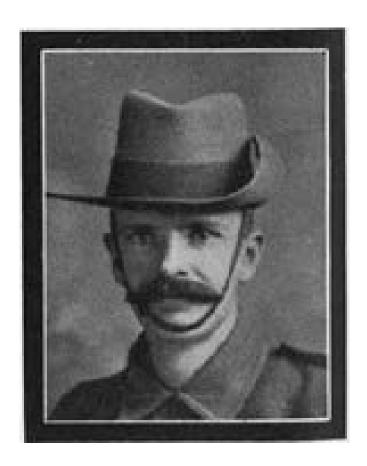# PICKBURN, Robert Owen

Robert Pickburn
Courtesy of Faithe Jones
https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/gallery/102324

Robert Owen Pickburn was born in Sydney, NSW in 1880. His parents, Thomas James and Emily Melanie nee De Mestre had five children between 1871 and 1880, James Prosper b.1871, Etienne De Mestere b.1873, Miriam b.1875, Percy Oswald b.1878, and Robert. Emily died in 1880 and Thomas remarried, Mabel Faith nee De Mestre, in 1881. Thomas and Mabel had five children between 1883 and 1899, Elsie b. 1883, Winifred Julia b.1884, Gladys De Mestre b.1886, Tom b.1887, and Beryl b.1899.

Robert attended Sydney Grammar School, and enrolled at HAC on 3 September 1898, aged 18, as a Practical Student. Thomas is recorded as a Doctor on Robert's student card. Completing the Practical courses, Robert then completed the first year of the Diploma in 1899, leaving the College that December.

Robert was a 35 year old orchardist when he enlisted at Bankstown, NSW, on 22 March 1916 with the 53rd Australian Infantry Battalion, 3rd Reinforcement.

Robert embarked from Sydney, NSW, aboard HMAT A37 Barambah, on 23 June 1916.

Serving on the Western Front, Robert was wounded at Polygon Wood and later Died of wounds at the 3rd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 21 October 1917 Belgium. He was 39 years old.

Robert's death was reported in the Sydney Morning Herald, 'Private Robert Owen Pickburn died of wounds on October 21. He was the fourth son of the late Dr. Thomas

Pickburn, of College-street, Sydney, and a brother of the late Judge Pickburn [James Prosper], of the New South Wales Arbitration Court. He was educated at the Sydney Grammar School, and prior to enlisting was engaged in agricultural pursuits. Two brothers are at the front, one of whom was seriously wounded last year' (SMH 21 Nov 1917 p.13).

Robert is buried at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Lijssenthoek, Flanders, Belgium.