

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



6145 PRIVATE

H. FRASER

5TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

27TH JANUARY, 1917 Age 48

*In Loving Memory
Of My Beloved Husband*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte H. Fraser is located in Grave Plot # 161
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Hector FRASER

Hector Fraser was born at Bulla, Victoria to parents Simon and Isabel Urquhart Fraser. He stated he was a 44 year old, married, Gardener from Upper Hawthorn, Victoria when he enlisted on 3rd March, 1916 with the 6th Battalion of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6013 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Jane Fraser of 758 Burwood Rd, Upper Hawthorn, Victoria.

Pte Hector Fraser embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) on 28th July, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 11th September, 1916. Pte Hector Fraser was transferred to 5th Battalion on 10th September, 1916 & reallocated a Service number of 6145 while on Troopship to England.

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 Hector Fraser was marched in from Overseas to 2nd Training Battalion, No. 3 Camp at Perham Downs Camp, Wiltshire, England on 15th September, 1916.

Pte Hector Fraser was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital on 25th December, 1916 suffering from Pneumonia – severe. He was reported as being dangerously & seriously ill on 16th January, 1917.

Pte Hector Fraser died of Broncho Pneumonia at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire at 10.30 p.m. on 27th January, 1917* after spending 33 days in Hospital. (* most of the records in Pte Hector Fraser's Service Record file state the date of death as 28th January, 1917, however a few have been amended to state date of death as 27th January, 1917).

Pte Fraser was the first of five men to die at Fargo Military Hospital in the space of 12 hours from Broncho-pneumonia / pneumonia. (Pte Albert Victor James, 2885, died 11.40 p.m. 27th January, 1917, buried Durrington Cemetery plot 160; Pte Herbert Chester Canham, 6177, died at 1.30 a.m. 28th January, 1917, buried Durrington Cemetery plot 162; Pte Ernest Beddow, 2545, died 5.50 a.m. 28th January, 1917, buried Bilston Cemetery, Staffordshire – private grave and Pte George Alfred Adams died at 10 a.m. 28th January, 1917, buried Durrington Cemetery plot 163)

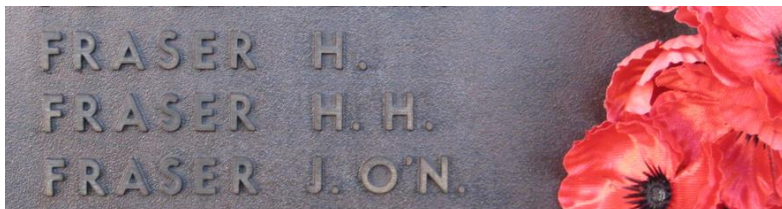
A death for Hector Fraser, aged 51*, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire. (*From information on Roll of Honour supplied by the widow of Pte Hector Fraser, she states his age at the time of his death as 44 years)

Pte Hector Fraser was buried in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – plot number 161 on 30th January, 1917.

A War Pension was granted to Jane Fraser, widow of late Pte Hector Fraser in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 1st April, 1917.

Pte Hector Fraser was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Fraser's widow – Mrs Jane Fraser (December, 1921 & January, 1922)

Private H. Fraser is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 43.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Hector Fraser – service number 6145 as being 48 years old & served with 5th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Simon and Isabel Urquhart Fraser; husband of Jane Fraser of 758 Burwood Rd, Upper Hawthorn, Victoria. Born at Bulla, Victoria.

(55 pages of Pte Hector Fraser'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

DIED ON SERVICE

FRASER. –Died of broncho pneumonia, at Military Hospital, Fargo, England, on 28th January, Pte. H. Fraser (Hector), late of "Culloden," Burwood road, Hawthorn, dearly beloved husband of Glannie Fraser, and loving father of Isabel, Clive (on active service), Eric, and Victor.

A loving husband and father.

Sadly missed.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria Saturday 3 February, 1917)

THE 271st CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private H. Fraser, Upper Hawthorn

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria Saturday 10 February, 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*)

A letter from Base Records, dated 3rd November, 1920 to Mrs J. Fraser advises that her request for the Star of David to be placed on her late husband's headstone - Pte H. Fraser, is customary for those of the Jewish Faith & since her late husband was from Presbyterian Church she might prefer to have the Christian Cross inscribed on the headstone. A reply was returned by Mrs J. Fraser & she requested the Cross to be inscribed on the headstone.

Pte H. Fraser does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Loving Memory Of My Beloved Husband

Photo of Pte H. Fraser's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)