

**Towcester Road Cemetery,
Northampton, Northamptonshire**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



554 CORPORAL

G. C. EASTON

AUST. MACHINE GUN CORPS

4TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 31

His Duty Nobly Done

His Name Liveth For Evermore

George Campbell EASTON

George Campbell Easton was born at Balmain, Sydney, NSW in 1887 to parents John Alexander and Elizabeth Ambrosine Easton (nee Bradley).

George Campbell Easton attended Keyworth Superior Public School, Leichhardt, Sydney, NSW.

According to information supplied by his mother for the Roll of Honour – George Easton had served for 4 years with Scottish Rifles Regiment in Sydney, NSW.

George Campbell Easton was a 29 year old, single, Commercial Traveller from 20 Rowley Street, Camperdown, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted on 24th May, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 554 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Elizabeth Easton, 20 Rowley Street, Camperdown, Sydney, NSW.

Private George Campbell Easton was posted to the Machine Gun Company for recruit training. He was transferred to No. 13 Company, Machine Gun Depot at Seymour on 26th September, 1916. Pte Easton was transferred to Isolation Camp at Ascot Vale on 19th October, 1916 then transferred back to the Machine Gun Depot at Seymour on 3rd November, 1916. Pte Easton was transferred to 5th Machine Gun Company on 30th November, 1916.

Private George Campbell Easton embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Orsova* (A67) on 6th December, 1916 with the 5th Machine Gun Company, 9th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 17th February, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private George Campbell Easton was marched in from Australia to Australian Details Camp 6 & 7 at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 18th February, 1917.

Private George Campbell Easton was marched out to Australian Machine Gun Training Depot at Belton Park, Grantham on 24th February, 1917.

Private George Campbell Easton proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 24th April, 1917 from Australian Machine Gun Training Depot at Grantham.

Private George Campbell Easton was taken on strength of 5th Machine Gun Company in the field on 6th May, 1917.

Private George Campbell Easton was wounded in action on 4th October, 1917. He was admitted to 64th Field Ambulance with shrapnel wounds to knee then transferred to 11th Casualty Clearing Station on 5th October, 1917. Pte Easton was transferred to Ambulance Train & admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 5th October, 1917. He was transferred to No. 7 Convalescent Depot at Boulogne on 7th October, 1917. Pte Easton was transferred to No. 10 Convalescent Depot on 9th October, 1917 then transferred to No. 3 Rest Camp at Ecault on 18th October, 1917.

From the War Diary of 5th Australian Machine Gun Company – they were at Draught House on 4th October, 1917. The Casualties for the day were 1 Officer wounded, 4 ORs Killed & 20 ORs wounded.

Private George Campbell Easton joined M.G.B.D. (Machine Gun Base Depot) at Camiers, France on 21st October, 1917. He was classified as "P.B." (Permanent Base duties – unfit for active service but fit for service in base areas) & despatched to England on 31st October, 1917.

Private George Campbell Easton was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, England from France on 1st November, 1917. The Hospital Admissions form for No. 2 Command Depot recorded Pte Easton was examined on 2nd November, 1917 for Synovitis of left knee – "*very little beyond a little looseness of patella. States always had a bad knee but was blown up by a shell & injured again*". He was classified as B1 A2 (fit for Overseas training camp in three to four weeks). Pte Easton was marched out from No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 9th November, 1917 & marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 10th November, 1917.

Private George Campbell Easton was marched in from furlo & classified as B1 A2 (fit for Overseas training camp in three to four weeks) at No. 1 Command Depot, Sutton Veny on 29th October, 1917 (date as per Casualty Form – Active Service however date should probably read 29th November, 1917.)

Private George Campbell Easton was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill on 21st December, 1917 from No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny.

Private George Campbell Easton was marched out to Machine Gun Training Depot at Grantham on 3rd January, 1918 from Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill. He proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 8th February, 1918 & was marched in to M.G.C.B.D. (Machine Gun Company Base Depot) at Camiers, France on 8th February, 1918. Pte Easton was marched out to 5th Machine Gun Company on 18th February, 1918 & rejoined his Unit from wounds in England on 15th February, 1918.

Private George Campbell Easton was promoted to Temporary Corporal on 24th July, 1918 (vice Pillow to Battalion Headquarters) with 2nd Machine Gun Battalion then promoted to Corporal vice Hamilton on the same day.

Corporal George Campbell Easton was injured accidentally on 11th September, 1918 – sprained left knee joint. He was admitted to 7th Field Ambulance on 28th September, 1918 with a knee injury then transferred to 55th Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Corporal Easton was transferred & admitted to 6th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 30th September, 1918. He embarked for England on 2nd October, 1918.

Corporal George Campbell Easton was admitted to Northampton War Hospital at Duston, Northamptonshire, England on 3rd October, 1918. The Hospital Admissions form was stamped with "*Auxiliary Military Hospital, Barry Road, Northampton.*"

Corporal George Campbell Easton died on 4th November, 1918 at Barry Road Hospital, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England from Influenza & pneumonia & Synovitis of knee.

A death for George Easton, aged 31, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Northampton, Northamptonshire, England.

Corporal George Campbell Easton was buried on 8th November, 1918 in Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England – Plot number 446. 3. 17320 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Corporal George Campbell Easton - *Coffin was good, brass mountings. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent from Officers & Staff, Barry Rd, Aux. Hospital, Miss Mackinnell, Aust. Red Cross Representative. The Rev. G. R. Thornton, C.F. officiated at the graveside, and the "Last Post" was sounded. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of Relatives and Friends present at the Funeral – Wounded Australians, New Zealand Australian Red Cross Representative, Hospital Nurses. No relatives.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Corporal George Campbell Easton contains a letter from Lydia Boot, Commandant, Auxiliary Hospital, Barry Road, Northampton which reads: "*Re 554 Pte G. C. Easton. I have to inform you that this patient was admitted from sick convoy on the 3rd October suffering from synovitis left knee (convalescent). He contracted influenza and died from pneumonia on November 4th.*"

Base Records contacted Mrs E. Easton, of 20 Rowley Street, Camperdown, Sydney, NSW, noted on the records as being the next-of-kin of the late Corporal G. C. Easton, in May, 1921 asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically if his father was still alive due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. Mrs Easton advised that Mr John A, Easton was still alive & living at 20 Rowley Street, Camperdown, Sydney, NSW.

Corporal George Campbell Easton was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Easton's father – Mr J. A. Easton, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal George Campbell Easton – service number 554, aged 31, of 2nd Bn., Australian Machine Gun Corps. He was the son of John Alexander and Elizabeth Easton, of 30 Rowley St., Camperdown, Sydney, New South Wales.

Private G. C. Easton is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 175.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

G. C. Easton is remembered on the Camperdown War Memorial, located in Camperdown Park, Australia Street, Camperdown (Newtown), Sydney, NSW.



Camperdown War Memorial

(67 pages of Corporal George Campbell Easton's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

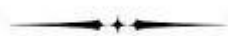
Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H1 3101

George Campbell Easton



Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

EASTON – Died from pneumonia, at Northampton War Hospital, Dunston, England, 4/11/18, Gunner George Campbell Easton, No. 554, 2nd Machine Gun Battalion, 2nd Australian Division, after 2 ½ years' service.

Thy will be done.

Inserted by his loving parents, John Alexander and Elizabeth Easton, and sister and brothers, Elsie, Alex., Andrew, Hammond (on active service).

EASTON – Died of pneumonia, in England, Machine Gunner George Campbell Easton, 2nd Australian Division, dearly beloved brother of Mr and Mrs Alex. R. Easton, "Allaura", Chester St., Petersham.

EASTON – Died of pneumonia, in England, Gunner George Campbell Easton, Machine Gun Section, A.I.F., dearly beloved brother and uncle of Mr and Mrs Andrew J. Easton, and nephew, Jack, of Campsie.

EASTON – Died of pneumonia, in England, Gunner George Campbell Easton, Machine Gun Section, A.I.F., dearly beloved brother of Private James Easton, A.I.F., and Mrs James Easton, of Marrickville.

EASTON – Died from pneumonia at Northampton War Hospital, England, on 4th November, 1918, Corporal George Campbell Easton, Inserted by Mr and Mrs Morrison and family, Bowral.

EASTON – Died from pneumonia while on active service, George Campbell Easton. Inserted by Agnes Morrison, "Kurrawyba," Empire Street, Haberfield.

(*The Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, NSW – 16 November, 1918) & (*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 16 November, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

EASTON – In loving memory of our dear son, Corporal George Campbell Easton, 5th Machine Gun Co., died of pneumonia, at Northampton, England, November 4th, 1918.

A beautiful memory left behind,

A duty nobly done.

Inserted by his loving mother and father.

(*The Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, NSW – 4 November, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOUR

EASTON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Corporal George Campbell Easton, 5th Machine Gun Co., died in Northampton Hospital, November 4, 1918.

His duty nobly done.

Inserted by his loving mother and father, brothers and sisters, nephew Jack, and niece Betty.

(*The Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, NSW – 4 November, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

EASTON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Corporal George C. Easton, 5th Machine Gun Company, died in War Hospital, England, November 4, 1918. Thy will be done. Inserted by his parents, brothers and sisters.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 4 November, 1921)

ROLL OF HONOUR

EASTON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Cpl. George Campbell Easton, 5th Machine Gun Co., died in Northampton War Hospital, November 4, 1918.

His name liveth evermore.

Inserted by his loving mother, father, sisters, and brothers.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 4 November, 1922)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

EASTON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Cpl. George Campbell Easton, 5th Machine Gun Co., died in Northampton War Hospital, November 4, 1918.

His name liveth evermore.

Inserted by his loving mother, father, sisters, and brothers.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 4 November, 1922)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

EASTON – In loving memory of our dear son, Corporal George Campbell Easton, 5th machine Gun Company, 2nd Battalion, wounded, died in Northampton War Hospital. Inserted by his loving mother and father, brothers and sisters.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 5 November, 1923)

ROLL OF HONOUR

EASTON – In loving memory of our dear son, Corporal George Campbell Easton, 5th machine Gun Company, 2nd Battalion, wounded, died in Northampton War Hospital. Inserted by his loving mother and father, brothers and sisters.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 5 November, 1923)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

EASTON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Corporal George Campbell Easton, wounded in France, died in War Hospital, Duston, Northampton, England, November 4, 1918. Inserted by father, mother, sisters and brothers.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 4 November, 1924)

George C. Easton is remembered on his parents' headstone in Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney, NSW – Presbyterian 05C Zone A, Grave 5072. John Alexander Easton, aged 65, was buried on 21st November, 1925 & his wife Elizabeth A. Easton, aged 78, was buried on 14th November, 1939.



Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney (Photo by Rebecca McIntosh – Find a Grave)



(Headstone photos courtesy of Gary & Irmgard Heap – 2020)



Corpl GEORGE C. EASTON A.I.F.

Died on Active Service Abroad 4TH Nov 1918

Aged 22 Years

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)

Corporal G. C. Easton does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

His Duty Nobly Done

His Name Liveth For Evermore



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H1 3102

Original Cross on Grave of Corporal G. C. Easton *(From A.W.M. – Donor Mrs E. Easton)*

Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England

Northampton (Towcester Road) Cemetery contains 116 First World War burials and 17 from the Second World War, most of which form a combined war graves plot to the left of the chapel. The cemetery also contains five non-war service burials and three Czech war graves.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Cross Of Sacrifice at Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton



Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton (Photos from CWGC)

Photo of Corporal G. C. Easton's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England.



(Photo from Great War Forum - Biffo)



Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton *(Photo from CWGC)*