

**Tunbridge Wells Cemetery,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3254 PRIVATE

D. G. BRADSHAW

58TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

1ST NOVEMBER, 1918

Douglas Gordon BRADSHAW

Douglas Gordon Bradshaw was born in Bedford, Bedfordshire, England to parents Joseph & (possibly) Rosa Bradshaw (nee Wilde). His birth was registered in the March quarter, 1896 in the district of Bedford, Bedfordshire, England.

Joseph Bradshaw had married Rosa Wilde in the June quarter, 1892 in the district of Leicester, Leicestershire.

A death was registered for Rosa Bradshaw, aged 34, in the June quarter, 1900 in the district of Leicester, Leicestershire.

Joseph Bradshaw married Abigail Ward in the March quarter, 1901 in the district of Leicester, Leicestershire.

The 1901 England Census recorded Douglas G. Bradshaw as a 5 year old living with his family at 93 Coral Street, Leicester, Leicestershire, England. His parents were listed as Joseph Bradshaw (Bottler/Worker in Mineral Water manufacturing, aged 43, born Earls Barton, Northants) & Abigail Bradshaw (aged 51, born Burton Overy, Leicester). Douglas was the eldest of three children on this Census – William P. Bradshaw (aged 3, born Harrold, Beds.) & Rosa M. Bradshaw (aged 1, born Leicester, Leicestershire).

The 1911 England Census recorded Douglas Gordon Bradshaw as a 15 year old Butcher's Errand Boy, living with his family in a 5 roomed dwelling at 34 Raymond Road, Leicester. His parents were listed as Joseph Bradshaw (Mineral Water Trolleyman, aged 53) & Abigail Bradshaw (Charwoman, aged 40) Joseph & Abigail Bradshaw had been married for 10 years & had 5 children, with 1 child deceased. Douglas was the eldest of 4 children listed on this Census – William Philip Bradshaw (School, aged 13), Robert Archibald Bradshaw (school, aged 9, born Leicester, Leicestershire with a note "Feeble minded from Birth") & Alice Eveline Bradshaw (School, aged 6, born Leicester, Leicestershire).

A death was registered in Leicester in March quarter, 1912 for a Joseph Bradshaw, aged 54.

Douglas Bradshaw, Butcher, aged 17, was listed as a passenger on *Demosthenes* which departed London on 14th August, 1913 & arrived at the port of Brisbane, Australia on 24th September, 1913. Douglas Bradshaw was listed to depart at Melbourne.

D. Bradshaw, a 19 year old Assistant Butcher from Leicester was a passenger on *Canberra* which left the port of Brisbane for Sydney on 2nd July, 1915.

Douglas Gordon Bradshaw was a 19 year old, single, Butcher when he enlisted in Melbourne on 8th July, 1915 with the 6th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3254 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his Aunt – Mrs Agnes Bradshaw of White Mills, Castle Ashly Station, Northamptonshire, England as his parents were deceased & he had no guardian in Australia. Douglas Bradshaw stated on his Attestation Papers that he was born at Gladstone, Leicestershire.

Private Douglas Gordon Bradshaw was posted to 13th Company, 8th Depot Battalion on 12th July, 1915. He was transferred to 11th Reinforcements of 6th Battalion on 16th September, 1915.

Private Douglas Gordon Bradshaw embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Nestor* (A71) on 11th October, 1915.

Private Douglas Gordon Bradshaw was taken on strength with 6th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 7th January, 1916.

Private Douglas Gordon Bradshaw was transferred to 58th Battalion from 6th Battalion on 17th February, 1916. He was taken on strength at Serapeum with 58th Battalion on 17th February, 1916.

Private Douglas Gordon Bradshaw embarked from Alexandria on 17th June, 1916 on *Transylvania* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 23rd June, 1916.

Private Douglas Gordon Bradshaw was wounded in action on 23rd November, 1916. He was taken to 36th Casualty Clearing Station on 23rd November, 1916 with gunshot wounds to left wrist. Pte Bradshaw was transferred to

Ambulance Train on 24th November, 1916 admitted to 5th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 25th November, 1916. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St George* from Rouen on 2nd December, 1916.

58th Battalion

The 58th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 17 February 1916 as part of the expansion of the AIF. Roughly half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 6th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 6th, the 58th was predominantly composed of men from Victoria. The battalion became part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Having only arrived in France on 23 June, the 58th became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front at Fromelles on 19 July. The battle was a disaster. The 58th had the dual role of providing carrying parties and a reserve force. The reserve force (approximately half of the battalion) was ordered to attack late in the battle and was virtually annihilated by machine-gun fire; as a whole, the 58th suffered casualties equal to almost a third of its strength. Despite the grievous losses in its battalions, the 5th Division continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months.

(Information from The Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 58th Battalion – In the Field – Montauban

23rd November, 1916 – Holding above. Sent one platoon of "A" Coy to "D" Camp for fatigue work. The remainder of the Coy & "B" Coy. again engaged on communication trench above referred to, in two relays, 9 pm to 11 pm and 11 pm to 5 am. Sent runners to front lines to learn to act as guides. Enemy artillery, aircraft & snipers very active. Weather good. Line of stakes with white rags attached placed as guides from Medic Trench to Aid Post. A Geneva flag was flown at Aid Post as it was difficult to locate. Aid Post was immediately shelled. Flag was taken down and less conspicuous signs erected and a screened light at night.

(Information from The Australian War Memorial)

Private Douglas Gordon Bradshaw was admitted to 3rd West General Hospital, Cardiff, England on 3rd December, 1916 with gunshot wounds to left wrist/hand. He was transferred to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, England on 22nd January, 1917. Pte Bradshaw was granted furlough on 21st February, 1917 to 8th March, 1917 & was then to report to Weymouth. His wound was healed but he had stiffness in his fingers which required massage.

Private Douglas Gordon Bradshaw was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset on 8th March, 1917. He was medically classified as B1 A4 (Fit for overseas training camp when dentally fit).

A Medical Board found on 20th March, 1917 that Private Douglas Gordon Bradshaw was temporarily unfit for General Service for more than 6 months but fit for home service.

Private Douglas Gordon Bradshaw was medically classified P.B. (Permanent Base – medically unfit for field service) at No. 2 Command Depot, Weymouth on 13th April, 1917.

Private Douglas Gordon Bradshaw was written up for an Offence at Monte Video on 16th April, 1917 – "Absent from Tattoo till 11.20 pm." He was awarded 5 days Confined to Barracks by Capt. H. Storey.

Private Douglas Gordon Bradshaw was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire from No. 2 Command Depot, Weymouth on 24th January, 1918.

Private Douglas Gordon Bradshaw was marched out to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire from No. 4 Command Depot, Hurdcott on 31st January, 1918.

Private Douglas Gordon Bradshaw was marched out from Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill on 8th February, 1918 & marched in to 3rd Training Brigade at Codford, Wiltshire on 9th February, 1918. Pte Bradshaw was on command at 5th Divisional Signalling School at Codford on 9th February, 1918.

Private Douglas Gordon Bradshaw proceeded Overseas to France from 14th Training Battalion at Codford, via Folkestone on 17th May, 1918 to reinforce 60th Battalion.

Private Douglas Gordon Bradshaw was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 19th May, 1918. He was marched out to his Unit on 24th May, 1918. Pte Bradshaw was taken on strength with reinforcements of 60th Battalion in the field on 13th June, 1918.

Private Douglas Gordon Bradshaw was transferred back & taken on strength with 58th Battalion on 23rd June, 1918.

Private Douglas Gordon Bradshaw was wounded in action (2nd Occasion) on 29th September, 1918. He was taken to 8th Australian Field Ambulance on 30th September, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to thigh. Pte Bradshaw was transferred & admitted to 50th Casualty Clearing Station on 30th September, 1918. He was transferred to Ambulance Train 20 on 1st October, 1918 & admitted to 15th Australian General Hospital at Abbeville on 1st October, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to left leg. Pte Bradshaw was transferred to England on Hospital Ship on 21st October, 1918.

58th Battalion

When the Allies launched their own offensive around Amiens on 8 August, the 58th Battalion was amongst the units in action, although its role in the subsequent advance was limited. The battalion was involved in the fighting to secure Peronne at the beginning of September and entered its last major battle of the war on 29 September 1918. This operation was mounted by the 5th and 3rd Australian Divisions, in co-operation with American forces, to break through the formidable German defences along the St Quentin Canal.

(Information from The Australian War Memorial)

Private Douglas Gordon Bradshaw was admitted to Fort Pitt Military Hospital at Chatham, England on 21st October, 1918.

Private Douglas Gordon Bradshaw died at 6.00 am on 1st November, 1918 at Kingswood Park V.A.D. Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England from Septic Pneumonia.

A death for Douglas Bradshaw, aged 23, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Tonbridge, Kent, England.

Private Douglas Gordon Bradshaw was buried on 6th November, 1918 in Tunbridge Wells Cemetery, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England – Plot number C. 14. 278. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Bradshaw - *Coffin was polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. Details of friends & family present at the funeral – About 20 Australian Hospital Patients, about 100 patients from Hospital (Imperial Troops), Misses M.A & A.A. Bradshaw of Northampton & Mrs Bradshaw (Mother) of 34 Raymond Rd and others.* (Note – Mother was possibly stepmother)

Pte Douglas Gordon Bradshaw was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Mrs A. Bradshaw in England. (Scroll & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private D. G. Bradshaw – service number 3254, of 58th Battalion Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private D. G. Bradshaw is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 165.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(36 pages of Pte Douglas Gordon Bradshaw'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

The 255th AND 256th Casualty Lists

WOUNDED

Private D. G. Bradshaw, England

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 30 December, 1916)

THE 448th and 449th CASUALTY LISTS

VICTORIAN NAMES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private D. G. Bradshaw, England

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 4 December, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

BRADSHAW – In loving memory of No. 3254, Signaller D. G. Bradshaw, D Company, 58th Battalion, 15th Brigade, who died 1st November, 1918, at Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England, of septic pneumonia, following wounds received in action, 29th September, 1916. (Belle Scott, Glenalvie, South Gippsland).

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 1 November, 1919)

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)

Pte D. G. Bradshaw does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Tunbridge Wells Cemetery, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England

Tunbridge Wells Cemetery contains 138 Commonwealth War Graves – 75 relate to World War 1 which are scattered throughout the Cemetery & 63 relate to World War 2, of which more than half are located in a war graves plot in the south-eastern part of the Cemetery.



Tunbridge Wells Cemetery *(Photo by N. Chadwick)*

Photo of Pte D. G. Bradshaw's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tunbridge Wells Cemetery, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England.



(Photo by of js – Find a Grave)



Tunbridge Wells Cemetery (Photo by js – Find a Grave)

