

**Southern Cemetery,
Manchester, Lancashire**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



25632 GUNNER

H. G. FLAXMAN

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

25TH NOVEMBER, 1918

Herbert George (Bert) FLAXMAN

Herbert George Flaxman was born in 1888 in the district of Marrickville, NSW to parents William & Mary Ann Flaxman (nee Walker).

Herbert George Flaxman was a 27 year old, single, Plasterer – care of Mrs Wavern, Croydon Street, Petersham, NSW when he enlisted on 15th January, 1916 with the 4th Divisional Ammunition Column, 4th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 25632 & his religion was Baptist. His next of kin was listed as his brother – A. J. Flaxman of Richmond Street, Croydon, Sydney, NSW. (Mr W. Flaxman, father, of Southall Cottage, Pile Street, Marrickville, NSW was originally noted as next-of-kin). Herbert Flaxman stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 2 ½ years with Australian Rifle Regiment. He had also been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service due to dental issues.

Gunner Herbert Flaxman was posted to Field Artillery Camp from 15th January, 1916. He was transferred to 4th Divisional Ammunition Column, 3rd Reinforcements from 1st April, 1916. Gunner Flaxman was transferred on 17th May, 1916 to 22. H. 4. Gunner Herbert Flaxman was transferred to 4th Divisional Ammunition Column, 4th Reinforcements on 6th June, 1916.

Gunner Herbert George Flaxman embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Orsova* (A67) on 29th July, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 14th September, 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.

Gunner Herbert George Flaxman was taken on strength from Parkhouse to A.A.T.D. (Australian Army Training Depot) at Bulford, Wiltshire on 30th October, 1916.

Gunner Herbert George Flaxman was appointed Saddler to complete establishment on 27th December, 1916 while attached to 4th D.A.C. (Divisional Artillery Column).

Saddler Herbert Flaxman proceeded overseas to France from R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Larkhill, Wiltshire via Folkestone on 8th January, 1917 on *Princess Henrietta*.

Saddler Herbert Flaxman was marched in from England to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 9th January, 1917.

Saddler Herbert Flaxman was transferred to 4th Divisional Artillery at Etaples on 11th February, 1917 & taken on strength with 4 D.A.C. in the field on 14th February, 1917.

Saddler Herbert Flaxman was transferred to 11th F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) on 28th April, 1917 & taken on strength & posted to 41st Battery. Saddler Flaxman was remustered Gunner by C.O. 11th F.A.B. on 28th April, 1917.

Gunner Herbert Flaxman was detached to attend Cookery School at Hazelbrook on 27th September, 1917 & returned from Cookery School on 12th October, 1917.

Gunner Herbert Flaxman was transferred from 41st Battery to B.H.Q. on 17th December, 1917 & was on leave to UK on 19th December, 1917. Gunner Flaxman rejoined his unit from leave on 5th January, 1918.

Gunner Herbert Flaxman was on leave to UK from 6th November, 1918.

Gunner Herbert George Flaxman was admitted to 2nd Western General Hospital, Manchester with Influenza on 10th November, 1918, whilst on leave.

Gunner Herbert George Flaxman died at 9 pm on 25th November, 1918 at Clyne House Military Hospital, Stretford, Manchester, Lancashire, England from Pneumonia.

A death for Herbert G. Flaxman, aged 30, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Barton upon Irwell, Lancashire, England.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Gunner Herbert George Flaxman contains a memo stating that Gunner Flaxman was admitted to 2nd Western General Military Hospital, Manchester on 10th November, 1918 suffering from Influenza & Pneumonia. He was transferred to Clyne House Military Hospital & died on 25th November, 1918. The file also contains a letter from Marion Robertson, Sister in Charge, 2nd Western General Hospital, Clyne House, Stretford, Manchester which reads: *“Re Gnr. H. G. Flaxman who died in this Hospital in November. He was ill for about a fortnight with Influenza & Pneumonia. He was very seriously ill from the commencement of the attack and we sent for his Fiancé to come and be with him. She was with him continually for about 10 days, but not present at his death, which occurred at 9 o'clock in the evening, He is buried at the Southern Cemetery Wittington – Manchester – in the Australian Section, I think. Several of the Sisters attended at the funeral. I was away myself when Gnr. Flaxman died, but I can assure you that everything that could possibly be done for him was done and that he had every care and attention. We feel that more than all others, the overseas boys with none of their own relatives near them, want all the care and love that we can possibly give them.*

Gunner Herbert George Flaxman was buried on 29th November, 1918 in Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England – Plot number Q. CE. 216 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Gunner Flaxman - *Coffin was good, Polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by several wreaths sent by friends. The “Last Post” was sounded at the graveside, and the burial service conducted by the Rev. Capt. Skedmore from Seymour Hospital, Manchester. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral. Names of relatives & friends present at the funeral – Mrs Hartley, Miss Moore, Miss Sayneard, Miss M. Moore.*

Mr Albert. J. Flaxman of Richmond Street, Croydon, Sydney, NSW & later of Excelsior Fruit Mart, Joseph Street Lidcombe, Sydney, NSW was listed as the next-of-kin (brother) of Gunner Herbert George Flaxman. Through communications between Mr A. J. Flaxman & Base Records in May, 1919, notification was received that Gunner Flaxman's parents were both deceased – his father had died on 6th February, 1918 & his mother had died on 16th April, 1896. Mr Albert J. Flaxman advised that the next surviving member of the family was another brother who was older than himself – Arthur Edward Flaxman of “Mahala”, Albert St, Leichhardt, Sydney, NSW.

Gunner Herbert George Flaxman was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Flaxman's eldest brother – Mr Arthur Edward Flaxman, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent May, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner H. G. Flaxman – service number 25632, of 11th Bde., Australian Field Artillery. No family details are listed.

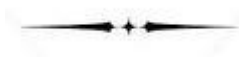
Gunner H. G. Flaxman is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 16.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(56 pages of Gunner Herbert George Flaxman'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



Newspaper Notices

AMONG THE LAST

CASUALTIES AND PRISONERS

No. 451

DIED OTHER CAUSES

Gnr. H. G. FLAXMAN, Croydon (illness).

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 14 December, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

FLAXMAN – Gnr. H. G. Flaxman (Bert), died of pneumonia, at Clyne Military Hospital, November 25, 1918, aged 29 years.

When the joy bells were ringing,

And victory was won,

There came a dreadful message –

I had lost my darling son.

Inserted by his sorrowing mother, brothers and sisters.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 21 December, 1918)

Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney, NSW

Herbert George Flaxman is included on his mother's headstone located in Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney, NSW – Old Church of England, Zone B, Section: RRR, Row: 7 Plot 328 with an inscription which reads:

"Gnr. Bert. Our bro. Killed on Active Service."

(NOTE: the headstone was searched for by Gary & Irmgard Heap in 2020 with assistance from a lady in the Trust Office but no headstone was found. Arrow shows location of the Grave)



An older section of Rookwood Cemetery



(Photo courtesy of Gary & Irmgard Heap – 2020)

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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 11th July, 1921, to Mr A. E. Flaxman, of "Mahala", Albert St, Leichhardt, NSW advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his brother, the late Gunner H. G. Flaxman, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Gunner H. G. Flaxman does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

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)

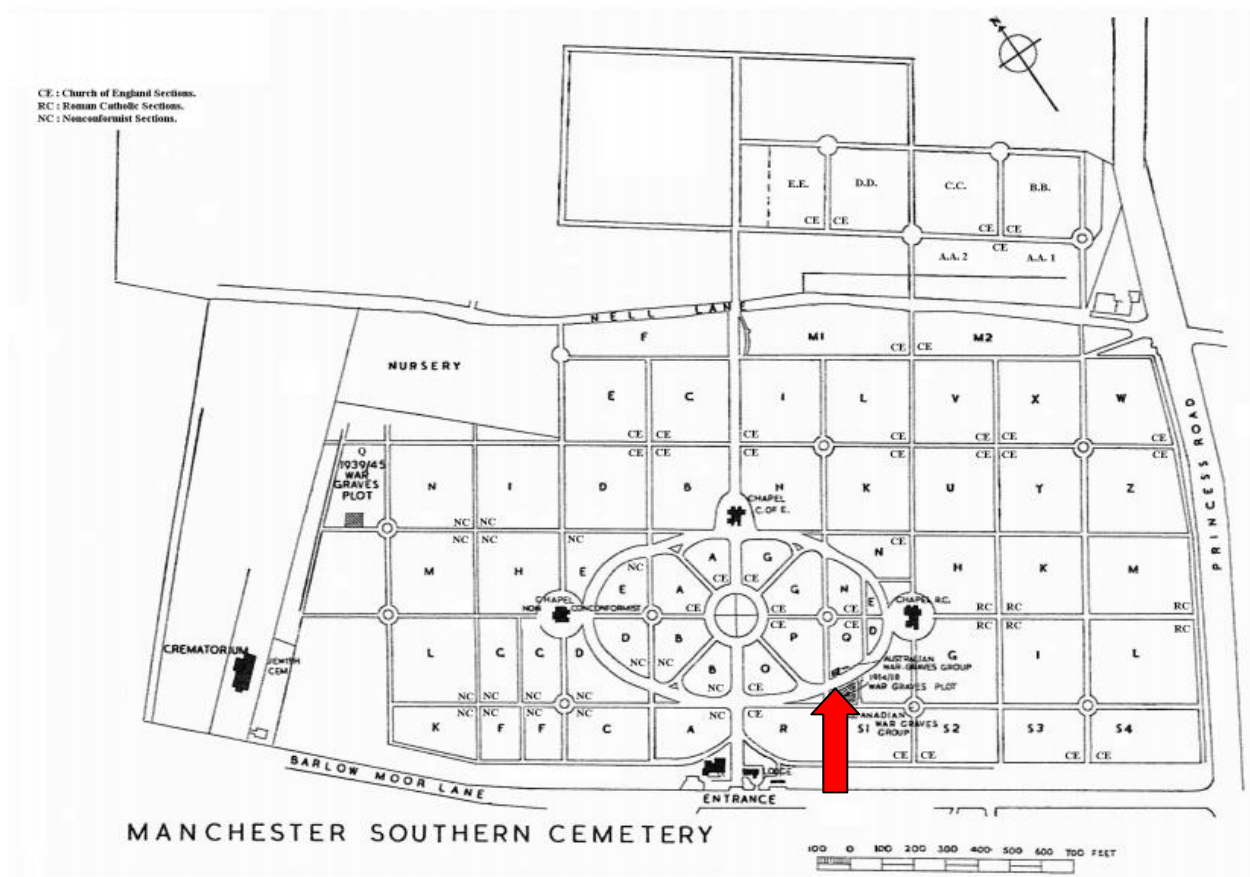


Southern Cemetery, Manchester – showing the 14 Australian War Graves from WW1

Photo of Gunner H. G. Flaxman's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Mike Berrell)



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

