

WREN, Henry Erasmus



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St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen
Photograph © John Knight 15 November
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Henry Erasmus Wren came from the dairying district of Bega on the south coast of NSW where his father managed an estate at Kameruka, where Henry was born. Arriving at HAC aged 17 in 1905, he took prizes for Best on Dairy and Best on Plots in his first year. He completed the two year diploma, after which he returned to his father's property, writing to the College in early 1908 of his successes at the local Candelo agricultural show where he was awarded a special prize for the best cattle judge under the age of 25. He also won prizes for Jersey cows at the Bega Show, including champion Jersey and champion dairy cow. In addition, he took second place for champion dairy bull and second for Jersey heifers.

"Hal", as he was generally known, was managing his father's estate by the time he joined the artillery in August 1915, having earlier requested testimonials from the college regarding his veterinary and first aid competency, feeling that if he was to work with the Veterinary Corps or Medical Corps he'd have a chance of working with other ex-students, but it was the 12th Reinforcements of the 1st Field Artillery Brigade he joined.

He travelled to Egypt and then to France as a Gunner with his unit in late March 1916 and was wounded at Flers on 12 November. He died, aged 29, at the No. 6 General Hospital, Rouen, on 15 November and was buried at St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France.