

# Compton Chamberlayne War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



2911 PRIVATE

**C. W. FERROW**

57<sup>th</sup> BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

28<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 45

*IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF MY DEAR HUSBAND  
MAY HE REST IN PEACE*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte C W Ferrow*

*is located in Middle Row Grave Plot # 12 at Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery*

Charles William Ferrow was born in Ashfield, Sydney in 1873 to parents James Charles & Margaret Sarah Jane Ferrow. He was a painter, married & aged 44 years & 6 months, from Katoomba, New South Wales when he enlisted on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 1916 at Bathurst, with the 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army. His Service Number was 2911 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Annie Teresa Ferrow, Leichhardt St, Katoomba, NSW. Charles Ferrow had married Annie Moran in 1897 in the district of Newtown, Sydney, NSW. They had 3 children John F (born 1902), Joseph W (born 1904) & Kathleen L M (born 1908).

Pte Ferrow embarked from Sydney on the HMAT *Afric (A19)* on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain area in the county of Wiltshire.

Pte Ferrow was sent to 15<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion - "A" Company at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1917. He was admitted to the Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Pte Charles William Ferrow died on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 at 8.40 p.m., aged 44, of acute bronchitis – (cardiac failure), after spending 35 days in the Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire. A death for Charles W Ferrow, age 45, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire. ( Fovant was a parish in the district of Wilton).

Pte Ferrow was buried at Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 1917.

Private C W Ferrow is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 163.



*(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)*



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

Pte C W Ferrow was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a theatre of war. A Memorial Scroll (December, 1921) & Memorial Plaque were sent to Pte Ferrow's widow – Mrs Annie Ferrow (July, 1922) of Austral St, Penhurst, NSW.

Pte Charles William Ferrow is also remembered on the [Penrith City Council's website](#) Memories of War – Penrith District Roll of Honour 1914-1919.

(49 pages of Pte Charles William Ferrow's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives*

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## **Roll Of Honour – Died – Other Causes**

*New South Wales – Ferrow, C. W., of illness*

(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania & The Argus, Melbourne – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 1917)

## **Soldier Children's Bursaries**

*At the last meeting of the Bursary Endowment Board, war bursaries were granted to Joseph W Ferrow, son of Private Charles W Ferrow, of Katoomba, who died through illness while on active service;.....*

*The board is empowered to award war bursaries only to children of soldiers who have been incapacitated or have died through active military service.*

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June, 1917)

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#### Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone at Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

*(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)*

Pte Ferrow does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte C W Ferrow's Headstone at Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery



Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey