

**Tidworth Military Cemetery,
Tidworth, Wiltshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



6961 PRIVATE

A. BRUNI

67TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

15TH JULY, 1917

Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Have Mercy On Him

Alexander BRUNI

Alexander Cluney Bruni was born at "Cluney", South Kyneton, Victoria on 13th April, 1895 to parents John H. & Rosanna Bruni (nee Gorman).

John H. Bruni, father of Alexander Bruni, died in 1904 at Kyneton, Victoria.

Rosanna Bruni, widowed mother of Alexander Bruni, remarried in 1905 to Charles Daniel Buckley.

Alexander Bruni was educated at St. Joseph's Convent.

Alexander Bruni was a 21 year old, single, Farmer from Mair Street, Kyneton, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 7th September, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 6961 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs R. Bruni, of Mair Street, Kyneton, Victoria. Alexander Bruni stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with Citizen Forces for 3 years & was still serving.

Alexander Bruni was posted to 22nd Depot Battalion at Royal Park on 6th October, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 23rd Reinforcements of 8th Battalion on 3rd November, 1916 as Private.

Private Alexander Bruni embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Hororata (A)* on 23rd November, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Battalion, 23rd Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 29th January, 1917.

8th Battalion

The 8th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

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 Bruni was marched in to 2nd Training Battalion in England from Australia on 30th January, 1917.

Private Alexander Bruni was written up for an Offence at Durrington, Wiltshire on 18th February, 1917 while posted to "D" Company, 2nd Training Battalion, Larkhill, Wiltshire – *"Disobedience of Orders in that he failed to report to the Dispensary for medicine after being duly warned. Award – Admonished by Lt. G. F. Johansen 20.2.17."*

Private Alexander Bruni was sent to Fargo Hospital, Wiltshire on 3rd April, 1917 for examination by Nose Specialist. The Specialist reported *"There is no disease of this man's nose – he is perfectly fit as regards his nose."*

Private Alexander Bruni was transferred to 67th Battalion on 28th April, 1917. He was taken on strength of 67th Battalion from 8th Battalion ex 2nd Training Battalion at Windmill Hill.

67th Battalion

The 67th Battalion was formed in England on 25th April, 1917 as part of the 17th Infantry Brigade (Victoria), Sixth Division. It was disbanded on 16th September, 1917.

Private Alexander Bruni was admitted to 17th Field Ambulance at Windmill Hill on 9th July, 1917 then transferred & admitted to Delhi Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire* on 9th July, 1917 with Pleurisy (right side). He was transferred to Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire on 10th July, 1917 with Broncho-Pneumonia. The Hospital Admissions form recorded *"His temp became subnormal on the 4th day after admission, he became unconscious & died two days afterwards."*

(Note: *Purport form recorded he was admitted to Tidworth Military Hospital on 9th July, 1917 then the next line down recorded he was admitted to Delhi Hospital on 9th July, 1917. Tidworth Military Hospital was in Delhi Barracks at Tidworth, Wiltshire. There were sections of Tidworth Military Hospital at Lucknow Barracks & at Delhi Barracks)

Private Alexander Bruni died at 2.25 pm on 15th July, 1917 at Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from Acute Broncho Pneumonia. (Note: A Telegram from Adjutant 67th Battalion to Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London, on 16th July, 1917 advised the Private Bruni had died in Delhi Hospital, Tidworth. Delhi Hospital was also recorded on Purport form but crossed out & replaced with "Died Military Hospital Tidworth. The Casualty Form – Active Service recorded Private Bruni had died in Delhi Hospital but this was later an entry was recorded – "Corrigendum – which states Died Delhi Hospital Tidworth Delete and in lieu read: Military Hospital Tidworth.")

Private Alexander Bruni was buried on 17th July, 1917 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number A. 54 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Alexander Bruni – *Date and Place of death – Delhi Hospital, Tidworth on 15.7.17. Military Funeral. Elm coffin polished brass fittings. Attended in Hospital (Delhi) by Rev Fr. O'Sullivan, C. I. Imperial Chaplain at Tidworth, also an hour or two before death by the Battalion Chaplain Rev. M. J. Brickely, Chaplain for 17th Brigade, late of St. Mary's Geelong, Victoria.*

Base Records wrote to Mrs R. Bruni, Mair St, Kyneton, on 24th July, 1917 regarding the death of her son, to advise that "*further cabled advice now to hand from London states that he died at the Delhi Hospital, Tidworth, England.....*"

Base Records wrote to Mrs R. Bruni, Mair St, Kyneton, on 4th August, 1917 regarding the death of her son, to advise that "*a further cable has been received from London to the effect that this soldier died at Military Hospital, Tidworth, England, as originally advised.*"

Base Records wrote to Mrs R. Bruni, Mair St, Kyneton, on 22nd November, 1917 to advise her of further details regarding the death of son her – stating he died at Military Hospital, Tidworth & also advised details regarding his burial.

Base Records wrote to Mrs R. Bruni, Mair St, Kyneton, on 5th December, 1917 to advise her of further details regarding the death of son her – stating he died at Delhi Hospital, Tidworth & also gave brief details regarding his funeral.

Mrs R. Buckley (late Bruni) of Mair St, Kyneton, wrote to Base Records on 20th May, 1918 requesting the certificate of death of her son Private A. Bruni, 6961. Base Records forward a certificate of death of the late No. 6961 Private A. Bruni on 24th May, 1918.

Mrs R. Buckley, 28 Egremont St, North Fitzroy, Victoria, remarried mother of the late Private Alexander Bruni, wrote to Base Records in March, 1920 stating that a parcel was sent to Kyneton for her & she was told it had been returned to the Defence Department unclaimed. Base Records returned the letter on 30th March, 1920 requesting that the regimental number rank full name & unit of the Soldiers referred to be completed.

Mrs Buckley returned the letter adding her son's details – "*Alexander Bruni, No 6961 Rank Private Unit 67th Battalion Died on 15th July, 1917 Abroad.*" Base Records replied on 15th April, 1920 stating that there was no record of a parcel having been returned to Base Records. They did note her present address & stated "*should the parcel be received here it will be promptly transmitted thereto.*"

Private Alexander Bruni was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Bruni's mother - Mrs R. Buckley (nee Bruni), as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1922 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Alexander Bruni – service number 6961, of 67th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Rosanna Bruni, of 28 Egremont Street, North Fitzroy, Victoria and the late Buckley Bruni.

A. Bruni is remembered on the Kyneton War Memorial/Cenotaph, located at Mollison Street, Kyneton, Victoria.



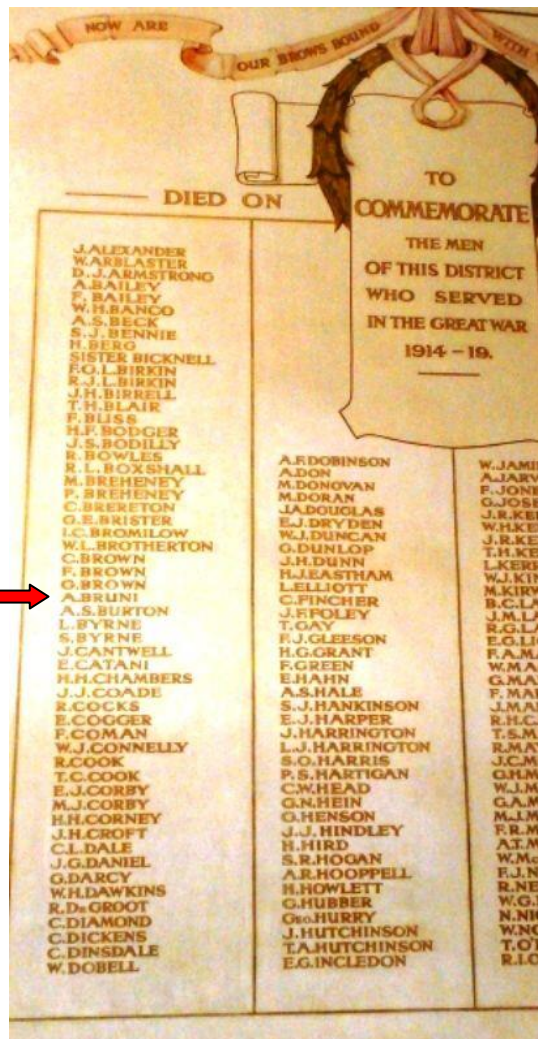
Kyneton War Memorial (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



A. Bruni is remembered on the Kyneton Honour Roll, located at Kyneton Town Hall, 129 Mollison Street, Kyneton, Victoria.



Kyneton Honour Roll (Photos from Monument Australia – Chris McLaughlin)



A. Bruni is remembered on the Kyneton RSL Honour Roll, located in Kyneton RSL, 37 – 39 Mollison Street, Kyneton, Victoria.



Kyneton RSL Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

Private A. Bruni is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 52.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(66 pages of Private Alexander Bruni'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

ANOTHER KYNETON SOLDIER'S DEATH

PRIVATE A. C. BRUNI

On Thursday the Very Rev. Dean Hegarty of Kyneton, received a telegram from the Defence Department asking him to convey to Mrs C. Buckley, of Mair street, the sad news of the death of her son, Pte. Alexander Cluney Bruni, which occurred from pneumonia in a London hospital on July 15. When the telegram arrived Dean Hegarty was in Castlemaine attending the obsequies in connection with the death of the late Father O'Reilly, and consequently he was unable to convey the news to Mrs Buckley until yesterday.

The deceased young soldier was Mrs Buckley's third son, and was born at "Cluney," South Kyneton, on April 13. 1895, being therefore a few months over 22 years of age. He enlisted in August last year, and sailed from Victoria in November. He spent several months on Salisbury Plain, and was about to proceed to France when he was seized with the illness which caused his death. About four weeks ago his mother received a letter from him written in a cheerful strain, and stating that he was then well. This letter was written on April 13—his 22nd birthday. His brother, Private C. Bruni, was wounded in action three days later (April 19, when a bullet went through his ankle. The wound was a severe one, necessitating his remaining in hospital ever since. His mother received a letter from him a few days ago stating that he is making a good recovery, and that he expects shortly to be able to be about again.

(Kyneton Guardian, Victoria – 21 July, 1917)

AUSTRALIA'S ROLL OF HONOR

330th CASUALTY LIST

Pte A. Bruni, Kyneton, died of wounds

(Kyneton Guardian, Victoria – 16 August, 1917)

In Memoriam Notices

BRUNI – In sad and loving memory of Pte Alexander Bruni, the dearly loved son of Mrs C. Buckley, of Mair Street, Kyneton, who died in Tidsworth Hospital, England from pneumonia on 15th July, 1917.

His heart was good, his spirit brave,
His resting place a hero's grave;
To have, to love, and then to part
Is the saddest story of a human heart.

In our hearts your memory lingers,
Tender fond and true:
There's not a day goes past, dear Alex
But what we think of you.

(Kyneton Guardian, Victoria – 18 July, 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 A. Bruni does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Jesus, Mary & Joseph Have Mercy On Him

Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Tidworth Military Cemetery, which contains burials of both wars, was directly connected with training grounds on, or near, Salisbury Plain.

During the First World War, the cemetery was used for burials from Tidworth and Fargo Military Hospitals and the 417 graves, many of them of Australian or New Zealand servicemen, are scattered throughout the cemetery.

There are 106 Second World War graves in the cemetery, two substantial groups of which can be found in sections F and D. The rest are scattered.

The cemetery also contains 40 war graves of other nationalities, many of them Polish.

(Information from CWGC)



Tidworth Military Cemetery *(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00319

Tidworth Military Cemetery War Graves – March 1919

Snow cover on graves marked with a cross in the AIF cemetery.

Identified, left row, back to front: 3049 Private (Pte) John Joseph Cahill, 57th Battalion (Bn), who died 16 March 1917; 769 Lance Sergeant Gerald Ryan, 14th Bn, died of accidental injuries caused when he fell sliding on ice 6 February 1917; 6022 Pte James Thomas Frazer, 9th Bn, died of pneumonia 25 January 1917; 2680 Pte William Humphreys, 13th Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps, died of sickness 23 January 1917; 2435 Pte James Byrne, 39th Bn, died of accidental injuries 18 January 1917.

Right row: 1094 Lance Corporal Henry Matthews, 13th Australian Light Horse, died of accidental injuries 8 January 1918; 3701 Pte Thomas Henry Goss, 37th Bn, died of sickness 28 August 1917; 2769 Gunner James O'Connell, 13th Brigade, Australian Field Artillery, date of death 31 July 1917; 6961 Pte Alexander Bruni, 67th Bn, died of sickness 15 July 1917; 3135 Henry John Vaughan Percy-Dove, 40th Bn, aged 28, died of sickness 11 June 1917; 3512A Sapper John (Jack) Wallace, Australian Tunnelling Company, who died 7 June 1917.



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers – Kevin)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo courtesy of John Prestidge)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo by Chris Talbot 2009)

Photo of Private A. Bruni's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England



(Photo courtesy of Kevin – Portsmouth Remembers 2021)

