

**Western Necropolis Cemetery,
Glasgow, Scotland
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



306 PRIVATE

MICHAEL JOSEPH ADAMS

AUST. MACHINE GUN CORPS

6TH DECEMBER, 1917 Age 27

Michael Joseph ADAMS

Michael Joseph Adams was born at Rockhampton, Queensland on 19th July, 1889 to parents Henry and Ann Adams (nee Keenan). (Date of birth from Australian Birth Index on Ancestry, however several family trees on Ancestry have the date of birth as 12th July, 1889).

The 1912, 1913, 1914, 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Capricornia, subdivision of Rockhampton, Queensland recorded Michael Joseph Adams, Painter, from Wood Street.

Michael Adams was a 26 year old, single, Carpenter from 108 Wood Street, Rockhampton, Queensland when he enlisted on 3rd April, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 306 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Ann Adams, of 108 Wood Street, Rockhampton, Queensland.

Private Michael Adams was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 7th April, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 5th Reinforcements of 47th Battalion on 24th May, 1916 then transferred to 3rd Reinforcements of 11th Machine Gun Company on 16th June, 1916. Pte Adams was transferred to No. 6 Machine Gun Depot at Seymour on 30th June, 1916. He was transferred back to 3rd Reinforcements of 11th Machine Gun Company on 19th September, 1916.

Private Michael Adams embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Commonwealth (A73)* on 19th September, 1916 with the 11th Machine Gun Company, 3rd Reinforcements. Private Michael Adams was written up for an offence while at sea - absent without leave from 10.30 pm on 26th September, 1916 to 12 noon on 27th September, 1916. He was awarded 7 days Confined to Barracks & forfeited 2 days' pay. Pte Adams disembarked at Plymouth, England on 14th November, 1916.

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.

Private Michael Adams was marched in to Australian Details, No. 3 Camp, Parkhouse, Wiltshire from overseas on 15th November, 1915.

Private Michael Adams was marched in to Machine Gun Training Depot at Grantham from Australian Details at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 23rd November, 1916.

Private Michael Adams was written up for an offence on 1st December, 1916 – Absent without leave from 2 am on 1st December, 1916 till 11 pm on 3rd December, 1916 – a total of 69 hours. He was awarded 7 days Confined to Barracks & forfeited 3 days' pay.

Private Michael Adams was transferred to 2nd Division Machine Gun Company & taken on strength of 22nd Machine Gun Company from 11th Machine Gun Company on 17th March, 1917.

Private Michael Adams proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 17th March, 1917 from Machine Gun Training Depot.

Private Michael Adams was on leave to UK from 2nd December, 1917.

Private Michael Joseph Adams died at about 5 pm on 6th December, 1917 in the St. Andrew's ambulance on the way to the 4th Scottish General Hospital, Stobhill, Glasgow, Scotland from a fracture of the skull – the result of an accident.

A Court of Enquiry was held on 7th December, 1917 at 4th Scottish General Hospital, Glasgow, Scotland, enquiring into the cause of death of No. 306 Pte Michael Adams, Australia Machine Gun Corps, 22nd Company.

Evidence:

1st. WITNESS.

Sergeant William Walker, R.A.M.C. 4th. Scottish General Hospital, having been duly sworn depones:-

" I am N.C.O. i/c of Orderly Room in 4th. Scottish General Hospital Glasgow, and was on duty at 5.15 p.m. on 6.12.17. when the dead body of Pte. Adams. 306. Aust. M.G.C. 22nd. Coy, was brought to hospital in a St. Andrew's Ambulance Wagon. Dr. John Fyfe, Orderly Officer of the day saw the body at once and pronounced life extinct. The body was at once taken to the Mortuary, the mans effects were handed over to Capt. P.A. Conacher, the Quartermaster of the Hospital.

(Sgd) Williams Walker Sergt.

2nd. Witness.

Mr. David Todd Ambulance Officer St. Andrews Ambulance Association having been duly sworn depones:-
I was sent to No.3. Graving Dock, Govan at 4.10 p.m. on 6th. Dec. 1917, to take an English soldier to Hospital. The soldier was No.306. Pte. Adams Michael. Aust. M.G.C. 22nd. Coy this man had fallen into No.3. Graving Dock, Govan, he was alive but unconscious on my arrival. He was put into an ambulance wagon and taken to 4th. Scottish Gen. Hosp. Glasgow, the man however died on way to hospital, I examined the man before putting him into the wagon and came to the conclusion he was suffering from Fracture of the skull.

(Sgd) David Todd. Amb. Officer.

3rd. WITNESS.

No. 4832. Pte. Branson George, 19th.Btn. A.I.F. having been duly sworn depones:- I was present when No. 306. Pte. Adams Michael, Aust. M.G.C. 22nd.Coy. fell into a dock at Govan on 6th. December 1917, he fell to the bottom of the dock a distance of about 30 feet and was unconscious when I ran down to his assistance. I got help and carried him to the top of the dock when an ambulance wagon was summoned. I went with him in the wagon to the hospital, and was by his side when he died, on the journey thither. Adams and I were both on leave from France.

(Sgd) 4832. Pte G. Branson. 19th.Btn.
A.I.F.

4th. Witness.

Mr. J.H.Fyfe, L.R.C.P. and S.E. having been duly sworn depones:- I was Orderly Officer on duty in 4th. Scottish General Hospital on the evening of 6th. December 1917, when No. 306. Pte. Adams Michael, Aust. M.G.C. 22nd. Coy, was brought to Hospital in an Ambulance wagon. On examining the man I found he was dead, and I formed the opinion that he had died from fracture of the skull, there was a wound in the occipital region at the bottom of which a depressed fracture could be felt.

(Sgd) J. Hutchinson Fyfe.
L.R.C.P. and S.E.

The Court declared that "No. 306 Pte Adams Micahel Aust. M.G.C. 22nd Coy., was accidentally killed by falling into No. 3 Graving Dock, Govan on the afternoon of Thursday 6th December 1917, and that the immediate cause of death was fracture of the skull."



Govan No 3 Graving Dock



Private Michael Joseph Adams was buried at 4.30 pm on 10th December, 1917 in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland – Plot number N. 4. (Overseas Troops Plot) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Michael Joseph Adams - *Coffin was good Elm with black cloth. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack Flag. Two beautiful wreaths were placed on the coffin by a party of sailors from H.M.S. "Mindful". Pipe Band, Gun Carriage, Firing Party, Buglers and Pallbearers, under the command of Lieut, Sharpe, were supplied by the Highland Light Infantry stationed at Maryhill Barracks, Glasgow. The grave will be turfed immediately and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of relatives and friends present at the funeral – Uncle – Mr Johnston, Porteous Close, Dalkeith. Friends – Mr T. R. Rose, 28 Muirpark, Dalkeith, near Edinburgh and No. 4832 Pte George Branson 19th Bn. A.I.F., France.

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Private Michael Joseph Adams requested in his Will dated 12th June, 1917 that all his personal estate be bequeathed to his mother – Mrs Anne Adams, 108 Wood Street, Depot Hill, Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia.

A letter from Base Records was sent to Headquarters, 1st Military District on 31st March, 1921 stating that the late Pte M. Adams had nominated his mother – Mrs Ann Adams as next-of-kin, but it was noted that a War Pension had been granted to Stanley Doolan, ex-nuptial son of the late Private Michael Joseph Adams. Base Records desired to dispose of the War Medals to the next-of-kin & requested that “*discreet enquiries to be made with a view to ascertaining whether the above quoted child has any claims.*” Constable R. Beatson, of the Rockhampton Police made enquiries & submitted his findings in April, 1921. “*Stanley Doolan illegitimate child of the late Pte M. Adams referred to in attached letter was only 4 years of age on 23rd October last. I interviewed this child’s mother Miss Julia Doolan who is at present employed as a cook at the Globe Hotel, Rockhampton. She informed me that neither the child Stanley Doolan referred to or herself would make any claim for the medals & C issue on account of the services of the late Pte M. Adams. She stated that she only wanted the Military Department to continue the pension towards the maintenance of her illegitimate child Stanley Doolan of which the late Pte M. Adams is the father.*” A birth was registered in 1916 for Stanley Doolan, son of Julia Doolan. Not father was listed.

A War Pension was granted to Stanley Doolan, ex-nuptial son of the late Pte Michael Adams, in the sum of 20/- per fortnight from 11th February, 1918. A War Pension was rejected for Julia Doolan on the grounds that the claimant was not a dependent within the meaning of the Act.

Base Records contacted Mrs A. Adams, mother of the late Private Michael Joseph Adams & listed as next-of-kin, on 7th May, 1921 asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself due to the “Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918” which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. Mr Henry Adams replied that he was the father of the late Private Michael Joseph Adams & that Mrs Anna Adams was his wife.

Private Michael Joseph Adams was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Adams’ father – Mr H. Adams, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent May, 1922 & Plaque sent October, 1922). (Mr H. Adams, father of the Private Michael Joseph Adams, died on 19th February, 1922 in Rockhampton, Queensland. Mrs A. Adams, mother of the late Private Michael Joseph Adams died on 16th December, 1922 in Rockhampton, Queensland.)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Michael Joseph Adams – service number 306, aged 27, of 22nd Coy., Australian Machine Gun Corps. He was the son of Henry and Ann Adams. Born at Rockhampton, Queensland.

Private M. J. Adams is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 177.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

The Rockhampton War Memorial located in Botanic Gardens, Rockhampton, Queensland does not have individual names.



Rockhampton War Memorial

(77 pages of Pte Michael Joseph Adams' Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

Died as a Result of Accident

Private M. Adams, Rockhampton

(*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 12 January, 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. 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)

Private Michael Joseph Adams does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland

The Western Necropolis is a large cemetery complex north of Glasgow City Centre. Adjoining this site are the following large cemeteries: Glasgow Lambhill and Glasgow St Kentigerns Cemetery, all three are separate but adjoin each other. Glasgow Garnet Hill Hebrew Burial Ground and Glasgow Crematorium Memorial is also at this site.

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

Glasgow was one of the ports of embarkation for the British Expeditionary Force in 1914 and several military hospitals opened in the city during the First World War, including the 3rd and 4th Scottish General (1,200 beds each), and the Merryflats War Hospital (500 beds). Battalions of a number of Scottish regiments had their headquarters at Glasgow during both wars, most notably the Highland Light Infantry. The Clydeside shipyards were targeted by German bombers during the Blitz, and Glasgow suffered a particularly ferocious attack on the night of 13/14 March 1941 when many civilians and servicemen were killed.

Glasgow Western Necropolis contains 355 First World War burials, many of them grouped together in Section P, with a small group of Australian graves in Section N. A screen wall near the main entrance carries the badges of the regiments represented in Sections P and H. The 124 Second World War burials are scattered throughout the cemetery, although there are two among the earlier war graves in Section P. Also in this group are two inter-war service burials and two German war graves.

There are 11 Australian Soldiers from World War 1 buried in Western Necropolis Cemetery.

(Information from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland (Photo from CWGC)



Some of the Australian Headstones in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland (Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Private Michael Joseph Adams' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland.



(Photo from Ben – Find a Grave)

