

**Comely Bank Cemetery,
Edinburgh, Scotland
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



66188 PRIVATE

E. C. CAMPBELL

57TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

6TH FEBRUARY, 1919 Age 19

In Memory Of

The Dearly Loved Son Of

Mr & Mrs Campbell Of Bega

Eric Courtney CAMPBELL

Eric Courtney Campbell was born on 16th April, 1899 to parents John & Wilhelmina Campbell (nee Williams) at Monaro, New South Wales. His birth was registered in the district of Bombala, NSW.

Eric Courtney Campbell was a 19 year old, single, Dairyman from Bega, NSW when he enlisted in Sydney, New South Wales on 26th June, 1918 with the Australian Imperial Force. His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Campbell, of Murrah, via Bermagui, NSW. Eric Campbell stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 2 years with S.C. (Senior Cadets). As Eric Courtney Campbell was under the age of 21, his parents had to sign their consent for their son to serve on Active Service abroad in A.I.F.

Private Eric Courtney Campbell was posted to Recruit Depot from 27th June, 1918. He was transferred to "A" Company, Composite Battalion at Liverpool, Sydney, New South Wales on 23rd July, 1918.

Private Eric Courtney Campbell, Service number 66188, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on SS *Zealandic* on 5th October, 1918 with the 20th (N.S.W.) Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). He was admitted to Ship's Hospital while at Sea on 20th November, 1918 & discharged on 22nd November, 1918. Private Campbell disembarked at London, England on 5th December, 1918.

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 Eric Courtney Campbell was marched in to 14th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 5th December, 1918 from Australia. He was allotted to Reinforcements of 57th Battalion.

57th Battalion

The 57th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 18 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 5th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 5th, the 57th was predominantly composed of men from the suburbs of Melbourne. The battalion became part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.....

(Extract of Battalion information from The Australian War Memorial)

Private Eric Courtney Campbell was sent sick to Group Clearing Hospital on 7th December, 1918 and marched in to 14th Training Battalion from Hospital on 9th January, 1919. (A letter to The Head Officer, sent in February, 1919, from Private Campbell's mother who had received a letter from her son from Hurdcott Hospital written on the 10th December, saying he was just recovering from Mumps.)

Private Eric Courtney Campbell was admitted to Military Hospital, Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh, Scotland on 22nd January, 1919 with Influenza. He was reported as dangerously & seriously ill with Pneumonia on 29th January, 1919.

[Edinburgh Castle converted an ordnance store into a 60 bed military hospital. The small hospital was equipped with all the amenities of a war hospital, including an operating theatre. The castle hospital dealt with over 100 German casualties after the Royal Navy sunk the German battleship Blucher.]

Private Eric Courtney Campbell died at 12.50 am on 6th February, 1919 at Military Hospital, Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh, Scotland from Pneumonia.

Private Eric Courtney Campbell was buried on 10th February, 1919 in Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland – Plot number D. 48 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

From the burial report of Private Campbell - *The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and conveyed to the graveside, where the "Last Post" was sounded and the Rev. W. Nairne Clark, of St. Thomas' Vicarage officiated. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters were represented at the funeral.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Private Eric Courtney Campbell contains a letter from Matron Pagan, Military Hospital, The Castle, Edinburgh in reply to a request for information regarding the death of Private Campbell. The letter reads: "*Pte Campbell was admitted to this hospital on the 22nd January, suffering from Influenza. He was progressing fairly well up to the 26th January, when he developed pneumonia and his condition became very serious on 31st January, and he gradually grew worse and died on February 6th and was buried in Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh on the 10th February. I should have written to his relatives but we had no record of their address.*"

Private Eric Courtney Campbell requested in his Will, dated 5th August, 1918, that the whole of his property & effects be given to his mother – Wilhelmina Campbell.

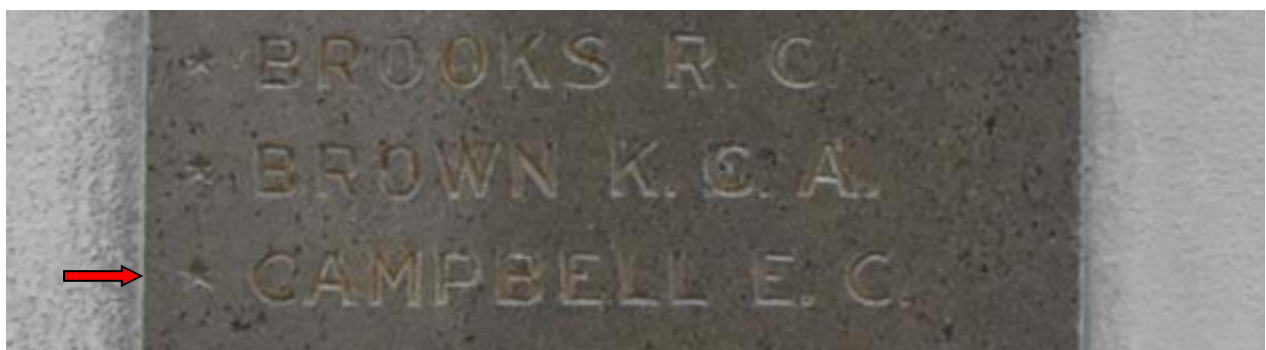
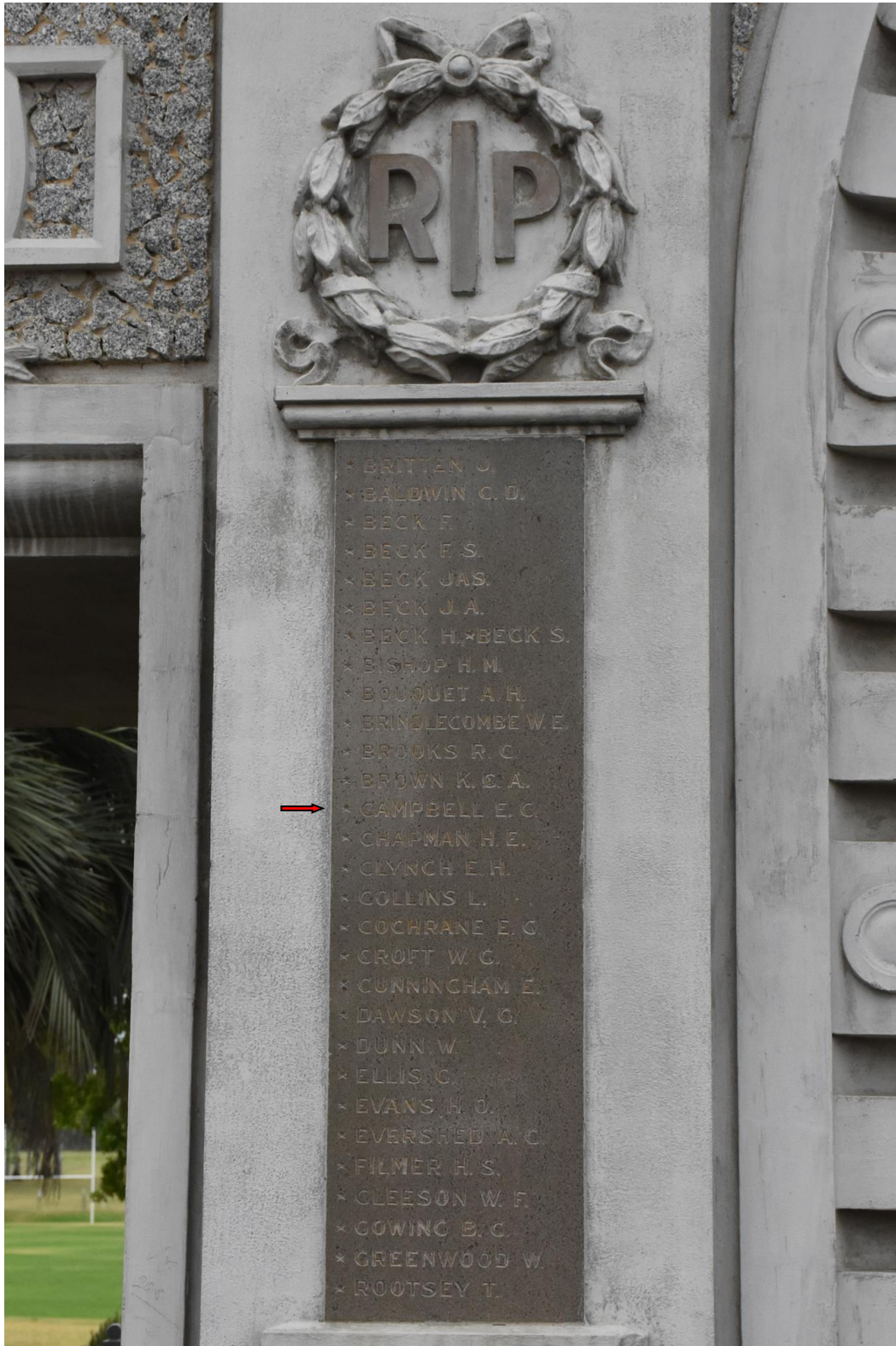
Private Eric Courtney Campbell was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Campbell's father – Mr J. Campbell, as the closest next-of-kin, however Mr J. Campbell died on 21st March, 1920 so the Scroll was signed for by Mrs W. Campbell in July, 1921. She advised Base Records of the death of her husband & the Plaque was sent to Mrs W. Campbell (Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Eric Courtney Campbell – service number 66188, aged 19, of 57th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Wilhelmina Campbell, of Murrah, Bermagui, New South Wales.

E. C. Campbell is remembered on the Bega Soldiers Memorial located at Carp Street (Princes Highway), Bega, NSW.



Bega Soldiers Memorial Gates (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



Private E. C. Campbell is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 163.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(74 pages of Private Eric Courtney Campbell'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





Private Eric Courtney Campbell (*Photos courtesy of Hedley Arthur Campbell (great nephew) & Lynne Campbell*)

Pte E. Courteney Campbell is remembered on his parent's headstone located in Bega Cemetery, NSW.



(Photos from Find a Grave – Julie Lucas Nov 2021)

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 E. C. Campbell does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Memory Of The Dearly Loved Son Of Mr & Mrs Campbell Of Bega

Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland

Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland contains 302 War Graves. There are only seven Australians buried in this cemetery from World War 1.

During the First World War, Edinburgh was headquarters to the 4th, 5th, 6th and 9th Battalions of the Royal Scots, with the 7th Battalion at Leith. The 2nd Scottish General Hospital (1,000 beds) occupied Craighleith Poorhouse, the Edinburgh War Hospital (2,600 beds) was in the Asylum buildings at Bangour and the Leith War Hospital (585 beds) in the infirmary at Leith. The port of Leith was used by hospital ships from north Russia and about 4,500 officers and men passed through it.

Second World War military hospitals were in Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and Bangour. The city was also Scottish Command Headquarters.

Edinburgh (Comely Bank) Cemetery contains 225 burials of the First World War, most of them forming a war graves plot in Section D. The Second World War plot is immediately in front and contains more than half of the 76 Second World War burials. The cemetery also contains a Finnish war grave and two non-war service burials.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J00524

Australian Graves at Comely Bank Cemetery in Edinburgh, Scotland.

(From the collection of Mr Alfred Thomas Sharp, who was the Commonwealth Immigration Officer of Victoria and was based in the London Office during the First World War.)



Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh



Communal Commonwealth War Graves plot in Section D

An unusual feature of the War Graves plot is that the granite headstones lie flat. This was a decision made by the architect, Sir Robert Lorimer. The plot contains WW1 and WW2 casualties/Spanish Flu victims and a member of the Finnish Legion.

Photo of Private E. C. Campbell's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Drysdale)



Private Campbell's headstone (see arrow) (Photo courtesy of Iain Anderson – CWGC)