

**Netley Military Cemetery,
Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



810 PRIVATE

R. CAMBREY

21ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

31ST OCTOBER, 1917

*The Lord Gave
And The Lord Hath Taken Away*

Richard CAMBREY

Richard Cambrey was born at Seymour, Victoria in 1895 to parents James Robert and Alice Elizabeth Cambrey (nee Sloper).

Richard Cambrey was a 19 year old, single, Blacksmith from Seymour, Victoria when he enlisted on 23rd March, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 810 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – James Cambrey of Seymour, Victoria. Richard Cambrey stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served with the Citizen Forces. As Richard Cambrey was under the age of 21 years, his parents needed to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. Mrs A. E. Cambrey signed her consent on 4th April, 1915.

Private Richard Cambrey was posted to 21st Battalion on 22nd March, 1915. Another Statement of Service form states he was posted to 21st Battalion on 4th May, 1915.

Private Richard Cambrey embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ulysses* (A38) on 10th May, 1915 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 21st Infantry Battalion, "D" Company.

Private Richard Cambrey was admitted to No. 1 Australian General Hospital at Heliopolis on 5th July, 1915 with a Septic Hand. He was discharged to duty on 15th July, 1915.

Private Richard Cambrey disembarked at Alexandria from *Ascanius* on 7th January, 1916 (?) from Mudros (after evacuation of Gallipoli).

Private Richard Cambrey proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 19th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 26th March, 1916.

Private Richard Cambrey was written up for an Offence on 10th April, 1916 at Sailly – "*Creating a disturbance after lights out.*" He was awarded 14 days' F.P. (Field Punishment) No. 2.

Private Richard Cambrey was written up for an Offence on 6th October, 1916 in Belgium – "Hesitating to obey an order of an N.C.O. 5.10.16." He was awarded 14 days' F.P. (Field Punishment) No. 2.

Private Richard Cambrey was sent to Hospital on 21st April, 1917 & admitted to 4th Australian Field Ambulance (Rest Station). He was transferred to 56th Casualty Clearing Station & admitted on 22nd April, 1917 with Impetigo. Pte Cambrey was transferred to No. 4 Ambulance Train on 23rd April, 1917 then admitted to 9th General Hospital at Rouen, France the same day with Impetigo. He was discharged to Convalescent Depot on 24th April, 1917. Private Cambrey was admitted to 2nd Convalescent Depot at Rouen on 24th April, 1917. He was classified as "A" (Fit for Active Service) & discharged to Base Details on 8th May, 1917.

Private Richard Cambrey was marched in to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 11th May, 1917. He rejoined his Battalion (21st) in France on 13th May, 1917.

Private Richard Cambrey was wounded in action on 9th October, 1917. He was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance on 9th October, 1917 with gunshot wounds to both legs. Private Cambrey was transferred & admitted to 16th General Hospital at Le Treport on 10th October, 1917 with gunshot wounds to back. He was listed for transfer to England on 20th October, 1917 & was invalided to England on Hospital Ship Panama on 21st October, 1917.

21st Battalion

The 21st Battalion was raised, as part of the 6th Brigade, at Broadmeadows in Victoria in February 1915. Its recruits hailed from all over the state. The later enlistment of these men, and their average age of 29, would seem to indicate a more considered decision to enlist that set them apart from those who did so amidst the heady enthusiasm of late 1914.

The 21st Battalion arrived in Egypt in June 1915. As part of the newly raised 2nd Australian Division, it proceeded to Gallipoli in late August. It was an eventful trip, the battalion's transport was torpedoed near the island of Lemnos and had to be abandoned. The battalion finally landed at ANZAC Cove on 7 September. It had a relatively quiet time at

Gallipoli, as the last major Allied offensives had been defeated in August.

After evacuation from Gallipoli in December 1915, the 21st Battalion arrived in France in March 1916. In April, it was the first Australian battalion to commence active operations on the Western Front. During the battle of Pozieres it was engaged mainly on carrying duties, but suffered its heaviest casualties of the war during the fighting around Mouquet Farm.

In early May 1917, the battalion fought at Bullecourt, and then in October participated in the 3-kilometre advance that captured Broodseinde Ridge, east of Ypres. Like the rest of the AIF the battalion saw out the year recuperating from the trials of the Ypres sector.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 21st Battalion

9th October, 1917:

3.15 am – Battalion moved to Jumping off Tape in excellent order.

4.15 am – Message to Brigade reporting Battalion in position.

Casualties moving up to J.Q.T. 1 Officer killed 2 Officers and 8 Other Rank wounded.

5.20 am – Zero. Barrage opened punctually but all accounts proved it to have been light and ineffective, enemy snipers and machine gunners remaining in action over the whole area. Attack was satisfactorily launched well on time and troops came almost immediately under heavy and accurate enemy fire. All Officers became casualties early in the operation and formations became considerably disorganised. The 24th Battalion on the right was held up at west edge of DAISY WOOD and a portion of our right flank remaining with them. Owing to accurate fire very few messages came through and practically the only means of communication was a line to a forward command post run conjointly by 21st Battalion and 24th Battalion under the supervision of the Signal Officers of the latter Unit. This line was admirably maintained under most adverse circumstances and proved simply invaluable. Reports from this centre and the Battalion observers showed the attack held up on our flank on reaching the line of the roads but progressing under the greatest difficulties on our front by bounds from hole to hole. The ground was very heavy and cover infrequent. The left flank party under Sergeant Bowler progressed in touch with some elements of the 23rd Battalion and moving south of DAIRY WOOD finally dug in at approximately D24a1 9. The centre under Sergeants Weir and Warren finally reached the knoll near the final objective and dug in on a line D24a2.5 – D24a1.7 with both flanks completely in the air and under heavy fire from BUSY WOOD where the enemy was extremely active.

8.15 am – The part of the 28th Battalion allotted to us were ordered forward to establish a position between the two WOODS and assist the cleaning up from the flanks.

8.30 am – No further reports were received from this party but the Battalion observers reported them moving forward to position.

8.45 am – Battalion Commanders in conference decided that as there was practically nothing in rear, Brigade be requested to place a Battalion in the original front line in case of emergency. A patrol sent out to clear up the position reported at noon some elements of the Battalion on a Rough line from D23bo.5 to D23b4.6.

3.40 pm – Orders received re relief by the 49th Battalion and Battalion Commanders in consultation decided on line to be handed over.

Casualties for 9th October, 1917

Killed 3 Officers Lieut A. D. Hogan, Lieut H. J. Place D.C.M. & 2nd/Lieut D. G. Armstrong

Killed 14 Other Ranks

Wounded 2 Officers Lieut G. H. Barton & Lieut H. N. Barton

Wounded 82 Other Ranks

Missing 3 Officers Lieut H. H. Corney M.M. Lieut A. G. Walmsley & Lieut B. Bollingham

Missing 23 Other Ranks

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Richard Cambrey was admitted to the University War Hospital, Southampton, Hampshire, England on 22nd October, 1917 with gunshot wounds to back and legs (severe).



University War Hospital, Southampton

Private Richard Cambrey died on 31st October, 1917 at University War Hospital, Southampton, Hampshire, England from wounds received in action - gunshot wounds to back.

A death for Richard Cambrey, aged 22, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Southampton, Hampshire, England.

Private Richard Cambrey was buried at 2 pm on 3rd November, 1917 in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England – Plot number N. 399 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

From the burial report of Private Richard Cambrey - Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The Gun Carriage was supplied by the A.S.C. and Bearers by R.A.M.C. of Netley Hospital. The "Last Post" was sounded by a bugler of the R.A.M.C. of Netley Hospital. No relatives were present at the funeral, but it was attended by 12 Australian Patients of the Hospital. Two bunches of flowers from anonymous sympathisers were placed on the grave. An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F.

Private Richard Cambrey requested in his Will, dated 8th June, 1917 that all his personal estate be bequeathed to his mother – Mrs James Cambrey, Emily Street, Seymour, Victoria.

A War Pension was granted to Alice E. Cambrey, mother of the late Private Richard Cambrey, in the sum of 40/- per fortnight from 17th January, 1918.

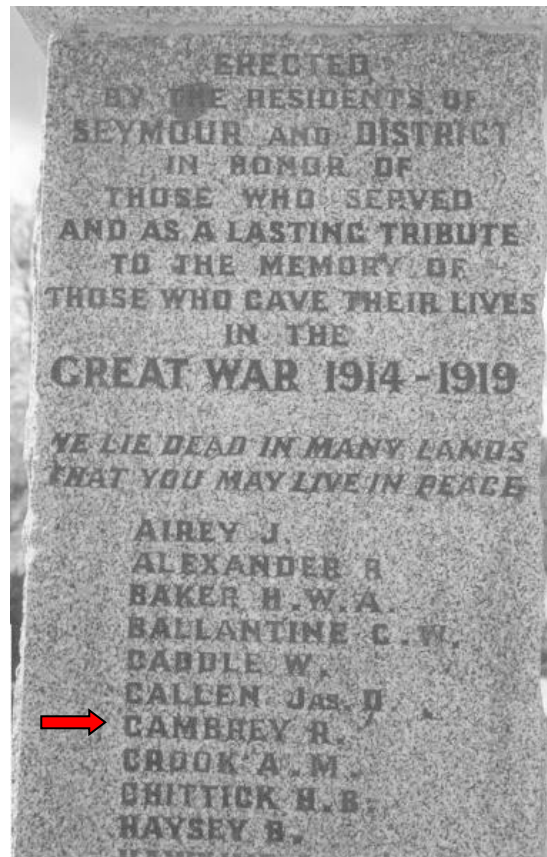
Private Richard Cambrey was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Cambrey's father – Mr James Cambrey, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Richard Cambrey – service number 810, of 21st Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of James and Alice Elizabeth Cambrey, of Benella Rd., Shepparton, Victoria, Australia.

R. Cambrey is remembered on the Seymour Memorial Hospital Gates located at Seymour District Memorial Hospital, Brettoneux Street, Seymour, Victoria.



Seymour Memorial Hospital Gates (Photos from Monument Australia)



Private R. Cambrey is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 93.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(72 pages of Private Richard Cambrey'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

Mr J. Cambrey has received word that his son, Pte R. Cambrey, has been severely wounded in action in France.

(Seymour Express and Goulburn Valley, Graytown, Nagambie, Tallarook and Yea Advertiser, Victoria – 9 November, 1917)

TWO CASUALTY LISTS

VICTORIAN DETAILS SHOWN

Casualty Lists Nos. 356 and 357 were released today by the Defence Department.

Wounded

Pte R. Cambrey, Seymour (sev.)

(The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria – 24 November, 1917)

TWO CASUALTY LISTS

VICTORIAN DETAILS SHOWN

Casualty Lists Nos. 365 and 366 were released today by the Defence Department.

Died of Wounds

Pte R. CAMBREY, Seymour, 31/10/17

(The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria – 8 December, 1917)

PERSONAL

Mr J. Cambrey is in receipt of the following communication from the Defence Department in regard to the death of his son, who was wounded in France some time ago :

"With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your son, the late No. 810 Private R. Cambrey, 21st Battalion, I am now in receipt of advice which shows that he died at the University War Hospital, Southampton, England, on 31st October, 1917, of wounds received in action (gunshot wound, back), and was buried at 2 p.m. on 3rd November, 1917, at the Military Cemetery, Netley, (grave no. 399), Chaplain J. Laverack, Wesleyan Chaplain, Netley Hospital, officiating. Deceased was accorded a military funeral and a good polished elm coffin was provided. The Gun Carriage was supplied by the A.S.C. and the Bearers by the R.A.M.C. of the Netley Hospital. Twelve Australian patients were present at the funeral and two bunches of flowers from anonymous sympathisers were placed on the grave. An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. These additional details are furnished by direction, it being the policy of the Department to forward all information received in connection with deaths of members of the Australian Imperial Force."

(Seymour Express and Goulburn Valley, Graytown, Nagambie, Tallarook and Yea Advertiser, Victoria – 31 May, 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 R. Cambrey does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

The Lord Gave And The Lord Hath Taken Away

Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England

Netley Military Cemetery is a permanent military cemetery, the property of the Ministry of Defence. The cemetery was at the back of the Royal Victoria Military Hospital and was used during both wars for burials from the hospital. The cemetery contains 637 First World War burials but only 35 from the Second World War. In addition to the Commonwealth graves, there are a number of war graves of other nationalities including 69 German graves dating from the First World War.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire





Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire (Photo above - Andrea Charlesworth; below - darealjolo)



Photo of Private R. Cambrey's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England



(Photo courtesy of Allan Noble)



Original Cross markers – Netley Military Cemetery