

ON THE STREETS WHERE YOU LIVE



Hallam Avenue

Four new Lane Cove streets were constructed when the No.2 subdivision of Parklands Estate was offered for sale in September 1919. The streets were named in memory of four local lads killed in World War One. Garling, Munro and Gentle Streets along with Hallam Avenue were formed in a triangle of land between Moore Street (now Epping Road) and Centennial Avenue. The advertising of the day described the land as suitable for 'splendid building sites'.

One hundred years ago in April 1917, Private Richard Henry Hallams, service number 5345, was killed in action in France. He was born at Redfern in 1898 and worked as a grocer. He was just nineteen when he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces in January 1916. Both his parents, William and Jane Hallams signed his consent form because he was under twenty-one years of age. By 1913 the family had moved to *Keighley*, a house on Gordon Road (now Pacific Highway) not far from the Chatswood South Methodist Church (now Chatswood South Uniting Church). Richard attended the church and was later remembered as a Sunday school scholar.

With three and a half years previous experience as a senior cadet, Richard was initially attached to D Company, 45th Battalion and sent to training at Bathurst. He was transferred to the Liverpool camp in April 1916, joining the 14th reinforcement of the 19th Battalion. He embarked for the Western Front on HMAT A18 *Wiltshire* on 22 August 1916 landing at Plymouth, England in October. After further training at Folkestone, UK, he joined his battalion on the Western Front in France on 23 December 1916.

The 19th Battalion had fought in the atrocious conditions at the Battle of Flers during November 1916 and was in need of the reinforcements. During 1917 the Battalion would follow up the German forces in their retreat to the Hindenburg Line. Private Hallams was 'killed in action' on 17 April 1917. Like many men who died on the Western Front, Hallams has no known grave but his name is remembered with honour on the Australian National Memorial at Villers-Bretonneaux, France.

His official service record notes no further information regarding Hallams death but the *Chatswood South Methodist Church – Book of Remembrance* (recently donated to Lane Cove Library Archives) records ...'After service in the front line the battalion was relieved and marched to a Rest Camp, and here Dick was killed by a long-distance shell on 17 April, 1917. Buried at Noreuil, France.'

Hallams' name is also recorded on two local honour rolls. The Longueville (now Lane Cove) Public School Roll of Honour for the Great War, which listed local citizens as well as students and the Lane Cove World War One Honour Roll. Originally located in the School of Arts, it has recently been restored and relocated to the foyer of the Lane Cove Council Civic Centre.

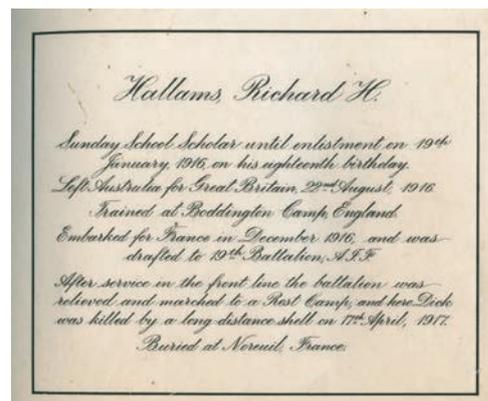
Following the war Richard's parents and sister, Edith continued to live in the Lane Cove area. Their 1919 *Sydney*



Studio portrait of Private Richard Henry Hallams, 19th Battalion of Artarmon.
(Courtesy of the Australian War Memorial P00644.001)

Morning Herald In Memoriam notice stated Richard was 'deeply mourned by his loving father and mother and sister'. Edith married Clifford Hopkins in 1925 and they lived in Helen Street.

By 1941 Hallam Avenue, Lane Cove West had been extended westward from its original subdivision plan. A road originally named as Pasadena Avenue in the Austral Estate subdivision of 1928 and in existence during the 1930s also had its name changed to Hallam Avenue, linking it across Barwon Road to Cullen Street. Pasadena Avenue continued to be named in some street directories in the 1950s.



Richard Hallams entry in the Chatswood South Uniting Church Book of Remembrance
(Courtesy of the Chatswood South Uniting Church)

