Corporal Frank Kingsley Drake (XC 1908-15)

AWM ~ Roll of Honour
Frank Kingsley Drake

Service Number: 11752
Rank: Corporal
Unit: 1st Australian Field Artillery Brigade
Date of death: 24 October 1918
Place of death: France
Cause of death: Died of wounds
Age at death: 21
Address: 47 Lisson Grove, Hawthorn, Australia
Cemetery details: St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France
Grave reference: Block S, Plot II, Row AA,

From “The Xaverian” 1918, p. 44

Fred and Frank Drake.—Some time last October that came to us from across the seas a beautiful white card with lettering all done in the daintiest of silver design. “With Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Drake’s compliments”; and then a little further down—“Married at St Patrick’s Church, Wellington, Shropshire, 20th September, 1918.” It was Fred’s last engagement, and he won it too—if not the whole, at least the half, and the better half at that.

Then a month later came another card—white and silver, yes, but edged with the border of sombre black. It was the death notice of poor Frank, who died of wounds in France on 24th October, after three years of service. May his brave soul rest in peace and comfort come to those left to mourn the early going of one who was so dear to all that knew him.

St Sever Cemetery and Extension

During the First World War, Commonwealth camps and hospitals were stationed on the southern outskirts of Rouen.

Almost all of the hospitals at Rouen remained there for practically the whole of the war. They included eight general, five stationary, one British Red Cross, one labour hospital, and No. 2 Convalescent Depot. A number of the dead from these hospitals were buried in other cemeteries, but the great majority were taken to the city cemetery of St. Sever. In September 1916, it was found necessary to begin an extension.

St. Sever Cemetery contains 3,082 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.