

**All Saints Cemetery,
Nunhead, Greater London, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3056 PRIVATE

A. CALLEN

60TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

5TH AUGUST, 1916 Age 22

We Have Lost

But Heaven Has Gained

The Dear Son

That God Gave Us

Albert CALLEN

Albert Callen was born at South Melbourne, Victoria in 1893 to mother Agnes Gillies Callen (no father listed).

Albert Callen attended Montague School, South Melbourne, Victoria.

Agnes Callen married Ernest Henry Thomas in 1903 in Victoria.

The 1914 & 1915 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Melbourne Ports, subdivision of Emerald Hill, Victoria listed Albert Callen, Storeman, of 150 Pickles St., South Melbourne.

Albert Callen was a 22 year old, single, Storeman from Mary Street, Northcote, Victoria when he enlisted on 10th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3056 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs A. Thomas, Mary Street, Northcote, Victoria. Albert Callen had tattoos on both arms – a ship on right arm & an Eagle & anchor on left arm.

Private Albert Callen was posted to 47th Company Depot on 19th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 10th Reinforcements of 5th Battalion on 2nd August, 1915.

Private Albert Callen embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on RMS *Osterley* on 29th September, 1915 with the 5th Infantry Battalion, 10th Reinforcements.

Private Albert Callen was admitted to No. 1 Australian General Hospital at Heliopolis on 29th October, 1915 with Influenza. He was discharged to duty on 9th November, 1915.

Private Albert Callen was admitted to No. 1 Australian General Hospital at Heliopolis on 20th November, 1915 with Synovitis. He was discharged to duty on 26th November, 1915.

Private Albert Callen was taken on strength of 5th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 7th January, 1916.

Private Albert Callen was transferred from 5th Battalion at Serapeum on 17th February, 1916 to 57th Battalion. He was taken on strength of 57th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 17th February, 1916.

Private Albert Callen was transferred from 57th Battalion on 15th March, 1916 to 60th Battalion. He was taken on strength of 60th Battalion the same day.

Private Albert Callen embarked from Alexandria on *Kinfauns Castle* on 18th June, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 29th June, 1916.

Private Albert Callen was reported wounded in action in France on 19th July, 1916. He was admitted to 2nd Australian General Hospital in France on 20th July, 1916 with Shrapnel wounds to Right Thigh. Private Callen embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Cambria* on 22nd July, 1916.

60th Battalion

The 60th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 24 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 8th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. The majority of both groups were Victorians. The new battalion formed part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Having only arrived in France on 28 June, the 60th became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front on 19 July, without the benefit of an introduction to the trenches in a "quiet" sector. The battle of Fromelles was a disaster for the battalion. In a single day, it was virtually wiped out, suffering 757 casualties. These losses meant the battalion saw little further offensive action in 1916.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 60th Battalion

19th July, 1916 – Trenches on Fromelles Front:

Coy Cmdrs and all other available officers received final instructions re assault at Batn Hdqtrs at 10 a.m. Zero time 11 a.m. Head of battalion moved past Brigade Hqts at 1.30 and marched via V.C. Sap (?) to front line trenches under heavy enemy artillery bombardment. Friendly artillery very heavily bombarding enemy trenches. Battalion established in front line trench by 4.20, Lewis guns excepted, a few casualties having occurred, some serious. Battalion scaled parapet and advanced in four waves, the first wave leaving at 6.45, the last at 7. Each wave advanced under very heavy artillery, machine gun and rifle fire, suffering very heavy casualties. Advance continued to within 90 yards of enemy trenches. The attack was held up, although it is believed some few of the battalion entered enemy trenches. During the night 19/20 a few stragglers, wounded and unwounded, returned to our trenches."

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Albert Callen was admitted to 4th London General Hospital, England on 23rd July, 1916 with Shrapnel wound (s) to thigh – severe. The Medical Case Sheet for Private Callen had the following details: "GSW Rt Hip, Fract: Neck Femur, Gas Gangrene." An operation occurred on 24th July with wound opened up. "Large lacerated wound leading down to neck of femur which is badly fractured. On admission temp. very high & patient partially collapsed. Wound freely opened & drained. Condition improved for several days but severe toxæmia remained & on morning of 4th Aug had haemorrhage from vessel in upper part of wound, probably branch of cercareflex. Wound plugged & bleeding stopped. Patient remained rather collapsed all day & a second haemorrhage occurred at 6 pm which was quickly stopped without much loss of blood. Very collapsed."

Mrs A. Thomas, Mary Street, Northcote, Victoria, was advised by Base Records on 30th July, 1916 that her son Private Albert Callen was dangerously ill with wounds.

Private Albert Callen died on 5th August, 1916 at 4th London General Hospital, Denmark Hill, England from wounds received in action in France - G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Right Thigh, Gas Gangrene & Haemorrhage.

A death for Albert Callen, aged 23, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Lambeth, Greater London, England.

Private Albert Callen was buried on 8th August, 1916 in All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead, Great London, England – Soldiers Grave Square 89 Grave number 32423.

Mrs Thomas was advised again on 9th August, 1916 that No. 3056 Private A. Callen was in the 2nd Australian General Hospital from 21st July, 1916 suffering from gunshot wound to thigh – severe.

Mrs A. Thomas, Fulham Road, Alphington, Victoria, was advised by Base Records on 20th April, 1920 "regarding the regrettable loss of your son, the late No. 3056 Private A. Callen, 60th Battalion, I am now in receipt of further advice which shows that his remains have been exhumed from former site, and re-interred in Grave No. 12, Australian Section, Nunhead Cemetery, Nunhead. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain. The utmost care and attention is being devoted to the graves of our fallen soldiers, and photo graphs are being taken as soon as possible for transmission to next-of-kin."

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission now has the grave reference as 16. 33431 L. and Private Albert Callen now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Albert Callen contains a copy of a Telephone Message from Hospital on 9th August, 1916 which reads: "Admitted to 4th London General Hospital 23/7/16 with shell wound to thigh. Died of wounds 5/8/16. His aunt was at the funeral."

Private Albert Callen requested in his Will, dated 10th November, 1915 at Heliopolis, that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects be given *“to my dear Mother”* – Mrs A. Thomas, “Mount View”, Fulham Road, Alphington, Victoria, Australia.

A War Pension was granted to Agnes G. Thomas, Fulham Road, Alphington, mother of the late Private Albert Callen, in the sum of £1 per fortnight from 18th October, 1916.

Base Records contacted Mrs A. Thomas, Fulham Road, Alphington, Victoria on 9th April, 1920 stating she was noted on the records of the late No. 3056 Private A. Callen as the registered next-of-kin but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically asked if his father was still alive & if so asked for his name & address so that the file could be brought up to date.

Mrs Thomas, remarried mother of the late Private Albert Callen, replied on 19th April, 1920 with *“I am his mother and the nearest blood relation.”*

Base Records replied to Mrs Thomas stating *“...shall be much obliged if you will favour me with definite information as to whether the father of the late No. 3056 Private A. Callen, 60th Battalion, is still alive. I regret that this procedure is necessary but the Regulations under the Deceased Soldiers’ Estates Act of 1918 demand that this action must be taken...”*

Mrs Thomas replied to Base Records on 4th May, 1920 stating *“... he was born out of wedlock & has for his father I have never heard from him since my son was born.”*

Private Albert Callen was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Callen’s mother – Mrs A. G. Thomas, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

[Note: The next of kin had to sign for the Medals, issued on behalf of the service of the late soldier, from their Military District. The 1914/15 Star was signed for by “E. Thomas (Step father)”]

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Albert Callen – service number 3056, aged 22, of 60th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Agnes G. Thomas (formerly Callen), of “Mount View”, Fulham Rd., Alphington, Victoria, Australia.

Private A. Callen is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 169.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

The Northcote Cenotaph, located in front of Memorial Hall, 496 High Street, Northcote, Victoria does not list individual names.



Northcote Cenotaph (Photo from Monument Australia)

The Port Melbourne War Memorial, located on Beach Street, Port Melbourne, Victoria does not list individual names.



Port Melbourne War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia)

(58 pages of Private Albert Callen'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

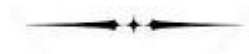




AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DASEY1412

Private Albert Callen



Newspaper Notices

CASUALTY LISTS Nos. 194 and 195

WOUNDED

Victoria

A. Callen, Northcote

(*Leader*, Melbourne, Victoria – 19 August, 1916)

DEATHS

On Active Service

CALLEN – On the 5th August, died of wounds in France, Private A. Callen, beloved eldest son of Mr and Mrs E. A. Thomas, of Fulham-road, Alphington, and loved brother of Vera, James, Myrtle and Adelaide; also nephew of Jack, Mrs Griley, Murdock, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Lumsden and Edward, aged 23 years.

To know him was to love him.

A soldier and a man.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 August, 1916)

DIED ON SERVICE

CALLEN – A tribute of memory of my late workmate, Private Albert Callen, who died of wounds in France on 5th August, 1916.

One of the best.

-(Inserted by his old workmate, A. G. Ewart, Port Melbourne)

(*The Herald*, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 August, 1916) & (*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 August, 1916) & (*The Australasian*, Melbourne, Victoria – 26 August, 1916)

DIED ON SERVICE

CALLEN –Died of wounds received in France, August 5, 1916, Private Albert Callen, beloved nephew of Mr and Mrs W. G. Taylor, and loving cousin of William, Winifred, George, and Ruby Taylor, Douglas parade, Newport; also loving nephew of Mr and Mrs C. A. Attfield, and loving cousin of Edith and Dora Attfield, of Chertsey, Surrey, England.

He gave his life for King and country.

-(Inserted by his loving uncle and aunt and cousins).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 August, 1916)

Port's Honoured Dead

Private Albert Callen, who, it has been reported, died of wounds received in France, was a well-known identity about Port and South Melbourne. He was employed by Messrs. J. Kitchen and Sons for eight years. He sailed for the front about end of September last year, and was reported as having died of wounds on August 5, after having done over twelve months' service for his king and country.

(*Port Melbourne Standard*, Victoria – 26 August, 1916)

GALLANT AUSTRALIANS

THIS WEEK'S CASUALTIES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Private A. Callen (Northcote)

(Northcote Leader, Victoria – 2 September, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

CALLEN – A tribute to the memory of our dearly loved nephew and cousin, Private Albert Callen, died of wounds received in France, August 5, 1916.

Sweet is the memory left behind
Of one so noble, true, and kind.
His fight he fought, he stood the test,
We will always remember him as one of the best.

-(Inserted by his aunt and uncle, Mr and Mrs Taylor, and cousins, Newport).

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 6 August, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

CALLEN – In loving memory of our dear nephew, Albert, died in London of wounds received in France, August 5, 1916.

The dawn is gently breaking o'er England's distant shore,
Breaking gently on the grave of the lad we'll ne'er see more;
In a narrow bed of clay, marked by a wooden cross,
Our dear Albert is lying, while loved ones mourn his loss.

-(Inserted by his loving aunt, Mrs Lumsden, and uncle J. Callen).

CALLEN – In fond memory of our dear comrade, Albert, who died of wounds received in France 5th August, 1916.

A friendship death has been broken,
But his friendship shall live with is still,
For the lighthouse of life is but friendship
A friendship through good and through ill.

-(Inserted by his pals S.P., A.K.)

CALLEN – In loving memory of our beloved nephew and cousin, Private Albert Callen, who died on the 5th August, of wounds received in France.

Years may roll, time may fly;
Every leaf shall fade and died:
Every sinking sun my set,
We still can see our smiling face

Although two years have passed,
And in our memory still you live
And will until the last.

-(Inserted by his loving uncle, aunt, and cousins, W. and C. Taylor, Newport)

CALLEN – In affectionate remembrance of our dear cousin, Albert, died of wounds, August 5, 1916.

Sweet is the memory left behind
Of one so noble, true and kind;
He has fought his fight, he stood the test,
We shall always remember him as one of the best.

-(Inserted by his loving cousins, Jack, Gladys, Nellie, Elsie, George, and Ruby Lumsden.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 5 August, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

CALLEN – In loving memory of our dear nephew and cousin, Albert, died of wounds, August 5, 1916.

He went with the hope of returning,
Along with his comrades brave;
With many a hero he is sleeping
In a soldier's honoured grave.

-(Inserted by his aunt, uncles, and cousins, 311 Esplanade E., Port Melbourne.

CALLEN – In fond memory of our dear pal, Albert, who died of wounds received in France, 5th August, 1916.

Memory goes on for ever

-(Inserted by his pals S.P., A.E.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 5 August, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

CALLEN – In sad and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Albert (Cal), died of wounds 5th August, 1916.

The war is over, the victory won,
To all those words sound nice;
But, oh, how sad the hearts of those
Whose loved ones paid the price.

-(Inserted by his loving mother and father and brother and sisters, of Fulham-road, Alphington.

CALLEN – In sad but loving memory of my dear friend, Albert, who died of wounds received in France 19th July, 1916. A faithful friend.

-(Inserted by N. Thomas, South Melbourne.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 5 August, 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)

Private A. Callen does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

We have Lost But Heaven Has Gained

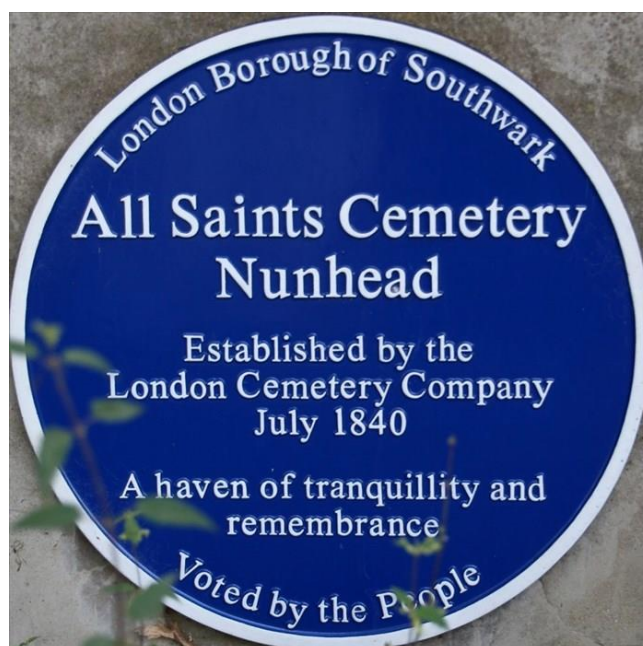
The Dear Son That God Gave Us

All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead, Great London, England (also known as Nunhead Cemetery)

Nunhead (All Saints) Cemetery contains 592 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war. The majority are in three war graves plots; the United Kingdom plot (in Square 89) has 266 graves, the Australian plot (near the main entrance) has 23 and the Canadian plot (in Square 52, also containing New Zealand and South African burials) has 36. The graves in the Australian and Canadian plots are marked with individual headstones. The graves in the United Kingdom plot and the remaining war graves scattered throughout the cemetery could not be marked individually; the casualties buried in these graves are therefore commemorated by name on a Screen Wall inside the main entrance gate to the cemetery.

A second Screen Wall commemorates the 110 burials of the 1939-1945 war in a further war graves plot in Square 5 and elsewhere in the cemetery whose graves could not be marked by headstones.

There is also 1 Belgian burial of the 1914-1918 war and 7 Non-war Service burials, all commemorated on the Screen Wall. *(Information from CWGC)*



All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead



All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J00776

The Australian area at Nunhead Cemetery. The grave in the centre front is 27 Lance Corporal Eric Lyndon Lowe, 18th Battalion, from Clarence Town NSW, who died on 10 September 1915 aged 18 years. The grave to the right is 1560 Private (Pte) Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert, 14th Battalion, born in England, from Kogarah West NSW, who died on 20 January 1916 aged 19 years. The grave 2nd row right side is 1019 Sergeant (Sgt) Victor Ronald Coombe, 15th Battalion, of Campbelltown, Tas, who died on 29 September 1915 aged 26 years. From the collection of Mr Alfred Thomas Sharp. Mr Sharp was the Commonwealth Immigration Officer of Victoria and was based in the London Office during the First World War. He and his wife hosted and visited many soldiers, particularly those from Victoria, who were recuperating in London. He also photographed many Australian graves in English cemeteries. His photograph collection relating to this period in London was bequeathed to the Memorial in 1922 after his death. During his time in London he was a member of the British Volunteer Regiment, serving with the Willesden Battalion, Middlesex Volunteer Regiment.



Australian War Graves in All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead *(Photos courtesy of Neil Bright)*



Photo of Private A. Callen's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead, Greater London, England.



(Photo courtesy of Roberto Lagnado)