

**Cliveden War Cemetery,  
Cliveden, Buckinghamshire  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**5369 PRIVATE**

**H. ELEMENT**

**45TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**27TH NOVEMBER, 1916    Age 28**

*Born at Newtown, Sydney, N.S.W.*

## Harry ELEMENT

Harry Element was born in 1888 in the registration district of Waterloo, Sydney, NSW to parents George and Louisa Ambrosene Element (nee Lyttle).

Harry Element attended school at Alexandria, Sydney, NSW.

George Element, father of Harry Element, died in 1906. His death was registered in the district of Redfern, Sydney, NSW.

Louisa Ambrosene Element, mother of Harry Element, died in 1908. Her death was registered in the district of Waterloo, Sydney, NSW.

Harry Element married Annie Montague in 1911 in the registration district of Glebe, Sydney, NSW.

Births were registered for the following children born to Harry & Annie Element- Henry Edward Element (born 26th July, 1912, baptised 6th September, 1912 at St. Paul's Church, Cleveland Street, Sydney - place of residence listed as Rocky Point Road, Arncliffe, NSW, died 1912), Charles Henry Element (born 1st September, 1913, baptised 3rd October, 1913 at St. Paul's Church, Cleveland Street, Sydney – place of residence listed as Rocky Point Road, Arncliffe, NSW) & Leslie Gordon Element (born 15th December, 1915, baptised 2nd February, 1916 at St. Paul's Church, Cleveland Street, Sydney – place of residence listed as 160 King Street, Newtown, NSW).

Harry Element was a 28 year old, married, Painter from 160 King Street, Newtown, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Town Hall Recruiting Depot, Sydney, NSW on 5th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5369 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs A. Element, of 26 Watkin Street, Newtown, Sydney, NSW.

Harry Element was posted to "C" Company, 13th Battalion on 7th January, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 17th Reinforcements of 13th Battalion on 29th March, 1916.

Private Harry Element embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Nestor* (A71) on 9th April, 1916 with the 13th Infantry Battalion, 17th Reinforcements.

Private Harry Element was reallocated from 13th Battalion to 12th Training Battalion as Reinforcements for 45th Battalion on 20th May, 1916.

Private Harry Element was admitted to 3rd Australian General Hospital at Abbassia on 3rd June, 1916. He was transferred to Convalescent Depot at Montagah on 15th June, 1916 with Otitis media. Private Element was discharged to Tel-el-Kebir on 5th July, 1916.

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 Harry Element was marched in to 12th Training Battalion, No. 11 Camp, Rollestone, Wiltshire, England on 20th August, 1916.

Private Harry Element embarked for overseas to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from 12th Training Battalion, No. 11 Camp, Rollestone, Wiltshire, England on 10th September, 1916. He was taken on strength of 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) in France on 11th September, 1916.

Private Harry Element joined 45th Battalion in the Field on 22nd September, 1916.

Private Harry Element was wounded in action. He was admitted to 38th Casualty Clearing Station on 21st November, 1916 with GSW (Gunshot wound/s) to left thigh. He was transferred to 29 Ambulance Train & admitted to 1st Australian General Hospital at Rouen, France on 22nd November, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to left thigh. Private Element's condition was listed as dangerous. He was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *St. George* on 25th November, 1916.

## 45th Battalion

The 45th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 2 March 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its new recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 13th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 13th, the new battalion was composed mostly of men from New South Wales.

As part of the 12th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division, the 45th Battalion arrived in France on 8 June 1916, destined for the Western Front. It fought in its first major battle at Pozieres in August, defending ground previously captured by the 2nd Australian Division. After Pozieres the battalion spent the period until March 1917 alternating between duty in the trenches and training and rest behind the lines, first around Ypres in Belgium, and then in the Somme Valley in France.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

### War Diary - 45th Battalion

*19th November, 1916 – Remainder of the Bn relieved the 46th Bn in the front line. Bn H.Q. N 26 c 81. Two support companies in the vicinity of N 26 c. Dug out and shelter accommodation for men being insufficient, and trenches in very bad order. Lt.Col S.C.E. Herring resumed command of the Battalion.*

*Casualties – Killed – Nil                      Wounded – 3 Other ranks*

*20th November, 1916 – Still holding line. 3 support companies relieved the 2 companies in the front line. Drainage and improvement of front and support lines carried on.*

*Casualties – Killed – 1 Officer (Lt S.V. Dolton) 2 Other ranks*

*Wounded – 1 Officer (Capt. S. J. Abel) 6 Other ranks.*

*21st November, 1916 – Still holding the line. Enemy artillery very active, specially shelling GUEUDECOURT.*

*1 Wounded prisoner was taken and 3 others killed by our snipers.*

*Casualties – Killed – 1 Other rank*

*Wounded – 5 Other ranks.*

*(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Harry Element was admitted to The Duchess of Connaught Canadian Red Cross Hospital, Taplow, Buckinghamshire, England on 26th November, 1916. The Hospital Admission form lists "*Perf Bullet wd L. thigh Gas B. Infection.*". The comments section included "*Virulent Gas infection.*"

Private Harry Element died at 10.20 am on 27th November, 1916 at The Duchess of Connaught Canadian Red Cross Hospital, Taplow, Buckinghamshire, England from wounds received in action in France – perforating bullet wound to left thigh. A Telegram to A.I.F. Westminster, England from the Duchess of Connaughts Canadian Red Cross Hospital regarding the cause of death of Private H. Element – "*...deceased, died at 10.20 am this date from Perforating bullet wound left thigh, lacerated wound perineum, ruptured urethra and gas infection.*"

A death for Harry Element, aged 28, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Eton, Buckinghamshire, England.

*[Note – There are some discrepancies on different forms as to whether the left or right thigh was wounded. The Hospital Admissions form records injury to left thigh. The Casualty Form – Active Service – records GSW to left thigh & entries further down list "died of wounds left thigh". The Statement of Service form records he embarked for England on Hospital Ship with shrapnel to left thigh. The next entry records he was admitted to Duke of Connaught Red X Hospital with shell wounds to right thigh severe. A telegram from Duchess of Connaughts Canadian Red Cross Hospital records that Private Element had been admitted to the Hospital suffering from shell wound to right thigh & was seriously ill.]*

A telegram was sent to Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. from Duchess of Connaughts Canadian Red Cross Hospital advising that the burial of Private H. Element would be held on 29th December, 1916 leaving the Hospital at 2.15 pm. Private Harry Element was buried on 29th December, 1916 in Cliveden War Cemetery, Buckinghamshire, England – Memorial reference 35. The graves in Cliveden War Cemetery are marked by plain stones set into the ground rather than the regular upright headstones. His name is engraved on the bronze wall plaque located behind the font. The burials in Cliveden War Cemetery are still recognised by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

A War Pension was granted to Annie Element, widow of the late Private Harry Element in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 1st February, 1917. War Pensions were also granted to Private Element's two children – Charles Element - £1 per fortnight & Leslie Gordon Element- 15/- per fortnight – both from 1st February, 1917.

Private Harry Element was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Element's widow – Mrs A. Element, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1922 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Harry Element – service number 5369, aged 28, of 45th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of George and Louisa A. Element; husband of Annie Element, of 3 Sargent Larkin Crescent, Daceyville, New South Wales.

Private H. Element is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 139.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

(59 pages of Pte Harry Element'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*





**Private Harry Element**



### **Newspaper Notices**

#### **DIED OF WOUNDS**

#### **PRIVATE HARRY ELEMENT**

Private Harry Element, husband of Mrs Element, 26 Watkin-street, Newtown, has died of wounds. He was 28 years of age, a painter by occupation, and has left a widow and two children.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 9 December, 1916)*

---



## ROLL OF HONOUR

ELEMENT – Died of wounds in France, November 27, 1916, Private Harry Element, aged 28. Inserted by his loving wife and children, Charlie and Leslie, 26 Watkin-street, Newtown

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 9 December, 1916)

## NEW SOUTH WALES

### 249th List

Died of Wounds

Pte H. Element, Newtown.

(*The Land*, Sydney, NSW – 15 December, 1916)

## AUSTRALIAN HEROES KILLED IN FRANCE





**PTE. H. ELEMENT,  
Newtown.**

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 9 December, 1916)*

---

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

ELEMENT – In loving memory of my dear husband, Harry Element, who died of wounds, November 27, 1916. Inserted by his wife and children, Charlie and Leslie.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 27 November, 1917)*

---

#### **Cliveden War Cemetery, Buckinghamshire, England**

Cliveden War Cemetery is in the grounds of Cliveden House, a National Trust property, near the river Thames. From December 1914 to September 1917, the hospital at nearby Taplow was the Duchess of Connaught Canadian Red Cross Hospital, and then until September 1919, No. 15 Canadian General Hospital. Most of the 40 First World War burials, the majority of them Canadian, are associated with the hospital. The cemetery also contains two Second World War graves and two American War Graves from the First World War.

There are 3 Australian WW1 War Graves.

During the war the family of the Cliveden Estate gave permission for the garden to be adapted to serve as the final resting place for servicemen who died in the hospital. The mosaic paving was replaced with turf and the graves were marked with plain stones recumbent on the graves rather than the upright headstones that are familiar in other Commonwealth War Graves commission cemeteries. The names of those buried are inscribed on the bronze wall plaque behind the font.

*(Information from CWGC)*





**Cliveden War Cemetery** (Photo by Rwendland)



**Cliveden War Cemetery** (Photo from War Memorials Online – National Trust)





Key Plan of Cliveden War Cemetery Plaque







No 28 JOHN GRAHAM  
CORPORAL 270927  
8th Canadian (Motor) Battalion  
Born at Port Hope, Ontario  
Died May 11th 1918.  
Aged 27 years.

No 29 F. A. GLENCROSS  
SERGEANT 26075  
8th Canadian Battalion  
Born at Richmond, New Brunswick  
Died November 27th 1918.  
Aged 25 years.

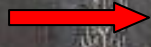
No 30 A. KNEEN  
PRIVATE 25064  
Canadian Forestry Corps  
Born at ...  
Died ...  
Aged ...

No 31 C. R. RUSSELL  
PRIVATE 22297  
8th Canadian Battalion  
Born at Riley, Michigan, U.S.A.  
Died November 11th 1918.  
Aged 25 years.

No 32 J. I. RILEY  
CORPORAL 2215  
6th Machine Gun Corps.  
Australian Commonwealth Military Force  
Egypt, Belgium, France.  
Awarded ... from his Comrades in France.

No 33 RAYMOND EARL BRAY  
2nd FLIGHT LIEUTENANT.  
VICTORIA, B.C.  
Born in U.S.A. 1895.  
Died August 12th 1917.  
Aged 20 years.

No 34 OMER GERMAIN  
PRIVATE 44105  
22nd Can. Canadian Expeditionary Force.  
Born at St-Jude, Quebec.  
Died May 20th 1916.  
Aged 25 years.



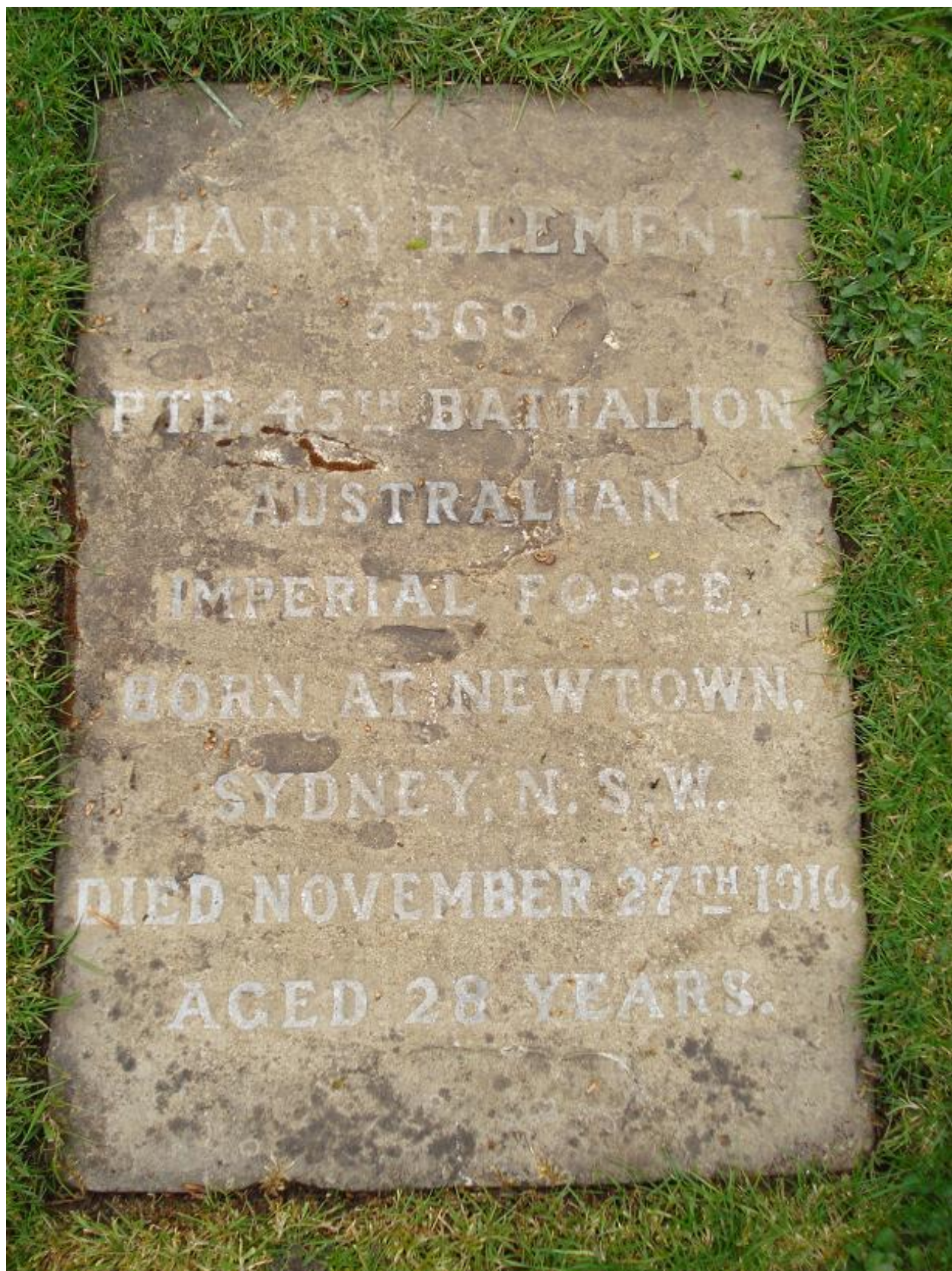
No 35 HARRY ELEMENT  
PRIVATE 3399  
45th Bn. Australian Imperial Force.  
Born at Newtown, Sydney, N.S.W.  
Died November 27th 1918.  
Aged 28 years.

No 36 JOHN CHOCE  
PRIVATE 142424  
Canadian Army Medical Corps.  
Born at Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.  
Died June 20, 1918.  
Aged 21 years.

No 37 FRANK OTTO LAU  
PRIVATE 910753  
Canadian Mounted Rifles.  
Born at Justice, Manitoba.  
Died December 15th 1918.



Photo of Private Harry Element's Memorial Stone in Cliveden War Cemetery, Buckinghamshire, England.



*(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)*





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P02774.001

*Taplow, England. c. 1919. The War Memorial garden at Cliveden Estate was originally designed as an Italian Garden however during the First World War the estate was loaned to the Canadian Army and a military hospital established in the grounds and the garden was adapted for use as a cemetery for those soldiers who died. Three Australian soldiers are buried there among the forty-two graves which include Canadian and American soldiers. The ground is covered in grass with numbered bronze square plates set flat in the ground and a small primrose planted at each grave. The three Australian soldiers are 4658 Gunner Edward Hugh Carley, 21st Brigade Australian Field Artillery who died of wounds on 29 June 1917; 5369 Private Harry Element, 45th Battalion, AIF who died of wounds on 27th November 1916; and 2216 Corporal Joseph James Riley, Australian Machine Gun Corps who died of sickness on 12 July 1918. (Donor B. Benns)*