

ROADS, Richard Leslie (184 AIF)



Image 1

The image shown here of Richard Leslie Roads was copied from the family history book, a copy of which is held by John Roads, a great nephew.

Name	ROADS, Richard Leslie Trooper
Service Number	184 AIF
Date of Birth	7th January 1893
Died	21st June 1915
Place of Birth	Yankalilla SA
Resident	Yankalilla SA
Cemetery	Commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli Peninsula

Richard Leslie Roads was born on 7 January 1893 at Yankalilla, he was the second of four children to Sidney Roads and Edith Roads (nee Aveling). Richard had an older sister Elfrida, and a younger brother, Robert and younger sister, Ivy.

Prior to his enlistment in to the AIF (Australian Imperial Force) on the 19 August 1914, Richard was a labourer. Richard was posted to No. 2 Troop, 'A' Squadron of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade. The regiment was raised in Adelaide on the 17 August 1914, so Richard was in the first contingent to conduct his basic training there

With initial training completed, the brigade embarked at Adelaide onto transport at A17 Port Lincoln. Richard was among 395 officers and men, with 376 horses, aboard the ship when it sailed for Albany on the 20 October 1914. There it joined the first Australian and New Zealand Army convoy assembling for the voyage to the Middle East.

The convoy, with its four escort warships, sailed on 1 November for Egypt. On 9 November HMAS Sydney was detached from the convoy to investigate a suspicious ship reported near the Cocos Islands. In the ensuing battle, Sydney drove the German cruiser Emden ashore and destroyed it; then re-joined the convoy. They proceeded via Colombo and Aden before Port Lincoln landed its passengers and cargo at Alexandria on 9 December 1914. In late January 1915, the brigade moved to Heliopolis for further training, remaining there until sailing without their horses for Gallipoli on 9 May.

Landing at Gallipoli on 12 May 1915, the 3rd Light Horse was employed in Monash Valley building defences and barricading the road along the Valley to protect men from snipers. It also dug fire and communication trenches at Pope's Hill, and Quinn's Post. During the period of the 20- 26 May, the Regiment defended Pope's Hill from Turkish attacks. Casualties for May 1915 totalled 9 killed, 66 wounded, and 18 were sick and injured. The fighting strength was 461. Compared with later years, the brigade was lightly armed with rifles and only had 2 machine guns.

In early June 1915, before the 3rd Light Horse moved back to reserve in Monash Valley, Richard was a part of the contingent that manned Pope's Hill, with 'A' squadron holding the line from June second to the ninth.

The valley was a highly sought, and was the frontline for ANZAC troops. Unfortunately, despite the barricades, it was constantly hit by heavy shelling and sniper fire.

On 21 of June, Richard and his fellow ANZACs came under heavy fire, and Richard was severely wounded by a snipers bullet. It is not stated where he was hit.

Richard was quickly evacuated from Monash Hill then onto the hospital ship the HMHS Gascon, a floating hospital that had returned to ANZAC Cove on the 14 June. Initially the ship took on 50 patients as they came under fire by the Turkish Army, one orderly was hit by shrapnel. Despite being a place for the injured and wounded, it was out in the open at ANZAC Cove, and susceptible to enemy torpedos and live fire.

The Gascon was unable to leave the cove, and one of the fleet sweepers that normally carried patients to Lemnos was under repair. Richard was rushed to the ships theatre ward; the timing, the blood loss, and the wound itself had left Richard in critical condition, and sadly he passed away shortly after he arrived on board. According to the ships log, most of the casualties that died of wounds sustained injuries to the head and abdomen.

Hospital war ships during this period, would conduct burials at sea when patients passed away. Richard was given a sea burial near Gaba Tepe on the 22 June 1915. His funeral service, and services of all that perished on board, were conducted by the Reverend Lee Warner. It was recorded that from the 16 – 29 of June Rev Warner conducted services for more than 25 patients, who were buried at sea.

After the war his father Sidney, received a memorial scroll and Richard's medals, which contained the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal.

Trooper Richard Leslie Roads is commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli Peninsula and is now commemorated at the Victor Harbor War Memorial.

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Compiled by Victor Harbor RSL member and retired journalist Graham McInerney, January 2015.
Updated by T.Young & M.Young 29/12/2025

Appendix



Image 2 © *awm.gov.au* 2015

Image of the first contingent from the 3rd Light Horse Adelaide to parade before embarking on the A17 Port Lincoln circa October 1914

Image 3 © *slsa.gov.au* 2015

Image of horses of the 3rd Light Horse Regiment Egypt 1914





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J02702

Image 4 © *awm.gov.au* 2015

Image of the last parade of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade at Heliopolis, on the 14 May 1915. Richard would have been on in this parade as he left for Gallipoli the next day with the entire brigade.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

G00941

Image 5 © *awm.gov.au* 2015

Image of the Gallipoli Peninsula, looking across from Monash Valley to where the ANZAC trenches were dug.



Image 6 © awm.gov.au 2015
 Image of Gallipoli in 1915, these are the dug outs created by the 6th Light Horse Regiment in 1915, this is just a reference image to show the conditions faced by the troopers and how open these dug outs were. Richard would have been trying to trying to hold the line in these dug outs.



Image 7 © awm.gov.au 2015
 Image of the Dressing Station at Monash Valley Gallipoli in 1915, This is the area that Richard was evacuated to when he was wounded before being taken to ANZAC Cove Hospital Ship the HMHS Gascon. As you can see at times the number of wounded and dead outnumbered the cases they could treat. The conditions were poor, and many lay dead on the stretchers. This photo was taken by Private Timothy William McCristal, 1st Light Horse, on the back of the photo he wrote a description of the conditions at the dressing station. See Image 8.

At the dressing station in Monash Gully, foot of Popes Hill. Wounded, dying and dead on the morning of the battle August 7th 1915, just after Sun Rise. A nice shambles this was, there were some awful sights around me here with pitiful groans and horrible wounds. I am lying on the stretcher marked T.M.C at foot of the chap with right arm in sling one of my troop mates named Archie McLean!

AWM 2016.657.1.4

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

AWM2016.657.1.4

Image 8 © awm.gov.au 2015

Image taken by Private Timothy William McCristal, 1st Light Horse, on the back of the photo he wrote a description of the conditions at the dressing station. "At the dressing station in Monash Gully, foot of Popes Hill. Wounded, dying and dead on the morning of the battle August 7th 1915, just after Sun Rise. A nice shambles this was, there were some awful sights around me here with pitiful groans and horrible wounds. I am lying on the stretcher marked T.M.C at the foot of the chap with right arm in sling one of my troop mates named Archie McLean."

Image 9 & 10 © naa.gov.au 2025

Image of Service and Casualty Reports.

ROADS	Richard Leslie (Pte)	184	3rd L.H.R. "A" SQDN
Surname	Other Names	Regimental No.	Unit
WAR SERVICE RECORD			
Emarked at Adelaide per A17 "Port Lincoln" on 23/10/14.			
23.6.15 Buried by Lee Warner (KF) MRFD 51/1-15			
21/6/15. Seriously Wounded. Mon. Val.			
21/6/15. Died of Wounds and Buried at Sea.			

National Archives of Australia

NAA: B2455, ROADS RICHARD LESLIE

DUPLICATE Army Form E. 103. A Squad

Casualty Form - Active Service.

Regiment or Corps **THIRD AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT**

Regimental No. **184** Rank **Pte** Name **ROADS R.L.**

Enlisted (**19.8.14**) Terms of Service (a) Service reckons from (a) **19.8.14**

Date of promotion to present rank Date of appointment to lance rank Numerical position on roll of N.C.Os.

Extended Re-engaged Qualification (b)

Report Date	From whom received	Based of promotion, reduction, transfer, etc., being active service, as recorded on Army Form B. 214, Army Form A. 26, or in other official documents.	Place	Date	Remarks
22.6.15	O/C 1 LH Bde	Admitted to Hospital seriously wounded	MONASH VALLEY	21.6.15	Casualty List No. 40 22.6.15 012/369
1.7.15	O/C 1ERS GASCORN	GSW Abdomen DIED OF WOUNDS	GABA TERE	21.6.15	Buried at Sea 3 miles off GABA TERE. Taken from O/C GASCORN Report of 1.7.15. 0340. Cabined 1.7.15. 012/369. MRF. 1587/4 MRF. 7607/10
Burial Report		Buried by Lee Warner 3 miles off Gaba Tere	At Sea	23/6/15	Reg No 14/1/2 051/3387

National Archives of Australia NAA: B2455, ROADS RICHARD LESLIE

Image 11 © naa.gov.au 2025
 Location of name at the Australian War Memorial . Canberra

Location on the Roll of Honour

Richard Leslie Roads's name is located at panel 4 in the [Commemorative Area](#) at the Australian War Memorial (as indicated by the poppy on the plan).

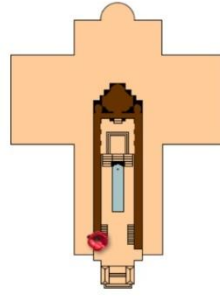


Image 12 © naa.gov.au 2025
 Time of name projection at the Australian War Memorial . Canberra

Roll of Honour name projection

Richard Leslie Roads's name will be projected onto the exterior of the Hall of Memory on:

Saturday, 13 June 2026 at 6.23 am

Thursday, 10 September 2026 at 12.59 am

Thursday, 21 January 2027 at 3.26 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.

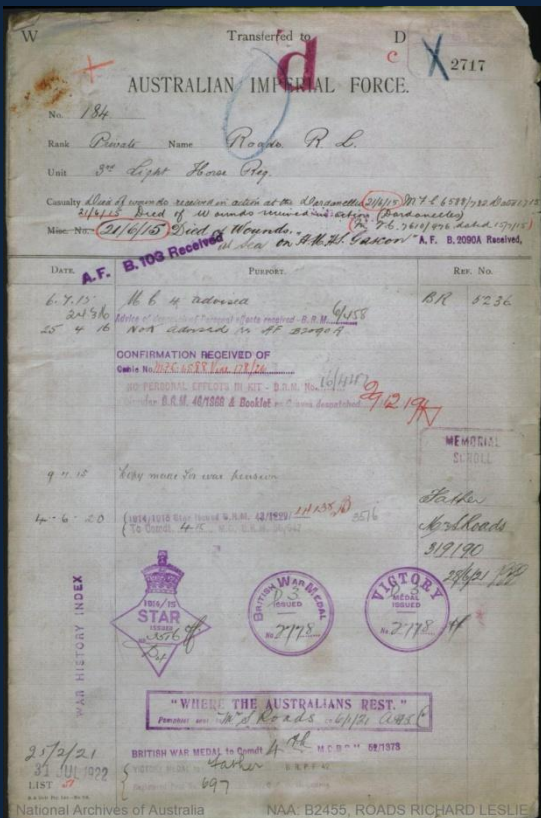


Image 13 © naa.gov.au 2025
 Death notice for Richard Leslie Roads

