

**St. Nicholas' Churchyard,
Brockenhurst, Hampshire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4/1323 SAPPER

W. AINSLIE

N.Z. ENGINEERS

22ND SEPTEMBER, 1917

William AINSLIE

William Ainslie was born at Horton, Tasmania on 23rd July, 1875 to parents Alexander & Elizabeth Hyde Ainslie (nee Arbuckle aka Harbuckle). (Note: William's date of birth when he enlisted with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force was listed as "29.7.80")

Alexander Ainslie, father of William Ainslie, died on 10th November, 1915 at Forest, Tasmania, aged 77.

William Ainslie was a Bushman from Mokai, New Zealand (Birth date stated to be 29 July, 1880) when he enlisted at Avondale, New Zealand with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force on 1st October, 1915. His service number was 4/1323 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs A. Ainslie, Black River, N.W. Coast, Tasmania. His last employer was listed as T.T.T. Coy., Mokai.

Sapper William Ainslie was posted to Tunnelling Company, New Zealand Engineers on 6th October, 1915.

Sapper William Ainslie embarked from Auckland, New Zealand on 18th December, 1915 on S.S. *Ruapehu* & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 18th February, 1916.

Sapper William Ainslie embarked from England on 9th March, 1916 for France.

Sapper William Ainslie was detached on leave from France on 24th June, 1916 & rejoined his Unit on 6th July, 1916.

William Ainslie married Bessie Gwendoline Townsend Johns on 1st July, 1916 at Falmouth, Cornwall, England.

Sapper William Ainslie was detached to Proto School on 23rd February, 1917 & attached for Instruction with 3rd Army Mine School the same day. He was detached to his Unit on 7th March, 1917 & rejoined his Unit in France on the same day.

Sapper William Ainslie was wounded in action & admitted to No. 37 Field Ambulance on 15th August, 1917. He was transferred & admitted to No. 19 Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Sapper Ainslie was transferred to No. 8 Ambulance Train on 18th August, 1917 & admitted to No. 11 Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 19th August, 1917. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St. George* on 24th August, 1917.

Sapper William Ainslie was admitted to No. 1 New Zealand General Hospital, Brockenhurst, Hampshire, England on 25th August, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to back penetrating the spine & paraplegia severe. He was reported as seriously ill on 29th August, 1917. Sapper Ainslie was transferred to "dangerously ill" list on 6th September, 1917.

Sapper William Ainslie was reported to be still dangerously ill on 15th September, 1917 at New Zealand General Hospital, Brockenhurst, Hampshire, England.

Sapper William Ainslie died on 22nd September, 1917 at New Zealand General Hospital, Brockenhurst, Hampshire, England from wounds received in action in France – Gunshot wounds to back.

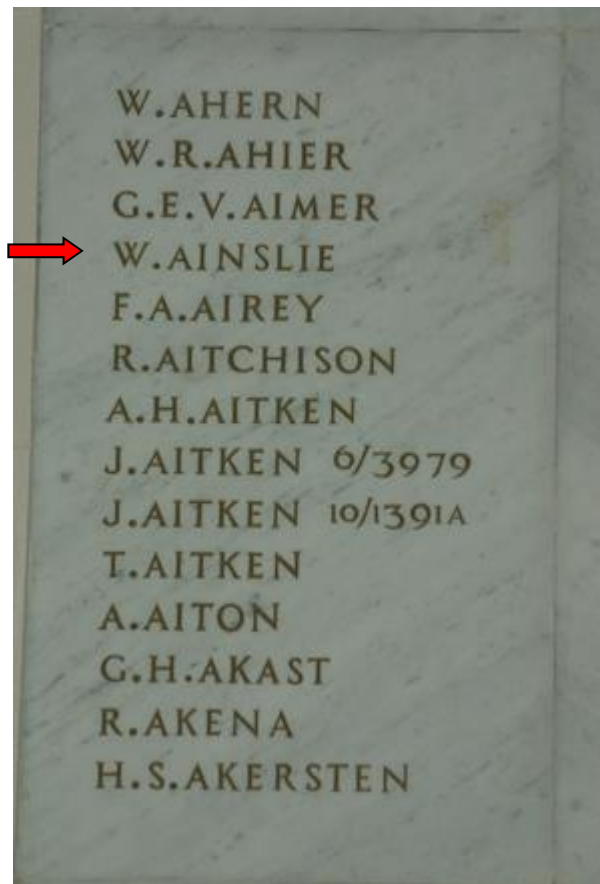
A death for William Ainslie, aged 36, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Lymington, Hampshire, England.

Sapper William Ainslie was buried on 25th September, 1917 in St. Nicholas' Churchyard, Brockenhurst, Hampshire, England – Plot number A. 1. 2. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Sapper William Ainslie was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sapper Ainslie's remarried widow – Mrs B. J. Hendra, "Tolcane", Fitzroy St, Abbotsford, Sydney, NSW, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent May, 1922).

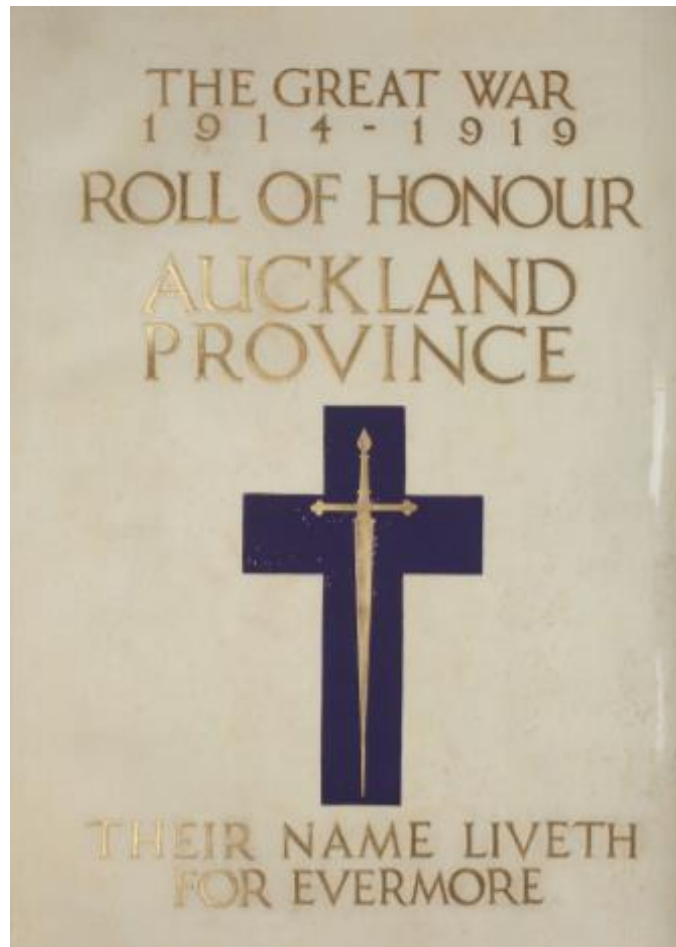
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sapper William Ainslie – service number 4/1323, of Tunnelling Coy., New Zealand Engineers. No family details are listed.

William Ainslie is remembered at the Auckland War Memorial Museum – World War 1 Hall of Memories.



Auckland War Memorial Museum

William Ainslie is remembered in The Great War 1914 – 1919 Roll of Honour Auckland Province Book – page 7.



Roll of Honour - Auckland Province

No.	RANK	NAME	HONOURS	UNIT	NEXT OF KIN
12/2545	Lt. Col.	Abbot, Kenneth. A.		A.I.R.	Mr. R. T. Abbot. Kutarere. Bay of Plenty.
10214.	Pte.	Shier, William. P.		A.I.R.	Mr. G. M. Shier. Te Awamutu.
		Mr. G. Shier. George. E. T.		R.A.F.	Mr. E. B. Shier. Glenburn Mt. Remuera.
4/1323.	Spr.	Ainslie, William.		N.Z.E.	Mr. B. J. Kendra. Whetsford. Sydney.

Roll of Honour Auckland Province Book

Sapper William Ainslie is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.

[Note: William Ainslie's name was submitted to the Australian War Memorial in December, 2019, along with my research, to be recommended for inclusion on the Commemorative Roll Book.

A check in 2022 has found that Sapper William Ainslie has been accepted for commemoration on the Commemorative Roll at The Australian War Memorial]



Commemorative Roll Book at The Australian War Memorial *(Photo from AWM)*



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial *(Capital Photographer)*

(18 pages of Sapper William Ainslie's Service records are available for On Line viewing at Archives New Zealand).





Sapper William Ainslie (Photo from *Discovering Anzacs*)



Newspaper Notices

SICK AND WOUNDED

A hospital and progress report, issued at noon to-day, stated (all privates unless otherwise mentioned, and the place of residence of the next-of-kin is given in each instance):-

SEVERE CASES

Ainslie, W., 4/1323, Tasmania

(*Evening Post*, New Zealand, Volume XCIV, Issue 58 – 6 September, 1917)

HOSPITAL PROGRESS REPORT

STILL DANGEROUSLY ILL

Ainslie, W., 4/1323, Tasmania

(*New Zealand Times*, New Zealand, Volume XLII, Issue 9772 – 22 September, 1917)

FALLEN NEW ZEALANDERS

DIED OF WOUNDS

ENGINEERS

(September 22nd)

Ainslie, Wm., 4/1323 (Mrs A. Ainslie, Black River, Tasmania)

(*New Zealand Times*, New Zealand, Volume XLII, Issue 9778 – 29 September, 1917)

Died of Wounds

PRIVATE W. AINSLIE

News was received on Saturday of the death from wounds received in active service of Private W. Ainslie, son of Mrs Ainslie who used to reside at Brickmakers prior to the death of her husband.

The sad tidings was conveyed by Mr M. J. May (curate –in-charge of Smithton parish) to his mother, who at present is staying with her son-in-law (Mr F. Parsons) at Smithton.

The deceased soldier is probably not very well known in this district as he was attached to a New Zealand battalion, The sympathy of all goes out to his sorrowing relatives.

(*Circular Head Chronicle*, Stanley, Tasmania - 3 October, 1917)

In Memoriam

AINSLIE – In loving memory if my dear husband, Sapper W. Ainslie, N.Z. Engineers, who died of wounds in England Sept. 22nd, 1917.

Oh, my darling, how I miss you,
Twelve weary months have passed;
But duty called and bravely you obeyed,
And now you're lying in a soldier's grave.

Inserted by his loving wife, Gwendolyn T. Ainslie, and little daughter (Gwendolyn Phyllis), Black River.

(*Circular Head Chronicle*, Stanley, Tasmania - 2 October, 1918)

St. Nicholas' Churchyard, Brockenhurst, Hampshire, England

Due to its proximity to the port of Southampton, its railway connections and an abundance of large houses in the area, Brockenhurst was chosen in 1915 by the War Office to become a hospital centre. Initially, Lady Hardinge's Hospital (named after the wife of the Viceroy of India) for the Indian troops of the Lahore and Meerut Divisions was established south of the village. This was then replaced by No.1 New Zealand General Hospital in June 1916, after the Indian Divisions were replaced by ANZAC troops. The New Zealand Hospital remained at Brockenhurst until closed early in 1919. The churchyard contains 106 graves of the First War, of which one hundred are in the New Zealand plot. In addition to the 93 New Zealand graves, there are also three Indian and three unidentified Belgian civilians (employed at the Sopley Forestry camp). On the East side of the New Zealand plot is memorial incorporating a Cross.

(Information from CWGC)



St. Nicholas' Church, Brockenhurst (Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)



St. Nicholas' Church, Brockenhurst (Photo by *julia&keld* – Find a Grave)



New Zealand War Graves in St. Nicholas' Church, Brockenhurst (Photo by *CWGC*)



The Cenotaph with New Zealand War Graves & 1 Australian War Grave (Photo by A. Dorrell – Find a Grave)



Photo of Sapper W. Ainslie's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Nicholas' Churchyard, Brockenhurst, Hampshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright – July 2020)



(Photo courtesy of julia&keld – Find a Grave – July 2009)