

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



6302 PRIVATE

A. CARMICHAEL

28TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

20TH APRIL, 1917 Age 38

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte A. Carmichael is located in Grave Plot # 232
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Alexander CARMICHAEL

Alexander Carmichael was born at Bailieston, via Nagambie, Victoria to parents Ellen and James McLean Carmichael. He was a single, Horse-driver, aged 38 years & 3 months from Westonia, Western Australia when he enlisted at Kalgoorlie on 4th September, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 28th Infantry Battalion, 18th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6302 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his brother – William Carmichael of Nagambie, Victoria.

Pte Alexander Carmichael embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Persic (A34)* on 29th December, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 3rd March, 1917.

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

Pte Alexander Carmichael was marched in from Australia to Rollestone on 3rd March, 1917 to 7th Training Battalion.

Pte Alexander Carmichael was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 24th March, 1917 suffering from influenza. Broncho pneumonia developed on 1st April, 1917.

Pte Alexander Carmichael died of Broncho Pneumonia on the morning of 20th April, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital.

A death for Alexander Carmichael, aged 39, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire. (The information on the Roll of Honour – provided by next-of-kin states Alexander Carmichael was aged 46 at the time of his death.)

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Pte Alexander Carmichael contains a letter from the Assistant Matron of Fargo Military Hospital in regards to Pte A Carmichael, 6302:

*“Died of Wounds” Admt. Hospital 24.3.17 he was reported seriously ill on 4.4.17 and died from Broncho Pneumonia on 20.4.17 * in grave no. 232 right hand side of cemetery path. Pte Carmichael was very ill for a long time but fought very hard against the disease. The sister who nursed him wrote to his people and told them all she could concerning his illness but he left no message. (*buried in Durrington, Wilts).* (Note – the handwritten letter by the Assistant Matron did not include “Died of Wounds” this was added in a different handwriting. The actual letter sent to the Red Cross was a retyped version shown above.)

Pte Alexander Carmichael was buried on 23rd April, 1917 in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – plot number 232. From the burial report of Pte A. Carmichael - *Coffin was Elm with Black Furniture. Military Funeral.*

Pte Alexander Carmichael requested in his Will dated 11th January, 1917 that he appointed George Kerr of Trades Hall, Perth, Western Australia to be his Executor & all of his personal estate he left to the same George Kerr.

Private A. Carmichael is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 112.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)

* J. Carmichael shown below Alexander's name was his brother – Pte James Carmichael (4091) 28th Battalion. Died 8th November, 1916 of wounds. He was buried in Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-L'Abbe, France.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte Alexander Carmichael was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Carmichael's brother – Mr W. Carmichael, Nagambie, Victoria (July, 1921 & July, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Alexander Carmichael – service number 6302 as being 38 years old & served with 28th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of James McLean Carmichael and Ellen Carmichael. Born Bailieston, Victoria, Australia.

(54 pages of Pte Alexander Carmichael'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives

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Newspaper Reports

Pte. A. Carmichael

Brother of Mr W. Carmichael, of Nagambie and Corporal S. Carmichael, of the Seymour Camp, has died from pneumonia while on active service.

(Shepparton Advertiser, Victoria, Monday 30 April, 1917)

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 Durrington 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 A. Carmichael does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte A. Carmichael's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



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