

## Edward Harold Ausburn



**Private Edward Ausburn**  
**54th Battalion AIF**  
**Service Number: 4128**

**Born:** 16 October 1893, Penrith, NSW  
**Died:** 21 July 1916, Fromelles, France

Edward (Ted) Ausburn was born in Kingswood in 1893, the son of James and Hannah Ausburn. As a 16 year old, his mother gave permission for him to join the Royal Navy in 1909 for 5 years. Before the war, he worked as a cook at the officer's mess in Canberra. His father was a saddle and harness maker and the family lived in Henry Street, and later Woodriff Street, Penrith.

Ausburn enlisted in September 1915 and was posted to the 13th Reinforcements, 2nd Battalion. He left Australia aboard the HMAT Aeneas on 20 December 1915 and arrived at Alexandria in January 1916. On 16 February 1916, the reorganization of the AIF saw the 2nd Battalion divided into two units. Ausburn was allocated to 54th Battalion.

On 19 June 1916, he was sent to the Western Front and disembarked at Marseilles on 29 June. The 54th Battalion fought its first major battle on the Western Front as part of the initial assault at Fromelles on 19 July. It suffered a casualty rate of almost 65 percent. Ausburn was killed in action between 19-21 July 1916. He was buried at

Eaton Hall Cemetery by Reverend James Green and later re-interred in Rue-Petillion Military Cemetery.

On 3 September 1916 a memorial service was held in the open-air picture theatre in High Street where Ausburn was described 'as a fine young man of the very highest character'. Hunt stated, 'It was very clear to anyone that he was held in very high esteem and we thank God for his life and example'. By 1920, his parents were living in Archibald Street Granville. Ted's brother Albert Charles served in Carmichael's 36th Battalion, was twice wounded and gassed, and returned to Australia in 1918.

**Memorial Details:**

- Rue-Petillion Military Cemetery, Fleurbaix, France
- Honour Roll, Memory Park, Penrith
- Honour Roll, Penrith Superior Public School

**Sources:**

- [National Archives of Australia Search:](#) B2455, AUSBURN E H
- [Australian War Memorial First World War Nominal Roll](#)
- [Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour](#)
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Penrith City Library Biography files

**TROVE:**

- [Nepean Times](#) 2 September 1916, p4, Col. 3