

ARMSTRONG

Harry George

Service No: 4298



BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Harry George Armstrong

Service number: 4298

Date of enlistment: 5/4/1917

Age at Enlistment: 33 years 9 months

Civil Occupation: Engineer

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War

Medal and the Victory Medal

Height: 5 feet 11 inches

Weight: 144 pounds

Chest measurement: 36 ½ inches

Complexion: fresh

Eye colour: blue

Hair colour: light brown

Father: Thomas Montgomery Armstrong

Mother: Caroline Elizabeth Armstrong (nee Hammond)

Married: Alice Jane Hubble 1910

Children: Frederick Henry Montgomery (1910), Harry George Montgomery

(1913), Maurice Edgar Montgomery (1914), Ronald Hammond

Montgomery (1916), Alice (1917), Julie (?), Mollie Rowena (1921) and

William Thomas Montgomery (1924).



SAP. H. ARMSTRONG.

Served in Boer War. Now on his way to the front. Wife and family reside at York.

Courtesy National Archives of Australia

Life Story:

Harry George Armstrong was born in South Australia in 1883. He fought in the Boer War as a young man and appears to have settled in York around 1909. In 1910, he married Alice Jane Hubble in York and their first child, Fredrick, was born that same year. The couple eventually had eight children. Alice's brother, John, also went on to serve in the First World War.

In 1914, Harry was elected councillor for the North Ward of the Shire of York, so he would have been a prominent member of the community.

Harry enlisted on the 5th April 1917 and reported to Blackboy Hill for training in June. His wife and children moved down to the metropolitan area soon after.

On the 30th October, Harry boarded the *Aeneas* bound for Devonport, England. He proceeded to France on the 6th March 1918 to serve with the 2nd Pioneer Battalion. However, on the 13th April, Harry became ill and was admitted to hospital. He was unable to re-join his unit until the 4th October 1918.

In March 1919, after the end of the War, Harry was transferred to the Graves Registration Detachment. The work done by the Graves Registration unit would have been particularly traumatising.

On the 16th August, Harry was detached from his unit to return to Australia. He finally arrived home on the 16th November 1919, more than a year after the War had ended. Harry returned to York where he remained with his family until the early 1920s. The family then moved to Victoria Park where they remained until Harry's death in 1962.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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Members of the Graves Registration Detachment, Australian section, of the Imperial War Graves.

Courtesy Australian War Memorial.

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