

**Southern Cemetery,
Manchester, Lancashire**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3038 PRIVATE

A. E. FERGUSON

58TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

2ND AUGUST, 1916 Age 24

*He Gave His Life
For The Empire*

Alexander Edgar FERGUSON

Alexander Edgar Ferguson was born in 1891 at Natimuk, Victoria to parents George Clark Ferguson and Lucy Ferguson (nee Cook).

Alexander Edgar Ferguson attended Toosan East School, Victoria.

The 1914 & 1915 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Wannon, subdivision of Noradjuha, Victoria listed Alexander Edgar Ferguson, Farmer, of Toosan East.

Alexander Edgar Ferguson was a 24 year old, single Navy from Natimuk, Victoria when he enlisted at Melbourne on 16th July, 1915 with the 8th Infantry Battalion, 10th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3038 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr G. C. Ferguson of Toosan East Via Noradjuha, Victoria.

Private Alexander Edgar Ferguson embarked from Adelaide on RMS *Osterley* on 29th September, 1915.

Private Alexander Edgar Ferguson was admitted to No. 4 Auxiliary Military Hospital at Abbassia, Egypt on 4th January, 1916 with Mumps.

Private Alexander Edgar Ferguson was allotted & proceeded to join 59th Battalion from Zeitoun on 26th February, 1916. He was taken on strength with 59th Battalion on 26th February, 1916 at Tel-el-Kebir.

Private Alexander Edgar Ferguson was transferred to 58th Battalion & taken on strength on 15th March, 1916 at Tel-el-Kebir.

Private Alexander Edgar Ferguson proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on H.M.T.S *Transylvania* on 17th June, 1916. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 23rd June, 1916.

Private Alexander Edgar Ferguson was wounded in action in France on 19th July, 1916. He was taken to No. 1 Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 21st July, 1916 with gunshot wounds to legs and arms. He was transferred to Ambulance Train & admitted to 3rd Canadian Stationary Hospital at Boulogne, France on 22nd July, 1916. Pte Ferguson was invalided to England on 23rd July, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Jan Breydel*.

1mill M 533, 6/16. ARMY FORM W 3083.

Stationary Hospital
No. C E F General Stationary Hospital at Boulogne

Regtl. No. 3038. Date 23-7-16

Name FERGUSON, A. E. PTE.

Regt. or Corps. 58 Bn. A.I.F.

Name of Ship Jan Breydel (Adavey)

Hospital Tag

Private Alexander Edgar Ferguson was admitted to 2nd Western General Hospital, Manchester on 24th July, 1916 with gunshot wounds to left leg, left arm & both hands - severe. The Hospital report reads: "Pte Alexander Herbert (Or Edgar?) Ferguson, 3038, 58th Bat. Australian I. F. 25 years was admitted here on July 24, 1916 suffering from

injuries received on July 19, 1916. Gunshot wounds of left leg, left arm & right & left Hands, Compound fracture of left Tibia which was very septic. On July 25th the left leg was amputated through the lower 1/3 of thigh. July 30th – Thrombosis of the deep veins of the right leg commenced & on August 1st gangrene commenced in the right foot”.

Private Alexander Edgar Ferguson died at 8 am on 2nd August, 1916 at 2nd Western General Hospital, Heald Place, Rusholme, Manchester, Lancashire, England from wounds received in action in France & Septicaemia.

A death for Alexander H. Ferguson, aged 25, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Chorlton, Lancashire, England.

Private Alexander Edgar Ferguson was buried in Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England – Plot number 350.

A letter was sent to Mr G. C. Ferguson of Tooan East, via Noradjuha, Victoria, dated 29th May which reads:

“With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your son, the late No. 3038, Private A. E. Ferguson, 58th Battalion, I am now in receipt of advice from Australian Imperial Force Headquarters, London, dated 21st February, 1919, as follows:-

- *“In the Southern Cemetery at Manchester there were buried in common graves nine deceased members of the Australian Imperial Force. The remains of these have now been exhumed from the common graves and in each case have been re-interred in separate single graves in virgin soil in a site specially set aside as an Australian plot. The work was successfully carried out last week under the supervision of a senior Non-commissioned Officer from these Headquarters, and the new graves have since been marked by the provision of the standard oak cross enamelled white with black lettering. Photographs of the new graves will be taken at an early date and sent to you for transmission to the next-of-kin.”*

Your son is now buried in Grave No. 211, Section Q.”

Pte Alexander Edgar Ferguson was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Ferguson’s father – Mr G. C. Ferguson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Alexander Edgar Ferguson – service number 3038, aged 24, of 58th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of George Clark Ferguson and Lucy Ferguson, of Tooan East, Noradjuha, Victoria, Australia. Born at Natimuk, Victoria.

Private A. E. Ferguson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 165.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. E. Ferguson is named on the Horsham & District War Memorial located in Sawyer Park, Memorial Drive, Horsham, Victoria.



Horsham & District War Memorial

(Photos from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)

DRUMMOND G.A. (MSM)	FAHEY E.L.	† FORD F.
DUFF A.	FALLON H.	† FORREST D.W.
DUFF S.	FALLON R.	FORREST L.
DUFFY A.	FARMER J.	† FORREST R.
† DUMESNEY A.	FARMERS F.	FORREST W.R.
DUMESNY S.	FARRELLY J.H.	FORSYTH S.C.
DUNBAR A.	FAUX E.	FORSYTH A.M.
† DUNBAR C.T.	FAUX G.	FORT P.-J.
DUNBAR M.	FAY A.E.	FORT P.T.
DUNBAR T.W.	† FEATHERBY A.C.	FORTINGTON H.
DUNN A.	FEDER F. (MM)	FOSKEY G.E.
DUNN A.V.	† FEENEY D.V.	FOSTER A.J.
DUNN P.J.G.	FENNER P.W.	FOSTER J.A.
DUNN V.C.	FENTON H.C.	FOSTER W.
† DUSCHKE W.	† FERGUSON A.E.	FOUND A.E.
DWYER D.L.	† FERGUSON W.J.	† FOUND L.D.
DWYER G.	FERRY C.L.	† FOUND N.
EAGLE E.S.	FEUTRILL J.S.	FOUND T.
EAGLE H.B. (MSM)	FIELD C.V.	† FOWLER R.I.
EAGLES C.A.	FIELD L.G.	FOX H.B.
EAGLES C.W.	FIELD N.	FOX R.H.
EAGLES G.	FILMER A.G.	† FRAMPTON G.
EDE H.	† FILMER W.S.	† FRANCE A.G.
EDMONDS A.E.	† FINCHAM C.W.V.	FRANCIS E.N.
EDMONDS J.R.	FINCK H.T.	FRANKLIN A.V.
EDMONDSON A.	† FISCHER A.W.	FRANKLIN W.J.
EDWARDS T.J.	FISCHER G.F.	FRASER C.S.
EGAN L.H.	FISCHER G.H.	† FRASER J.F.
ELDRIDGE A.R.	FISHER K.	† FRASER J.L.
ELDRIDGE D.A.	FISHER R.J.	FRASER M.J.
ELDRIDGE G.W. (MM)	† FISHER W.G.	† FRASER P.
ELLIOTT J.W.	FISHER W.W.M.	FRASER P.J.
ELLIOTT W.G.	FITZGERALD W.	† FRASER R.J.
ELLIS E.W.	FITZPATRICK M.G.	FREEMAN E.
ELLIS M.	FLACK A.W.	FREEMAN F.L.G.
ELLIS N.	FLACK E.	FREESTONE A.
† ELLIS R.G.	FLACK H.	FREESTONE W.C.
ENGLAND W.C.	† FLACK P.	FREW B. (MM)
ENGLISH N.A.	FLAVEL H.H.S.B.	FULLER W.
† ETHERTON L.R.	FLEMING W.E.	† FULTON A.R.
EVANS G.	† FOGARTY E.	FULTON H.
EVANS R.A.	FOOT H.S.	FUTERIAL H.
EXELL H.	FORAN D.T.	GALE C.H.
EXELL W.	FORBES G.M.	† GALLICHAH V.

(49 pages of Pte Alexander Edgar Ferguson'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

DA10816

Private Alexander Edgar Ferguson

Newspaper Notices

ABOUT PEOPLE

Mr G. Ferguson, Tooan East, received a cable this week containing the sad news that his son Private A. E. Ferguson, had been killed in action in France.

(The Horsham Times, Victoria – 11 August, 1916)

AUSTRALIANS IN WAR

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte A. E. GERGUSON, Dooen, East

(Hamilton Spectator, Victoria – 29 August, 1916)

In Memoriam

FERGUSON – In loving memory of Private A. E. Ferguson, who died of wounds received in the Battle of Pozieres, August 2nd, 1916.

He sleeps not in his native land,

 But under foreign skies;

Far from those who loved him,

 In a hero's grave he lies.

He never shunned his country's call

 But gladly gave his life, his all;

He died the helpless to defend:

 An Australian soldier's noble end.

-Inserted by his sister and Brother-in-law, Lucy A. and H. W. Jones, Toolondo.

(The Horsham Times, Victoria – 3 August, 1917)

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)

Pte A. E. Ferguson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

He Gave His Life For The Empire

Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England

During the First World War, Manchester contained between thirty and forty war hospitals, including the 2nd Western General Hospital and the Nell Lane Military Hospital for prisoners of war. Many of those buried in the cemeteries and churchyards of the city died in these hospitals. During the Second World War, there was a Royal Air Force Station at Heaton Park, Manchester.

Manchester Southern Cemetery contains burials of both wars, the majority of them scattered. There are also separate plots for First and Second World War burials, but in neither case are the graves marked individually; instead, each plot has a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried there. Each plot has a Cross of Sacrifice. In all, 803 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War, including 1 unidentified, and 475 from the Second World War, including 3 unidentified, are now commemorated in the cemetery; there is also 1 non-war service grave.

The Screen Wall in the Second World War plot also bears the names of 177 servicemen and women whose remains were cremated. Further memorials in this plot commemorate 17 Polish servicemen buried there, and a number of casualties of both wars buried in other cemeteries and churchyards in the Manchester area whose graves could no longer be maintained.

Casualties buried in the following cemeteries and churchyards are now alternatively commemorated on Screen Wall Memorials in Manchester Southern Cemetery:

Ashton-under-Lyne (St Michael) Churchyard Extension
Birch-in-Rusholme (St James) Churchyard
Bury (Brunswick) United Methodist Cemetery
Cheetham Hill (St Luke) Churchyard
Eccles (St Mary) Churchyard
Eccleston (St Thomas) Churchyard Extension
Edgeworth Congregational Chapelyard
Hey (or Lees) (St. John the Baptist) Churchyard Extension
Manchester General Cemetery
Newton Heath (All Saints) Church Cemetery
Openshaw (St Barnabas) Churchyard
Swinton Unitarian Chapelyard.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Photo of Pte A. E. Ferguson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England.

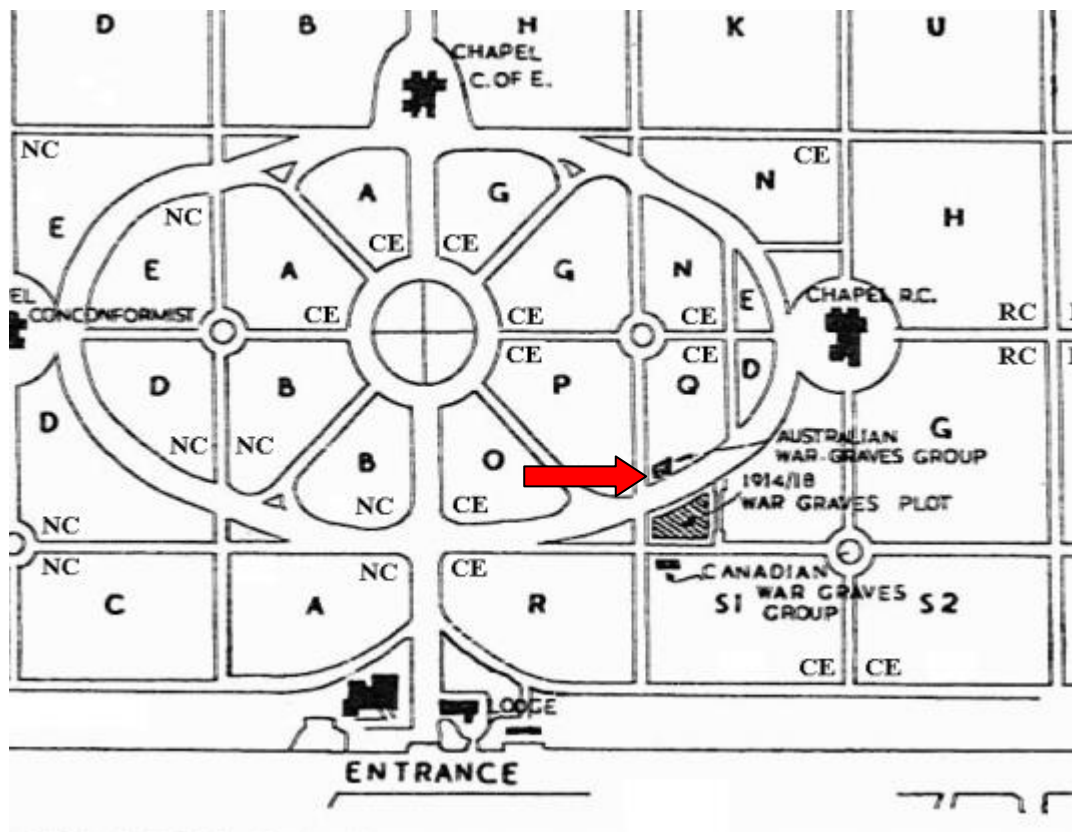


(Photo courtesy of Mike Berrell)



Southern Cemetery, Manchester – showing the 14 Australian War Graves from WW1

Southern Cemetery, Manchester (Australian War Graves Group marked with arrow)



CE : Church of England Sections.
 RC : Roman Catholic Sections.
 NC : Nonconformist Sections.

