

Codford War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



3367 PRIVATE

O. CAMERON

59TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

24TH JANUARY, 1918 Age 37

Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte O. Cameron is located in Main Third Row (Right Hand Side)

Grave Plot # 55 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)

(CWGC Reference - Grave # 98)

Oscar Cameron was born at Shelburne, Nova Scotia, Canada, in 1873, to parents Christopher and Agnes Cameron (nee Bower). Oscar's father was a Ship's carpenter. Oscar was single, aged 36 & a Ship's officer when he enlisted on 20th February, 1917 at Melbourne, Victoria with the 59th Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 3367 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Christopher Cameron, Shelburne, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Pte Oscar Cameron was sent to temporary encampments in Victoria & NSW from 24th February, 1917 before he embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Port Melbourne (A16)* on 16th July, 1917 & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 16th September, 1917. Whilst at Capetown, on the journey from Australia to England, Pte Cameron was absent without leave for 2 days from 16th August to 18th August, 1917. He was forfeited 4 days pay.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Pte Oscar Cameron was marched in to 15th Training Battalion at Hurdcott on 17th September, 1917.

Pte Cameron was admitted to Hospital at Codford on 22nd December, 1917.

Pte Oscar Cameron died on 24th January, 1918 at 4.45 p.m. at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital, Codford, Wiltshire. A Post Mortem was completed on 25th January, 1918 & the cause of death was "Heart failure, due to chronic Bright's Disease." Later notifications in Pte Cameron's service record state he died of Chronic Nephritis. (*Inflammation of kidneys*)

A death for Oscar Cameron, aged 38, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

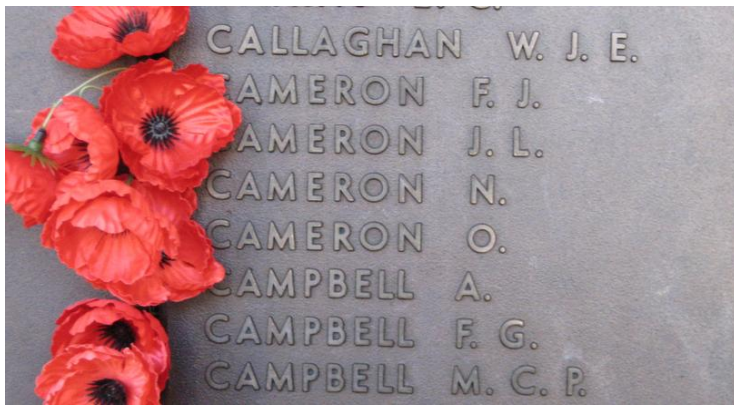
From the burial report of Pte Oscar Cameron - He was buried on 26th January, 1918 at Codford St Mary's Cemetery, Grave no. 98. He was "*accorded a Military Funeral. Private Cameron was a keen soldier and his conduct was exemplary. He was very popular and his loss is very keenly felt.*"

Pte Oscar Cameron requested in his Will, dated 5th July, 1917 that the whole of his property & effects be given to Miss Mildred Cameron of "*Strelburne*" Nova Scotia, Canada.

Private O. Cameron is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 167.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)

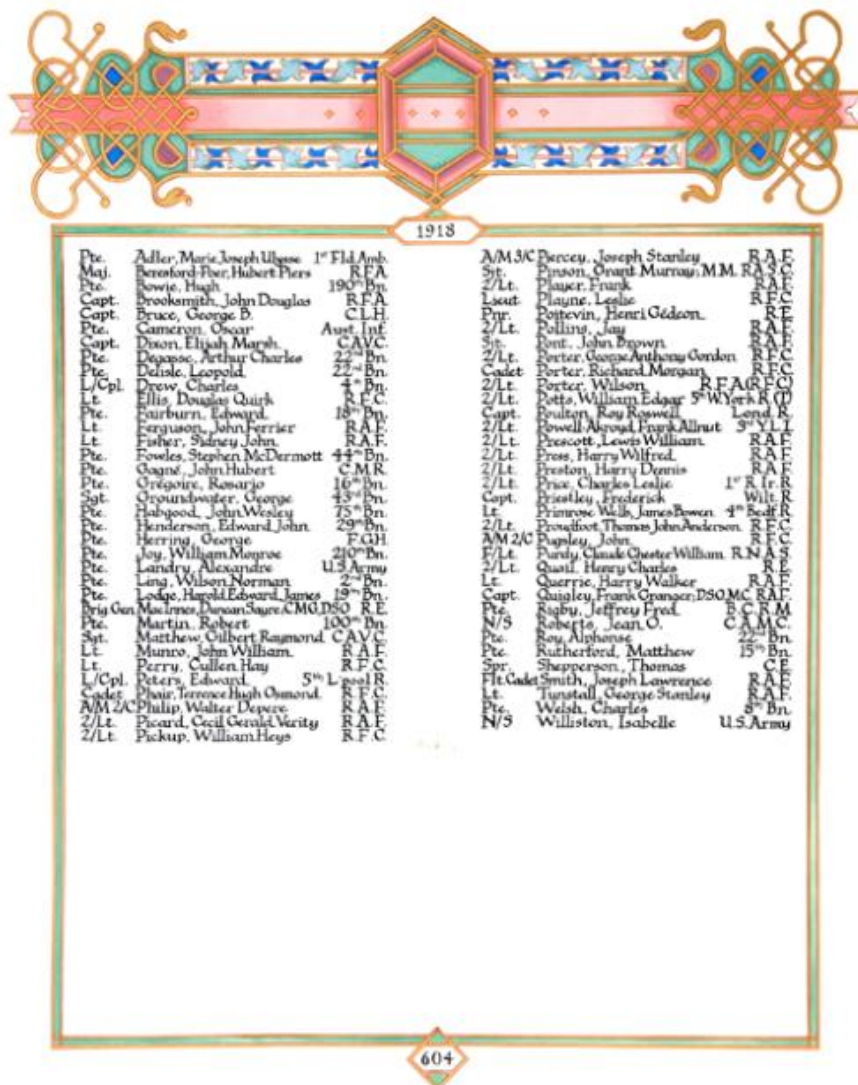
Pte O. Cameron was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. The medal, Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were sent to Pte Cameron's father – Christopher Cameron, of Shelburne, Nova Scotia in 1922.

(83 pages of Pte Oscar Cameron's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

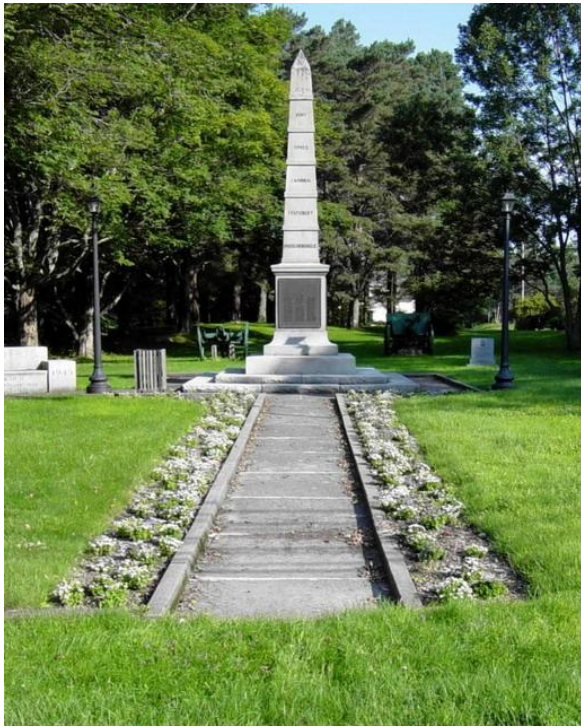
Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives

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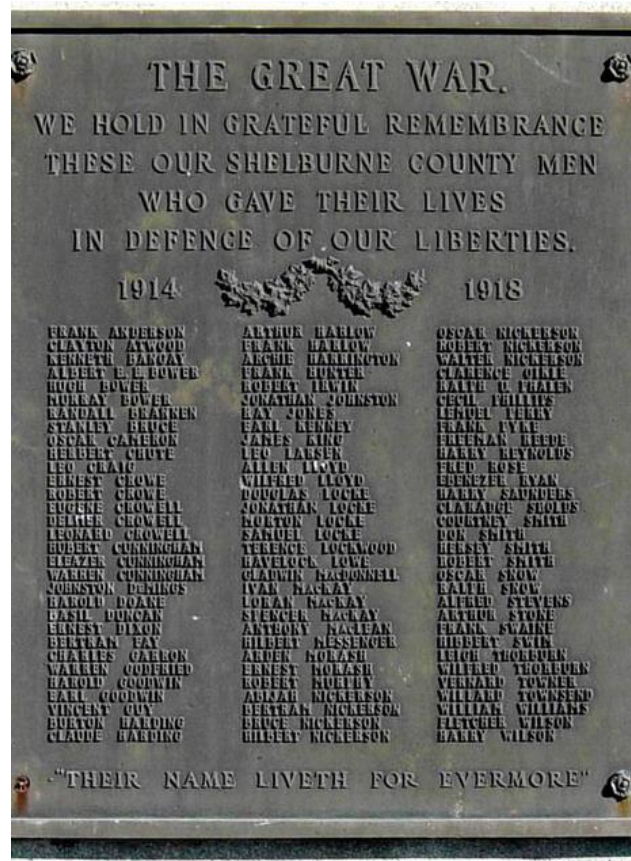
Pte Oscar Cameron is also remembered on the Canadian Virtual War Memorial on page 604 of the First World War Book of Remembrance.



Pte Oscar Cameron is also remembered on the Shelburne County War Memorial, Shelburne, Nova Scotia, Canada.



(Photos from newscotland1398.net)



*In information supplied for the Roll of Honour details – supplied by Mr C Cameron – father of Oscar of Nova Scotia, Canada -Oscar Cameron had previously been a Master Mariner, Deep Water, for ten years. Oscar had come to Australia when he was 42 years old in Ship Howau which was drydocked in Adelaide in April, 1918. His father had also listed Oscar’s death as December 24, 1918 & that he enlisted in June 1918.

(The discrepancies have been underlined)

Other information:

* 1906 Sealing Schooner Crews – found in several editions of *The Evening Mail* (Halifax, Nova Scotia)

1st September, 1906 p. 16

The sealing schooner Edith R. Balcom sailed this morning for the South Pacific sealing ground. The following are the officers and crew:

W. E. BAKER, master

Oscar CAMERON, Shelburne, mate

Clement B. CHRISTIAN, second mate

- * In December, 1909, Oscar Cameron from Canada, aged 36, was 2nd mate on the *Wellington*.
- * In June, 1913, Oscar Cameron from Canada, aged 37, was Captain of the schooner *Markland*.
- * The newspaper - *The San Francisco Call* for August 2nd, 1913 had the following article:

Skipper Held for Trial

Oscar Cameron, skipper of the schooner Bilbao, charged with embezzling \$122 worth of copper from his own ship, was held for trial by Judge Shortall yesterday. James Murrigan, first mate of the Bilbao, was exonerated. Fred Link a water front character was the star witness.

- * In December, 1913, and January, February, March, April & May, 1914, Oscar Cameron from Nova Scotia, Canada, aged 36, was 2nd mate of the Barge *Simla*.

* In the book – *A History of Barrington Township and Vicinity – Shelburne County, Nova Scotia* by Edwin Crowell, the details under Shelburne’s County’s Fallen Heroes 1914-1918, Military Affairs, for Oscar Cameron states “of Shelburne died of wounds”.

(The discrepancies have been underlined)

Newspaper Reports

THE 382ND CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private O. Cameron, Canada

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria, Wednesday 13th February, 1918)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Pte O. Cameron does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte O. Cameron's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery.



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)