

## RAINSBURY, G.

Born in 1892 in Northcote, George Rainsbury was the ninth of 11 children born to Samuel Rainsbury and May Appleby.

George worked as a wood machinist. He married May Appleby in 1912 and their son George Ronald was born in Collingwood the following year.

In 1915, George embarked for overseas, first to Gallipoli and later to France. Just a year after enlisting, he was reported missing in action, then his death was confirmed. (See Red Cross extract in AIF Project entry below.)

Family tributes in newspapers reflected the grief of so many who mourned: ..."killed at the Front, somewhere in France".

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### *AIF Project Entry*

#### **George RAINSBURY**

Regimental number	2736
Place of birth	Northcote, Victoria
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Wood machinist
Address	Fitzroy, Victoria
Marital status	Married
Age at embarkation	23
Height	5' 6.5"
Weight	139 lbs
Next of kin	Wife, Mrs M Rainsbury, 207 Moore Street, Fitzroy, Victoria.
Previous military service	Nil
Enlistment date	3 July 1915
Place of enlistment	Melbourne, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	8th Battalion, 8th Reinforcement
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/25/3
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board SS <i>Makarini</i> on 15 September 1915.
Regimental number from Nominal Roll	2736A
Rank from Nominal Roll	Private
Unit from Nominal Roll	60th Battalion
Fate	Killed in Action 19 July 1916.
Place of burial	No known grave
Commemoration details	V.C. Corner (Panel No 22), Australian Cemetery Memorial, Fromelles, France.

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Panel number, Roll of Honour,  
Australian War Memorial  
Other details

170

War service: Egypt, Gallipoli, Western Front  
Joined 8th Bn, Gallipoli, 7 December 1915.  
Admitted to 2nd Field Ambulance, Camp  
Sarpi, Mudros, 20 December 1915 (mumps),  
and transferred to 3rd Australian General  
Hospital, Lemnos; discharged to Anzac Base  
Depot, 5 January 1916.

Disembarked Alexandria, 10 January 1916  
(general Gallipoli evacuation); rejoined Bn,  
Tel el Kebir, 11 January 1916.

Transferred to 60th Bn, and taken on  
strength, 24 February 1916.

Admitted to 4th Field Ambulance, 30 March  
1916; transferred same day to No 1  
Australian Stationary Hospital, Tel el Kebir  
(debility); discharged to unit same day.

Admitted to 8th Field Ambulance, 31 March  
1916 (heat stroke); discharged to unit,  
1 April 1916.

Admitted to 8th Field Ambulance, Ferry Post,  
12 May 1916 (boils); transferred to 14th Field  
Ambulance, 13 May 1916 (septic arm);  
discharged to unit, 16 May 1916.

Embarked Alexandria to join the British  
Expeditionary Force, 18 June 1916;  
disembarked Marseilles, France,  
29 June 1916.

Reported Missing, 19 July 1916.

Now, 25 August 1916, declared 'Killed in  
Action, 19 July 1916'.

Statement, Red Cross File No 2230604, 3806  
Pte W.L. DALTON, C Company, 60th Bn,  
21 June 1917: 'Casualty was with me on the  
19th July at Fleurbaix in the attack. I went  
over the parapet in the C. Company wave. I  
was wounded in the hip and crawled into a  
shell hole with 5 other men. 2 crawled away  
leaving 3 of us. One was Cpl. Murton of  
Bendigo who had his foot blown off. His name  
is on the Missing List I see. Another one was  
the above named casualty who was badly  
wounded in the abdomen. He lay moaning  
there all night, and he died before I was  
rescued by the Stretcher Bearers. I lay there  
from the Wednesday night to the Friday  
morning. There was no doubt whatever he  
died. His body would be unburied.'

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Medals: 1914-15 Star, British War Medal,  
Victory Medal

Sources: NAA: B2455, RAINSBURY George  
Red Cross File No 2230604

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A Bereavement Notice, published in *The Age* 16 January 1915, p. 5, after the death of George's father Samuel, shows a link between the family and St Jude's.

*"MRS. RAINSBURY and FAMILY wish to sincerely THANK all kind friends and neighbo's [sic] for messages of sympathy, in cards, visits and floral tributes received during their recent sad bereavement; also thanking the Rev. Mr. Good for his kind attention, and Mr. Holdsworth for the way in which he carried out the funeral arrangements. 21 Elgin-street, Carlton."*

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NAA: B2455, RAINSBURY G, SERN 2736.

BDM VIC

AWM: Australian Red Cross Wounded and Missing Enquiries Files

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