

Private Rowland Lenthall©
Regimental number: 1831¹
8th Battalion, Australian Infantry

born: 1894 – died: 29 June 1916

Private Rowland Lenthall was born in 1894 in the parish of Waverley in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.² He was the son of Rowland Edmund Lenthall,³ who was born in about 1860 in Australia,⁴ and Edith Brownlow, who was born in 1855 in Sydney.⁵ Rowland and Edith were married in 1884 in Sydney⁶ and probably had four children: Ellison Rowland (born in 1885),⁷ Allan Rowland (born in 1889),⁸ Bessie (born in 1892)⁹ and Rowland.

When Rowland was just two years old, his mother died.¹⁰ Probate for her estate was given to her husband Rowland and her brother, Richard Gilbert Brownlow.¹¹ Richard was left to care for their four children, 12 years of age and under.

In 1900, Rowland Senior remarried in Sydney, marrying Emily E. Booth,¹² who was born in 1872 in Dubbo, Australia.¹³ Rowland and Emily had four children: Beryl Emma Arundel (born in 1901),¹⁴ Edgar Walter Rowland (born in 1903),¹⁵ Hamilton James Booth¹⁶ (born in 1904)¹⁷ and Mervyth Dorothy Sybil (born in 1908).¹⁸

In 1909, Rowland senior and his second family immigrated to Canada. They sailed on the *Persic*, of the White Star Dominion Line, from Sydney, via the Cape, to London, England, arriving on 12 March 1909.¹⁹ Rowland Senior was a storekeeper when he arrived with Emily and their four children. From there, they travelled on to Canada the same year.²⁰

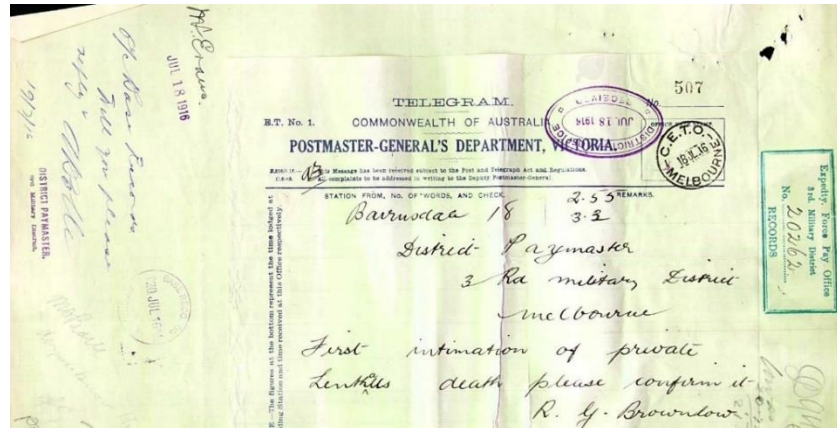
In 1911, the family was living in Newport, Gaspé, Quebec, where Rowland senior was a civil engineer “explorer.”²¹ By then, young Rowland, who had remained in Australia, was probably living with his uncle and aunt—Richard Brownlow and his wife—in Bairnsdale, Victoria, Australia.²² Although his father was his next of kin when he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force, he was still living with his uncle and aunt and they subsequently received his army pay.

Rowland enlisted on 21 April 1915 in Bairnsdale.²³ He was a labourer, 5' 9½" tall and had a dark complexion, gray eyes, dark brown hair and a scar from an earlier appendectomy. He was an Anglican. He joined the 8th Battalion of the Australian Infantry in May 1915. The 8th Battalion was raised immediately after the declaration of war in August 1914 and went first to Egypt in December 1914.²⁴ Rowland joined the battalion in May 1915 and probably fought in the battle of Lone Pine in Gallipoli with the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. After the battalion withdrew from Gallipoli, it returned to Egypt in December 1915.

In December 1915, Rowland was admitted to the 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station with pyrexia (fever) “of unknown origin.” He was then transferred to the hospital ship H.S. *Oxfordshire* and eventually to No. 2 Australian General Hospital, located in the Ghezireh Palace in Cairo. He was discharged and rejoined his battalion in Ismailia on 11 March 1916. The battalion left Alexandria, Egypt, on 16 March 1916 to sail to France and join the Western Front. Rowland disembarked in Marseille on 31 March. At the end of June 1916, he was wounded: he received a bullet wound in his lower back, below his abdomen. He was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 29 June and died at 11:45 p.m. that day. He was buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Grave Reference: II. E. 134).²⁵

Bailleul is in northern France, close to the Belgian border. It was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several casualty clearing stations, including No. 1 Canadian, were quartered there for considerable periods. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918, and occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when soldiers' remains were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.²⁶

The news of his death first reached his uncle and aunt in Australia on 18 July. They wrote requesting more details, as they had done when he was admitted to hospital in Egypt the previous year. His death certificate arrived in September 1917.



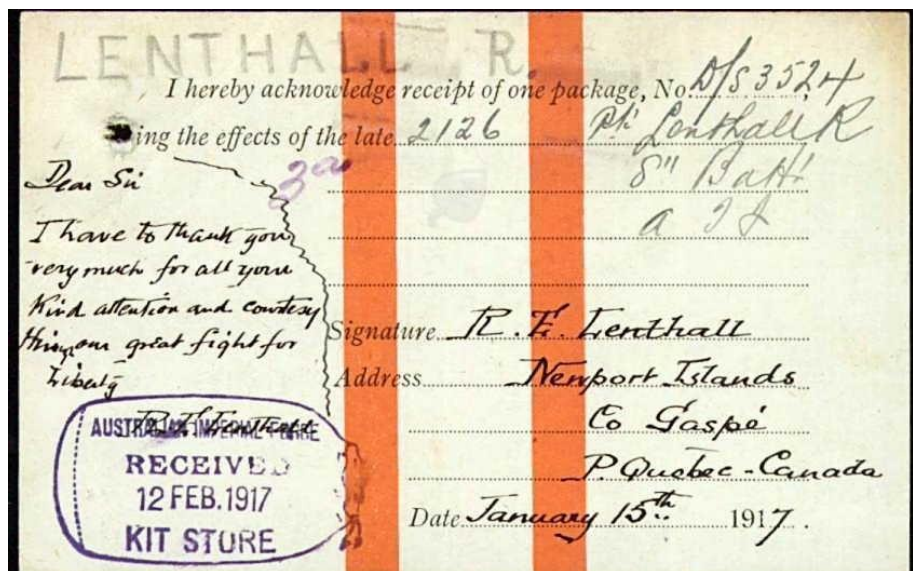
First news of Private Lenthall's death

Source: "Australia, WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," Ancestry (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Rowland Lenthall

Rowland died without having made a will or left any testamentary direction. As a result, there were several communications from his father and his solicitors when he applied to the courts in October 1918 for Letters of Administration of his estate and, in 1919, for exemption from duty on his estate. The issue of his estate appears to have continued for some time, as there are further letters in his army service file—one in 1925 confirming that Rowland was not married when he enlisted and one in 1959 still requesting certified copies of his death certificate.

His uncle and aunt also wrote to the Australian Imperial Force about his personal effects in September 1918. His possessions had already been sent to his father in Canada in 1917. These included a pouch, three pipes, a pocketbook, the Princess Mary gift box, a spent bullet, a dictionary, a broken wrist watch, two notebooks, letters, photos, a knife, his Power of Attorney form, a cotton bag, seven coins, cards, belt, a French book and two religious books.

The three medals that Rowland was awarded—the British War Medal (for service



Acknowledgement of receipt of Private Lenthall's personal effects

Source: "Australia, WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," Ancestry (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Rowland Lenthall

overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914–15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915)—were also sent to his father in Quebec between 1920 and 1922. His father had made several enquiries about the medals and when he could expect to receive them.

Rowland senior died on 20 May 1939²⁷ in Trois Rivières, Quebec and was buried in Mount Royal Cemetery in Montreal on 24 May.²⁸ Emily died on 22 February 1959 and was also buried in Mount Royal Cemetery.²⁹

Rowland and his siblings did not immigrate to Canada with his father. However, two of them did eventually go to North America. Ellison immigrated to the United States in 1905 and, in 1920, was working as a pantryman in a restaurant.³⁰ He was exempt from the draft in the Great War because of infantile paralysis of his left leg.³¹ By 1940, he was at the Rockland State Mental Hospital in Orangetown, Rockland County, in New York State.³²

Allan enlisted in the British Army Reserve in the Eastern Telegraph Reserve in July 1914.³³ He served at the telegraph station (Direction Island Section), located on one of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, in the Indian Ocean, northwest of Australia. In November 1914, the Germans staged an unsuccessful attack on the island in an attempt to disable Britain's telegraph cable network.³⁴ He was discharged in 1915 because he had left Direction Island in January 1915. He later enlisted in the New Zealand Army Reserve as a cable operator at Cable Bay, Wakapuaka.³⁵ Cable Bay, near Nelson, New Zealand, housed the station at which international communication cables arrived in the country.³⁶ The station closed down in 1917. Alan died in Nelson, New Zealand, in 1917³⁷ and was buried in Sydney, Australia.³⁸

Bessie married John W. Langley in England in 1911³⁹ and then immigrated to Canada in 1911.⁴⁰ In 1921, she and her husband, with four children, were living in South Cowichan, Nanaimo, British Columbia. She died in Vancouver in 1974.⁴¹

Rowland's half-siblings all immigrated to Canada with his father. All but one remained in Canada. Beryl married Arthur John Richardson Phillips on 25 April 1925 in Montreal⁴² and died in Calgary, Alberta, in 1990.⁴³ Edgar moved to the United States and married Eva McLellan on 15 April 1930 in Detroit, Michigan.⁴⁴ In 1940, he was living in Detroit and working as a tool and die maker.⁴⁵ He died in Detroit in 1958.⁴⁶ Hamilton James Booth died in 1995 in Ottawa, Ontario.⁴⁷ Mervyth married Harold Joseph Hovey in Chandler, Quebec, on 10 September 1930⁴⁸ and died in Gibsons, British Columbia in 1996.⁴⁹

© 2016 BIFHSGO

¹ His regimental number was originally 2126 but was subsequently changed to 1831. This is the number reflected in the journal of No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station chaplains.

² "Australia, Birth Index, 1788–1922," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Rowl Lenthall, Registration number: 36328; "Australia, WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Roland Lenthall. His name is spelled Roland or Rowland in different documents.

³ "Australia, WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Roland Lenthall.

⁴ "Australia, Birth Index, 1788–1922," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Roland E Lenthall, Registration number: 1604.

-
- ⁵ "Australia, Birth Index, 1788-1922," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Edith Brownlow, Volume number: V1855948 58
- ⁶ "Australia, Marriage Index, 1788-1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Rowland E Lenthall, Registration number: 1493
- ⁷ "Australia, Birth Index, 1788-1922," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Ellison R. Lenthall, Registration number: 9778
- ⁸ "Australia, Birth Index, 1788-1922," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Alan R. Lenthall, Registration number: 7663
- ⁹ "Australia, Birth Index, 1788-1922," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Bessie Lenthall, Registration number: 37845
- ¹⁰ "Australia, Death Index, 1787-1985," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 August 2016), entry for Edith Lenthall, Registration number: 8339
- ¹¹ "New South Wales, Australia, Government Gazettes, 1853-1899," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Rowland Edmund Lenthall, Page number: 119; "Australia, Birth Index, 1788-1922," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Rihcard [*sic*] M Brownlow, Registration number: 895
- ¹² "Australia, Marriage Index, 1788-1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Rowland E Lenthall, Registration number: 5480
- ¹³ "Australia, Birth Index, 1788-1922," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Emily E. Booth, Registration number: 9496
- ¹⁴ "Australia, Birth Index, 1788-1922," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 August 2016), entry for Beryl E A Lenthall, Registration number: 34869
- ¹⁵ "Australia, Birth Index, 1788-1922," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 August 2016), entry for Edgar W R Lenthall, Registration number: 33210
- ¹⁶ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966, 1973-1995," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Rowland Edmund Lenthall
- ¹⁷ "Australia, Birth Index, 1788-1922," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 August 2016), entry for Hamilton J B Lenthall, Registration number: 35695
- ¹⁸ "Australia, Birth Index, 1788-1922," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 August 2016), entry for Mervyth D S Lenthall, Registration number: 13216
- ¹⁹ "UK, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Roland [*sic*] Lenthall, Official number: 110620
- ²⁰ "1911 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Rouland [*sic*] E Lenthall, Province: Quebec, District: Gaspé, District number: 159, Sub-district: 35 - Newport, Sub-district number: 35
- ²¹ *Ibid.*
- ²² "Australia, WWI Service Records, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Roland Lenthall
- ²³ *Ibid.* Unless otherwise noted, all information about his military career comes from this source.
- ²⁴ "8th Australian Infantry Battalion," Australian War Memorial (<https://www.awm.gov.au/unit/U51448/>: accessed 20 August 2016)
- ²⁵ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Lenthall, Roland [*sic*] , Service No: 2126
- ²⁶ "Bailleul Communal Cemetery, Nord," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (<http://www.cwgc.org/>: accessed 5 August 2015)
- ²⁷ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966, 1973-1995," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Rowland Edmund Lenthall

-
- ²⁸ "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621–1968," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Rowland Edmond [sic] Lenthall, Event: Enterrement (Burial)
- ²⁹ "Canada, Find a Grave Index, 1600s–Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 August 2016), entry for Emily Eliza Lenthall
- ³⁰ "1920 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Ellison R Leuthall
- ³¹ "U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Ellison Richard Lenthatt [sic]
- ³² "1940 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Ellison Lenthall
- ³³ "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Alan Rowland Lenthall
- ³⁴ "From Australia to Zimmermann: A Brief History of Cable Telegraphy during World War One" (<http://blogs.mhs.ox.ac.uk/innovatingincombat/files/2013/03/Innovating-in-Combat-educational-resources-telegraph-cable-draft-1.pdf>: accessed 30 August 2016)
- ³⁵ "New Zealand Army WWI Reserve Rolls, 1916–1917," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Alan Rowland Lenthall
- ³⁶ "History of Cable Bay Station," *Cable Bay Holiday Park* (<http://www.cablebayfarm.co.nz/index.php/cable-bay-station-history> accessed 30 August 2016)
- ³⁷ "New Zealand, Death Index, 1848–1964," *Ancestry* details?Alan Rowland Lenthall, Folio number: 545
- ³⁸ "Sydney, Australia, Cemetery Headstone Transcriptions, 1867–2002," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Alan Rowland Lenthall
- ³⁹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: 20 August 2016), entry for Bessie Lenthall, Registration district: Abingdon, Inferred county: Oxfordshire, Volume: 2c, Page: 717
- ⁴⁰ "1921 Census of Canada," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Reosie [sic] Langley, Province or territory: British Columbia, District: Nanaimo, District number: 19, Sub-District: South Cowichan, Sub-district number: 9, City, Town or Village: S Cowichan District
- ⁴¹ "British Columbia, Canada, Death Index, 1872–1990," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Bessie Langley, Registration number: 1974-09-003631, BCA number: B13331, GSU number: 2050286
- ⁴² "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621–1968," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 August 2016), entry for Beryl Emma Arundel Lenthull [sic]
- ⁴³ "Web: Alberta, Index to Cemeteries, 1823–2013," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 August 2016), entry for Beryl E. (Lenthall) Phillips
- ⁴⁴ "Michigan, Marriage Records, 1867–1952," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 August 2016), entry for Mr Edgar W Lenthall, County file number: 378044, State file number: 82 70765, Film: 252, Film title: 82 Wayne 69730-72949, Film description: Wayne (December 1929 - June 1930)
- ⁴⁵ "1940 United States Federal Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 August 2016), entry for Edgar Lenthall
- ⁴⁶ "U.S., Find a Grave Index, 1600s–Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 August 2016), entry for Edgar W Lenthall
- ⁴⁷ "Web: CanadianHeadstones.com Index," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 August 2016), entry for Hamilton Lenthall
- ⁴⁸ "Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621–1968," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 30 August 2016), entry for Margth Dorothy Sybil Lenthall
- ⁴⁹ "Canada, Find A Grave Index, 1600s–Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 August 2016), entry for Mervyth Dorothy Sybil Hovey