

PYE, Raymond Elton



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Raymond Elton Pye was sixteen when he commenced his two years at Hawkesbury Agricultural College in April 1907. He completed his studies in June 1909. His father had been born in Windsor, NSW and was a prominent grazier in Hartley, NSW, and it was grazing that Raymond pursued subsequent to leaving the College.

He volunteered in May 1915, trained as an officer and embarked on A32 *Thermistocles* from Sydney, NSW, on April 12 1915, as a Lieutenant with the 17th Battalion. He sailed for Gallipoli on August 16 and received a GSW (Gun Shot Wound) to the neck on August 27 which invalidated him to England in October where he was also treated for scarlet fever. He rejoined his battalion in January 1916 and sailed for Marseille on March 17, arriving on the 23rd. He was killed on May 17 1916.

Pye's Red Cross Wounded and Missing file records numerous accounts of his death, some varying wildly in the circumstances surrounding his death but one thing is common among most of the accounts; Pye was leading night time scouting parties undertaking reconnaissance of the German lines. He undertook such an activity late on the night of his death, and while many of the men in his battalion knew of his activities, it seems some weren't told that he went out that night. On his return he failed to respond to a challenge, and thinking he was a German, he was shot. He soon died of those wounds and was buried the following day. He was 25.

He lies today in the Brewery Orchard Cemetery, Bois Grenier (between Fromelles and Armentieres) France, as does fellow HAC student Oscar D Murphine, a member of the 18th Battalion killed five days later.