

## Austin Joseph Bourke



**Private Austin Bourke**  
**18th Battalion, AIF**  
**Serial Number: 3788**

**Born:** 1885, Mt Victoria, NSW

**Died:** 8 September 1916, Camiers, France

Austin Joseph Bourke was born in 1885 at Mount Victoria, the son of Richard and Mary Jane Bourke. After the death of his mother when he was two, Bourke was raised by his grandmother. He was educated at Penrith Public School and afterwards worked for NSW Railways for a time. Before his enlistment at Narrabri on 3 October 1915 he had been working on farms in the district. His father, also employed with NSW Railways died suddenly at Goulburn on 6 October while on duty as guard on the Temora mail train.

Austin's Uncle James Bourke of Boxgrove, Kingswood was then noted as his next of kin. After several weeks training Bourke was allocated to the 9th Reinforcements, 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion. On 21 January 1916, he left Sydney aboard HMAT Runic arriving in Alexandria on 4 March. A few weeks later, he was on his way to France.

The 18th Battalion took part in its first major battle at Pozieres between 25 July and 5 August 1916. Bourke was wounded in action on 29 July 1916 but remained on duty. On 3 August he wrote his will giving half his property and assets to Louisa Bailey of High Street, daughter of bootmaker William Bailey, and his cousin Myrea Bourke of Erskineville.

On 4 August 1916, Bourke sustained further gunshot wounds to his left shoulder and leg and after being treated at the 4th Australian Field Ambulance was transferred to the 22nd General Hospital at Camiers. He died from his wounds at 5.40 pm on

8 September 1916. Myrea Bourke's father Michael received his belongings, photos of his grave and his medals after his death. Bourke's obituary in the Nepean Times on 28 October 1916 read 'He was of robust, stalwart physique, and of a genial temperament' and that in his death he had 'gained the patent of immortal nobility'.

**Memorial Details:**

- Etaples Military Cemetery, France
- Honour Roll, Memory Park, Penrith
- Honour Roll, St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Church, Penrith
- Honour Roll, Penrith Superior Public School

**Sources:**

- Australian War Memorial First World War Nominal Roll
- [Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour](#)
- Penrith City Library Biography files

**Trove:**

- [Nepean Times 28 October 1916, p4, Col. 4](#)