

RUMBELOW, Frank Harris



Image 1©Peter Rumbelow Family Collection n.d
Studio portrait

Name	RUMBELOW, Frank Harris Private
Service Number	AIF 1815
Date of Birth	26th March 1895
Died	12th October 1917
Place of Birth	Encounter Bay SA
Resident	Victor Harbor SA
Cemetery	Buttes New British Cemetery Belgium

Frank Harris Rumbelow was born at Encounter Bay on 26 March 1895, the third child of 6 children to Godfrey Rumbelow and Ada Louisa Rumbelow (nee Heading). He was educated at the Victor Harbor Public School and prior to his enlistment in the AIF on 27 August 1915, had served in the militia's 22nd Light Horse Regiment. His riding whip, used during bivouacs and manoeuvres with the 22nd LH Regiment, was donated to the RSL Victor Harbor Sub-branch on 9 April 2011 by Peter Rumbelow, his nephew.

After basic training, Frank was posted to the 2nd Reinforcement Unit, 32nd Infantry Battalion; they sailed on the troopship HMAT A30 Borda on 11 January 1916 from Adelaide. The men arrived in Egypt and underwent further training. In March 1916, Frank transferred to the newly formed 48th Battalion and the unit sailed for France in June 1916 and entrained to the Western Front.

The Battalion went into battle shortly after their arrival and Frank was wounded by a gunshot wound to his head and right side on 7 August 1916 in the Battle of Pozieres. He was evacuated to Birmingham in England to recover from his wounds and on the 2 of October he was discharged from hospital and was mustered to the 48th Battalion. On the 19 December 1916 he was deemed medically fit and proceeded to return to the Western Front.

The year 1917 was a trying year for the 48th Battalion. In two of the major battles in which it fought – the first Battle of Bullecourt, in France, and the Battle of Passchendaele, in Belgium, it was forced to withdraw with heavy casualties as result of poor planning and inadequate support. Many men were captured and the casualties were very high. The Battalion did not fail for lack of courage or skill amongst its own troops.

At 12.15 am on 12 October 1917, the Battalion left its trenches at Westhoek Ridge (Belgium) and formed up in readiness for an assault against the enemy-held Passchendaele Ridge. The terrain was poor and the ground they had to cover was muddied from heavy rains, and movement was impeded. A rolling artillery barrage preceded the men by 150 yards, but was of little effect due to the

muddied ground. Against well-prepared German defences, the gains were minimal and there were 13,000 Allied casualties. As the troops scrambled to find better ground, Private Frank Harris Rumbelow did not answer at mustering, he was declared missing. Later that day he was found and his body was interned in Buttes New British Cemetery at Polygon Wood in Belgium.

Frank was only 23 years old.

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Victor Harbor History Team n.d. Updated by T.Young & M.Young 17/06/2026

Appendix



Image 2© Peter Rumbelow family Collection n.d
Rumbelow is the soldier far right on his mount whilst on manoeuvres with the 22nd Light Horse Regiment.

Army Form B. 103. **Casualty Form - Active Service.**

Regiment...
Rank... Private Surname **RUMBLOW** Christian Name **Frank Harris.**
Religion... Age on Enlistment... years... months...
Enlisted **27.8.16** Terms of Service (in War & A.M.H.S. service reckons from (a) **27.8.16**...
Date of promotion to present rank... Date of appointment to lance rank...
Extended... Re-engaged... Qualification (b)...
Occupation... Signature of Officer...

Date	From whom received	Report	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks
13.3.16.	A.I.F. Hqrs.	Embarked Disembarked	Suez	9.2.16. 51/1/32.	
11.3.16.	48th Bn. B213	Taken on strength 48th Bn. Tel-el-Kebir	Alexandria	9.3.16. A.P. 5609 D.O. 1/519	
	"H.M.T. Galedonia"	Proceeded to join B.R.F. Disembarked	Marseilles	2.6.16. A.P. 8622 9.6.16. L.R. 5762	
12.8.16.	48th Bn. B213	WOUNDED IN ACTION	France	7.8.16. A.Q. 2701. V.L. 63. of 19.8.16. 0.29/3835.	
10.8.16.	3rd Stat. H.	Admitted GSW HEAD.	Rouen	10.8.16. A.M. 59/61.	
14.8.16.	-do-	Transferred to England	-do-	14.8.16. A.M. 59/7E.	
14.8.16.	H.S. "St George"	Embarked for England	-do-	14.8.16. A.K. 121/39. D.O. 39/4415.	
15.8.16.	1st Gen. Hosp.	Admitted WOUNDED	Birmingham	15.8.16. 13/186E	

W. 1000 (2/22/16) Revised. G.P.O. (1916). C. P. & L. Ltd. Print. B. 1000 2/22/16. P.T.O.

Image 4© naa.gov.au 2026
Service and Casualty Form.

Image 3© naa.gov.au 2026
Service and Casualty Form.

Army Form B. 103. **Casualty Form - Active Service.**

Regiment...
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Religion... Age on Enlistment... years... months...
Enlisted **27.8.16** Terms of Service (in War & A.M.H.S. service reckons from (a) **27.8.16**...
Date of promotion to present rank... Date of appointment to lance rank...
Extended... Re-engaged... Qualification (b)...
Occupation... Signature of Officer...

Date	From whom received	Report	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks
2.10.16.	1st A.A.H.	Admitted to hospital	Harefield	2.10.16. F.R. 86.	
23.10.16.	-do-	Discharged to Weymouth	-do-	5.10.16. F.R. 180	
14.12.16.	No. 4 Com Dep.	Proceeded overseas France per "Princess Henrietta"	Folkestone	14.12.16. E.R. 7009	
16.12.16.	4th A.D.B.D.	Marched in from England	Staples	14.12.16. A.K. 617/1	
23.12.16.	4th A.D.B.D.	Marched out to unit	Staples	18.12.16. A.K. 76/25	
23.12.16.	48th Bn. B213	Rejoined 48th "attalion	Field	19.12.16. A.Q. 13370. D.O. 2/34	
20.10.17	48th Bn. B213	MISSING IN ACTION	Field	12.10.17. D16/42. D.O. 46/5603. V.L. 614 of 28.10.17.	
8.4.18.	C.O. 48th Bn. Court of Enquiry	Previously reported missing in action, 12.10.17. Now posted:- KILLED IN ACTION	In the Field BELGIUM	12.10.17. 10/537/40. V.L. 663	

AUSTRALIAN SECTION BRANCHES G.H.Q.
British Expeditionary Force. (Sg) H.E. WAWN Captain.
For Officer 1/c Records.

AA/LS 5/9482.

- (a) BUTTE NEW BRITISH CEMETERY, POLYGON WOOD,
ZONNEBEKE, 4½ miles due E. of YPRES.
(b) HANGARD COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION,
5½ miles due S. of CORBE.

GRAVES REGISTRATION UNITS,
(EXHUMATION).

48/Bn. AIF= 1815 RUMBELOW. Pte. F.H. 12/10/17
(a) (Report Zonnebeke 117.31E).

2/Aust. Div. 3545 LAWRENSEN. Spr. H.B. 4/10/17
Sig. Co. (Report Zonnebeke 117.128E).
(a)

29/Aust. Bn. 3815 LACEY. Pte. N. 26/9/17
(a) (Report Zonnebeke 177.132E).

18/Bn. AIF. 6568 JONES. Pte. T.R. 9/4/18
(b) (Report Hangard 1.5C).

"B" Co. 18/Bn. 180 LOGAN. L/C. J. 9/4/18
AIF. (b) (Report Hangard 1.6E).

Original in file of 2456 Pte. D.F. PRICE,
59th Btn.

Image 5© naa.gov.au 2026
Grave site exhumations .



Image 6 ©Ian Milnes 2011
The grave of Frank Harris Rumblelow at Buttes New
British War Cemetery, Belgium.

LMK.

No. 1815.

----- Private Frank Harris Rumblelow,
48th Battalion.

Australian Imperial Force.

xxxxxxKilled in action-Finding Court of Inquiry.-----

Belgium.

12th October,

17.

Cable No. C.I.R.J.

2446, from the Commandant A.I.F. Headquarters, dated London
18th April, 1918 confirmed by Mail from the Commandant A.I.F.
Headquarters dated London 22nd April, 1918 and Army Form. B2090A/

8th July,

19

Major.

Image 7 ©naa.gov.au 2026
Notification of missing to killed in action Court of
Inquiry.