

**Tring Road Cemetery,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2249 2ND AIR MECH.

A. L. FREEMAN

AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS

6TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 23

In Cherished Memory

Of My Darling Only Son

"My Hero"

Mother

Alfred Livingstone FREEMAN

Alfred Livingstone Freeman was born at Fairfield, Victoria on 25th April, 1895 to parents John Alfred Burford Freeman & Emily Priscilla Bennett Freeman (nee Lang).

John Alfred Burford Freeman, father of Alfred Livingstone Freeman, died on 25th August, 1912.

The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the district of Bourke, subdistrict of Preston records Alfred Livingstone Freeman, Accountant, of Burford, Regent St, Preston. His mother – Emily Priscilla Bennett Freeman, Home Duties, was also listed at the same address.

Alfred Livingstone Freeman was a 22 year old, single, Accountant from Preston, Victoria when he enlisted at Northcote, Victoria on 1st June, 1917 with the Australian Flying Corps, August, 1917 Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2249 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Emily Freeman of “Burford”, Regent Street, Preston, Victoria.

Alfred Livingstone Freeman was attached to Australian Flying Corps at Laverton from 2nd July, 1917. He was on Final Leave from 4th to 8th October, 1917.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Alfred Livingstone Freeman embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Aeneas (A60)* on 30th October, 1917. He was admitted to Ship's Hospital while at sea with Influenza from 15th to 20th December, 1917. Air Mechanic 2nd Class Alfred Livingstone Freeman disembarked at Devonport, England on 27th December, 1917.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Alfred Livingstone Freeman's Casualty Form – Active Service records for Qualification (b) “Motor Cyclist”.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Alfred Livingstone Freeman was marched in from Australia on 27th December, 1917 & marched out to Halefield Camp (Wendover, Buckinghamshire) for Isolation.

2/A.M. (Air Mechanic 2nd Class) Freeman was sent sick then admitted to Central Military Hospital at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire on 1st February, 1918 with gastritis.

2/A.M. (Air Mechanic 2nd Class) Freeman was transferred from Central Military Hospital at Aylesbury & admitted to 1st Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield with appendicitis on 20th March, 1918. He was discharged on 9th April, 1918 to Halton Camp, Wendover.

2/A.M. (Air Mechanic 2nd Class) Freeman was sent sick to C. D. Hospital, Aylesbury on 10th April, 1918 & admitted then next day – cause – N.Y.D. (Not Yet Determined). He was transferred to Central Military Hospital at Aylesbury on 11th April, 1918 suffering from Debility following appendicitis. He was discharged to Halton Camp on 16th May, 1918.

2/A.M. (Air Mechanic 2nd Class) Freeman was marched in to A.F.C. Depot on 16th May, 1918. He was sent sick to Brooke War Hospital, Woolwich on 23rd May, 1918 then transferred the same day to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital with Debility following appendicitis.

2/A.M. Freeman was marched out from Halton Camp East to Halefield Camp, Wendover on 19th June, 1918.

2/A.M. Freeman was admitted to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford on 10th July, 1918 – “Appendectomy.” He was discharged to No. 3 C. D. at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 17th July, 1918.

2/A.M. Freeman was marched out to A.F.C. Training Depot on 29th July, 1918 from Belmont Rd Auxiliary Hospital. He was medically classified B1 A1 (Fit for light duty only – 4 weeks).

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Alfred Livingstone Freeman was On Command to R.A.F. (Royal Air Force) Armament School, Uxbridge for instruction from A.F.C. (Australian Flying Corps) Depot at Wendover, England on 17th August, 1918.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Alfred Livingstone Freeman was admitted to Central Military Hospital, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire with Pneumonia – severe on 29th October, 1918.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Alfred Livingstone Freeman died at 3.30 am on 6th November, 1918 at Central Military Hospital, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire from Pneumonia.

A death for Alfred L. Freeman, aged 23, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Alfred Livingstone Freeman was buried on 12th November, 1918 in Aylesbury (Tring Road) Cemetery, Buckinghamshire – Plot number X. 64 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Air Mechanic 2nd Class Alfred Freeman - *Coffin was elm with Brass fittings. The deceased 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 wreaths sent from Temple School, Aylesbury, Lillie, Mother and Emma. The Rev. E. Skilton conducted the burial service at the graveside where 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. T. H. Freeman, 2nd A.M. Australian Flying Corps was present at the funeral.*

Alfred Livingstone Freeman requested in his Will, dated 8th June, 1917 that the whole of his real & personal Estate to be left to his mother – Mrs Emily P. B. Freeman. In the event of his mother pre-deceasing him, Alfred Freeman bequeathed that his real & personal estate be divided equally between his sisters – Clarice Elvia Bartlett & Emily Grace Freeman. A letter contained in the Service Record file of Air Mechanic 2nd Class Alfred Livingstone Freeman states "*in the event of my death whilst serving abroad with the Australian Imperial Force, I request that all my personal belongings be forwarded immediately to the following address:- Miss E. G. Allsop 35 St. Charles Square, North Kensington, London. And "Burford" Regent Street, Preston Victoria, Australia.*" Dated 18th April, 1918 at Aylesbury, Bucks.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Alfred Livingstone Freeman was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Air Mechanic 2nd Class Alfred Livingstone Freeman's mother – Mrs E. Freeman (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Air Mechanic 2nd Class Alfred Livingstone Freeman – service number 2249, aged 23, Australian Flying Corps. He was the son of Emily P. B. Freeman, of 22 Spring St., Preston, Victoria, Australia, and the late J. Alfred B. Freeman. Born at Fairfield, Victoria.

Air Mechanic Class II A. L. Freeman is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 187.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. Freeman is remembered on the Preston War Memorial located at Municipal Offices, High Street, Preston, Victoria.



Preston War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)



- THOSE WHO MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE -		
ALLAN, W. C.	COSTELLOE, L.	GASTON, T. W.
ATKINS, W.	CRAMOND, A. K.	GEORGE, J.
BARKER, A.	CRAMOND, D. R.	GILBERT, S. H.
BOWERS, H. J.	CUMMING, C. D.	GOODMAN, G.
BOWLES, H.	CUMMING, N. H.	HAMILTON, G. A. J.
BRAITHWAITE, W. M.	DAVIS, W. J.	HARLTON, A.
BREWER, J. H.	DRAEGER, C.	HEALY, L. A.
BROWN, H. W.	DUNEAU, J.	HENDRIE, L.
CASHMAN, T. J.	DWYER, A. V.	HENRY, L.
CHAMPION, J.	FITZGERALD, J. P.	HEWZARS, A.
CLANCY, T. R.	FOERS, F.	HILL, R.
CLARKE, L. C.	FREEMAN, A.	HORWOOD, E.
COMPTON, W.	CAMBLE, J. S.	HORWOOD, R. W.
CONROY, L. A.	CANNAWAY, B.	HOWE, G. F.
COOK, F.	CASCOYNE, T. J.	HOWEY, G.

(53 pages of Air Mechanic 2nd Class Alfred Livingstone Freeman'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



Alfred Livingstone Freeman



Freeman Family photo - John Alfred Burford Freeman with his wife, Emily Priscilla Bennett Lang, with children - Grace (left), Clarice (right) and Alf in the back.

Newspaper Notices

DIED ON SERVICE

FREEMAN - Officially reported died of pneumonia at Aylesbury Hospital, England, 2nd Air Mechanic Alfred Livingstone Freeman, dearly beloved and only son of Mrs Freeman, "Burford," Regent street, Preston, and the late J. Alfred B. Freeman, dearly loved brother of Clarice (Mrs Bartlett), and Grace, and loved brother-in-law of J. Sydney Bartlett (returned).

The bugles of England were blowing o'er the sea,
As they had called a thousand years, calling now to me;
They woke me from dreaming in the dawning of the day;
The bugles of England, and how could I stay ?
The banners of England, unfurled across the sea,
Floating out upon the wind, were beckoning to me,
Storm-rent and battle-torn, smoke-stained and grey,
The banners of England - and how could I stay?
O, England, I heard the cry of those that died for thee,
Sounding like on organ-voice across the winter sea;
They lived and died for England, and gladly went their way,
England, O, England - how could I stay ?

FREEMAN.- Died of pneumonia, at Aylesbury Hospital, England, air mechanic A. L. Freeman, only son of Mrs A. and the late A. Freeman, of Regent street, Preston.

Sweet rest.

- (Inserted by teachers and scholars of Preston Methodist Sunday School.)

FREEMAN.- In loving memory of our pal, Alf, who died of illness at Aylesbury Hospital, England, November 6.

"Never the lotus closes, never the wild fowl wake,

But a soul goes out on the East Wind that died for England's sake."

- (E. I. and M. J.)

FREEMAN. - A tribute to the memory of Q.-A.M.A. L. Freeman, A.F.C., who died of illness on 6th inst. while on active service abroad.

(Inserted by E. Luly.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 16th November, 1918)

The 448th and 449th CASUALTY LISTS

VICTORIAN NAMES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private A. L. Freeman, Preston

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Vic – 4 December, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

FREEMAN - In proud and loving remembrance of our dearly loved brother, 2 A/M. Alfred Livingstone Freeman, Australian Flying Corps, who died of pneumonia at Central Military Hospital, Aylesbury, England, November, 6, 1918.

No man ever yet forsook

Loved ones, home, and all he cherished,

And God's purpose undertook;

But he met his full reward

In the "Well done" of his Lord.

-(Clarice and Sydney Bartlett, late 46th Batt., Spring Street, Preston.)

FREEMAN - OLNEY - In proud and loving memory of Alfred Livingstone Freemon, 2 A/M., A.F.C., darling only son of the late J. Alfred B. Freeman and Mrs Freeman, Preston, who died of illness at Aylesbury, England, November 6, 1918; also his dear friend and comrade, Gunner Reg. Olney, who died at McLeod Sanatorium, January 13, 1919.

Not in the wild rush of the fight,

God saw it meet for you to die;

Yet he who keeps his armour bright

His Lord doth magnify.

You answered equally the call,

And he who gives himself gives all.

-(Mother.)

FREEMAN – OLNEY - A tribute of love to my darling only brother, 2 A/M. Alfred Livingstone Freeman, who died of pneumonia at Aylesbury, England, November 6, 1918, aged 23 years; also his dear friend, Gunner R. T. (Reg.) Olney, who died at McLeod Sanatorium, January 13, 1919, aged 24 years.

Blessed are they whose memories we cherish;

Our thoughts add jewels to their crowns.

(Inserted by his proud and loving sister, Grace, Preston.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 6th November, 1919)

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*)

2nd Air Mechanic Alfred Livingstone Freeman does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Cherished Memory Of My Darling Only Son "My Hero" Mother

Aylesbury (Tring Road) Cemetery, Buckinghamshire

Tring Road, Cemetery, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire contains 107 War Graves from both World Wars, 3 of these belong to Air Mechanics 2nd Class, Australian Flying Corps.



Tring Road, Cemetery, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire showing 2nd Air Mechanic A. L. Freeman's Grave
(Photo from CWGC)



Original Grave marker for 2nd A.M. Alfred Livingstone Freeman

Photo of 2nd Air Mechanic A. L. Freeman's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tring Road Cemetery, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of julia&keld)