Roland Edwin Hollingworth was born at Mosman, Sydney, attended Forts Street High School (then on Observatory Hill), then, aged 17, arrived at HAC in July 1912 where he undertook practical work until the new year. His father, Albert, was the then “Resident Secretary” for the AMP Society in London. Roland then enrolled in the Diploma, gaining first place in 1913 and received a prize presented by the College Medical Officer, Dr William McD Helsham. He also completed his second year certificate, placing fourth in a class of 26, and then volunteered with the Veterinary Section of the AIF in November 1914, commanded by Max Henry who had taught veterinary science at the College.

Roland trained and served in Egypt with the 1st Mobile Veterinary Section during which time he wrote to the College commenting that like many, he was “rather sick at being left behind in Egypt” and was seriously considering joining the infantry. He added that he looked forward to returning to the College to complete his studies. He departed Egypt at the end of March and disembarked in Marseille, France, on 4 April 1916, then four months later transferred to the 1st Battalion as an infantryman. In October he undertook a four-week Lewis Machine Gun course, returning to D Company, 1st Battalion, on 4 November. On the following day at Gueudecourt he was reported missing in action after a futile night attack on the German trenches, which apparently involved crossing 500 metres of deep mud.

A Court of Enquiry held on 4 March 1917, determined he had been killed on 5 November 1916, aged 20. His father Albert wrote to the College informing them that his son’s remains had been found on the German wire on 1 March 1917. He lies today in Grévillers British Cemetery, near Bapaume, France.