

**Compton Chamberlayne
War Graves Cemetery,
Wiltshire, England**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



55821 PRIVATE

A. A. DRECKOW

32ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

19TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 23

IN MEMORY

OF THE DEARLY LOVED SON

OF MRS DRECKOW OF CLEVE

Alfred Alwin DRECKOW

Alfred Alwin Dreckow was born in Eudunda, South Australia on 17th April, 1895 to parents Christian and Mary Dreckow (nee Lehmann).

Christian Dreckow, father of Alfred Alwin Dreckow, died in South Australia in 1915.

Alfred Alwin Dreckow was a 23 year old, single, Farmer from at Cleve, South Australia when he enlisted in Adelaide, South Australia on 23rd April, 1918 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His Service number was 55821 & his religion was Lutheran. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary Dreckow, Cleve, South Australia.

Private Alfred Alwin Dreckow was posted to “B” Company on 23rd April, 1918 for recruit training. He was transferred to 2nd Reinforcements on 8th May, 1918.

Private Alfred Alwin Dreckow embarked from Sydney on the RMS *Orontes* on 5th June, 1918 with the 2nd (South Australian) Reinforcements. He was admitted to Ship’s Hospital on 7th June, 1918 & discharged on 11th June, 1918. He was readmitted to Ship’s Hospital on 26th July, 1918 with Influenza & discharged on 31st July, 1918. Private Dreckow disembarked at Liverpool, England on 11th August, 1918.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain area, in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Alfred Alwin Dreckow was marched in to 9th Training Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire on 12th August, 1918. He was allotted to reinforcements of 32nd Battalion & marched out to 14th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire on 13th August, 1918.

Private Alfred Alwin Dreckow was admitted to Brigade Clearing Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire with mumps on 13th August, 1918. He was discharged & returned to 14th Training Battalion on 20th September, 1918.

Private Alfred Alwin Dreckow was admitted to Group Hospital at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 10th October, 1918 with influenza. He was transferred to Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire with “*Broncho Pneumonia- Seriously ill*” on 14th October, 1918.

Private Alfred Alwin Dreckow died at 12.15 a.m. on 19th October, 1918 at the Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire of Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Alfred A. Dreckow, aged 23, was registered in the December quarter of 1918, in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Private Alfred Alwin Dreckow was buried in Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England on 24th October, 1918 at 11 a.m – Back Row, Grave Plot #5.

From the burial report of Privat Dreckow – Coffin was good, Elm with Brass Mountings – *Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag was borne to the graveside on a gun carriage, preceded by the Firing Party & Band from the 14th Australian Training Battalion. Six of deceased’s comrades acted as pall bearers. Three officers and fifty N.C.O.’s and men from the deceased’s Unit were in attendance as mourners. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Private Alfred Alwin Dreckow requested in his Will that all his property whatsoever, including his military estate be given to his mother Mary Dreckow of Cleve, South Australia.

Private Alfred Alwin Dreckow was entitled to British War Medal. A Memorial Scroll (August, 1921) & Memorial Plaque (December, 1922) were sent to Private Dreckow’s mother (father deceased) – Mrs Mary Dreckow.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Alfred Alwin Dreckow – service number 55821, aged 23, of 32nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Christian and Mary Dreckow, of Riverton, South Australia.

Private A. A. Dreckow is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 120 .



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



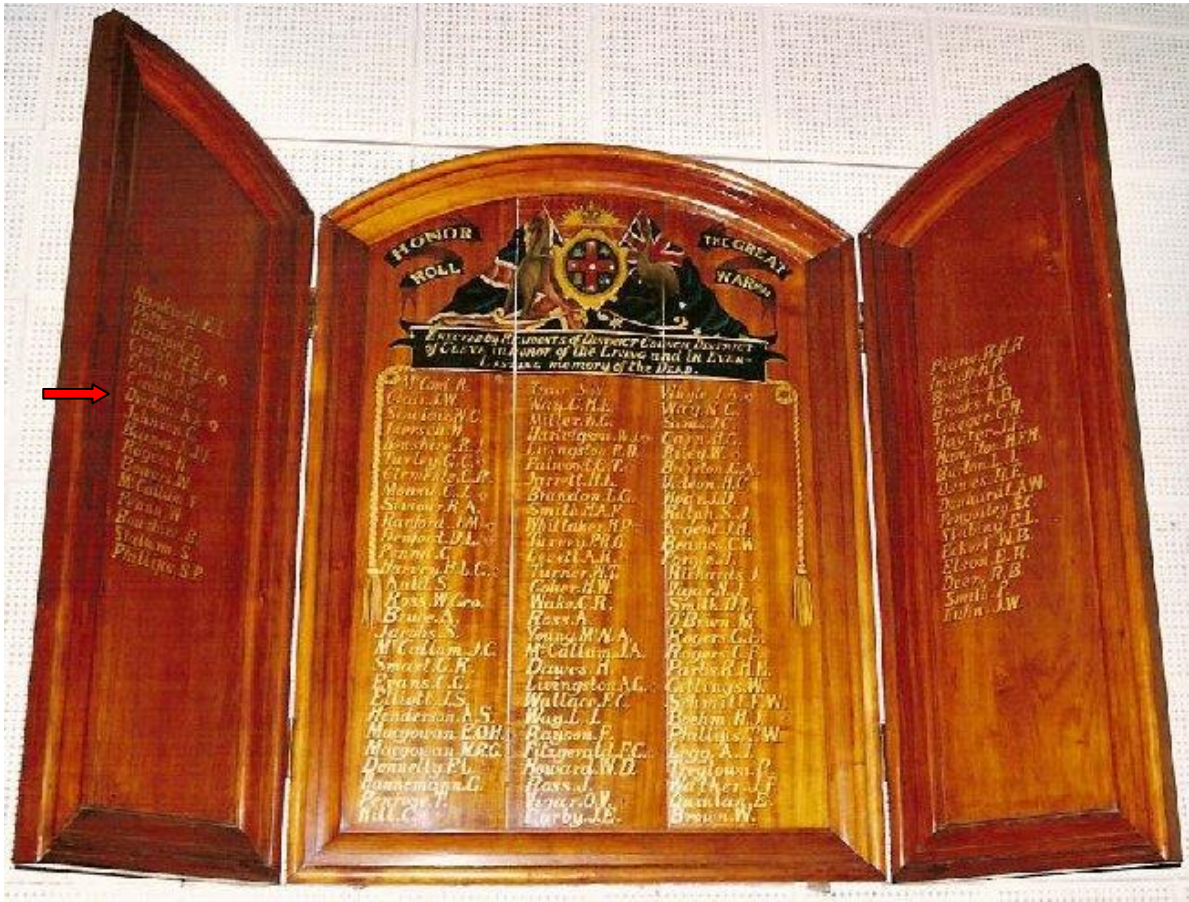
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. A. Dreckow is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide *(Photos by Bilby)*

Private A. A. Dreckow is also commemorated on the Memorial Honour Board located in the Town Hall on Main Street, Cleve. Private Dreckow's name is located on left door, seventh name.



Memorial Honour Board located in Cleve Town Hall (Photo by Fay Kraehe)

A. A. Dreckow is also commemorated on the War Memorial located at the junction of Fourth and Main streets (centre strip), Cleve, South Australia.



Cleve War Memorial (Photos by Fay Kraehe)

(47 pages of Private Alfred Alwin Dreckow's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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



Newspaper Reports

Military Notes

A short time ago Mr A. A. Dreckow, of Cleve, enlisted and is now in camp.

(Eyre's Peninsula Tribune, Cowell, South Australia – 26 April, 1918)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR "Faithful Unto Death"

Australian Soldiers – Died For Their Country

Private A. A. Dreckow, who died of pneumonia in England, October 19, was the youngest son of Mrs Dreckow, Yadnarie. He enlisted in March and went into camp April 22. He sailed with the 2nd General Reinforcements on May 31, but spent most of his voyage in hospital. He arrived in England August 10 and after a few weeks training was admitted to hospital suffering from mumps. Then he contracted pneumonia and died. Private Dreckow was 23 years of age and attended the Cleve Public School. He was engaged in farming with his father and brother up to the time of enlisting.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – Friday 1st November, 1918)

THE COUNTRY

CLEVE, October 30 – Much regret was expressed on Saturday when the news was cabled from abroad that Mr Alfred Dreckow, of Yadnarie, had died from pneumonia on his way to the front. It is only a few months since a farewell social was tendered to him. Mr Dreckow was popular with all classes and was highly respected for his manly dealings. Much sympathy is explained for the family and Mrs Dreckow.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – Saturday 2nd November, 1918)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

DRECKOW – In loving memory of our dear brother Alf, who died in England, October 19, 1918.

To-day brings back our memory fresh

Of our dear brother who is now at rest.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, nieces and nephews, M. and J. Brady.

DRECKOW – In loving memory of Private Alfred A. Dreckow, who died in England, October 19, 1918, of pneumonia.

His memory lives within the hearts
Of those who knew his worth.

-Inserted by his loving cousin and friend, Mrs T. E. Elix and Minnie F. Johns, Norwood.

DRECKOW – In loving memory of our dear brother, Alf, who died of pneumonia in England, October 19, 1918, 32nd Battalion.

He freely offered his life and all
In answer to his country's call.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Elsie and Will Ross, Golden Grove.

DRECKOW – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Alfred, died in England, October 19, 1918. of pneumonic influenza.

Though his eyes were dimmed with tears,
Yet his smile was sweet, but sad;
As he whispered when he left me,
"Mother, don't forget your absent boy."
He marched away so bravely,
His young head proudly held.
His footsteps never faltered,
His courage never fell.
For our sake he fought,
What more can a soldier do?
The war is o'ver, and victory won.
To some those words sound nice;
But, of, the sad sad hearts of those
Whose loved ones paid the price.

-Inserted by his loving mother, sister and brother, Riverton.

DRECKOW – In fond memory of Alf, who went west, on October 19, 1918.

He is not dead, the brave can never die,
His eyes are closed in sleep, his soul enshrined on high.

-Inserted by G. and L. Dreckow and family, Yadnarde.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 18 October, 1919) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 25 October, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

DRECKOW – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Alfred Dreckow, who died in England, October 19th, 1918.

He followed his path of duty,
He answered his country's call;
He helped to bring Australia into fame,
To build for her a never dying name,
His love for us is just a cherished dream.
We keep him with us, uppermost supreme.

© Cathy Sedgwick/2012

-Inserted by his loving mother and brother Fred, "Orontes," Gawler.

DRECKOW – In loving memory of our dear brother, who died in England, October 19th, 1918.

He sailed away with the ship Orontes,
His heart was brave, he knew no fear,
And freedom's cause to him was dear.
His manly form rests in a far-off grave,
But his name will live with Australia's brave

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Hetty and Clarrie Freeth, "Orontes," Gawler.

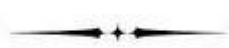
(*Eyre's Peninsula Tribune*, Cowell, South Australia – 21 October, 1921)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P09291.510

Private Alfred Alwin Dreckow



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 at Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery. 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. A. Dreckow does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*IN MEMORY
OF THE DEARLY LOVED SON
OF MRS DRECKOW OF CLEVE*

Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery contains 34 Commonwealth War Graves all from World War 1. Of these 28 are of Australian Soldiers.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)



Left & right of Cemetery with central Plinth (Photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)



Photo taken from back of Cemetery looking towards the Entrance (Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)

Photo of Private A. A. Dreckow's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)



(Photo taken c March, 1919)

Graves of Australian soldiers in the cemetery at Compton-Chamberlyne, each marked by a cross.

Back row, left to right: 55821 Private (Pte) Alfred Alwin Dreckow, 32nd Battalion (Bn), died 19 October 1918; 3712 Pte Thomas Cass, 10th Bn, died 17 August 1918; 3764 Pte William Joseph Arnold, 31st Bn, died 2 July 1918; Captain Roy Allan Sillar, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 30 June 1918; 1993A Pte Sydney Ross, 18th Bn, died 31 May 1918.

Front row: 1666 Sergeant Percy Robert Knowles, 9th Australian Light TM Battery, died 30 January 1918; 1995 Pte Thomas James Skipper, 51st Bn, died Fovant Military Hospital 7 January 1918; 687 Pte John Thomas Wehrmann, 32nd Bn, died 3 November 1917; 3462 Pte William Joseph Park, 60th Bn, died 23rd September 1917; 1725 Pte William Ernest Riley, 60th Bn, died 22 May 1917.



Compton Chamberlayne War Graves (Photo from CWGC)

Compton Chamberlayne War Grave Locations



British Soldier



Irish Soldier



Australian Soldier

Front Row	Grave		Middle Row	Grave		Back Row	Grave	
Public	1		Oliver	1			1	
Public	2		Knowles	2		Public	2	
	Haywood	3		Skipper	3		Turner	3
	Gilbert	4		Wehrmann	4		Evans	4
	Le Tisser	5		Park	5		Dreckow	5
	Jones	6		Riley	6		Cass	6
	Cook	7		Turnbull	7		Arnold	7
	Pairman	8		White	8		Sillar	8
		9		Howard	9		Ross	9
	Norris	10		Tull	10		Finn	10
	Lintott	11		Snell	11		McCarthy	11
	Redman	12		Ferrow	12		Trengove	12
Public			Public				13	
Public			Public				14	
Public							Walsh	15
								16
							Hooper	17
								18
							Larkin	19