

**St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard,
Harefield, Middlesex, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1233 TROOPER

WILLIAM CRELLIN CLOVER

2ND AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE

23RD JUNE, 1917 Age 24

Sleep On Dear Son

William Crellin CLOVER

William Crellin Clover was born in 1892 at Rupanyup, Victoria to parents Daniel and Maud Mary Clover (nee Crellin).

William Crellin Clover attended No.1924 State School at Drouin, Victoria.

The 1913, 1914, 1915 & 1916 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Flinders, subdivision of Drouin, Victoria recorded William Crellin Clover, Labourer from Drouin.

William Crellin Clover was a 23 year old, single, Labourer from Drouin, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 26th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1233 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs M. Clover, Drouin, Victoria.

Private William Crellin Clover was posted to Depot Battalion on 26th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 9th Reinforcements of 4th Light Horse Regiment on 10th September, 1915.

Private William Crellin Clover embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Hororata (A 20)* on 27th September, 1915 with the 4th Light Horse Regiment, 9th Reinforcements. His younger brother Arthur Daniel Clover embarked the same day.

4th Light Horse Regiment

The 4th Light Horse Regiment was formed as the divisional cavalry regiment for the 1st Australian Division on 11 August 1914. Belying traditional stereotypes, over 20 per cent of the original regiment were city dwellers from Melbourne. The regiment sailed from Melbourne on 19 October 1914 and disembarked in Egypt on 10 December.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private William Crellin Clover was transferred to Details on 24th January, 1916.

Private William Crellin Clover was taken on strength of 1st Light Horse Reserve Regiment on 6th March, 1916.

Private William Crellin Clover was transferred & taken on strength of 4th Light Horse "D" Squadron at Heliopolis on 11th March, 1916.

Private William Crellin Clover embarked from Alexandria per *Caledonian* on 10th June, 1916 for overseas with B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 17th June, 1916.

Private William Crellin Clover was transferred to 2nd Anzac Mounted Regiment on 7th July, 1916 from 4th Light Horse Regiment.

2nd Anzac Mounted Regiment

When the infantry divisions of the AIF deployed from Egypt to the Western Front in early 1916, each included a divisional mounted reconnaissance squadron. Three squadrons were drawn from the 13th Light Horse Regiment and two from the 4th Light Horse Regiment. In France, these squadrons were combined to form corps mounted regiments and in July 1916 the two squadrons of the 4th Light Horse joined a squadron from the Otago Mounted Rifles, a New Zealand Unit, to form the II ANZAC Mounted Regiment. When the five Australian divisions were combined to form the Australian Corps in November 1917 II ANZAC was reorganised and became XXII Corps. The Australian personnel of the mounted regiment were the only Australians to remain with the corps.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private William Crellin Clover was sent sick to Hospital in France on 13th December, 1916. He was admitted to 3rd New Zealand Field Ambulance on 13th December, 1916 with Tubercle of Lung then transferred to & admitted to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 14th December, 1916 with Bronchitis. Private Clover was transferred to Ambulance Train on 16th December, 1916 & admitted to 2nd Australian General Hospital at Wimereux the same day

with Chronic Bronchitis. He was transferred to Havre on 24th December, 1916 & invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Warilda* on 25th December, 1916.

Trooper William Crellin Clover was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital (Kings Heath Section) Birmingham, England on 26th December, 1916 with Bronchitis - severe. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Cough for 6 months; marked loss of weight; night sweats; dullness R Apex. Increased V.R. No T.B. found.*"

Mrs M. Clover, Drouin, Victoria, was advised by Base Records on 5th January, 1917 that Private W. C. Clover had been admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital on 26th December, 1916 suffering from Bronchitis (severe). She was advised on 15th January, 1917 that her son Private William C. Clover's condition was slightly improved.

Mrs M. Clover, Drouin, Victoria, mother of Trooper William Crellin Clover, was advised by Base Records on 17th March, 1917 that Private William Clover was seriously ill. She was advised on 28th March, 1917 that Private W. C. Clover's condition was stationary.

Trooper William Crellin Clover was transferred & admitted to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, Middlesex on 23rd May, 1917 for return to Australia. "*T.B. present.*"

A Medical Report was completed on Trooper William Crellin Clover on 28th May, 1917 at No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield. His disability was listed as Tuberculosis which had originated in France in November, 1916 where he "*first started to get a cough & later night sweats. Had no lung trouble previous to that & there is no family history of lung trouble.*" The cause of the Tuberculosis was from an infection due to climate & active service. Both lungs were affected as stated by the Medical Officer in charge of the case. The Medical Board agreed on 29th May, 1917 that Trooper Clover was permanently unfit for General & Home Service.

Trooper William Crellin Clover was reported as dangerously ill with Tuberculosis on 28th May, 1917.

Mrs M. Clover, Drouin, Victoria, mother of Trooper William Crellin Clover, was advised by Base Records on 7th June, 1917 that Private William Clover was dangerously ill.

Trooper William Crellin Clover died at 9 am on 23rd June, 1917 at 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield Park, Harefield, Middlesex, England from Tuberculosis of Lungs.

A death for William C. Clover, aged 25, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Uxbridge, Middlesex, England.

Trooper William Crellin Clover was buried at 2 o'clock on 24th June, 1917 in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England – Gave No. 29. Now recorded by CWGC as Grave reference - Aust. 27 and he has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

From the burial report of Trooper Clover - *Coffin was good. Polished Elm. The deceased soldier was buried with Military Honours. Band, Bugler, Staff and patients of the 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, under the command of Major Dennis marched in the funeral procession. Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian flag and surmounted with several lovely floral tributes. The coffin was borne to the graveside by members attached to the Staff of the 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield. Prior to the interment a service was held in the Parish Church, Harefield by Chaplain Gregg Macgregor of the A.I.F. A member of the A.I.F. officiated at the Church organ. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. No relatives were present at the funeral. Memorial is being erected by the Authorities of the 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield.*

A War Pension was granted to Maud M. Clover, Houston Rd, Drouin, mother of the late "1233 Pte 2 A. M. Regt" William Crellin Clover, in the sum of 15/- per fortnight from 27th August, 1917.

The National Mutual Life Association of Australia, Melbourne, wrote to Base Records on 1st December, 1917 stating they had been notified of the death of William Crellin Clover "*who was killed in action on 23rd June 1917. Please let*

us know when you receive confirmation of the death and at the same time advise us from your records the following particulars for identification purposes:- Next of kin, Height, Age, Complexion, Color of eyes, color of hair, distinguishing marks (if any).” Base Records replied on 7th December, 1917 enclosing the “certificate of report of death of the late No. 1233 Pte W. C. Clover, 2nd Anzac Light Horse Regt., together with the particulars you desire.”

Trooper William Crellin Clover was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Trooper Clover’s father – Mr D. Clover, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1921).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Trooper William Crellin Clover – service number 1233, aged 25, of 2nd Australian Light Horse. He was the son of Daniel and Maud Mary Clover, of Drouin, Gippsland, Victoria, Australia.

W. Clover & His brother A. Clover are both remembered on the Drouin State School Honour Roll, located in Drouin RSL, 136 Princes Way, Drouin, Victoria.



Drouin State School Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

W. Clover is remembered on the Drouin War Memorial, located in Memorial Park, Princes Way (near Hope Street), Drouin, Victoria.



Drouin War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



Trooper W. C. Clover is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 3.

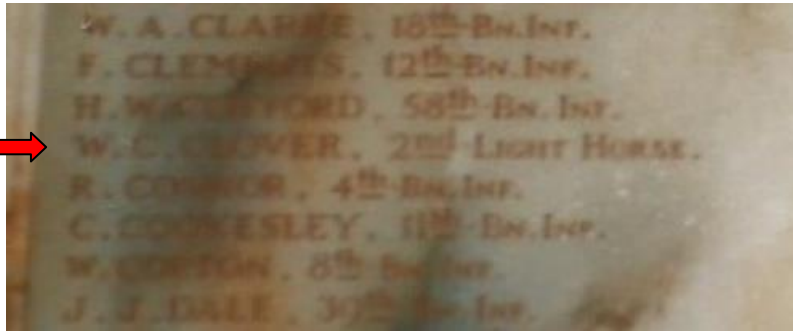


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. C. Clover is remembered on the Australian Soldiers' Memorial in St. Mary the Virgin Church, Church Hill, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



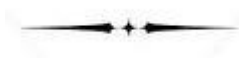
Australian Soldiers' Memorial, Harefield (Photo from War Memorials Online – B. Wood)



Australian Soldiers' Memorial, Harefield

(68 pages of Trooper William Crellin Clover's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

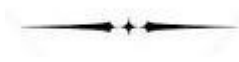
Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DA10732

Trooper William Crellin Clover



Connected to Trooper William Crellin Clover:

Younger brother Arthur Daniel Clover – Enlisted 21st July, 1915, Labourer, aged 22 from Drouin, Victoria. He embarked with 4th Light Horse Regiment, 9th Reinforcements - Service number 1232. Returned to Australia 5th July, 1916 for discharge. He was medically discharged on 4th October, 1916. Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.



Newspaper Notices

THE 264th CASUALTY LIST

ILL

Private W. C. Clover, Drouin

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 17 January, 1917)

A.N.A.

The fortnightly meeting of the Drouin branch was held at the Mechanics' Lodge Room on Thursday 5th.....Members of this branch will regret to hear that our ex-committee member, W. C. Clover, is still in a Military Hospital in London....

(Gippsland Independent, Buln Buln, Warragul, Berwick, Poowong and Jeetho Shire Advocate, Victoria – 13 April, 1917)

DIED ON SERVICE

CLOVER – Died of illness on the 23rd June, at Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Birmingham, William Crellin, beloved eldest son of Mr and Mrs D, Clover, Drouin; loving brother of Arthur (returned), Dulcie, George, Alice, Harry, Daisy and Ivy; aged 25 years.

For King and country,

Our hero deeply mourned.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 30 June, 1917)

A.N.A.

DROUIN BRANCH

The ordinary meeting of the Branch was held in the Lodgeroom on 12th inst.....

Reference was made to the sad death of Member W. C. Clover, who died in the Australian Auxiliary Hospital, England, on 23.6.17. The deep sympathy of the members of the Branch is extended to the late member's parents and relatives. The late member was at the time of his enlistment a member of the committee and was one of the Branch's best members.....

(Gippsland Independent, Buln Buln, Warragul, Berwick, Poowong and Jeetho Shire Advocate, Victoria – 20 July, 1917)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST No. 324

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte W. C. Clover, Drouin

(*Gippsland Mercury*, Sale, Victoria – 20 July, 1917)

The Late Pte W. C. Clover

The following letter has been received by Mrs Clover, of Drouin, from Major H. H. Osborne, officer i/c Base Records, Melbourne, in reference to the death of her son Pte. W. C. Clover, who died in England whilst on active service :—

"With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your son, the late No 1233, Pte. W. C. Clover, 2nd Light Horse Regiment, I am now in receipt of advice which shows that he died at 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, Middlesex, England, on 23rd June, 1917, and was buried at Parish Churchyard, Harefield. The deceased soldier was buried with full Military honors. Band, bugler, staff and patients of the hospital under the command of Major Dennis, marched in the funeral procession. Firing party furnished by the administrative Headquarters, A.I.F., London, were in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag, and surmounted with several lovely floral tributes, and was borne to the graveside by members attached to the staff of the 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield. Prior to the interment a service was held in the Parish Church, Harefield, by Chaplain Gregg Macgregor, of the A.I.F. A member of the A.I.F. officiated at the church organ. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. Memorial is being erected by the authorities of the 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield. He was dearly loved and an example of patience in his illness."

(*Gippsland Independent, Buln Buln, Warragul, Berwick, Poowong and Jeetho Shire Advocate*, Victoria – 16 November, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

CLOVER – In loving memory of William Crellin Clover, 2nd Anzac Mounted Regiment, died of illness, Harefield Park, England, June 23rd, 1917. Eldest son of Mr and Mrs D. Clover, Drouin, aged 25 years.

One of the Best, Sadly missed.

(*Gippsland Independent, Buln Buln, Warragul, Berwick, Poowong and Jeetho Shire Advocate*, Victoria – 20 June, 1918)

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-Inserted by father, mother, sisters and brothers

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 June, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

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One of the Best.

Sadly missed.

-(Mother, father, sisters and brothers

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 June, 1918)

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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 6th July, 1921, to Mrs M. Clover, Drouin, Gippsland, Victoria advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her son, the late Private W. C. Clover had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Trooper William Crellin Clover does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Sleep On Dear Son

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield contains 126 Commonwealth War Graves.

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.

Harefield (St. Mary) Churchyard contains war graves from both world wars. There are 120 First World War graves, mostly those of Australians who died in No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park. Uniquely, their graves are marked by scroll shaped headstones, chosen by the staff and patients at the hospital. In the centre of the Australian plot stands a memorial obelisk which was erected by Sir Francis Newdegate, late Governor of Tasmania and of Western Australia, and Mr. C.A.M. Billyard-Leake, of Harefield Park. The churchyard also contains six graves of the Second World War.

(Information & photos from CWGC)





St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield



Photo of Trooper William Crellin Clover's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



(Photo courtesy of Robert Lyle Anderson)



St Mary the Virgin Church, Harefield (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photos courtesy of Peter Bennett)



