

## **May 2, 1922. Caledonian Colliery, Walloon.**

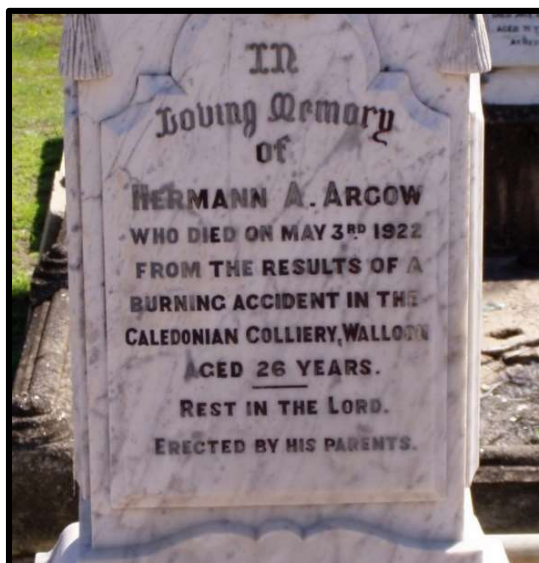
On the morning of Tuesday May 2, 1922, mates Hermann Argow aged 26 and William Pattison aged 28 were working at the pit bottom of No 2, South Section of the Caledonian Colliery at Walloon, their task being to re-timber an airway. They had been working at this same task during the previous four days without mishap.

On that fateful morning a gas explosion occurred at the site, injuring both men who suffered extensive, severe burns to their torsos, limbs and faces. Despite his awful injuries, Hermann Argow managed to make his way from the accident site to call for help from horse driver Patrick McGreary who was nearby. Patrick McGreary was able to help Hermann, first shouting a warning to mine manager Arthur Boughen who quickly went to assist William Pattison.

Patrick McGreary helped the injured Hermann from the pit bottom to the surface where first aid was rendered by colliery clerk Davis and others, Patrick not realising the extent of the burns the young miner had suffered.

Meanwhile, mine manager Arthur Boughen assisted a badly burned William Pattison by wrapping him in some clothing and helping him to the surface.

An ambulance arrived within a half hour and took both injured miners to hospital. Sadly, they had suffered such serious burn injuries that both men passed away - Hermann Argow on Wednesday 3 May and William Pattison on Tuesday 9 May. One can only imagine the suffering they endured during their last days, and the difficult task of the hospital staff who cared for them.



Hermann's funeral was held on Friday 5 May after which he was buried at the Haigslea cemetery.

His headstone was organised by his parents Mehelm and Agnes (nee Meitzel).

Hermann had two older sisters, one older brother and two younger brothers.

The tragedy was reported in newspapers as far away as Charters Towers including a notice in *The Northern Miner*, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 1922, p2 (TROVE).

*Queensland Times (Ipswich, Qld. : 1909 - 1954),  
Wednesday 10 May 1922, page 4 (TROVE).*

**MINER'S DEATH.** William Patterson, the miner who was injured some days ago at the Caledonian Colliery, died in the Ipswich General Hospital last evening at 8.20 o'clock. The funeral of deceased takes place at 2.30 p.m. to-day to the Ipswich cemetery.

**A COLLIERY ACCIDENT  
FATALITY AT IPSWICH.**

**IPSWICH, May 2.**  
Two miners, W. Patterson and H. Argo, were badly burned at the Caledonian Colliery this morning through the ignition of a small quantity of gas supposed to have emanated from a fall of coal. They were removed to hospital, where it is learned their condition is rather serious.

**IPSWICH, May 3**  
H. Argo, the miner, who was injured in the explosion of gas in the Caledonian Colliery, died to-day. The other injured man is still in a serious condition.

Ipswich Cemetery records show that William Pattison was buried in the Ipswich General Cemetery on the day following his death, Wednesday 10 May 1922, however his grave has no headstone. An entry on the **Find a Grave** website notes:

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>William Pattison</b> |  |
| <b>BIRTH</b>            | 1893   |
| <b>DEATH</b>            | 9 May 1922 (aged 28-29)<br>Queensland, Australia                         |
| <b>BURIAL</b>           | Ipswich General Cemetery<br>Ipswich, Ipswich City, Queensland, Australia |
| <b>PLOT</b>             | Roman Catholic, Grave number A2521                                       |
| <b>MEMORIAL ID</b>      | 234437265.   |

William was of Russian birth having adopted the name Pattison when he migrated to Australia, his birth name being Nicholas Kinneta. Unfortunately, no records have been found of his Russian family, nor of any Australian family he may have had. To further confuse the search, newspaper reports and official records record different versions of his name – Patterson, Pattison.

Witnesses to an Inquest into the accident reported that the usual safety inspections were carried out earlier that morning, including a routine inspection of the site before the two men began work.

The Inquest subsequently found that the most likely cause of the accident was due to gas being exposed to open lights used by the miners, thus causing the explosion.

## Report from the Dept of Natural Resources and Mines (Qld):

**Ref: Qld government                      Natural Resources and Mines**

Fatalities in the Queensland Coal Industry    1882 – 2001

MINE: Caledonian Colliery

DATE OF INCIDENT: 3 May 1922

NAME: **H ARGOW**

**W PATTERSON**

ACCIDENT LOCATION: Underground

INCIDENT: Fatally injured while engaged in re-timbering an old level in proximity to old workings, a quantity of gas came in contact with their open lights and ignited, severely burning both men.

### **Ipswich Rosewood Coal Miners Memorial – Wall Record for 1922**

