

**Woolwich Old Cemetery,
London, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2041 PRIVATE

D. CLARK

8TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

19TH DECEMBER, 1915 Age 24

David Bertram CLARK

David John Bertram Clark was born on 14th May, 1891 at Royal Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh, Scotland to parents David John & Annie Macintosh. (The Birth Register for the district of St Giles, Edinburgh has "Illegitimate" under his name)

The 1901 Scotland Census recorded David J. B. Clark as a 10 year old Scholar (born Portobello, Edinburgh), living with his family at No. 2 Roseberry Place, Dunbar, East Lothian, Scotland. His parents were listed as David J. Clark (Builder, aged 35, born Portobello, Edinburgh) & Ann Clark (Confectioner, aged 29, born Portobello, Edinburgh). David was the eldest of three children listed on this Census -David then Alexander V. Clark (Scholar, aged 9, born Portobello, Edinburgh) & George C. Clark (aged 1, born North Berwick, Haddingtonshire).

David Clark attended Kilerggan (?) Boarding School, Argyllshire, Scotland.

According to information provided by his grandfather – Alexander Clark – David Clark came to Australia when he was 18 years of age.

David Clark was a 24 year old, single, Labourer when he enlisted on 24th December, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2041 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as Alex. Clark, 39 Argyle Crescent, Portobello, Scotland. (According to information provided by his grandfather – Alexander Clark – David Clark was an Architect.)

Private David Clark was posted to 5th Reinforcements of 8th Battalion on 16th April, 1915.

Private David Clark embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Hororata* (A20) on 17th April, 1915 with the 8th Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements.

A Report concerning No. 2041 Private David Clark, 5th Reinforcements, 8th Battalion was made on 11th May, 1915 by Captain R. Durmson (?) which reads: "*The full complement of the Company was exceeded by the inclusion of the above man on the strength after embarkation. He failed to answer at the two roll calls prior to the company boarding the vessel so his papers were consequently handed back and he was reported as "missing" to the embarkation officer before leaving Melbourne. His presence on the boat was discovered the first morning at sea when he answered to the name of another "D Clarke No 2050" at roll call. No previous notification of this occurrence has been made.*"

Private David Clark joined 8th Battalion at Anzac on 10th July, 1915 from 5th Reinforcements.

Private David Clark reported sick on 6th September, 1915 & was admitted to No. 2 Field Ambulance Beach Dressing Station on the same day. He was transferred to 1st Casualty Clearing Station at Anzac on 6th September, 1915 - Febrile. Private Clark was transferred to *Maheno* to Malta on 12th September, 1915 & admitted to Hospital. He embarked from Malta on 9th October, 1915 on Hospital Ship *Regina de Italia* with Malaria.

8th Battalion

The 8th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.

The battalion was raised from rural Victoria by Lieutenant Colonel William Bolton within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. It later took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915, as part of the second wave. Ten days after the landing, the 2nd Brigade was transferred from ANZAC to Cape Helles to help in the attack on the village of Krithia. The attack captured little ground but cost the brigade almost a third of its strength. The Victorian battalions returned to ANZAC to help defend the beachhead, and in August the 2nd Brigade fought at the battle of Lone Pine. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private David Clark was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital, Dudley Road Section, Birmingham, England on 18th October, 1915.

Private David Clark died at 2.45 pm on 19th December, 1915 at Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, London, England from Inflammation of the Brain (as listed on Casualty Form – Active Service, Statement of Service form & Report of Death of a Soldier – Army Form B. 2090A, however another Report of Death of a Soldier recorded cause of death as Cerebro Spinal Fever).

Private David Clark was buried on 23rd December, 1915 in Woolwich Cemetery, London, England – Grave No. 600 F. - now known as Woolwich Old Cemetery.

This is now recorded by Commonwealth War Graves Commission as Plot number F. 41 and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Officer in Charge of Military Records completed the following Memorandum to The Officer Commanding Intermediate Base, Australian Imperial Force, Cairo, Egypt & to The Secretary, Department of External Affairs on 7th February, 1916 which reads: *“In confirmation of my cablegram of 20th December, 1915, I have to inform you that No. 1691, Private D. Clark, 8th Battalion, at 2.45 pm on the 19th December, 1915, died at the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, from cerebro-spinal fever. The deceased was interred at Woolwich Cemetery on the 23rd December, 1915, the funeral taking place from the Royal Herbert Hospital. The Revd: J. Cairns, Presbyterian Chaplain officiated at the burial. The number of the grave is 600, in Section F....”*

(Note: Private Clark’s Service number was 2041 not 1691 as quoted in memorandum above).

Private David Clark requested in his Will extracted from A.B. 64 (Soldier’s Pay Book) that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects be given to his mother – Mrs A. Clark.

Private David Clark was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Mr A. Clark. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in January, 1922).



Memorial Plaque for Private David Clark

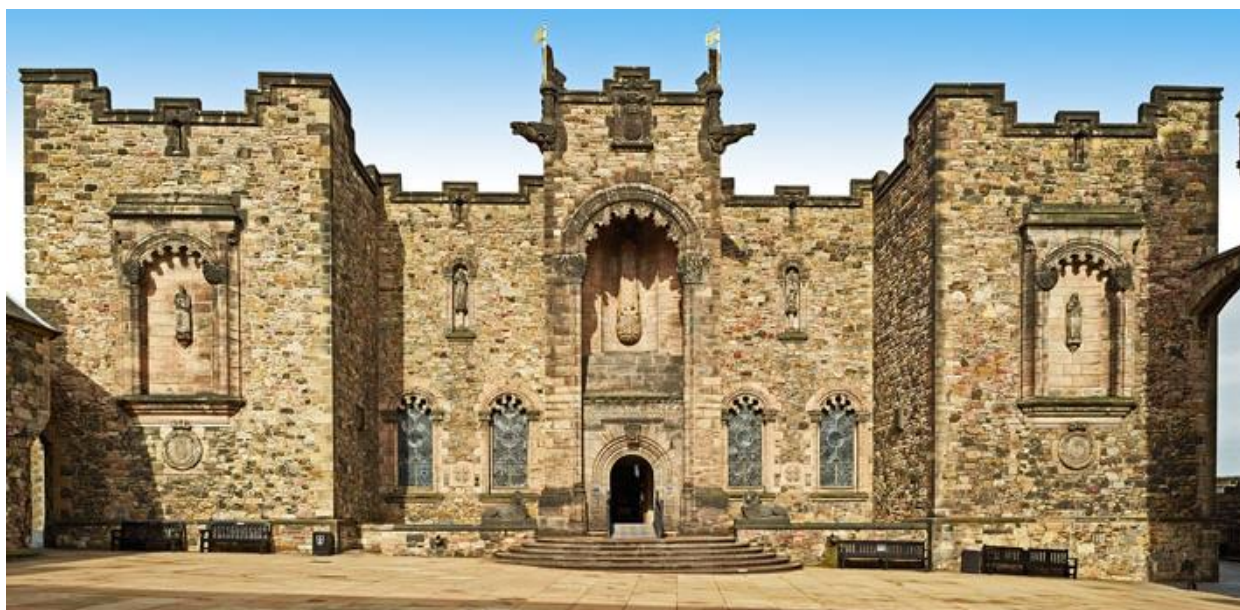
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private David Clark – service number 2041, aged 24, of 8th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of David John & Annie Clark, 39 Argyle Crescent, Portobello, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Private D. B. Clark is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 52.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

David Bertram Clark 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.

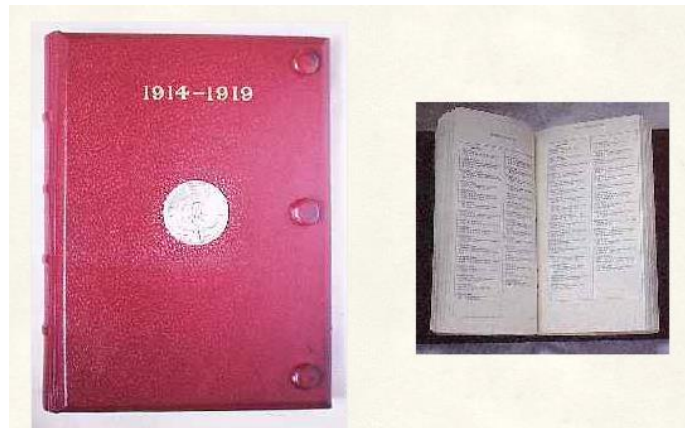


The Scottish National War Memorial

(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)



Hall of Honour & the Roll of Honour books.



(40 pages of Private David Clark'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

Australians at Dardanelles

THE ROLL OF HONOR

The 130th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private D. Clarke, Scotland

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 8 January, 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 D. Clark has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone but no inscription.

Woolwich Old Cemetery, London, England

Woolwich Old Cemetery, London has 179 Commonwealth War Graves – 98 relating to World War One & 81 relating to World War Two. There are 3 Australian WW1 War Graves located in this Cemetery.



Entrance to Woolwich Old Cemetery with Chapel in background



Chapel in Woolwich Old Cemetery *(Photo by Ian Yarham 2021)*



War Graves in Woolwich Old Cemetery (Photos by Ian Yarham – above June, 2012; below July, 2021)



3 Australian WW1 War Graves – (left to right) French, Keelan & Clark

Photo of Private D. Clark's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Woolwich Old Cemetery, London, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Yarham - August, 2022)

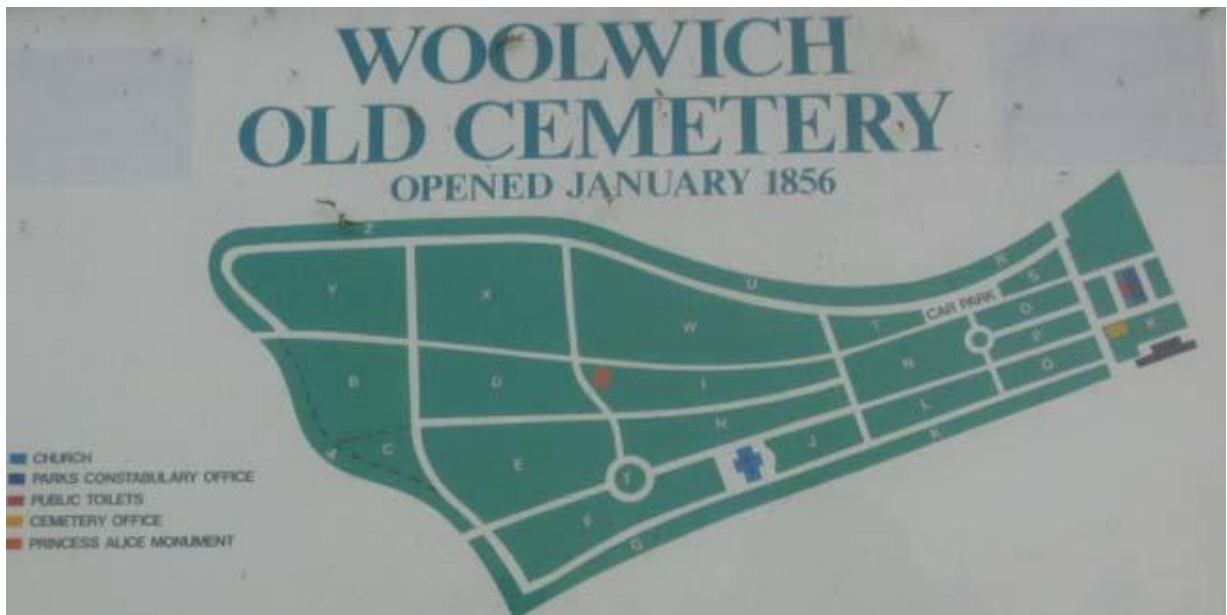


3 Australian WW1 War Graves – (left to right) French, Keelan & Clark
(Photos courtesy of Ian Yarham - August, 2022)





War Graves in Woolwich Old Cemetery (Photo by Ian Yarham – July, 2021)



(Photo from Find a Grave – Iain MacFarlane)