

**Warrington Cemetery,
Warrington, Cheshire/Lancashire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



366A DRIVER

W. CARSWELL

AUST. MACHINE GUN CORPS

3RD DECEMBER, 1918 Age 28

*The Lord Gave
And The Lord Hath Taken Away*

William CARSWELL

William Carswell was born at Dunoon, Scotland on 30th August, 1890 to parents William and Mary Stewart Carswell. (William Carswell stated on his Attestation Papers that he was born near the town of Glasgow, Scotland).

William Carswell attended Dunoon Grammar School, Scotland.

According to information supplied by his widow for the Roll of Honour - William Carswell came to Australia when he was 21 & had served with Royal Garrison Artillery in Scotland.

William Carswell married Beatrice Martin in Victoria in 1913.

A birth was registered in 1913 for Beatrice Carswell, parents - William & Beatrice Carswell (nee Martin). A death was registered in 1913 for Beatrice Carswell, daughter of William & Beatrice Carswell. A birth was registered in 1914 for Edith Annie Carswell, parents - William & Beatrice Carswell (nee Martin).

William Carswell was a 25 year old, married, Carpenter from Tungamah, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 26th July, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 366 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs B. Carswell, of Tungamah, Victoria.

Private William Carswell was posted to No. 5 Coy., Machine Gun Depot at Seymour on 28th July, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to No. 2 Machine Gun Company on 28th August, 1916.

Private William Carswell embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Commonwealth (A73)* on 19th September, 1916 with the 2nd Machine Gun Company, 5th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 14th November, 1916.

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 William Carswell was marched in to Australian Details, No. 3 Camp, Park House, Wiltshire, England on 15th November, 1916.

Private William Carswell was marched in from Park House to Machine Gun Training Depot at Grantham, Lincolnshire on 23rd November, 1916.

Private William Carswell was transferred to 2nd Divisional Machine Gun Company on 17th March, 1917 while posted at Grantham.

Private William Carswell proceeded overseas to France from Machine Gun Training Depot via Southampton on 17th March, 1917.

Owing to a duplication of Regimental numbers, Private William Carswell had an "A" attached to his number – now 366A.

Private William Carswell was mustered as Temporary Driver on 1st September, 1917 vice Canavan under A.I.F. orders 785 & reverted to the rank of Private on return of Driver Canavan on 12th October, 1917.

Private William Carswell was mustered as Temporary Driver on 12th October, 1917 vice Roney & reverted to the rank of Private on return of Roney on 19th October, 1917.

Private William Carswell was mustered as Temporary Driver on 19th October, 1917 vice Parish & reverted to the rank of Private on ceasing to perform duties of Driver.

Private William Carswell was on leave to UK from 17th July, 1918 & returned from leave on 4th August, 1918.

Private William Carswell was appointed Driver on 24th September, 1918.

Driver William Carswell was sent injured to Hospital on 3rd October, 1918. He was admitted to 50th Casualty Clearing Station on 4th October, 1918 with a wound to neck. Driver Carswell was transferred & admitted to 37th Casualty Clearing Station on 5th October, 1918. He was reported still in hospital on 22nd October, 1918.

A Medical Report was completed on 3rd December, 1918 regarding the "Accidental or Self-Inflicted Injuries". The report records the injury was "*transverse flesh wound about 1" long just below the 'Adams apple'. Severity slight appears to be selfinflicted and patient says he did it himself. (Sgd) S. Wall, Maj. A.A.M.C. att. 6th A. Fld. Amb. 4.10.18.* The circumstances of the case were recorded as "*Between the hours of 2200 and 2300 Dvr Carswell cut his throat with his razor. He was noticed at 2300 when he told the picquet (who had just returned from duty) to strike a match.*"

Statement of Driver S. Penny, No. 381, 22nd Australian Machine Gun Company reads: "*No. 366a Dvr Carswell was one of the limber picquets last night, he was in bed when I went on duty at 10 p.m. On my return to the dug-out from duty at 11 p.m. Dvr. Carswell asked me to strike a match. I did so and saw him lying with his throat cut. I questioned him as to the reason he had so injured himself but he would make no reply. Two other members of the picquet were in the same dug-out but were asleep and knew nothing of what Carswell had done till wakened. Carswell's razor was lying by his head and his hold-all on his lap.*

The opinion of the G.O.C. Division –Lt. Col. J.M.A. Durrant for Maj. General 2nd Aust. Div. the injury was "*self inflicted. to be tried by F.G.M.C.*" Driver Carswell was "*injured Wilfully Self Inflicted. No action proposed owing to medical report.*"

Driver William Carswell was transferred to Ambulance Train on 30th October, 1918 & admitted to 8th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 2nd November, 1918. He was transferred to England on 3rd November, 1918 with Melancholia.

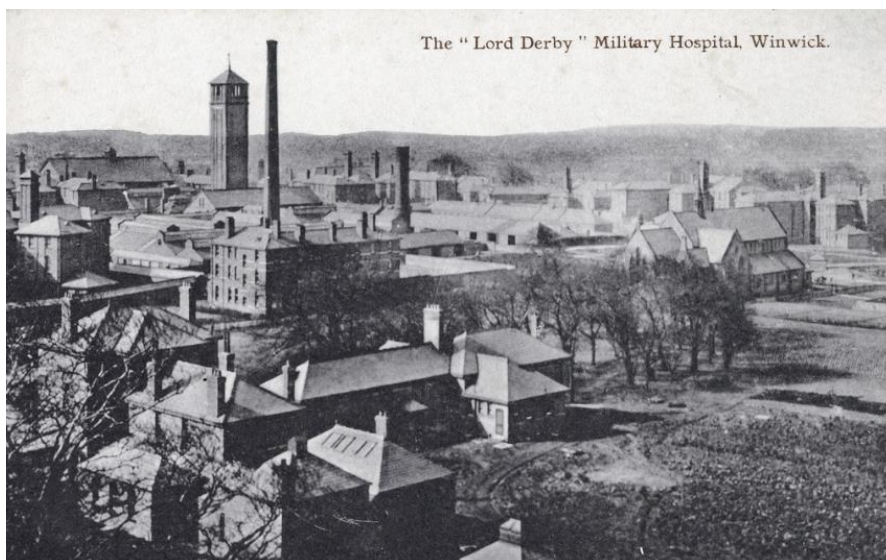
Driver William Carswell was admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley, England on 4th November, 1918 – Mental case.

Mrs Beatrice Carswell, wife of Driver William Carswell, was advised on 20th November, 1918 that her husband had been admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, England suffering from "mental disability, actual condition not stated".

Driver William Carswell was transferred on 11th November, 1918 to The Lord Derby War Hospital, Warrington, England.

Winwick Asylum, which opened in 1902, was home to over 2,000 patients when the First World War broke out. In 1915 the asylum and hospital were requisitioned as a military hospital and renamed the Lord Derby War Hospital. It has been estimated that between 1915 and 1920 this hospital treated approximately 56,000 injured soldiers. The hospital was portrayed as one of the largest in the country; a haven of rest with its large grounds and a staff of over 600 to care for the patients.

The Lord Derby War Hospital treated severe shell shock cases and experimented with 'electrical treatment'.



Driver William Carswell died at 13.25 hrs on 3rd December, 1918 at The Lord Derby War Hospital, Warrington, Lancashire, England from General Paralysis of the Insane.

A death for William Carswell, aged 28, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warrington, Lancashire, England.

Driver William Carswell was buried on 9th December, 1918 in Warrington Cemetery (Manchester Road), Warrington, Cheshire/Lancashire, England – Plot number C. NC. 532 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Driver William Carswell - *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 Union Jack, and conveyed to the graveside, where the "Last Post" was sounded, and the burial service conducted by the Rev. N. Chamberlaine, of Warrington. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Driver William Carswell contains a letter from O. C. Lord Derby War Hospital Warrington which reads: *"Re the late 366A. Pte W. Carswell, of the 2nd Australian M.G.C. was admitted to this Hospital on the 11th November, 1918 and appeared to be very ill. He was dull and lethargic and took no interest in his surroundings; lost control over his functions; was very unsteady on his feet and had to be kept indoors. As time went on he became more stuporose and also contracted cellulitis of the neck, and this, coupled with a fit ended fatally on 3rd December. The disease from which he was suffering was General Paralysis of the Insane due to a blood infected condition, but there is no evidence to show how this was obtained. He was buried on 9th December, 1918 in the Borough Cemetery at Warrington."*

A letter from Base Records dated 12th May, to Mrs B. Carswell, widow of the late Driver William Carswell, of 649 High Street, Golden Square, Bendigo, Victoria, states that Driver William Carswell died on 3rd December, 1918, at War Hospital, Warrington, Lancashire from paralysis. The letter went on to provide details of her late husband's funeral.

William Carswell requested in his Will, dated 25th June, 1917 that all his personal estate be bequeathed to his wife Beatrice Carswell of Tungamah, Victoria.

Driver William Carswell was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver Carswell's widow - Mrs Beatrice Carswell, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

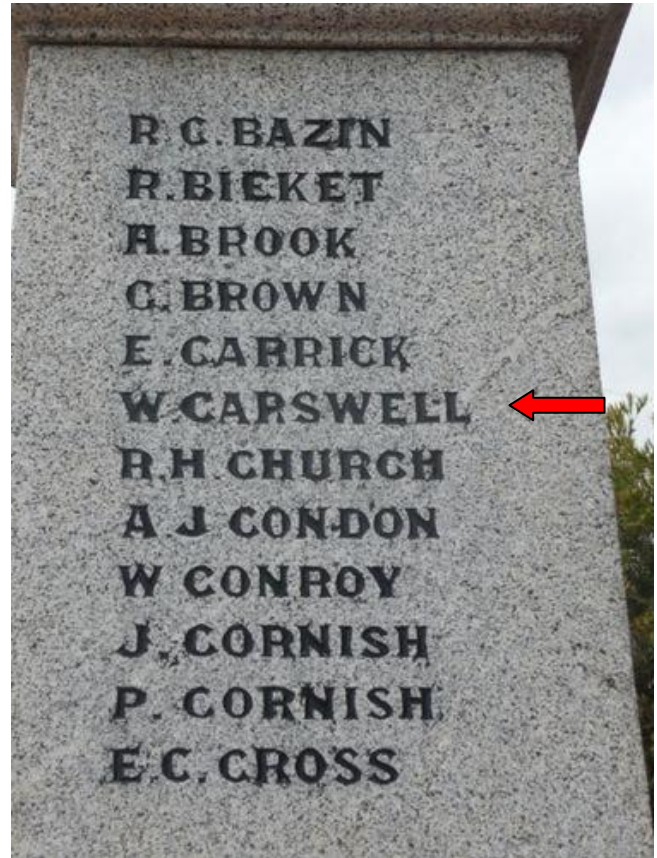
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver William Carswell - service number 366A, aged 28, of 2nd Bn., Australian Machine Gun Corps. He was the son of William and Mary Stewart Carswell; husband of Beatrice Carswell, of 649 High St., Golden Square, Victoria. Born in Scotland.

Driver W. Carswell is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 175.



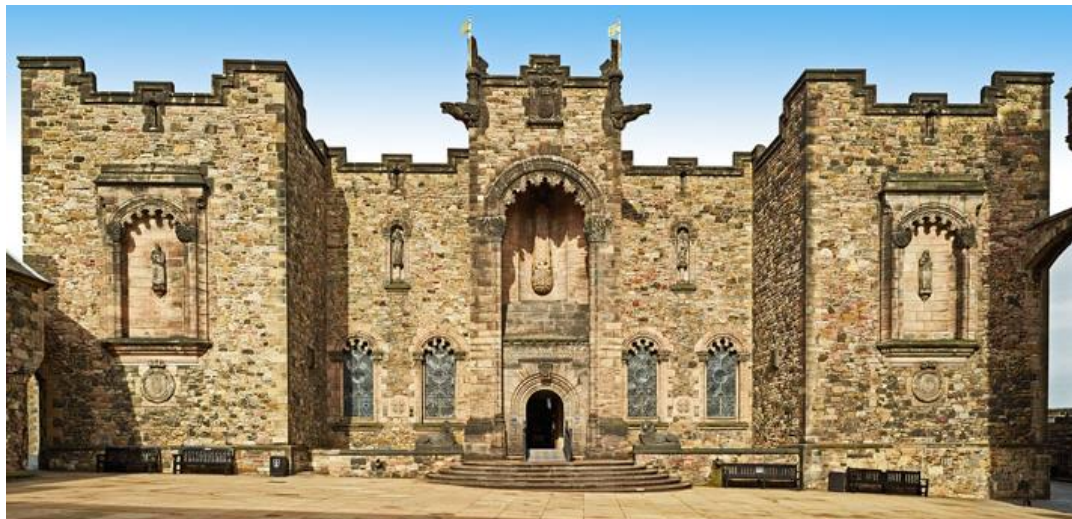
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. Carswell is remembered on the Tungamah War Memorial, which is located at Barr & Middleton Streets, Tungamah, Victoria.



Tungamah War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)

Driver William Carswell is remembered in the Roll of Honour books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad shelf in front of each of the bays, the names of the dead are listed in leather-bound books.

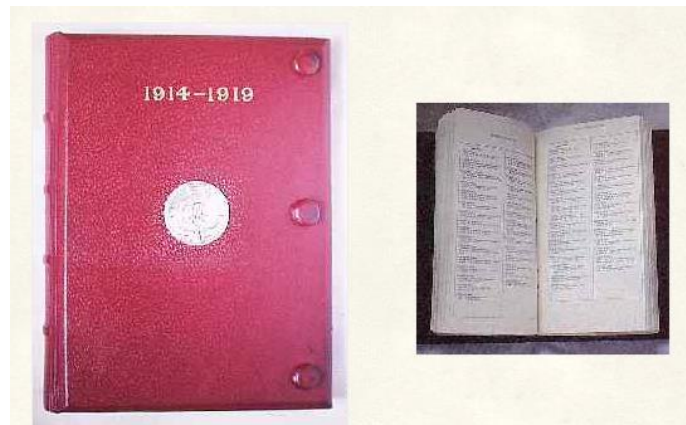


The Scottish National War Memorial (Photo from The Scottish National War Memorial)



The Hall of Honour & the Roll of Honour books.

(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)



Pte William Carswell is remembered on the Dunoon War Memorial, located in The Queen's Hall Gardens, Argyll Street, Dunoon, Scotland.





Dunoon War Memorial

(81 pages of Driver William Carswell'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

PERSONAL

Mr James Beattie, of "Clydebank" Youarang, and Mr William Carswell, of this town, enlisted for active service last week, and have proceeded to Melbourne for final examination.

(Tungamah and Lake Rowan Express and St. James Gazette, Victoria – 27 July, 1916)

VICTORIAN CASUALTIES

Casualty List No. 450, the last list of Victorian field casualties, has been made available by the Defence Department.

ILL

W. Carswell, Tungamah

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 December, 1918)

DEATHS

CARSWELL – NO. 366, Pte W. Craswell, 22nd Machine Gun Company, died through injury on 3/12'18.

Duty nobly done.

-Inserted by his loving wife and child, Beat, Eadie.

(*Bendigo Advertiser*, Victoria – 20 December, 1918)

VICTORIA'S ROLL OF HONOUR

CASUALTY LIST NO. 456

DIED OTHER CAUSES

W. Carswell, Golden Square (illness)

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 30 January, 1919)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P08019.005

William Carswell

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 W. Carswell does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

The Lord Gave And The Lord Hath Taken Away

Warrington Cemetery, Warrington, Cheshire, England

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

Warrington was the depot for the South Lancashire Regiment for both wars and was home to the Lord Derby War Hospital and White Cross Auxiliary Hospital during the First World War. During the Second World War, a shore establishment of the Fleet Air Arm was stationed there. Warrington Cemetery contains 199 First World War burials, 74 of them in a war graves plot with a Cross of Sacrifice. The 102 Second World War burials are scattered. A Polish airman is also buried in the cemetery.

(Information from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice & War Graves in Warrington Cemetery *(Photo by David Dixon)*

Photo of Driver W. Carswell's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Warrington Cemetery, Warrington, Cheshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Len Scott)

