

**Chichester Cemetery,
Chichester, West Sussex
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2535 PRIVATE

A. BROWN

41ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

3RD JUNE, 1918 Age 22

*Beloved Son Of
John And Janet Brown
Of Archer*

Alexander BROWN

Alexander Brown was born at Nelson, Lancashire, England on 19th April, 1896 to parents John and Janet McLeod Brown (nee Wise). He was baptised on 11th November, 1896 at St. Mary's Church, Nelson, Lancashire, England. The Baptism records show that John Brown was a Draper & the family lived at 27 Carr Road.

The 1901 England Census recorded Alexander Brown as a 4 year old, living with his family at 5 Victoria Avenue, Brierfield, Lancashire, England. His parents were listed as John Brown (Draper, aged 35, born Scotland) & Janet M. Brown (aged 35, born Scotland). Alexander was one of five children listed on this Census – Janet B. Brown (aged 7, born Burnley, Lancs), Anne B. Brown (aged 7, born Burnley, Lancs), then Alexander, James W. Brown (aged 3, born Nelson, Lancs) & Effie Brown (aged 1, born Brierfield, Lancs). Also listed were two visitors – Marion B. Gordon (aged 15, born Scotland) & Lizzie Whan (aged 13, born Scotland) & a domestic servant – Elizabeth C. Gordon (aged 25, born Scotland).

Alexander Brown attended School at Carr Road, Nelson, England for his education.

According to information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour – Alexander Brown came to Australian when he was 15 years old.

Alexander Brown was a 20 year old, single, Farmer from Archer, North Coast Line, Queensland when he enlisted at Rockhampton, Queensland on 23rd September, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2535 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr John Brown, Warton Farm, Archer, via Rockhampton, North Coast Line, Queensland. Alexander Brown was considered fit for active service but required dental treatment.

Private Alexander Brown was posted to 11th Depot Battalion at Enoggera on 5th October, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 5th Reinforcements of 41st Battalion on 8th October, 1916.

Private Alexander Brown embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Kyarra* (A55) on 17th November, 1916 with the 41st Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 30th January, 1917.

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 Alexander Brown was marched in to 11th Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire, England on 17th February, 1917 from Australia.

Private Alexander Brown proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 14th June, 1917 from 11th Training Battalion, Durrington. He was marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 18th June, 1917. Private Brown was marched out to his Unit on 4th July, 1917 & was taken on strength of 41st Battalion in the Field from 4th Reinforcements & 3rd A.D.B.D. on 12th July, 1917.

Private Alexander Brown was wounded in action on 24th April, 1918. He was admitted to 14th Field Ambulance on 24th April, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to arm & chest. Private Brown was transferred & admitted to 20th Casualty Clearing Station on 24th April, 1918. He was transferred & admitted to 12th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 26th April, 1918. Private Brown was transferred to England on 29th April, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Aberdonian*.

41st Battalion

The 41st Battalion was raised at Bell's Paddock Camp in Brisbane in February 1916 with recruits from Brisbane, northern Queensland and the northern rivers district of New South Wales. It formed part of the 11th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division.

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Compared to some AIF battalions, the 41st's experience of the battles in Belgium during 1917 was relatively straightforward. It had a supporting role at Messines on 7 June, captured its objectives at Broodseinde on 4 October with little difficulty, and was spared the carnage of Passchendaele on 12 October. It was some of the battalion's more "routine" tasks that proved its most trying experiences. At the end of June 1917, the 11th Brigade was ordered to

establish a new front line west of Warneton, in full view of the Germans. Work carried on night and day under heavy shellfire and the period became known to the battalion as "the 18 days". The start of August found the 41st holding ground captured by two of its sister battalions in a feint attack on 31 July. Enduring continual rain, flooded trenches and heavy shelling many of the battalion's platoons dwindled from 35 men to less than ten.

Belgium remained the focus of the 41st Battalion's activities for the five months after its action in October 1917 as it was rotated between service in the rear areas and the front line. When the German Army launched its last great offensive in March 1918, the battalion was rushed south to France and played a role in blunting the drive towards the vital railway junction of Amiens.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 41st Battalion

SAILLEY LE-SEC 24-4-18

At 3.30 am enemy opened up with a very intense bombardment on all gullies, particularly where we were situated in J21C. The bombardment, without slackening continued for 5 hours, after which he eased up, but though out the day, with short intervals, he kept dropping this "hale". In all this shelling a large proportion of gas was used, necessitating the box respirators to be worn eventually nearly the whole day. Thanks to good gas discipline our casualties from the effects of gas were only two or three. Luckily the shelling of the front area, including the front & piquet lines, was not severe and communication was kept with the companies. This was not so in the case of Brigade and great difficulty was experienced in keeping them "au fait" with the situation in front. Liason officers were sent to the 43rd Bn in front & to the 44th on our left flank and as soon as there was sufficient light, the O.P. near "Wellcome Wood" sent back information. The vuly(?) infantry action taken by the evening under this artillery activity was two attacks from direction of Sailley-Laurelle against 29th Bn A.I.F. who were holding the line at that point. Both attacks were driven off with big loss to the enemy by the piquet Coy. without the aid of artillery.

It is estimated that in the first five hours bombardment, over 4000 shells fell in our vicinity. The enemy battery groups being at K21 and behind Sailley Laurelle. A noticeable feature of the day was the absence of hostile aircraft. The artillery actively extended north & south of our position, and the attack north of the Somme River was merely a diversion to cover an attack in force south of the Somme against VILLERS-BRETONNEUX. At a company commanders conference held in the afternoon, the relief of 43rd Bn in the front line was discussed. Owing to the 5th Division taking over part of our sector north of the Somme, our Brigade frontage was from grid line between J24 & J30 on the south, for grid line at J12 centre and the relief battalion frontage from southern boundary to triangle of ___J18d. This meant in the Brigade, two battalions in the piquet & front lines and two battalions in support, which gave defense in depth. Relief took place night 24/25th without casualties; relief being completed soon after midnight. We took on the patrolling of the front from 12 midnight.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Alexander Brown was admitted to Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester, Sussex, England on 30th April, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to right arm & chest – slight. The Hospital Admissions form reports Private Brown had GSW (gunshot wound/s) to right shoulder. He later developed Septicaemia which ultimately became pyaemia.

Mr John Brown, of Wharton Farm, Archer, Central Queensland, father of Private Alexander Brown, was advised on 7th May, 1918 that Pte A. Brown had been wounded. He was advised on 24th May, 1918 that Private A. Brown had been admitted to Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester, England on 30th April, 1918 suffering from gunshot wound to chest and right arm – mild.

Mr John Brown, of Wharton Farm, Archer, Central Queensland, father of Private Alexander Brown, was advised on 25th May, 1918 that Private Alexander Brown was dangerously ill & on 5th June, 1918 Private Brown's condition was reported as stationary.

Private Alexander Brown died at 10.30 pm on 3rd June, 1918 at Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester, Sussex, England from wounds received in action – 1. GSW to right shoulder; 2. Secondary Haemorrhage & Pyaemia.

A death for Alexander Brown, aged 22, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Chichester, Sussex, England.



Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester

Private Alexander Brown was buried at 2 pm on 6th June, 1918 in Chichester Cemetery, Chichester, West Sussex, England – Section 134, Grave number 76. From the burial report of Pte Alexander Brown - *Coffin was oak with brass mountings. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral, Firing Part and Bugler being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the "Union Jack" and surmounted by some beautiful wreaths sent by friends, comrades and sisters at the Hospital. The service was conducted in the Cemetery Chapel and at the graveside by Rev. R. G. T. Gillman. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented.*

Names of relatives present at the Funeral – Aunt – Mrs Cheshire, 190 Peel Brow, Ramsbotham, Manchester; Aunt – Mrs Marshall, 46 Athol St, Burnely and Uncle – Mr David Brown, Stapford, Dumfries.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has a Grave reference of 134.76 for Private Alexander Brown and he has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Alexander Brown requested in his Will dated 27th June, 1917 that all his real & personal estate be given to his mother – Janet Brown, Warton Farm, Archer via Rockhampton, Queensland. He appointed his father – John Brown as sole executor.

Private Alexander Brown was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Brown's father - Mr John Brown, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Alexander Brown – service number 2535, aged 22, of 41st Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Janet McLeod Brown, of Warton, Archer, Queensland, Australia.

Private A. Brown is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 133.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

The Rockhampton War Memorial, located at Botanic Garden, 100 Spencer Street, Rockhampton, Queensland does not list individual names.



Rockhampton War Memorial (Photo from *Places of Pride* – AWM)

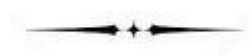
A. Brown is remembered on the Nelson Memorial Wall, located in Market Square, Nelson, Lancashire, England.



Nelson Memorial Wall

(52 pages of Private Alexander Brown'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



Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOR

402ND CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED

Alexander Brown, Archer (Queensland)

(Townsville Daily Bulletin, Queensland – 23 May, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BROWN – Died of wounds, at Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester, England, on the 3rd instant, Alexander (Sandy) Brown, aged 22, eldest Son of John and Janet Brown, Warton, Archer, and late of "Three Crofts", Lochfoot, Dumfries, Scotland.

(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Queensland – 18 June, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BROWN – Died of wounds, at Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester, England, on the 3rd instant, Alexander (Sandy) Brown, aged 22, eldest Son of John and Janet Brown, Warton, Archer, and late of "Three Crofts", Lochfoot, Dumfries, Scotland.

(Inserted by his loving wife and children)

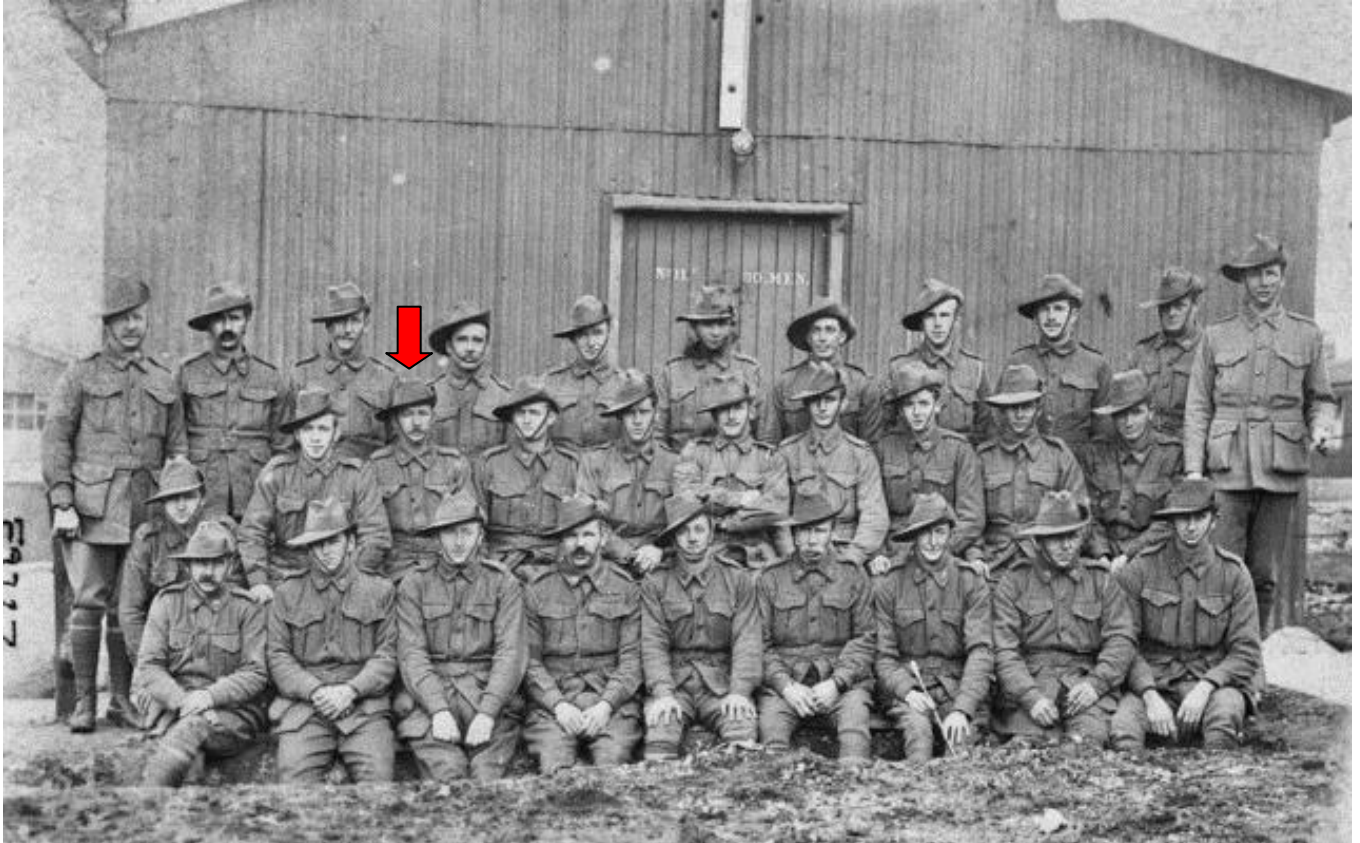
(The Capricornian, Rockhampton, Queensland – 22 June, 1918)

Roll of Honour

301 Queenslanders

DIED OF WOUNDS – Alexander Brown, Archer, 3/6/18, p.r.w.;

(*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Queensland – 24 June, 1918)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P01194.004

Group portrait of members of No 9 Hut, 5 Platoon, B Company, 41st Battalion

Left to right: Back Row: 2539 Private (Pte) William Sheridan Bolton; 2517 Pte Reginald Blundell Chalk; 2679A Pte Reginald John South; 2521 Pte Bert Taylor; 2689 Pte Joseph Edgar Dickson; 2553 Pte Charles Edward Connor; 2676 Pte George Davidson; Pte Clark (believed to be 2550 James Clarke); 2534 Pte Ralph Bell; Pte S Coulter; 2519 Sergeant (Sgt) Joseph Rodger Edge.

Centre Row: 2538 Pte Daniel Thomas Butler; 2682 Pte Norman Albert Neilsen; **2535 Pte Alexander Brown**; 2688 Pte Patrick Arthur Davis; Sgt Judge; 2522 Pte Herbert Thomas Green; 2552 Pte Francis Pascoe Coade; 2571 Pte William Exton; 2530 Pte Frederick Howard Allan; Pte R Alexander (possibly 2528 Campbell Dixon Alexander);

Front Row: Pte N Doherty (possibly 2565 Edward Myles Dougherty); Pte I Andersen (possibly 2686 Pte Thomas John Anderson); Pte J Coleman (possibly 2560 Thomas Coleman); 2575 Pte Wallace Robert Grant; 2698 Pte Percival John Biggs; Pte J Hawkings (possibly 2578 Frederick George Hawken); 2685 Pte Samuel Hugh Adams; 2558 Pte James Evans Carrie; 2572 Pte James Fisher. Some of these men worked together before and after the war at Pleystowe Sugar Mill, Mackay, Queensland.



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 A. Brown does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Beloved Son Of John & Janet Brown Of Archer

Chichester Cemetery, Chichester, West Sussex, England

Chichester Cemetery has 174 Commonwealth War Graves. Also known as Portfield Cemetery.

Of the 89 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war, the majority are in a War Graves Plot in Squares 121 and 126 bordering a path on the far right hand side of the cemetery. This was constructed by the City Corporation, who also erected the War Cross at the eastern end of the enclosed plot especially designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and closely resembling the Commission's own Cross of Sacrifice. The names of the 1914-1918 war dead in the cemetery are engraved on the base of the Cross. There are also 75 Commonwealth burials of the 1939-1945 war here, mainly in two adjoining Church of England dedicated Squares, Nos. 115 and 159, in the south-western portion of the cemetery enclosed by a hedgerow on three sides, on the fourth side a wall bearing the inscription 1939-1945 THE MEN AND WOMEN BURIED IN THIS PLOT DIED IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE. In the northern section a further Square, No. 42, is dedicated to Roman Catholic burials, there is a metal plaque bearing a similar inscription. There are also 7 non-Commonwealth war burials and 4 non World War burials in the care of C.W.G.C. within the cemetery. *(Information from CWGC)*



Chichester Cemetery *(Photo by Adrienne – Find a Grave)*



Some War Graves in Chichester Cemetery (Photo above by Basher Eyre; below from CWGC)



Photo of Private A. Brown's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Chichester Cemetery, Chichester, West Sussex, England.



(Photo courtesy of Allan Noble)



Chichester Cemetery *(Photo by Adrienne – Find a Grave)*