

**St. Mary's Churchyard,
Stratton, Norfolk, England**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5027 PRIVATE

F. D. ALEXANDER

13TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

6TH APRIL, 1917 Age 34

Frank Dennis ALEXANDER

Frank Dennis Alexander was born at Wacton, Long Stratton, Norfolk, England in 1882 to parents Dennis & Ruth Alexander (nee Sharman). He was baptised on 11th June, 1882 in the parish church at Wacton, Norfolk, England.

The 1891 England Census recorded Frank D. Alexander as a 9 year old Scholar, living with his family at Manor House, Common Road, Wacton, Norfolk, England. His parents were listed as Dennis Alexander (Farmer, aged 42, born Moulton, Norfolk) & Ruth E. Alexander (aged 35, born North Luddenham, Norfolk). Frank was one of seven children listed on this Census (all born Wacton, Norfolk) – Beatrice R. Alexander (Scholar, aged 12), Arthur R. Alexander (Scholar, aged 11), then Frank, Granville C. Alexander (Scholar, aged 7), Helen M. Alexander (Scholar, aged 6), Louis E. Alexander (aged 1) & Ernest L. Alexander (aged 1 month).

The 1901 England Census recorded Frank D. Alexander as a 19 year old Clerk in a Commercial Brewery, boarding at 139 Dalston Lane, Central Hackney, London, England. Kate M. Wood was listed as Housekeeper & Head of the house (Widow, aged 48) along with her 3 adult children – Ethel M. Wood (Milliner, aged 26), Beatrice E. Wood (Clerk at National Telephone Company, aged 25) & Alec E. G. Wood (Electrician, aged 22). Also listed as boarders – Fitz W. Wright (Veterinary Surgeon, aged 38) & John E. Tilley (Accountant with Wine Merchant, aged 26).

The 1911 England Census recorded Frank Alexander, aged 29, working on Farm, back with his Family at Poplar Farm, Long Stratton, Norfolk. His parents were listed as Dennis Alexander (Farmer, aged 62) & Ruth Alexander (aged 56). Dennis & Ruth Alexander had been married for 36 years & had a total of 13 children – 3 having died. Frank was the eldest of seven children listed on this Census – Frank then Helen Alexander (Cooking & Dairy Work, aged 26), Louis Alexander (Working on Farm, aged 21), Ernest Alexander (Working on Farm, aged 20), Kenneth Alexander (Working on Farm, aged 18, born Wacton, Norfolk), Dennis Alexander (At School, aged 14, born Long Stratton, Norfolk) & John Alexander (At School, aged 12, born Long Stratton).

According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour served with King's Own Royal Regiment, Norfolk Imperial Yeomanry from 1st May, 1905 till 31st March, 1908.

According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour – Frank Dennis Alexander came to Australia when he was 31 years old.

Frank Dennis Alexander was a 33 year old, single, Farmer from Bishopsthorpe, Goulburn, NSW when he enlisted at Warwick Farm Depot, Sydney, NSW on 4th September, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5027 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs R. Alexander, Long Stratton, Norfolk, England. Frank Dennis Alexander stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served with Royal Norfolk Yeomanry & was discharged at his own request.

Private Frank Dennis Alexander was posted to "D" Company, 3rd Battalion on 7th September, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 11th Reinforcements of 4th Battalion at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 14th September, 1915. Private Alexander was transferred to "C" Company, 13th Battalion on 1st December, 1915.

A letter was written from O.C. Field Hospital, Liverpool, NSW on 30th December, 1915 to the O.C. 14th Reinforcements of 13th Battalion regarding Private F. D. Alexander: "Herewith Medical Boards finding in connection with the above-mentioned man:-

"The Board assembled having examined Pte F. D. Alexander finds that he has slight varicocele for which he is willing to be operated upon. The Board recommends his removal to Garrison Hospital for operation."

Private Frank Dennis Alexander embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Star of Victoria* (A16) on 31st March, 1916 with the 13th Infantry Battalion, 16th Reinforcements.

Private Frank Dennis Alexander embarked from Alexandria on 7th June, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 14th June, 1916.

Private Frank Dennis Alexander was taken on strength of 13th Battalion in France on 27th July, 1916 from 4th Divisional Base Depot at Etaples.

Private Frank Dennis Alexander was sent to Hospital on 1st August, 1916 & then admitted to 8th Stationary Hospital at Wimereux on 5th August, 1916 with "A.C.T. Elbow" – right. He was transferred to 1st Convalescent Depot at Boulogne, France on 8th August, 1916 & discharged fit on 13th August, 1916 to Base.

Private Frank Dennis Alexander was taken on strength of 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 14th August, 1916. He was sent sick to 26th General Hospital on 24th August, 1916. Private Alexander was transferred from 26th General Hospital to 24th General Hospital at Etaples on 4th September, 1916. He was listed with Enteric & he was progressing favourably on 10th September, 1916. Private Alexander was listed as seriously ill on 17th September, 1916 & again on 25th September, 1916. He embarked from England on Hospital Ship *Brighton* from Calais on 1st October, 1916 with Pyelo - Nephritis.

13th Battalion

The 13th Battalion AIF was raised from late September 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. The battalion was recruited in New South Wales, and with the 14th, 15th and 16th Battalions formed the 4th Brigade, commanded by Colonel John Monash.....

In June 1916, the 13th sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bloody trench warfare. Its first major action in France was at Pozieres in August.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Frank Dennis Alexander was admitted to Northern General Hospital at Leicester, England on 1st October, 1916. He was taken off Seriously Ill List on 2nd October, 1916 (Neuritis).

Private Frank Dennis Alexander was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford on 6th December, 1916 with Nephritis. He was discharged to furlough from 8th January, 1917 to 23rd January, 1917.

Private Frank Dennis Alexander was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Wareham, Dorset on 12th January, 1917 from furlough. He was sent sick to Wareham Military Hospital on 26th February, 1917 & admitted later that day with Tuberculosis – seriously ill.

Private Frank Dennis Alexander died on 6th April, 1917 at Long Stratton Hospital, Norfolk, England from Tuberculosis.

A death for Frank D. Alexander, aged 35, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Depwade, Norfolk, England.

Private Frank Dennis Alexander was buried on 11th April, 1917 in St. Mary's Churchyard, Stratton, Norfolk, England (North of Church) & has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. From the burial report of Private Alexander - Coffin was Oak with plain brass Plate. The relatives did not intend to erect a memorial until after the War. "My son expressed the wish to have the following put on his cross:-

13th Batt., Australian Imperial Army.

GOD BE MERCIFUL TO ME A SINNER."

S.M.O., No. 4 Command Depot, Wareham wrote to the Adjutant on 23rd April, 1917 with details regarding No. 5027 Private Frank Dennis Alexander (deceased): "This man died at Long Stratton on the 6th inst. On the 2nd inst at the request of his mother and sister I obtained the consent of the A.D.M.S. to have him removed at their own risk to their home at Long Stratton. He was boarded by Capt. Seton at Wareham Military Hospital & was recommended for discharged as permanently unfit. The board papers were forwarded to the A.D.M.S. Tidworth."

A claim for a War Pension was made by Ruth Alexander, Long Stratton, Norfolk, mother of the late Private Frank Dennis Alexander. The claim was denied as “*claimant has adequate means of support.*”

Private Frank Dennis Alexander was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Alexander’s mother – Mrs R. Alexander, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Frank Dennis Alexander – service number 5027, aged 34, of 13th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Mrs Ruth Alexander, of Long Stratton, Norfolk.

Frank Alexander & his brothers – Dennis & Kenneth are remembered on Roll of Honour located in St. Mary’s Church, Church Lane, Long Stratton, Norfolk, England.



St. Mary’s Stratton Roll of Honour (Photo from Find a Grave – Jackie)

Frank Alexander & his brothers – Dennis & Kenneth are remembered on Long Stratton War Memorial, located in front of Village Hall (opposite St. Mary's Church), Ipswich Road, Long Stratton, Norfolk, England.



Long Stratton War Memorial (Photos from War Memorials Online – John Websper)



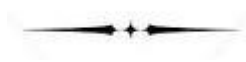
Private F. D. Alexander is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 68.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(32 pages of Private Frank Dennis Alexander's 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



Private Frank Dennis Alexander



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H1 2609

Private Frank Dennis Alexander



Connected to Private Frank Dennis Alexander:

Younger brother - Dennis Alexander – Lance Corporal, 20564, 1st Battalion, Essex Regiment. Died 13th August, 1915 – Lost at Sea from H.M.H.S. Royal Edward. Remembered on Helles Memorial, Turkey.

Younger brother – Kenneth George Alexander – Private, 14704, 9th Battalion, Norfolk Regiment. Killed in Action 15th September, 1916. Remembered on Thiepval Memorial, France.



Newspaper Notices

CASUALTIES

221ST LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

ILL

Pte F. D. ALEXANDER, England (seriously)

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 26 September, 1916)

CASUALTY LIST

254TH RECORD

NEW SOUTH WALES

RETURNED TO DUTY

Pte F. D. ALEXANDER, England

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 21 December, 1916)

CASUALTY LIST

The 285th list of casualties sustained by Australian troops abroad was issued yesterday...

NEW SOUTH WALES

ILL

Pte F. D. ALEXANDER, England (second occasion, severely, previously reported returned to duty)

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 6 April, 1917)

Australian Casualties

Lists Ns. 290 to 293

New South Wales

Died of Illness

Pte F. D. ALEXANDER (England), 6/4/17

(*Australian Town and Country Journal*, Sydney, NSW – 9 May, 1917)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Private Frank Dennis Alexander has a Private Headstone

St. Mary's Churchyard, Stratton, Norfolk, England

St. Mary's Churchyard, Stratton contains 4 Commonwealth War Graves – 2 relating to World War 1 & 2 relating to World War 2.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Nigel Battley)



St Mary's Churchyard, Stratton (Photo Find a Grave – FamilyHistoryAddict)



(Photo by John Salmon)

Photo of Private F. D. Alexander's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary's Churchyard, Stratton, Norfolk, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave - Jackie)



(Photo from Find a Grave - Jackie)

In

Loving Memory

Of

FRANK DENNIS ALEXANDER

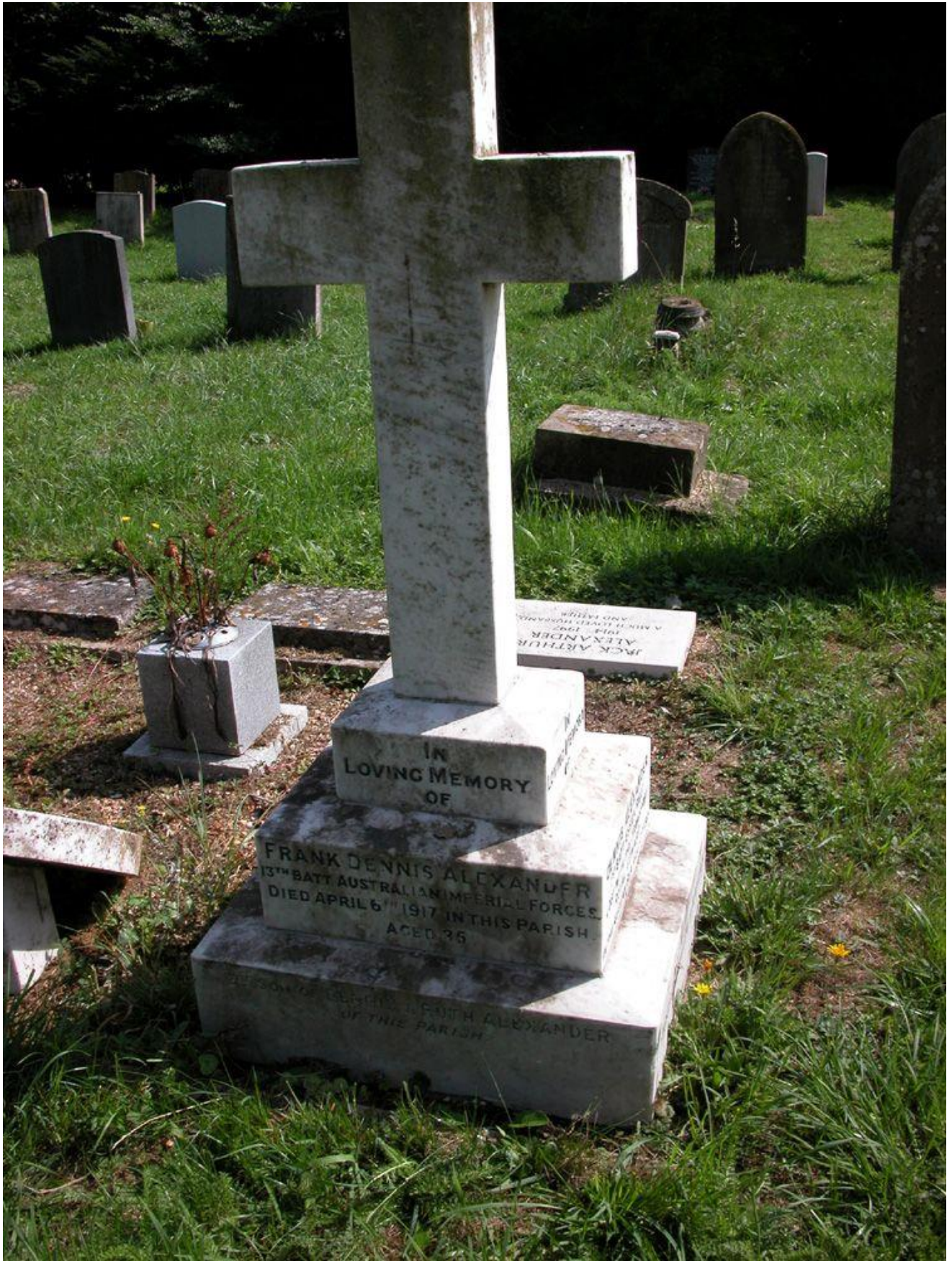
13TH Batt. Australian Imperial Forces

Died April 6th 1917 In This Parish

Aged 35

2nd Son of Dennis & Ruth Alexander

Of This Parish



(Photo by John Nobbs – Find a Grave)



(Photos from Find a Grave - Jackie)





Dennis & Kenneth George Alexander (Photos from Flickr – Moominopappa06)

