

W.O.M. 21138-2090A-B. A. 26.-421-1917-Form B. 2090.A.C.

National Archives of Australia NAA: B2455, PADMAN ERIC GEORGE

Image 8 naa.gov.au 2025
Soldier Field Service Report 1917.



Image 9 ©Dean Watson 2018
The Honour Roll in the Middleton Community Hall that records the names of the local men who served in World War One.

Army Form B. 103. 90th BATTALION, A.I.F. Regimental Number... 2897
Casualty Form - Active Service. 2897
 LANCE CORPORAL **PADMAN ERIC GEORGE** Regiment or Corps... 90th BATTALION, A.I.F.
 Rank... 1997 Surname... **PADMAN** Christian Name... **eric, george**
 Religion... **Methodist** Age on Enlistment... years... month...
 Enlisted (a)... Terms of Service (a)... Service reckons from (a)...
 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 Date	From when received	Report of promotions, reductions, transfers, re-appointments, etc. (to be filled in by the reporting officer)	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks (to be filled in by the reporting officer)
	OC TROOP	*A19 AFRIC	Embarked	Adelaide 7-11-17	SR 7324
28-1-17	Cotton Mill	Admitted Sick	Disembarked	Plymouth 9-1-17	DO 16/4
6-2-17	Hosp	Discharged to duty		England 6-2-17	
20-1-17	13th Tn Bn	Sick to Hospital		England 24-1-17	DO 16/4
11-2-17	do	Marched in ex Hospital		England 6-2-17	DO 19/4
14-2-17	do	Went to be DEP SHOT		England 9-3-17	DO 25/4
8-4-17	do	On command at School I.		England 2-4-17	DO 26/4
24-4-17	do	Sick to Camp Hospital		England 28-4-17	DO 27/4
6-5-17	do	Marched in ex Camp Hosp		England 1-5-17	DO 37/4
25-6-17	do	Proceeded overseas		England 25-6-17	DO 46/4
30-6-17	4th A.D.B.D	Marched in ex England		Harve 20-6-17	S.23.7.5

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged him, or enlisted into another unit, particulars of such re-engage date, or enlistment, will be entered.
 (b) Report of illness should be in the form of a medical certificate.

Commanding Officer of the 90th BATTALION, A.I.F.

Date **APR 26 1916**
 Place **ADLAIDE**

Eric Padman
 Signature of Examining Medical Officer.

CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.

I CERTIFY that this Attestation of the above named person is correct, and that the required forms have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to **C Company** 90th DEPOT BATTALION, A.I.F. **active**
 Date **1.5.1916**
 Place **Adelaide**

Eric Padman
 Commanding Officer of the 90th BATTALION, A.I.F.

National Archives of Australia NAA: B2455, PADMAN ERIC GEORGE

Image 10 & 11 naa.gov.au 2025
 Casualty and active service record

REPORT LANCE CORPORAL PADMAN ERIC GEORGE

Report	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks
16-2-17	England	9-1-17	SR 7324
24-2-17	Harve	20-6-17	S.23.7.5
25-7-17	FIELD	13-7-17	DO 19/4
19-11-17	FIELD	15-8-17	DO 23/4
20-2-17	FIELD	27-2-17	DO 24/4

Verified List No 489 dated 4-10-17.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE 90th BATTALION, A.I.F.
 British Expeditionary Force.
 Officer in Charge

14-11-17 2913 1st Bn 90th Bde E.O.P. 1st Bn 90th Bde
 Signed [Signature] 14/11/17 1917

SO HELP ME GOD.

Eric Padman
 Signature of Person Enlisted.

Taken and subscribed at _____ in
 the State of **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**,
 this _____ day of _____ 19 _____
 before me—
[Signature]
 Signature of Attesting Officer.

* A person refusing who objects to taking an oath may make an affirmation in accordance with the Third Schedule of the Act and the above form must be amended accordingly. All amendments must be initialed by the Attesting Officer.

National Archives of Australia NAA: B2455, PADMAN ERIC GEORGE