

Wandsworth Cemetery, London, England War Graves

(also known as Earlsfield Cemetery, Magdalen Road Cemetery, Wandsworth Earlsfield Cemetery)



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2134 PRIVATE

D. FRASER

3RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

1ST AUGUST, 1916 Age 35

Death Took Our Loved One

From Our Home

But Never From Our Hearts

Daniel FRASER

Daniel Fraser was born at Glasgow, Scotland in 1881 to parents Daniel and Elizabeth Fraser.

According to information provided by his brother for the Roll of Honour Daniel Fraser (jr) came to Australia when he was 5 years old.

Daniel Fraser attended schools at Kembla & Helensburgh, New South Wales.

The 1913 Australian Elector Roll for the division of Wollongong, subdivision of Balgownie, New South Wales recorded Daniel Fraser, Miner of Balgownie. His mother Elizabeth, domestic duties & brother Hugh, Miner, were also listed at Balgownie.

Daniel Fraser was a 34 year old, single, Miner from Balmoral Street, Balgowrie **, South Coast, NSW when he enlisted on 26th April, 1915 at Liverpool, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2134 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Elizabeth Fraser, Balmoral Street, Balgowrie**, South Coast, NSW. (**as listed on Embarkation Roll - should be Balgownie)

Private Daniel Fraser embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Karoola* (A63) on 16th June, 1915 with the 3rd Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements.

Private Daniel Fraser was taken on strength of 3rd Battalion at Anzac on 4th August, 1915.

Private Daniel Fraser was wounded at Anzac on 21st August, 1915. He was admitted to 3rd Field Ambulance on 21st August, 1915 with bullet wound to Thigh. Private Fraser was transferred & admitted to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station at Anzac on 26th August, 1915. He was transferred to Hospital Ship *Ionian* & disembarked at Malta with G.S.W. (Gunshot wound/s) Slight on 29th August, 1915. Private Fraser was admitted to Royal Naval Hospital at Malta on 1st September, 1915. He embarked from Malta on *Karoa* on 26th September, 1915 as fit from All Saints Convalescent Camp.

3rd Battalion

The 3rd Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 2nd and 4th Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these battalions, formed the 1st Brigade....

In August, the battalion took part in the attack on Lone Pine. For his valorous action in defending Sasse's Sap at Lone Pine on 9 August, Private John Hamilton was awarded the Victoria Cross.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 3rd Battalion

ANZAC – 20th August, 1915:

The night was very quiet, the enemy showing no activity whatever. The 75 MM gun gave us the usual bombardment during the day without doing us serious damage. As soon as night fell the enemy's snipers & bomb throwers became active and continued so during the night.

Casualties 13 other ranks wounded.

ANZAC – 21st August, 1915:

After an active night things settled down to normal in the morning. We were relieved by the 5th BN at 0800 & moved into bivouac. Casualties Nil

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Mrs E. Fraser, Balmoral Street, Balgownie, NSW was advised by the Secretary of Defence on 11th September, 1915 that her "son *Private D. Fraser wounded August 21st not reported seriously no other particulars available will immediately advise anything further received.*" She was advised on 19th September, 1915 that her son, Private D Fraser, who was slightly wounded, had disembarked at Malta from Hospital Ship *Ionian*.

Private Daniel Fraser embarked from Alexandria on *Transylvania* on 3rd November, 1915 & rejoined his Unit at Anzac on 10th November, 1915. He reported sick on 18th November, 1915 & was admitted to 3rd Field Ambulance at Anzac on the same day with Syphilis. Private Fraser was transferred to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 18th November, 1915 then transferred to Hospital Ship *Delta* on 19th November, 1915. He was admitted to Abbassia Isolation Hospital at Cairo on 26th November, 1915. Private Fraser was discharged to duty on 10th February, 1916 from 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Abbassia. Total number of days with VD – 85.

Mrs E. Fraser, Balmoral Street, Balgownie, NSW was advised by Base Records on 23rd November, 1915 that No. 2134 Private D. Fraser was suffering from gun shot wound to right thigh & had landed at Malta from Hospital Ship *Ionian*. She was advised on 7th December, 1915 that No. 2134 Private D. Fraser had embarked at Malta from Egypt on H. T. *Karoa* on 26th September.

Private Daniel Fraser was posted to Overseas Base at Ghezireh on 10th February, 1916. He was marched out from Overseas Base on 20th February, 1916 & rejoined 3rd Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 20th February, 1916.

Private Daniel Fraser embarked for Overseas from Alexandria on 22nd March, 1916 on HMTS *Grampian*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 28th March, 1916.

Private Daniel Fraser was wounded in action in France between 22nd – 27th July, 1916 (as listed on Casualty Form – Active Service). He was admitted to 5th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 26th July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s). Private Fraser embarked for England on 29th July, 1916 on Hospital Ship *St. Andrew* with G.S.W Head.

3rd Battalion

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 3rd Battalion

La BOISSELLE – 22nd July, 1916:

Officers & N.C.O.'s carried out further reconnaissance of enemy front. Operation for this night cancelled and one on larger scale announced at conference of C.O.'s and preparatory orders issued....

22.00 – BN moved up to assembly trenches immediately in rear of 1st BN & occupied trenches prepared the previous night in rear of the Parados and along the POZIERES-CONTALMAISON ROAD.

1 O/Rank killed 3 O/Ranks wounds 1 O/Rank to Hospital.

POZIERES – 23rd July, 1916:

No hitch occurred & the action commenced punctually and each objective was assaulted and taken without any serious resistance from the enemy. The chief difficulty in consolidating the third objective was in getting touch with both flanks and being sure of the main road which was so much defaced by shells as to be almost unrecognisable. The consolidation was carried out successfully and along the line laid down. By daybreak the men were in trenches about four feet deep. That this work was so successfully accomplished is largely due to the energy and initiative displayed by Capt. J. R. O. HARRIS who commanded D. Co. and was the senior officer of my BN on the spot.....Demands for more men & guns were received and two Ptns with 2 Lewis guns were sent forward. These were required to fill the gap on the right flank. On the 3rd Australian BDE connecting up these men were no longer required & were withdrawn leaving two Cos and 6 Lewis Guns in the line.

The work of consolidation and establishing communication was pushed ahead. The enemy shelled intermittently – NO counter attack was launched on my front.

Patrols were pushed forward into POZIERES during the day and captured nine prisoners. These patrols were hindered in their work by our own artillery barrage which did not lift sufficiently to allow them to work freely.

Two large calibre enemy field guns were captured during this engagement on ground which was afterwards taken over by 3rd Aust. Bde. A claim for these to be returned as trophies to the Battalion after the war has been submitted.

Casualties 23rd to 27th inclusive shown under date 27.7.16.

POZIERES – 24th July, 1916:

Enemy shelled our front line heavily along ALBERT-BAPAUME ROAD and communication trenches from 0700 to 1300 & again from 1500 to 1900. Men employed repairing and improving trenches.

2100 A & B Cos relieved C & D Cos of 1st BN in advanced support line

2400 A & B Cos relieved our C & D Cos in front line, BN Hd Qrs moved up & BN was concentrated in two parallel trenches 150 yds apart & with a frontage of 300 yds SOUTHERST edge of POZIERES by 2400.

Casualties show under date 27.7.16

.....

ALBERT – 27th July, 1916:

MUSTER PARADE	State	Officers	O/Ranks
		13 including MO & PADRE	535

Marched to VADENCOURT FORREST via WARLOY & camped.

Casualties 23rd to 27th inclusive

91 O/Ranks to Killed

350 O/Ranks to Wounded

43 O/Ranks to MISSING

27th July 5 O/Ranks from Hospital

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

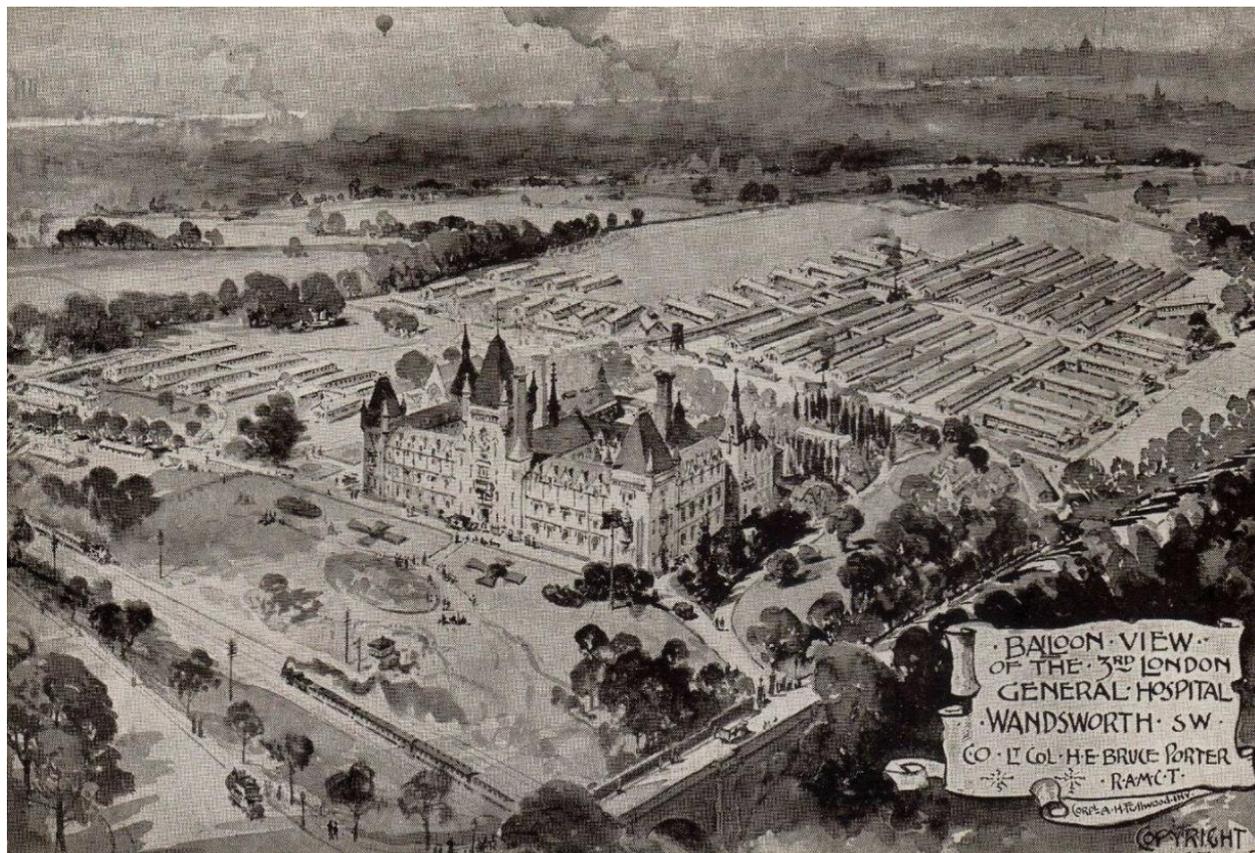
Private Daniel Fraser was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, London, England on 30th July, 1916 with G.S.W. Head & Left Arm.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A01040

3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth



Private Daniel Fraser died at 12.40 am on 1st August, 1916 at 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, London, England from Wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. Left Arm & Gas Gangrene (Poisoning). (The Casualty Form – Active Service & Morning State of Sick (Army Form A. 27) recorded he died from the effects of G.S.W. to Arm.)

A death for Daniel Fraser, aged 34, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Wandsworth, London, England.

Private Daniel Fraser was buried in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England – Plot number Block 19 Grave No. 29.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference - Aust. 25 and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Daniel Fraser requested in his Will dated 3rd August, 1915 that in the event of his death the whole of his property and effects to Elizabeth Fraser, Balmoral Street, Balgownie, NSW.

Mrs W. Fletcher, Balmoral Street, Balgownie, NSW wrote to Base Records 15th August, 1916: *"I the undersigned wish to make dull enquiries in to the death if my Brother Private Dan Fraser No 2134 3rd Battalion 6th Reinforcements, who died on August 1st in the Army 3rd General Hospital London. We were not notified about him being wounded & when the Cable came here the number on it was 2135. Would you kindly make full enquiries as soon as possible as his only brother is in Camp now & expected to sail for the front very shortly & we would both deem is a great favour of you would find out all details as soon as possible."*

Base Records replied to Mrs W. Fletcher on 22nd August, 1916 with the following: *"In reply to your letter dated 15th instant, concerning your brother, No. 2134 Private D. Fraser, 3rd Battalion, I beg to state the only report received at this office was to the effect that this soldier had died on 1/8/16 (gunshot wound arm) at the 3rd London, General Hospital. Detailed circumstances of his loss will not, it is anticipated, be known here until the receipt, at a later date, of the final official confirming document from the Front, when all such particulars which may then come to hand will be communicated to next-of-kin."*

Mrs W. Fletcher, Balmoral Street, Balgownie, NSW wrote to Base Records on 4th September, 1916: *"I am writing to ask you to Please send me a Death Certificate of Private Daniel Fraser No 2134 who Died of Wounds in London Hospital on August 1st 1916 as the Secretary of the Lodge he belonged to has asked for it hoping you will kindly oblige..."*

Base Records replied to Mrs W. Fletcher on 8th September, 1916 advising that the *"necessary official confirming documents covering report of death of your brother, No. 2134 Pte D. Fraser, 3rd Battalion have not yet been received by this Department. Your request, however, has been noted for compliance at the earliest possible date."*

Mrs W. Fletcher, Balmoral Street, Balgownie, NSW wrote to the Officer in Charge on 16th October, 1916: *"I wrote to you some time ago about a Certificate of the Death of my Brother Pte D. Fraser No 2134 who Died 1st of August we have had letters concerning his Death from the Hospital in London a fortnight ago and I am waiting to hand in the Certificate to the Lodge as we are waiting & leave the district . I hope you will attend to the matter as soon as possible and oblige..."*

Base Records replied to Mrs W. Fletcher on 26th October, 1916 enclosing a Certificate of report of Death if the late No. 2134 Private D. Fraser, 3rd Battalion.

A package containing the personal effects of the late Private Daniel Fraser were signed for as receipt by Mary Fletcher on 4th March, 1918. A letter had been sent prior, on 18th February, 1918 to Mrs E. Fraser, Balmoral Street, Balgownie, NSW , advising that a package was being forwarded under separate registered post & they requested that the enclosed printed receipt slip be signed & returned.

Base Records contacted Mrs E. Fraser, Balmoral Street, Balgownie, NSW on 25th August, 1920 stating that she was registered on the records as the next-of-kin of the late No. 2134 Private D. Fraser, 3rd Battalion, but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & was specifically asked 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.

Base Records wrote to Headquarters, 2nd Military District on 30th November, 1920 stating *"On 25th August last, a communication was forwarded to Mrs Elizabeth Fraser, of Balmoral Street, Balgownie, NSW, requesting her to advise me whether the father of the late No 2134 Private D. Fraser, 3rd Battalion, is still living and if so to furnish me with his present address. As no reply has so far been received, I shall be obliged if you will endeavour to obtain the information required, and advise me as soon as possible as it is desired to dispose of the War Medals etc., issuable on account of the abovementioned late soldier's service."*

Mary Fletcher signed a Statutory Declaration on 26th May, 1921 stating : *"I, Mary Fletcher, 20 Carlton Street, Carlton, Victoria, declare that I am the eldest sister of the late No. 2134, Private D. Fraser, 3rd Battalion, Australian Imperial Force. His father David Fraser died about 20 years ago, and his mother Elizabeth Fraser who is shown as next-of-kin died in September 1915. His eldest brother Hugh Fraser resides at 20 Carlton Street, Carlton, V."*

J Smith, Special Inquiry Officer, of the Provost Marshal's Office, Victoria Barracks, Sydney, NSW wrote the following report regarding the disposal of War Medals etc awarded to the late 2134 Private D. Fraser, 3rd Battalion on 13th September, 1921 which was forwarded to A.P.M. 2nd Military District; A.I.F. Branch Medal Section, 2nd Military District & Officer in Charge – Base Records, Melbourne: *"I beg to report that I made inquiries at the Gratuity Section Victoria Barracks Sydney and ascertained that Mr Hugh Fraser, 20 Carlton Street, Carlton, Melbourne, Victoria, made application for the War Gratuity of the deceased soldier, wherein he stated that the deceased was a single man, and had no children, and that both parents were deceased, and that he is the eldest surviving Brother. Mrs Elizabeth Fraser, referred to in the attached communication was the deceased soldier's Mother, and she is now deceased. Perhaps if Mr Hugh Fraser is interviewed the inquiry may be finalized."*

Private Daniel Fraser was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Fraser's brother - Mr Hugh Fraser, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Daniel Fraser – service number 2134, aged 35, of 3rd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Daniel and Elizabeth Fraser.

D. Fraser is remembered on the Balgownie War Memorial, located at corner of Balgownie Road & Para Street, Balgownie, New South Wales.



Balgownie War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Ken Denison)



D. Fraser is remembered on the Balgownie Presbyterian Church Honor Roll. The Presbyterian Church at 12 Farrell Street is now a private residence.



Balgownie Presbyterian Church Honor Roll (Photo from VWMA)



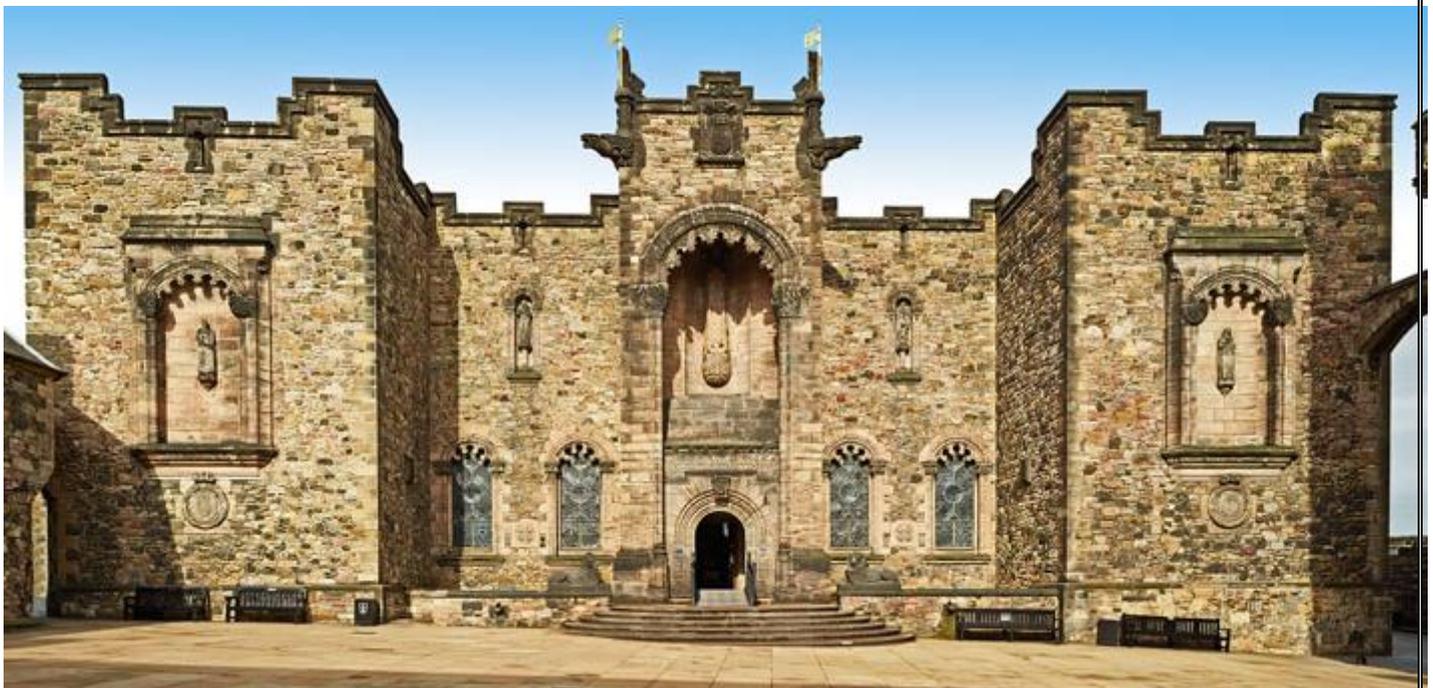
Balgownie Presbyterian Church – now a private residence (Photo from Illawarra Mercury 2015)

Private D. Fraser is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 36.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Daniel Fraser is remembered in the Roll of Honour books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad shelf in front of each of the bays, the names of the dead are listed in leather-bound books.



The Scottish National War Memorial

(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)

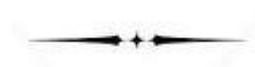


The Hall of Honour & the Roll of Honour books.



(70 pages of Private Daniel Fraser'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





**Private D. FRASER,
died of wounds.**

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 7 September, 1916)



Newspaper Notices

CASUALTIES

EIGHTIETH LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

WOUNDED

Pte D. FRASER, 3B., 6 R., Balgownie

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 21 September, 1915)

CASUALTIES

LIST No. 118

AT MALTA

Pte D. FRASER, 3B., 6 R., Balgownie

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 2 December, 1915)

SEVENTY-FOUR KILLED

YESTERDAY'S CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

RETURNED TO DUTY

Pte D. FRASER, Balgownie (previously reported wounded)

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 2 July, 1916)

BALGOWNIE

(Our Correspondent)

In addition to those reported last week as killed and wounded in France, news has been received of the death of Pte D. Fraser, who was killed in action on the Pozieres front....

A very enthusiastic send-off was tendered to eight recruits from Balgownie in the School of Arts hall on Friday night last, viz., Sergeant C. Thompson, Ptes H. Fraser (only brother of Pte Dan Fraser, just reported killed), A. Cowie.....

(South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus, NSW – 18 August, 1916)

CASUALTIES

200th LIST

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte D. FRASER, Balgownie

(Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, NSW – 29 August, 1916)

Balgownie School of Arts

The report submitted at the recent annual meeting by the secretary, Mr H. R. Murdoch, for the year ending June 30th, stated that the chief work of the year had been to safeguard the finances in consideration of the times we, as a nation, are passing through. At last annual meeting hopes were expressed that ere the next, victory would be ours with triumph of the principles of liberty and justice, and truth. But alas, those hopes had not yet matured.

The report here mentioned the names of members who have since last meeting joined the colors to help defend the honor of the nation: J. Masters, M. Findley, D. Fraser, and R. Herd. Since then, 35 of their members had been added to the roll of honour,.....

(South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus, NSW – 1 September, 1916)

In Memoriam Notices

FRASER – In loving memory of our dear mother, Elizabeth Fraser, who passed away at Balgownie, September 13th, 1915, beloved mother of the late Daniel Fraser, also Hugh (on active service), Mr and Mrs Fletcher.

“Death takes the loved ones from our home, but never from our hearts.”

(South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus, NSW – 15 September, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOR

FRASER – In loving memory of our dear brother, Pte D. Fraser, of Third Battalion, who died on the 1st Aug., 1916, of wounds received at Pozieres.

Our Dear Anzac.

He was only a private in battle,

Just a part of that great rank and file,

He fought for its flag and its honor;

He has laid down his life with a smile.

Inserted by his loving brothers and sister, Hugh, Mr and Mrs Fletcher, Wonthaggi, Victoria.

(South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus, NSW – 3 August, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM NOTICES

FRASER – In loving memory of our dearly beloved brother, Pte Daniel Fraser, who died in London on August 1st, 1916, from wounds received in France while on active service; also our beloved mother, Mrs E. Fraser, who died in Balgownie on September 13th, 1915.

The hearts that throbbed with love
Have ceased to beat;
The busy hands are still; the willing feet,
Those kindly lovelit eyes that beaming smile
Are only hidden from us for a while;
They are not dead.

Inserted by Mr and Mrs Fletcher and H. Fraser.

(South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus, NSW – 2 August, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM NOTICES

FRASER – In loving memory of our dearly beloved mother, Mrs E, Fraser, who departed this life at Balgownie, on September 13th, 1915. Also our dearly beloved brother, Daniel, who died in Wandsworth Hospital, England, on August 1, 1916, from wounds received in France, while on active service.

No more their welcoming footsteps
Will tread our dwelling floor;
No more we watch their coming
As we did in days of yore.

Inserted by Mr and Mrs W. Fletcher and Hugh Fraser.

(South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus, NSW – 1 August, 1919)

**Notices were also placed in newspapers in 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924 & 1925

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)

Private D. Fraser does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Death Took Our Love One From Our Home But Never From Our Hearts

Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London

This is to the North-East of Earlsfield Station and is bounded by the Magdalen Road on the East and the main railway line on the West.

It contains five 1914-1918 War Plots, (the general Military Plot, the Australian, the Newfoundland, the New Zealand and the South African plots). These are on the main path leading West from Magdalen Road and there are also over 200 burials in other parts of the cemetery. The Military Plot contains a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried in it and those in unmarked graves in other parts of the cemetery. The majority of the 1939-1945 burials are scattered throughout the cemetery but there is one group of six burials together in a War Plot near the main entrance. Again, those whose graves are unmarked are also named upon the Screen Wall, Panel 1.

Many of the 1914-1918 burials are from the 3rd London General Hospital which was at Wandsworth. There are 477 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 115 of the 1939-1945 war here. There are also 5 non-war service burials here.

There are 34 Australian World War 1 Soldiers buried here & 1 Australian Soldier from 1925.

(Information from CWGC)



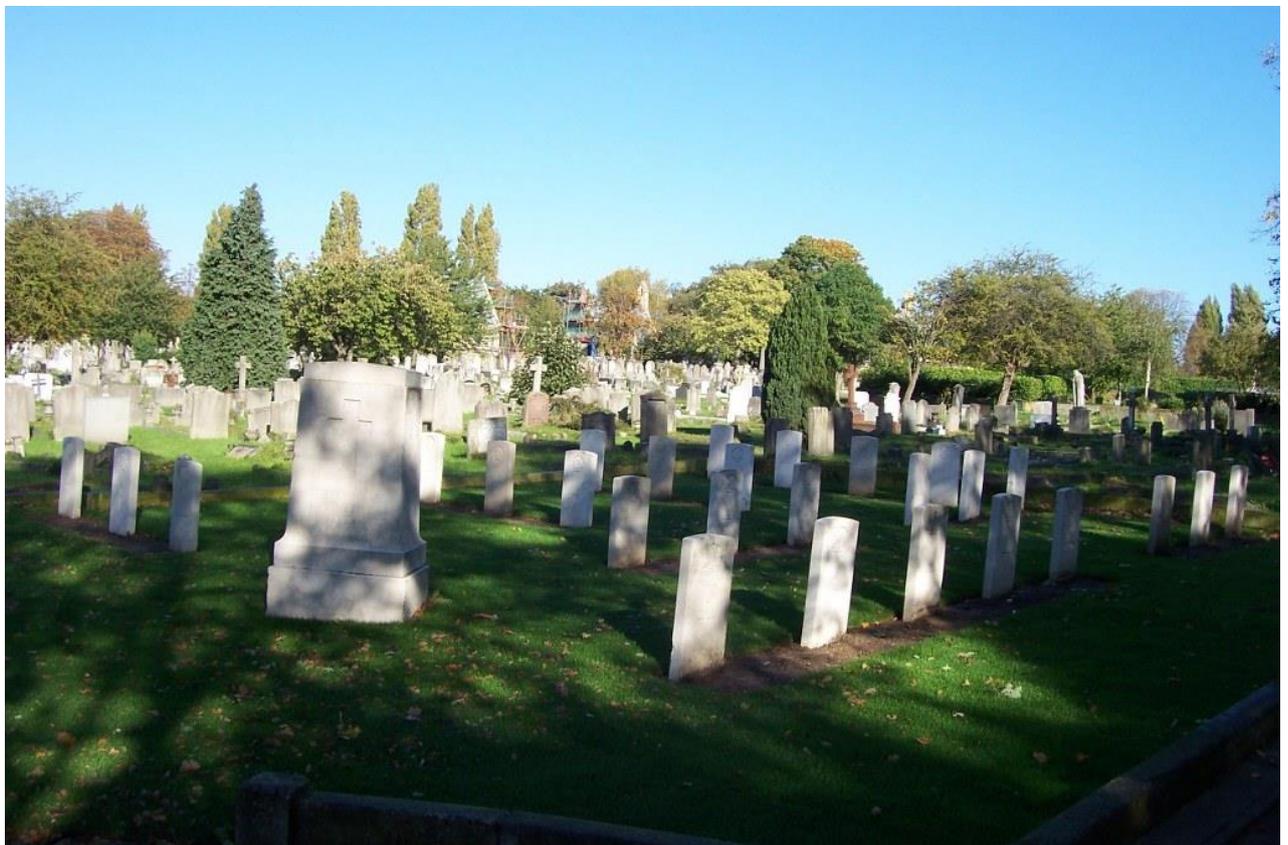
A group of Soldiers' graves in the Australian Section of Wandsworth Cemetery, London *(taken 15 April, 1931)*



(Photo by Scotch Mist 2013)



The Australian Plot in Wandsworth Cemetery, London *(Photos from CWGC)*





Cross of Sacrifice (Photos from CWGC)

Photo of Private D. Fraser's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Julia&keld)