Lance Corporal William Francis Hanlon (XC 1912-'13)

Service Number: 9635
Rank: Lance Corporal
Unit: 12th Australian Field Ambulance
Date of death: 3 April 1918
Age at death: 22
Place of death: Doullens, France
Cause of death: Died of wounds
Occupation: Chemist’s assistant
Place of association: Ballarat, Australia
Cemetery details: Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No 1, Picardie, France
Grave Reference: Plot VI, Row E, Grave No. 62

From “The Xaverian” 1918 p. 47

Private William Hanlon.—Poor Willie, who was a stretcher-bearer in the 12th Australian Field Ambulance, was struck down on 2nd April by a shell while carrying a wounded man to the dressing station. The Sergeant of his section, writing to Mrs. Hanlon on behalf of the Company, says—"Billy was a fine lad, liked by every member of the unit, and his loss is keenly felt by his comrades. He had been a stretcher-bearer in my section since January 1017, and had taken part in every engagement since that time. No task was too hard, no danger too great for him. He was cheerful amongst difficulties and brave amidst dangers. Truly may it be said of him—'Greater love than this no man hath, that he lay down his life for his friend.'  ” God rest his young and generous soul, and send comfort and consolation to his sorrow-stricken mother.