

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3958 A/BOMBARDIER

H. BURTON

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

11TH FEBRUARY, 1919 Age 25

*Dearlly Loved Son Of
Joseph & Agnes Burton
Randwick, N.S.W.*

Hector BURTON

Hector Burton was born at Bathurst, New South Wales on 26th October, 1893 to parents Joseph & (Brigid) Agnes Burton (nee Hogan). He was baptised on 14th January, 1894 in All Saints Cathedral, Bathurst, New South Wales.

Hector Burton attended Sydney Grammar School & Sydney University.

Hector Burton was a 21 year old, single, Student (Medical) from Cowper Street, Randwick, New South Wales when he enlisted on 15th January, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Burton, of Cowper Street, Randwick, New South Wales. Hector Burton stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service due to Varicocele (since operated on).

Hector Burton was posted to 4th Reinforcements of 1st F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) on 16th February, 1915.

Driver Hector Burton, Service number 3958, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 10th April, 1915 with the 1st Field Artillery Brigade – 4th Reinforcements.

Driver Hector Burton joined M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli on 26th May, 1915.

Driver Hector Burton was admitted to Hospital Ship *Salta* at Gallipoli Peninsula on 4th October, 1915 with Catarrh. He was transferred & admitted to No. 2 General Hospital at Ghezireh on 10th October, 1915. Driver Burton was discharged to light duties at Zeitoun, Cairo from 25th October, 1915.

Driver Hector Burton was taken on strength of 14th F.A.B. at Ferry Post on 29th April, 1916 from 1st D.A.C. & was posted to 53rd Battery.

Driver Hector Burton was transferred to M.M. Police on 25th May, 1916 & was posted to Anzac Police as Driver.

Driver Hector Burton embarked from Alexandria on 2nd August, 1916 on H.T. *Franconia* for Overseas (Note: the Casualty Form Active Service recorded he embarked for B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) but he embarked for England)

Driver Hector Burton was written up for an Offence while posted at Parkhouse, Wiltshire – overstaying Leave from midnight on 5th November, 1916 until 6 pm on 8th November, 1916. He was ordered to forfeit a total of 9 days' pay.

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.

Driver Hector Burton proceeded overseas via Southampton to France on 29th December, 1916.

Driver Hector Burton was remustered as Gunner, at his own request, from 13th April, 1917.

Gunner Hector Burton was mustered as Driver on 1st August, 1917 while posted with 7th Field Artillery Brigade.

Driver Hector Burton was appointed Acting Bombardier from 8th October, 1917 (as listed on Casualty Form – Active Service however the Statement of Service form recorded date as 1st October, 1917).

Acting Bombardier Hector Burton reported sick on 11th November, 1917 & was admitted to 25th Field Ambulance then 53rd Casualty Clearing Station with Gonorrhoea. He was transferred to 7th Convalescent Depot at Boulogne on 12th November, 1917. Acting Bombardier Burton was transferred to Ambulance Train 23 on 12th November, 1917 & admitted to 39th General Hospital at Havre on 15th November, 1917 – cause N.Y.D. (Not yet determined). He was discharged to Base Details on 19th January, 1918. (Total number of V.D.G. days = 70).

Acting Bombardier Hector Burton was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Havre, France on 19th January, 1918 from Hospital. He was marched out from A.G.B.D. on 25th January, 1918 & rejoined his Unit in the Field on 28th January, 1918.

A letter was written to OC 26th Battery which reads: "*I desire to revert from Rank of A/Br to Gunner as from 31.1.18 (signed) H. Burton.*"

The letter was forwarded & recommended to Adjutant 7th F.A.B. on 17th March, 1918. The Adjutant, 7th Australian Field Artillery Brigade approved.

Acting Bombardier Hector Burton revert to the rank of Gunner as from 31st January, 1918 at his own request.

Gunner Hector Burton was appointed Acting Bombardier from 3rd June, 1918.

Acting Bombardier Hector Burton was granted Leave to England on 9th July, 1918 & returned from Leave on 27th July, 1918.

Acting Bombardier Hector Burton was still with his Unit on 16th December, 1918. (Note: this was usually recorded on a Soldier's Casualty Form – Active Service when no movements, illness or wounding had been recorded for a period of time)

Acting Bombardier Hector Burton was marched out from the Field on 8th January, 1919 to Base for return to Australia. He was transferred from A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) on 15th January, 1919 to England as part of 1915 Personnel.

Acting Bombardier Hector Burton was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot on 16th January, 1919 from France.

Acting Bombardier Hector Burton was reported A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) on 6th February, 1919. (Note: this was only listed on the Statement of Service form – not on Casualty Form Active service)

Acting Bombardier Hector Burton died at 10 am on 11th February, 1919 at Treadwell House, Epsom, Surrey, England from Influenza & Pneumonia. Richard Wootton was the occupier of Treadwell House, Epsom & was listed on the Death Certificate as the Informant.

A death for Hector Burton, aged 25, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Epsom, Surrey, England.

Acting Bombardier Hector Burton was buried on 15th February, 1919 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 182,884.

From the burial report of Acting Bombardier Hector Burton - Coffin was good. Polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag, and conveyed to the graveside, surmounted by many beautiful wreaths sent from:- Mr R. Wootton & Family, J. Hutton, Randwick, Robert Minear, & Miss B. Johnson. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and Chaplain the Rev: Gregg MacGreggor of the A.I.F. London officiated. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.

Names of Relatives and Friends present at the Funeral – Mr R. Wootton, "Treadwell House, Epsom, Mr McCann, Trade Commission for S. Aust, 112 Strand, London and Cpl Minear, A.I.F. Headquarters, London.

Base Records wrote to Mr J. Burton, 9 Cowper St., Randwick, New South Wales on 28th May, 1919 with the information contained in the above burial report but also included the following information: "...The deceased soldier had been a guest of Mr R. Wootton "Treadwell House", Epsom, and died at that gentleman's residence. Bombardier Burton took seriously ill while on his leave, and notwithstanding every care and medical attention bestowed upon him through the good offices of Mr Wootton and that gentleman's sister-in-law Miss Johnson, the malady proved fatal. Mr Wootton at his own expense had the best medical advice obtainable, and the deceased soldier received the attention of trained nurses who were called in at Mr Wootton's personal expense. The coffin supplied was also furnished by the generous action of Mr Wootton who volunteered to incur any expense that might be thought fitting over and above the regulation expenditure on such occasions. The thanks of the Australian Imperial Force have been communicated to Mr Wootton and Miss Johnson for their unstinted attention to the late Bombardier Burton during his illness, and for their kindly offices after his decease. It may not be unfitting to record here the great debt of obligation under which the Australian Imperial Force lies to Mr Wootton and his kinsfolk for the most thoughtful and generous manner in which they have treated hundreds of members of the A.I.F. at their residence at Epsom and elsewhere."

Base Records wrote to Mr J. Burton, 9 Cowper St., Randwick, NSW on 24th March, 1923 stating that the site of his son's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 4 Row E Grave 6.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – IV. E. 6. Acting Bombardier H. Burton now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Hector Burton requested in his Will, dated 24th August, 1917, that all his real estate & personal estate be bequeathed to his mother Agnes Burton, Cowper St, Randwick, NSW.

Mrs A. Burton, 9 Cowper St, Randwick, wrote to Base Records on 3rd March, 1920 with the following: *"I am writing in reference to the 1914-18 Star about to be issued to the Anzacs. Could I as mother of the deceased soldier (Gnr Hector Burton) receive or have sent to me the star which he, had he returned would have received. He sailed from here 9th April 1915 & landed Gallipoli middle of June – served nearly four years & died in England Feby 11th 1919 of Influenza. I would be so pleased to have the star if permitted for a keepsake not of course to wear."*

Base Records replied to Mrs A. Burton on 9th March, 1920 advising *"...the 1914-15 Star will, when available, be forwarded to next-of-kin (father). No application is necessary in this connexion."*

Acting Bombardier Hector Burton was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Acting Bombardier Burton's father – Mr J. Burton, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Acting Bombardier Hector Burton – service number 3958, aged 25, of 7th Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Joseph & Agnes Burton, of 9 Cowper St., Randwick, N.S.W.

Acting Bombardier H. Burton is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 15.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

H. Burton is remembered on the Sydney Grammar School Honour Board, located at Sydney Grammar School, College Street, Darlinghurst, Sydney, NSW.



Sydney Grammar School Honour Board (Image courtesy of Sydney Grammar School)



(52 pages of Acting Bombardier Hector Burton'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

SPORTING

THE TURF

Hector Burton, son of the Randwick trainer Joe Burton, who went to the front with the troops some months back, is being invalided home from Egypt, where he was under treatment when the last mail left.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 31 December, 1915)

LATE GUNNER HECTOR BURTON

News was received in Sydney on Friday that Gunner Hector Burton, eldest son of Mr. Joseph Burton, the well-known horse owner and trainer, of Randwick, had died at Mr. R. Wootton's home, Treadwell House, Epsom, England, from Influenza. When Gunner Burton enlisted with the Royal Artillery for active service he was studying medicine at the Sydney University. He was to have left England for home this week.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 17 February, 1919)

GUNNER H. BURTON

VICTIM OF PNEUMONIA

WELL-KNOWN SPORTSMAN

Mr. Joseph Burton, the well-known trainer, of Cowper-street, Randwick, has just learned by cable of the death of his eldest son, Hector.

When war broke out Hector Burton was in his medical course at the University, having proceeded there from the Sydney Grammar School, where he had made a name for himself in the world of sport. He enlisted, being then just 21 years of age, and eventually left with the 26th Battery of the 7th Field Artillery Brigade, on April 9, 1915.

He served on Gallipoli till the evacuation. He was recommended for a commission, but finding it would keep him in Egypt he, after two months in the desert, declined it, and proceeded to France where he played his part till the armistice was signed.

In a letter received by his mother a few weeks ago he told how his battery put over the last barrage on the Germans, and fired one of the last shots before the cease fire of the armistice sounded. He also stated that he was looking forward to his furlough, which he was going to spend at Mr. Dick Wootton's place at Epsom.

After arriving at Mr. Wootton's Gunner Burton cabled his father he was shortly leaving for Australia, but on Friday last Mr. Burton received a cable from Mr. Wootton stating that Hector had died of pneumonia.



Late Gunner H. Burton

The deceased soldier was a man of fine physique, and a member of the Coogee Life-Saving Club, holding the Royal Life-Saving Society's medallion and certificate.

A younger brother, Allen, was invalided back from Egypt a year ago, but re-enlisted, and is now with the army of occupation on the Rhine.

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 17 February, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOR

BURTON – February 11, by private cable from London, Gnr Hector Burton, 26th Battery, 7th F.A.B. of pneumonia, dearly loved eldest son of Joseph and Agnes Burton, Cowper-st, Randwick, after 4 years' service, aged 25. His duty done.

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 17 February, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOR

BURTON – February 11th (by private cable from London), Gnr Hector Burton, 26th Battery, 7th F.A.B. of pneumonia, dearly loved eldest son of Joseph and Agnes Burton, Cowper Street, Randwick, after four years' service, aged 25. His duty done.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 18 February, 1919) & similar notice in (The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 18 February, 1919)

DEATH OF GUNNER HECTOR BURTON

There is not a better known or more respected man on the Australian turf than Mr. Joseph Burton. His many friends and acquaintances will be sorry to learn that an attack of influenza carried off his eldest son, Gunner Hector Burton. Gunner Burton, prior to the war, was studying medicine at the Sydney University. Enlisting early, he was attached to a battery of the Royal Artillery Brigade, and served through the war in France. In January Mr. Burton received a cable from his son stating that he was well and had arranged to leave England in February for Australia. It is evident that he was staying with that popular Australian, Mr. R. Wootton, at Tredwell House, Epsom, England, as on February 14 Mr. S. Monie, who transacts all business for Mr. Wootton in Australia, received a cable stating that Gunner Burton had died at Mr. Wootton's house from influenza.

(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 19 February, 1919)

SPORTING

Mr Joseph Burton, the well-known trainer, of Randwick, has just learned by cable of the death of his eldest son, Gunner Hector Burton, of pneumonia.

(Western Champion, Parkes, NSW – 20 February, 1919)

PERSONAL

Passed out in England from influenza Gunner Hector Burton, eldest son of Joe Burton, the well-known Sydney horse owner and trainer. He was studying medicine at the Sydney University when war broke out, got into khaki right away, and saw the war through.

(Tweed Daily, Murwillumbah, NSW – 25 February, 1919)

DEATH OF GNR H. BURTON

The Randwick trainer Mr. Joseph Burton has been informed of the death, from influenza, of his eldest son, Gunner Hector Burton. When war broke out the soldier was studying medicine at the Sydney University, and he soon joined the colors. He saw service at Gallipoli and France. Last month Gunner Burton cabled to his father, that he was well, and had arranged to leave for Sydney this month. The message to Mr. Burton was cabled from Treadmill House, Epsom, England, by Mr. R. Wootton, who sent word in the first instance to Mr. S. Monie.

(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 19 February, 1919)

Turf Jottings From Everywhere

The death of Hector Burton, son of Mr J. Burton, of Randwick, took place at Mr R. Wootton's home, Treadwell House, Epsom (Eng.), where he was spending his furlough.

(Referee, Sydney, NSW – 26 February, 1919)

A.J.C. MONTHLY MEETING

It was decided that a letter be sent to the Randwick trainer, Mr Joseph Burton, expressing the sympathy of the A.J.C. committee respecting the death of his son, Acting-Bombardier Hector Burton.

(*Referee*, Sydney, NSW – 26 February, 1919) & (*The Newsletter: an Australian Paper for Australian People*, Sydney, NSW – 1 March, 1919)

Sporting

The death of Hector Burton, son of Mr J. Burton, of Randwick, took place at Mr R. Wootton's home, Treadwell House, Epsom (Eng.), where he was spending his furlough.

(*The Land*, Sydney, NSW – 7 March, 1919)

SICK SOLDIERS

CASUALTY LIST NO. 461

DIED – OTHER CAUSES

A.-Bdr. H. BURTON, Randwick (cause not stated)

(*The Sun*, Sydney, NSW – 18 March, 1919)

463rd CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED, OF OTHER CAUSES

A. Bmdr HECTOR BURTON, Randwick (illness)

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 17 April, 1919)

GENERAL

Sgt. Minear, a well-known South Australian sportsman, who is just back from France, speaks in glowing terms of the treatment Australian soldiers received at the hands of Mr. R. Wootton, and he also brings back a copy of a letter which Brigadier-General T. H. Dodds sent to Mr. Wootton on February 22. It reads:

"Mr. R. Wootton, Treadwell House, Epsom.

Dear Sir,— The members of the A.I.F. Headquarters' Staff who were charged with the duties of carrying out the funeral of late No. 3958 Bbdr. Hector Burton. 7th F.A.B., have brought to my notice the very great kindness shown to the deceased soldier, by yourself, your sister in law (Miss Johnston), and the other members of your family. It has been reported to me that upon the deceased soldier taking seriously ill, when enjoying your hospitality, while on his leave, you spared neither personal care nor expense in procuring for him the best medical aid and nursing services obtainable. On behalf of the A.I.F., and speaking at this distance for the next-of-kin of the late soldier, I desire to convey to you an expression of my keen appreciation for all that you did, and for the extra expense incurred by you

in connection with the provision of the fine coffin in which the late soldier's remains were buried. It has also been a great pleasure to me to learn from members of my staff of the degree of unstinted and generous hospitality shown by you to such large numbers of the A. I.F. who have availed themselves of your desire to show kindness to men who have come over here as representatives of Australia in the world war. It will indeed be a great pleasure to me to personally report to the Department of Defence in Australia such instances of liberality and good-fellowship as have been brought to my notice, and it speaks well for the name of Australia that there are in the country those who, like yourself, have been unsparing in making easier the lot of many of our brave men, who through wounds and sickness have had their periods of convalescence and leave in this country made brighter by your good offices. "

(Referee, Sydney, NSW – 7 May, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOR

BURTON – In loving memory of Hector Burton, 26th Battery, 7th F.A.B., who died in England, Feb. 11th, 1919, after four years active service with A.I.F. Anzac. Inserted by his parents, Cowper-st., Randwick.

(Evening News, Sydney, NSW – 11 February, 1920)

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)

Acting Bombardier H. Burton does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Dearly Loved Son Of
Joseph & Agnes Burton
Randwick, N.S.W.*

Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England

Located 30 miles from London in Surrey, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the United Kingdom. The cemetery contains the graves of more than 1,600 servicemen of the British Empire in the First World War and over 3,470 from the Second World War.

Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis), a vast space which covers 500 acres. In 1917, an area to the north of the cemetery was set aside as Brookwood Military Cemetery for men and women of Commonwealth forces who died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. *(Information from CWGC)*

There are 446 Australian War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 351 from World War 1 & 95 from World War 2.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00185

A large crowd attends an A.I.F. military funeral at Brookwood Cemetery. In the foreground wooden crosses mark rows of graves. (Photo c1919)

Identified: Front row, left to right: Second Lieutenant Douglas Abbott Ferguson, Australian Flying Corps, died of accidental injuries 18 August 1918; Lieutenant (Lt) Francis John Smedley MC, 7th Battalion, died of wounds 20 August 1918.

Second row: 6860 Private (Pte) James Alexander McKeown, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 20 June 1918; 3622 Pte S T Wilson, 2nd Australian Pioneers, died of wounds 4 July 1918; 2390 Sergeant Frederick Charles Stronell, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 9 July 1918; Lt Arthur Melville Lilburne MC, 6th Brigade Australian Field Artillery, died of disease 11 July 1918.



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photo from CWGC)



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)



Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



Australian War Graves *(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright 2020)*

Photo of A/Bombardier H. Burton's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

