

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



16254 DRIVER

A. CAMERON

AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

12TH NOVEMBER, 1919 Age 26

Alexander CAMERON

Alexander Cameron was born at Lake Rowan, Victoria in 1893 to parents John & Mary Cameron (nee Nicholson). (He stated on his Attestation Papers that he had been born at Devenish, near Benalla, Victoria). (The Victorian Births, Deaths & Marriages website listed his name as Alex Cameron, place of birth – Devenish. Information provided for the Roll of Honour recorded his name as Alexander John Cameron, born Lake Rowan).

Alexander Cameron was a 23 year old, single, Engine Cleaner from Sydney, NSW when he enlisted on 3rd October, 1916 at Royal Agricultural Show Grounds, Moore Park, Sydney, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mrs John Cameron, Lake Rowan, Victoria. Alexander Cameron stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 12 months with Light Horse (Thoona) & was discharged for absence (left the State). Alexander Cameron listed his postal address as March St, Richmond, NSW on the “*Application to Enlist in the Australian Imperial Force*” form.

Private Alexander Cameron was posted to Royal Agricultural Show Grounds, Moore Park, Sydney, NSW on 3rd October, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to Engineers Reinforcements, Engineer Depot, Moore Park on 6th October, 1916 as Driver.

Driver Alexander Cameron, Service number 16254, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Suevic* (A29) on 11th November, 1916 with the Field Company Engineers - November Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, 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.

Driver Alexander Cameron was marched in to Australian Details, Nos 6 & 7 Camps, Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 30th January, 1917 from Australia.

Driver Alexander Cameron reported sick on 27th February, 1917. He was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire on 27th February, 1917 with V.D. – later amended to read “*Non venereal.*” Driver Cameron was discharged to Depot on 21st April, 1917 & was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 24th April, 1917. He was marched in to Details at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 4th May, 1917.

Driver Alexander Cameron was marched in to Engineers Training Depot at Brightlingsea, England on 5th July, 1917.

Australian Engineers in the First World War

Engineers, also known as sappers, were essential to the running of the war. Without them, other branches of the Allied Forces would have found it difficult to cross the muddy and shell-ravaged ground of the Western Front. Their responsibilities included constructing the lines of defence, temporary bridges, tunnels and trenches, observation posts, roads, railways, communication lines, buildings of all kinds, showers and bathing facilities, and other material and mechanical solutions to the problems associated with fighting in all theatres.

(Description of Engineers Information from The Australian War Memorial)

Driver Alexander Cameron proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 31st January, 1918 from Brightlingsea. He was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 1st February, 1918. Driver Cameron was marched out from A.G.B.D. to Engineers on 5th February, 1918 & was taken on strength of 7th Field Company Engineers in Belgium on 9th February, 1918.

Driver Alexander Cameron was reported to be with his Unit on 10th August, 1918 (This was usually recorded when there had been no movements recorded on a soldier's Casualty Form – Active Service for a period of time).

Driver Alexander Cameron reported sick on 29th October, 1918 in the Field. He was admitted to 7th Australian Field Ambulance in France on 29th October, 1918 with Gonorrhoea. Driver Cameron was transferred to Casualty Clearing Station then transferred & admitted to 3rd Australian General Hospital at Abbeville on 29th October, 1918 with V.D.G. He was transferred & admitted to 39th General Hospital at Havre, France on 30th October, 1918 – cause

N.Y.D. (not yet determined). Driver Cameron was discharged to Base Depot on 4th December, 1918 ("Gon") & was marched in to A.G.B.D. on 4th December, 1918. (Total Period 37 days)

Driver Alexander Cameron reported sick on 10th December, 1918 & was admitted again to 39th General Hospital at Havre with V.D. He was transferred to England on 9th January, 1919.

Driver Alexander Cameron was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire, England on 9th January, 1919. He was discharged on 1st March, 1919. Total V.D. period – 82 days (Admitted to 39th G.H. 10.12.18; transferred to England 10.1.19)

Driver Alexander Cameron was attached for duty to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford on 1st March, 1919.

Driver Alexander Cameron was written up for an Offence at Bulford on 11th May, 1919 – AWL (absent without Leave) from 23.59 on 10th May, 1919 to 23.00 on 11st May, 1919. Award – Admonished by Colonel J. M. Stewart on 13th May, 1919 & forfeited a total of 1 days pay.

Driver Alexander Cameron was written up for an Offence at Bulford on 20th August, 1919 – AWL from 0900 on 20th August, 1919 to 23.59 on 22nd August, 1919. He was awarded 3 days Field Punishment No. 2 by Colonel J. M. Stewart & forfeited a total of 6 days pay.

Driver Alexander Cameron was written up for an Offence at Bulford on 8th September, 1919 – Being in bed at 7.30 am contrary to Orders. He was awarded 3 days Field Punishment No. 2 by Colonel J. M. Stewart & forfeited a total of 3 days pay.

Driver Alexander Cameron was marched in to No. 2 Group at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 1st October, 1919 from Bulford Hospital.

Driver Alexander Cameron was sent sick to Grove Military Hospital, Tooting, London, England on 10th November, 1919 (As per Casualty Form – Active Service, however, the Hospital Admissions form recoded he was admitted on 8th November, 1919)

Driver Alexander Cameron died at 9.15 pm (as per Medical Case Sheet, however the "Morning State of Sick" (Army form A.27) recorded he died at 20.40) on 12th November, 1919 at Grove Military Hospital, Tooting, London, England from Influenza.

A death for Alex Cameron, aged 25, was registered in the December quarter, 1919 in the district of Wandsworth, London/Surrey, England.

Driver Alexander Cameron was buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 184092.

From the burial report of Sapper Alexander Cameron (rank as listed on Burial Report) - *Coffin was Elm with brass mountings. The deceased was accorded a full Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag. The pall bearers were supplied by A.I.F. Headquarters, London. The firing party was composed of 2 Officers and 40 other ranks of the East Lancashire Regiment, stationed at Blackdown Camp, Farnborough, who fired 3 volleys over the grave. Eight buglers from the East Lancashire's sounded the Last Post at the Graveside. A representative of these Headquarters was present.*

Base Records wrote to Mr J. Cameron, Lake Rowan, Victoria 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 L Grave 2.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – IV. L. 2. Driver A. Cameron now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Hamilton, Clarke & Clarke, Barristers and Solicitors, Benalla, Victoria, wrote to Base Records on 4th June, 1920 requesting a "Certificate of Death of the late Driver Alexander Cameron, late of March Street, Richmond, who died at Tooting Grove Military Hospital on the 12th November, 1919."

Base Records replied to Messrs Hamilton, Clarke & Clake on 11th June, 1920 enclosing as requested a "Certificate of report of death of the late No. 16254 Driver A. Cameron, 7th Field Company Engineers."

Driver Alexander Cameron was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver Cameron's father – Mr J. Cameron, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & re-despatched January, 1922. Plaque sent December, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver Alexander Cameron – service number 16254, aged 26, of 7th Field Coy., Australian Engineers. He was the son of John & Mary Cameron. Native of Lake Rowan, Victoria, Australia.

Driver A. J. Cameron is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 23.



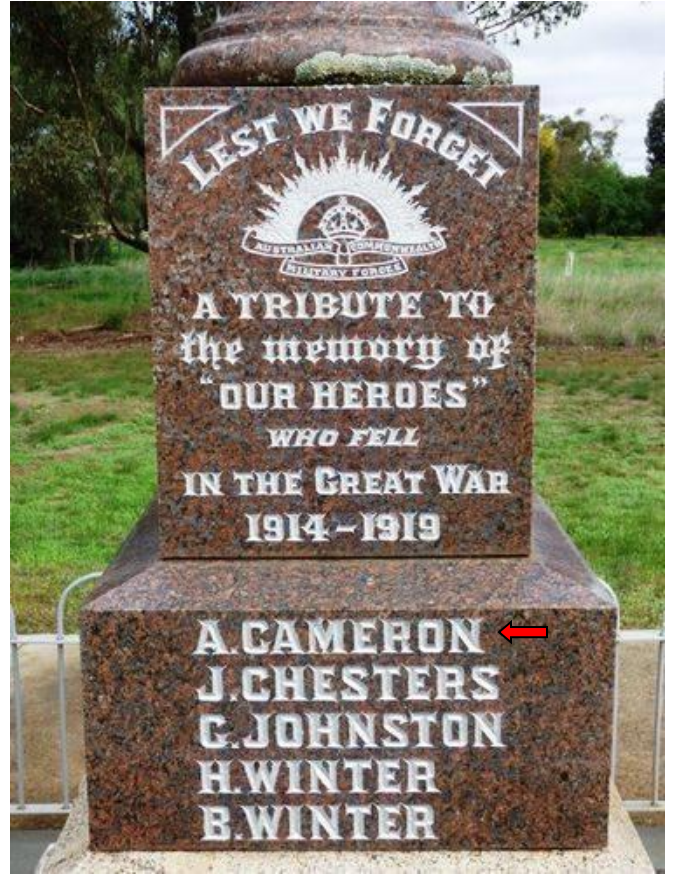
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. Cameron is remembered on the Lake Rowan State School Roll of Honour, located at Numurkah, Victoria.



Lake Rowan State School Roll of Honour (Photo from VHD – Victorian Heritage Database)

A. Cameron is remembered on the Lake Rowan War Memorial, located on Yarrawonga-Benalla Road & Swamp Road, Lake Rowan, Victoria.



Lake Rowan War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)

A. Cameron is remembered on the NSW Government Railways & Tramways Roll of Honour, located at Country Trains Concourse, Eddy Avenue, Haymarket, Sydney, NSW.



NSW Government Railways & Tramways Roll of Honour (Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Peter F. Williams)



(Panel photo - Jennifer Edmonds)



(72 pages of Driver Alexander Cameron'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 Honour

A.I.F. casualty list No. 476 was issued yesterday.....

2nd MILITARY DISTRICT

16254 Dvr A. Cameron, 7th F.C.E., died of illness, 12/11/19, Lake Rowan, V.

(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 27 November, 1919)

DEATH

CAMERON – At Tooting Grove Military Hospital, London, 12th November, 1919, No. 16,254, Driver A. Cameron, 7th F. Co Engineers, A.I.F., from influenza. Third son of Mr and Mrs John Cameron, Lake Rowan, aged 26 years.

(Benalla Standard, Victoria – 28 November, 1919)

LAKE ROWAN

Last week Mr and Mrs Jno. Cameron, of Lake Rowan, received the painful news that their second son, Driver A. J. Cameron, had succumbed to an attack of influenza in the Tooting Grove Military Hospital, London. Deceased enlisted in October, 1216 (sic), and sailed with the reinforcements (Engineers) in November. After serving in France, he joined the clerical staff, and was present at the signing of the armistice. Prior to enlisting deceased was engaged on the New South Wales railways, and was about to be appointed driver. He was a native of Lake Rowan, and was 26 years of age. He was a fine type of a you Australian, was a good athlete, and was very popular in the district. Heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family in their bereavement.

(Benalla Standard, Victoria – 28 November, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

CAMERON – In loving memory of our dear son, No 16254, Driver Alexander Cameron, 7th Field Company Engineers, who died at Grove Military Hospital, Tooting, England, from influenza on 12th November, 1919.

Although one year has gone
 Since our great sorrow fell,
Still in our hearts we mourn the loss
 Of our dear son we loved so well.
We think of you in silence,
 No eyes may see us weep;
And may a tear we shed for you
 When others are asleep.

Inserted by his loving parents and brothers.

(Benalla Standard, Victoria – 12 November, 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)

Driver A. Cameron does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

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 Driver A. Cameron's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo from Find a Grave – Retired QA)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

