

**All Saints Cemetery,
Nunhead, Greater London, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



9298 DRIVER

H. V. DAVIES

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

6TH JANUARY, 1917

Sacred To Memory Is The Son

Of Mr And Mrs W. Davies

Of Hurstbridge

Herbert Victor (Bert) DAVIES

Herbert Victor William Davies was born at Brunswick, Victoria on 16th October, 1889 to parents Arthur William and Emma Pauline Davies (nee Craven).

Herbert Victor Davies attended Brunswick Road State School, Brunswick, Victoria.

Herbert Victor Davies was a 25 year old, single, Miner (according to information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour – Herbert was a Miner & Engine Driver of Mine machinery) from Hurstbridge, Victoria when he enlisted on 7th August, 1915 in Melbourne, Victoria with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr William Davies, Hurstbridge, Victoria.

Herbert Victor Davies was posted to 10th Battery 4th Field Artillery Brigade on 7th August, 1915. He was transferred to 1st Reinforcements, 4th Artillery Brigade on 10th November, 1915 as Driver.

Driver Herbert Victor Davies, Service number 9298, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Wiltshire (A 18)* on 18th November, 1915 with the 4th Field Artillery Brigade, 1st Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 15th December, 1915 to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force). (Note: The Embarkation Roll has his name as Hubert Victor Davies)

Driver Herbert Victor Davies was transferred to 4th Field Artillery Brigade 10th Battery from 25th November, 1915.

Driver Herbert Victor Davies proceeded from Alexandria on 14th March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 19th March, 1916.

Driver Herbert Victor Davies was wounded in action in France on 15th November, 1916. He was admitted to 36th Casualty Clearing Station on 15th November, 1916 with Concussion & fractured Spine. Driver Davies was transferred to Ambulance Train on 16th November, 1916 & admitted to 6th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 17th November, 1916 with a fractured Spine. He was transferred to England on 18th November, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Aberdonian*.

Driver Herbert Victor Davies was admitted to The King George Hospital Stamford Street, London, England on 19th November, 1916 – sick severe. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*States Nov 15/16 Shell burst & he was partially buried and quite helpless afterwards. On admission – complete paralysis of back, arms, trunk & both legs....*" He was reported to be seriously ill on 22nd November, 1916.

Base Records advised Mr W. A. Davis, Hurstbridge, Victoria on 1st December, 1916 that his son Gunner Herbert V. Davies was seriously ill with gunshot wound penetrating Spine. Mr W. A. Davis was advised on 5th December, 1916 that No. 9298 Driver H. V. Davies had been admitted to the King George Hospital on 19th November, 1916. Mr Davies was advised again on 7th December, 1916 that his son Driver Herbert V. Davies' condition was stationary. Another advice on 9th December, 1916 advised that Driver Herbert V. Davies' condition was improving.

Driver Herbert Victor Davies died at 7.45 pm on 6th January, 1917 at The King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. Spine & Paraplegia.

A death for Herbert V. Davis, aged 27, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Lambeth, Greater London, England.

The Adjutant & Registrar, The King George Hospital, Stamford Street, wrote to The Commandant, Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F., London on 7th January, 1917 with the following: "*I beg to inform you that the funeral of the late No. 9298, Driver Herbert Victor Davies, Australian Field Artillery, will take place on Wednesday next, the 10th January, 1917, leaving this Hospital at 1.30 pm, for Nunhead Cemetery, where the interment is fixed to take place at 3.0 pm, Headquarters, London District, have been asked to furnish a following party, to meet the Gun Carriage at the gates of the Cemetery.*"

Driver Herbert Victor Davies was buried on 10th January, 1917 in All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead, Greater London, England – Grave no. 32639 Square 89.

Base Records wrote to Mr W. A. Davies, Hurstbridge, Victoria, on 20th April, 1920 with the following: *“With reference to my communication of 25th July, 1917, regarding the regrettable loss of your son, the late No.9298 Driver H. V. Davies, 4th Field Artillery Brigade, I am now in receipt of further advice which shows that his remains have been exhumed from former site, and re-interred in Grave No.8, Australian Section, Nunhead Cemetery, Nunhead. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain. The utmost care and attention is being devoted to the graves of our fallen soldiers, and photo graphs are being taken as soon as possible for transmission to next-of-kin.”*

Driver Herbert Victor Davies' burial place is now listed by CWGC as Plot number 16.33431 P. and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Driver Herbert Victor Davies contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives to obtain details of his illness, death and burial.

- The Matron, The King George Hospital, wrote the following letter: *“In reply to your letter with regard to the death of Pte H. Davies, we have, in accordance with our usual custom, written full particulars to his mother in Australia, in fact, the Ward Sister has written twice, once at the time of the operation and since he died – giving all particulars in regard to his death and burial. I also understand that there has been a previous enquiry made by the Australian Red Cross Society, in reply to which all particulars were given. Pt H. Davies died on January the 6th, having had an operation for the removal of a bullet from the spine. His condition had always been serious, as he was completely paralysed, and he did not recover after the operation.”*
- The Officer Commanding, The King George Hospital, wrote the following: *“The Sister-in-Charge of the Ward state that she has written to his people, but I. also, beg to forward you a few particulars:- “There was a fracture of the 5th and 6th cervical (neck) vertebrae. No use in body below neck. Developed Bronchitis. Caused by bomb explosion behind patient. Given 6 or 7 weeks in which to improve, but, there being no improvement, operation decided on. Portions of fractured bones removed, to give spinal cord freedom. Operation quite successful, but patient suffering from chest trouble, unable to survive more than 24 hours. Buried at Nunhead Cemetery, S.E., 10th January 1917. Firing and following party attended. Two Englishmen, patients, and Australian lady followed. Chaplain, The Rev. J. A. James, C.F.”*

A War Pension was granted to Emma Davies, Hurstbridge, mother of the late Driver Herbert Victor Davies, 9298, 10th Battery, Field Artillery, in the sum of 20/- per fortnight from 12th March, 1917.

An enquiry was made on 12th May, 1917 by Mrs Emma Davies, Hurstbridge, P. O., Victoria, mother of the late 9298 Driver Herbert Victor Davies, for a Certificate of Death.

Base Records replied to Mrs E. Davies, Hurstbridge P.O., Victoria on 15th May, 1917 enclosing a certificate of report of death of the late No. 9298 Driver H. V. Davies, 10th Field Artillery Battery.

Driver Herbert Victor Davies was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver Davies' father – Mr W. A. Davies, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

William A. Davies, Post Office, Hurstbridge, wrote to Medals Section, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne on 28th June, 1922 with the following: *“In references to your paragraph re medals in “The Argus” of todays issue, we would like to know if we are entitled to the Victory medal on behalf of our deceased son No. 9298 Driver H. V. Davies, 10th Battery, A.F.A. If so, will you kindly forward it to address below with the plaque, that you notified us some time ago, would be forwarded when available.”*

Base Records replied to Mr W. A. Davies on 4th September, 1922: *“With reference to your communication concerning the issue of the Memorial Plaque and Victory Medal in respect of your son, the late No. 9298 Driver H. V. Davies, 4th Field Artillery Brigade, I have to advise that the former was transmitted to you on the 7th August and has no doubt reached you ere this. It is not anticipated that the Victory Medal will be available for some weeks but when ready will be forwarded to you direct from this office, no further application being necessary.”*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver Herbert Victor Davies – service number 9298, of 4th Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Arthur William and Emma Pauline Davies, of Hurstbridge, Victoria, Australia.

H. V. Davies is remembered of the Shire of Eltham War Memorial, located at Garden Hill, Kangaroo Ground, Victoria.



Shire of Eltham War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



Shire of Eltham War Memorial



Driver H. V. Davies is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 13.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(60 pages of Driver Herbert Victor Davies' 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

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LISTS Nos. 248 and 249 ISSUED

WOUNDED AND SERIOUSLY ILL

VICTORIA

DAVIES, Dvr H. V. Hurstbridge

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 12 December, 1916)

DEATHS

On Active Service

DAVIES – Died of wounds on 6th January in King George Hospital, Driver H. V. Davies (Bert), eldest son of Mr and Mrs Davies, Hurst-bridge, aged 27 years.

A noble son and an affectionate brother.

He died as he lived – a hero.

-Inserted by his sorrowing parents, brother and sisters.

DAVIES – A tribute to the memory of my loving fiancé, Driver H. V. Davies (Bert), who died of wounds on 6th January.

Sweet is the memory left behind
Of one so noble, true, and kind.
His fight is fought – he stood the test;
All his life he was one of the best.

-Inserted by his loving fiancée, Lily Tait, Footscray.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 17 January, 1917)

DIED ON SERVICE

DAVIES – Died of wounds, in King George Hospital, London, Driver H. V. Davies (Bert), eldest son of Mr and Mrs W. Davies, Hurstbridge, loved brother of Jean, Millie, Quen, and Arthur, beloved fiancé of Lily Tait, Footscray, aged 27 years.

A noble son and an affectionate brother,
Sweet is the memory left behind
Of one so noble, true, and kind.
His fight is fought – he stood the test;
All his life he was one of the best.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 20 January, 1917)

TWO CASUALTY LISTS

The 266th and 267th casualty lists.....

The Victorian names are:-

DIED OF WOUNDS

Driver H. V. Davies, Hurst Bridge

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 24 January, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

DAVIES – A tribute of love to the memory of Driver H. V. Davies (Bert), who died of wounds in London, 6th January, 1917.

There is a link death cannot sever;
Loving remembrance lasts for ever.

-(Inserted by his loving fiancée, Lily Tait, Footscray.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 5 January, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

DAVIES – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Driver H. V. Davies (Bert), late Hurstbridge, who died of wounds in King George Hospital on 6th January, 1916; also his brother George Melrose, who died 16th December, 1907.

Brothers reunited.

No one knows the silent heart ache,
Only those can tell,
Who have lost their best and dearest

In the fight where the best men fell.

-Inserted by his sorrowing parents, sisters and brother.

DAVIES – In fond and proud memory of my dear brother and pal, Driver H. V. Davies (Bert), who died of wound in King George Hospital, London, on 6th January, 1916.

We were always pals together,
Death alone could part us;
God alone can tell the sorrow
Buried deep down in my heart.

-Inserted by his sorrowing sister, Jean.

DAVIES – In proud and loving memory of Driver (Bert) Herbert Victor, who died of wounds, in King George Hospital, London, 6th January, 1917.

Ever remembered.

-Inserted by his loving fiancée, Lily.

DAVIES – In memory of my dear nephew, Driver H. V. Davies (Bert) of Hurst-bridge, died of wounds in King George Hospital, London, 6th January, 1916.

A father wanders lonely,
A mother gently weeps;
A cousin still remembers,
An aunt fond memories keep.

-Inserted by his loving aunt, Ursula, and cousin, Vera, Maxwell-street, Glen Iris.

DAVIES – In loving memory of our dear cousin, Driver H. V. Davies (Bert), of Hurst-bridge, died of wounds in King George Hospital, London, 6th January, 1916.

Noble and fearless he sailed away,

His heart so good, his spirit brave;

Leaving loved ones for whom he cared,

To join his comrades and do his share,

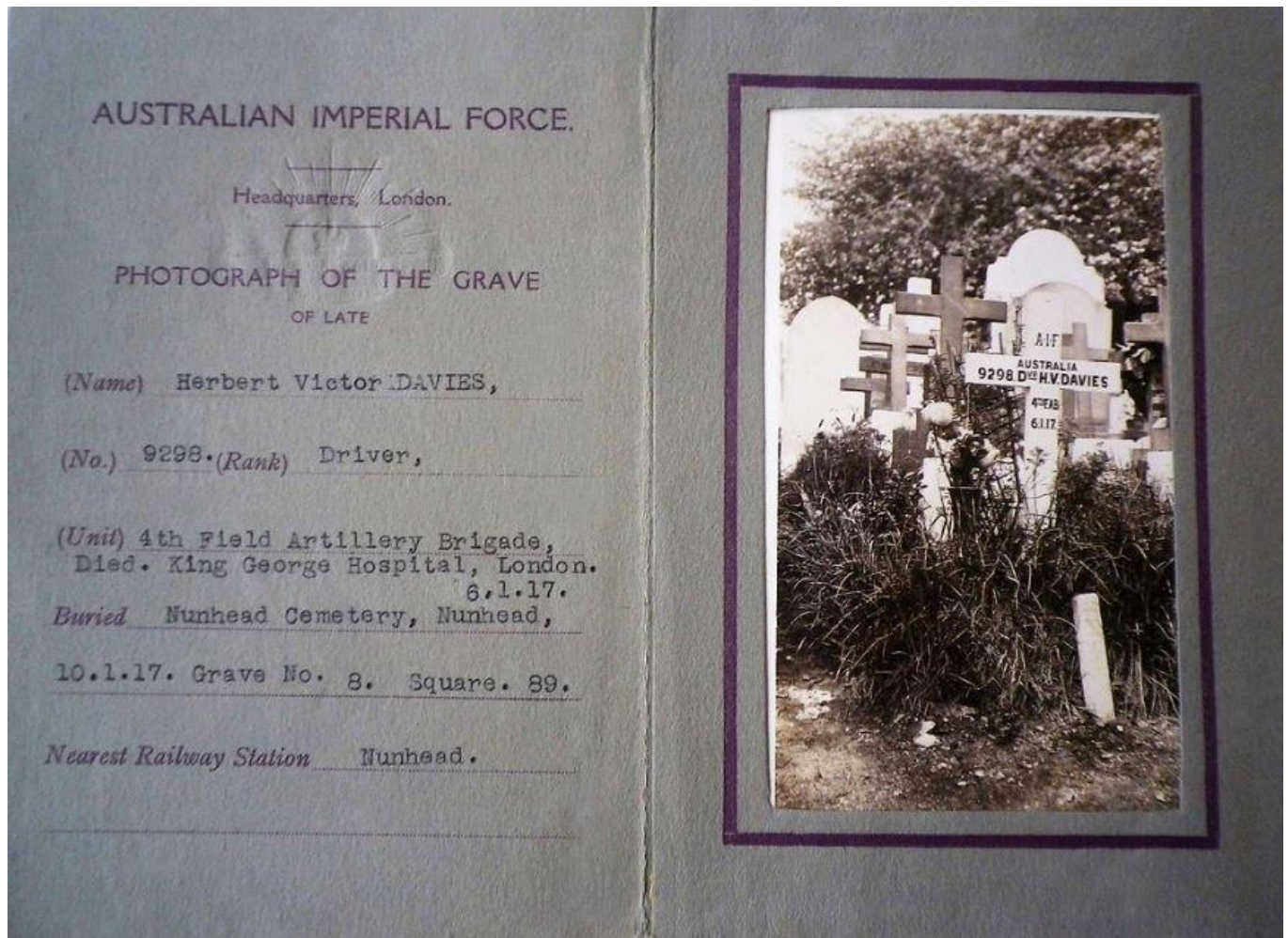
-Inserted by his loving cousins, E. and U. Nelson and C.C. Coventry, Darling.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 6 January, 1919)

**Notices were also placed in newspapers in 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1931



Original Cross Marker for Driver H. V. Davies



Folder containing a photograph of the original cross marker sent to next of kin of deceased soldiers



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 H. V. Davies does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Sacred To Memory Is the Son

Of Mr And Mrs W. Davies

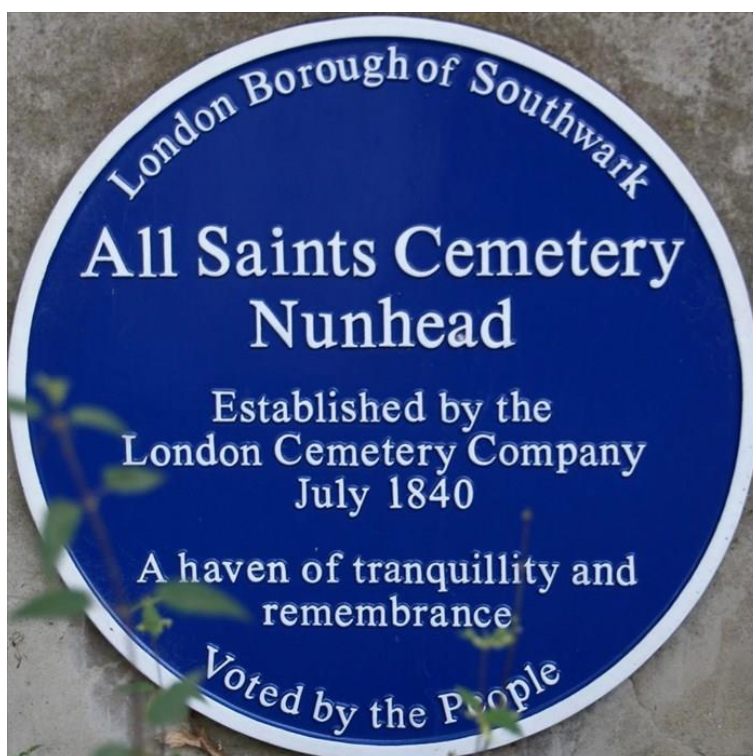
Of Hurstbridge

All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead, Great London, England (also known as Nunhead Cemetery)

Nunhead (All Saints) Cemetery contains 592 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war. The majority are in three war graves plots; the United Kingdom plot (in Square 89) has 266 graves, the Australian plot (near the main entrance) has 23 and the Canadian plot (in Square 52, also containing New Zealand and South African burials) has 36. The graves in the Australian and Canadian plots are marked with individual headstones. The graves in the United Kingdom plot and the remaining war graves scattered throughout the cemetery could not be marked individually; the casualties buried in these graves are therefore commemorated by name on a Screen Wall inside the main entrance gate to the cemetery.

A second Screen Wall commemorates the 110 burials of the 1939-1945 war in a further war graves plot in Square 5 and elsewhere in the cemetery whose graves could not be marked by headstones.

There is also 1 Belgian burial of the 1914-1918 war and 7 Non-war Service burials, all commemorated on the Screen Wall. *(Information from CWGC)*



All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J00776

The Australian area at Nunhead Cemetery.

The grave in the centre front is 27 Lance Corporal Eric Lyndon Lowe, 18th Battalion, from Clarence Town NSW, who died on 10 September 1915 aged 18 years.

The grave to the right is 1560 Private (Pte) Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert, 14th Battalion, born in England, from Kogarah West NSW, who died on 20 January 1916 aged 19 years.

The grave 2nd row right side is 1019 Sergeant (Sgt) Victor Ronald Coombe, 15th Battalion, of Campbelltown, Tas, who died on 29 September 1915 aged 26 years.

From the collection of Mr Alfred Thomas Sharp. Mr Sharp was the Commonwealth Immigration Officer of Victoria and was based in the London Office during the First World War. He and his wife hosted and visited many soldiers, particularly those from Victoria, who were recuperating in London. He also photographed many Australian graves in English cemeteries. His photograph collection relating to this period in London was bequeathed to the Memorial in 1922 after his death. During his time in London he was a member of the British Volunteer Regiment, serving with the Willesden Battalion, Middlesex Volunteer Regiment.



Australian War Graves in All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead *(Photos courtesy of Neil Bright)*



Photo of Driver H. V. Davies' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead, Greater London, England.



(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright)