

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4465 PRIVATE

A. CHIFFITH

46TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

15TH AUGUST, 1916

Alexander CHIFFITH

Alexander Chiffith was born at Spartes, Greece around 1892.

Alexander Chiffith was a 23 year old, single, Labourer from Melbourne, Victoria when he enlisted on 13th September, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4465 & his religion was Greek Orthodox. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Mr G. Chiffith, 63 Atarin Street, Alexandria, Egypt. Alexander Chiffith stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 1 year with Cadets in Egypt. (The Embarkation Roll listed Alexander Chiffith as a Labourer whereas on the Attestation Papers He listed his occupation as Kitchen Man.)

Alek Chiffitt, of 388 Bourke St, Melbourne, was granted Naturalisation on 27th September, 1915. Certificate No. 22898. He was born at Sparta, Greece & was a Cook's Assistant.

Private Alexander Chiffith was posted to "A" Company, 24th Depot at Royal Park on 29th September, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 20th Castlemaine Depot Battalion on 10th November, 1915. Pte Chiffith was transferred to 14th Reinforcements of 5th Battalion at Williamstown on 10th December, 1915.

Private Alexander Chiffith embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) on 28th January, 1916 with the 5th Infantry Battalion, 14th Reinforcements & disembarked at Alexandria on 28th February, 1916.

Private Alexander Chiffith was allotted & proceeded to join 46th Battalion from Zeitoun on 2nd April, 1916. He was taken on strength of 46th Battalion at Serapeum on 2nd April, 1916.

Private Alexander Chiffith proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 2nd June, 1916 on HMAT *Kinfauns Castle* & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 8th June, 1916.

Private Alexander Chiffith was written up for a Crime – "Neglect of duty in failing to keep dugout clean on 10.7.16.". He was awarded a forfeiture of 1 days' pay.

Private Alexander Chiffith was wounded in action on 8th August, 1916 (Note – some forms have the date of being wounded as being 9th August, 1916, however Pte Chiffith had been admitted on 8th August, 1916 to the Field Ambulance). He was admitted to 13th Field Ambulance on 8th August, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to Buttock & thigh. He was transferred & admitted to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station on 9th August, 1916 then transferred on 10th August, 1916 to Ambulance Train with gunshot wounds to lower extremities. Pte Chiffith was admitted to 3rd Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 10th August, 1916. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St. Patrick* on 11th August, 1916.

46th Battalion

The 46th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 24 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its new recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 14th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 14th, the new battalion was composed mostly of men from Victoria, although some of the reinforcements hailed from New South Wales and Western Australia.

As part of the 12th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division, the 46th Battalion arrived in France on 8 June 1916, destined for the Western Front. It participated in its first major battle at Pozieres. Initially, the battalion provided carrying parties for supplies and ammunition during the 2nd Division's attack on 4 August, and then, with its own division, defended the ground that had been captured. The 46th endured two stints in the heavily contested trenches of Pozieres, as well as a period in reserve.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 46th Battalion

Pozieres – 5 - 7th August, 1916:

Battalion in reserve to 12th Infantry Brigade and employed on fatigue parties and working parties.

Pozières – 8th August, 1916:

Relieved 45th Battalion in right sector of Brigade on front line.

Disposition – Line was divided into 2 sectors – Right Sector and Left Sector; each of 300 yards. Right Sector – O.G. 1 and 2 from MUNSTER ALLEY to TRAMLIN – “A” Company with “B” Company in support at HEDGE LANE. Left Sector – TRAMLIN to ALBERT-BAUPAUME Road – “C” Company with “D” Company in support at POZIERE TRENCH and SUNKEN ROAD.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Alexander Chiffith was admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England on 12th August, 1916 with gunshot wounds to left thigh – serious. The Hospital Admissions form records the following information: “Wounded at Pozières on 7.8.16. Condition of patient on admission bad. Very large deep septic wound (6” x 7”) over left gluteal region & another in left groin. Also smaller wound over right buttock. Pts condition did not improve he became very restless & collapsed on 14.8.16 & died about 2 am on 15.8.16.”



Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley

Private Alexander Chiffith died around 2 am on 15th August, 1916 at Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England from wounds received in action in France – gunshot wounds to buttock & left thigh.

A death for Alexander Chiffith, aged 24, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of South Stoneham, Hampshire, England.

Private Alexander Chiffith was buried in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England – Plot number R.C. 882 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Communications (which included the notice of death of the late Private Alexander Chiffith) sent to G. Chiffith, of 63 Atarin Street, Alexandria, Egypt, brother of the late Private Alexander Chiffith, were returned to Base Records, Melbourne as unclaimed.

The personal effects of the late Private Alexander Chiffith, from the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, were sent to Base Records, Melbourne with the following explanation: *“All efforts made to get in touch with the next-of-kin have proved futile, these effects have therefore been sent to you for disposal please. (N.O.K. Brother – George Chiffeth, 63, Attorin Street, Alexandria, Egypt).”*

The personal effects of the late Private Alexander Chiffith, were sent to Curator of Estates of Deceased Persons, New Zealand Chambers, 483 Collins Street, Melbourne in July, 1920.

Base Records contacted the Curator of Estates of Deceased Persons, Melbourne in September, 1923 asking for the address of the late Private Alexander Chiffith's eldest surviving brother in order that the War Medals etc could be properly disposed of. The Curator of Estates of Deceased Persons, Melbourne replied to Base Records later in September, 1923 stating that a letter sent to George Chiffith of 63 Atarin Street, Alexandria, Egypt, had been returned unclaimed.

Private Alexander Chiffith was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Chiffith's brother – Mr G. Chiffith in Alexandria, Egypt, as the closest next-of-kin. However, due to being unable to make contact with Mr G. Chiffith, the War Medals etc issued on account of the service of the late Private Alexander Chiffith were sent to “Untraceables.”

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private A. Chiffith – service number 4465, of 46th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private A. Chiffith is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 141.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(46 pages of Private Alexander Chiffith'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

DIED OF WOUNDS

VICTORIA

Pte CHIFFITH, A., Egypt, 15/8/16

(Weekly Times, Melbourne, Victoria – 9 September, 1916)

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. Chiffith does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

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

This cemetery was used for many years for military burials from the Royal Victoria Hospital. The graves include those of 721 casualties from the First World War and 36 of the Second World War, comprising servicemen and women from the following countries:

United Kingdom	558	Undivided India	5
Australia	49	Belgium	15
Canada	42	Poland	1
New Zealand	12	Austria	1
South Africa	6	Germany	68

The Cross of Sacrifice alongside this plot was erected after the First World War.

THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION
IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MAINTENANCE
OF THESE GRAVES

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



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





Original Cross markers – Netley Military Cemetery