

Wandsworth Cemetery, London, England War Graves

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4192 PRIVATE

G. E. FREEMAN

46TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

16TH SEPTEMBER, 1916 Age 24

For God

King And Country

George Elliott FREEMAN

George Elliott Freeman was born on 12th August, 1892 at Daylesford, Victoria to parents George Isaac & Katherine Howard Freeman (nee Bebee).

George Elliott Freeman attended Daylesford School, Victoria.

The 1914 & 1916 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Grampians, subdivision of Daylesford, Victoria recorded George Elliott Freeman, Carpenter, of West Street, Daylesford. Catherine Howard Freeman, Home Duties, Dorothy Bebee Freeman, Home Duties & George Isaac Freeman, Contractor were also listed at West Street, Daylesford. Elizabeth Emma Freeman, Tailoress was included in the 1916 Roll.

George Elliott Freeman was aged 22 years & 11 months, single & a Joiner from West Street, Daylesford, Victoria when he enlisted on 4th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4192 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr G. I. Freeman, West Street, Daylesford, Victoria. (According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour – George Elliott Freeman was a Carpenter & his other training was an Architect.)

Private George Elliott Freeman was posted to "A" Company, 20th Castlemaine Depot Battalion Camp on 18th August, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 13th Reinforcements of 5th Battalion at Williamstown on 26th November, 1915.

Private George Elliott Freeman embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Demosthenes (A64)* on 29th December, 1915 with the 5th Infantry Battalion, 13th Reinforcements.

Private George Elliott Freeman was allotted to & proceeded to join 46th Battalion while at Zeitoun on 2nd March, 1916. He was taken on strength of 46th Battalion at Serapeum on 3rd March, 1916 from 5th Battalion.

5th Battalion

The 5th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 6th, 7th and 8th Battalions it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private George Elliott Freeman proceeded from Alexandria on H.M.T. *Kinfauns Castle* on 2nd June, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 8th June, 1916.

Private George Elliott Freeman was wounded in action on 14th August, 1916. He was admitted to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station on 14th August, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Head then transferred to Ambulance Train on 15th August, 1916. Private Freeman was admitted to 9th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 17th August, 1916. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Aberdonian* on 26th August, 1916. (Note: Some forms were altered to show date of wounded from 16th to 14th August, 1916. Some forms were not altered & still show the date as 16th)

46th Battalion

The 46th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 24 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its new recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 14th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 14th, the new battalion was composed mostly of men from Victoria, although some of the reinforcements hailed from New South Wales and Western Australia.

As part of the 12th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division, the 46th Battalion arrived in France on 8 June 1916, destined for the Western Front. It participated in its first major battle at Pozieres. Initially, the battalion provided carrying parties for supplies and ammunition during the 2nd Division's attack on 4 August, and then, with its own division, defended the ground that had been captured. The 46th endured two stints in the heavily contested trenches of Pozieres, as well as a period in reserve.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 46th Battalion

Pozieres – 13th August, 1916:

Working party of 200 Germans dispersed by Machine Gun Fire of “D” Company at daybreak. “A” and “C” Companies relieved “B” and “D” Companies. 70 other ranks reinforcements received.

Pozieres – 14th August, 1916:

Battalion relieved by 45th Battalion and in turn relieved 47th Battalion in support.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

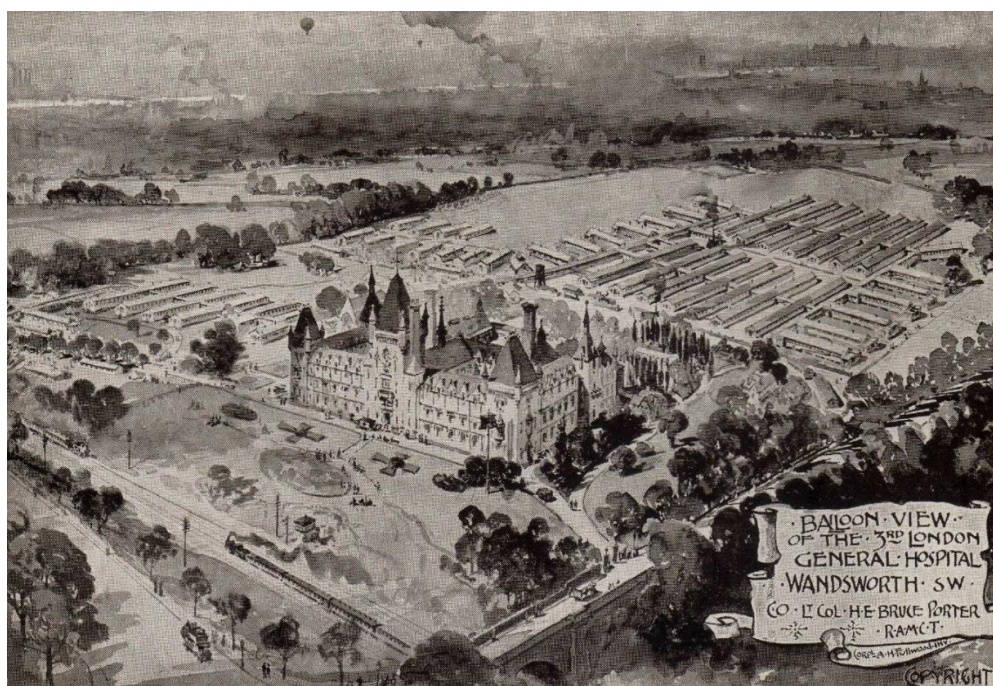
Private George Elliott Freeman was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England. He was reported to be seriously ill on 7th September, 1916.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A01040

3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth



A communication was sent from Base Records to Mr G. I. Freeman, West Street, Daylesford, Victoria on 11th September, 1916 advising that No. 4192 Private G. E. Freeman, 46th Battalion had been wounded.

Private George Elliott Freeman died at 12.30 am on 16th September, 1916 at 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. Head.

A death for George E. Freeman, aged 24, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Wandsworth, London, England.

Private George Elliott Freeman was buried on 20th September, 1916 in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England – Grave site B. 19; Grave No. F 30.

Mr G. I. Freeman, West Street, Daylesford, Victoria was advised by Base Records on 17th April, 1920: *With reference to my communication of the 9th March, 1917, regarding the regrettable loss of your son, the late No. 4192 Private G. E. Freeman, 46th Battalion, I am now in receipt of further advice which shows that his remains have been exhumed from grave site B. 19 grave No. F 30, Wandsworth Cemetery, and re-interred in grave No. 12, Australian Section, Wandsworth Cemetery, Wandsworth, London. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain.*

This is now recorded by CWGC as Plot number Aust. 12 and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A communication was sent from Base Records to Mr G. I. Freeman, West Street, Daylesford, Victoria on 21st September, 1916 advising that his son Private George E. Freeman was seriously ill with gunshot wound to Head.

Private George Elliott Freeman requested in his Will, dated 16th August, 1915 that his father – George Isaac Freeman be appointed as Executor & all his real & personal property be bequeathed to his mother.

Private George Elliott Freeman was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Freeman's father – Mr G. I. Freeman, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

Base Records received a letter in December, 1921 from K.H. Freeman, "*next of kin of the late George Elliott Freeman, Private No. 4192, 46th Battalion*" advising that she had received the Scroll & that she had moved from Daylesford & the new address was 8 McArthur St, Malvern.

Kathleen Howard Freeman, of 8 McArthur St, Malvern, signed a Statutory Declaration on 1st August, 1922 at Victoria Barracks declaring "*I am the widowed mother of the late 4192 G. E. Freeman 46 Bn, A.I.F. My husband died on 7 January 1919.*"

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private George Elliott Freeman – service number 4192, aged 24, of 46th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Katherine Howard Freeman and the late George Isaac Freeman, of Albert St., Daylesford, Victoria.

Private G. E. 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 141.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

G. Freeman is remembered on the Daylesford War Memorial, located at Burke Square, Daylesford, Victoria.



Daylesford War Memorial (Photo by Mattinbgn)

G. E. Freeman is remembered on the Daylesford State School Honour Roll, located in Daylesford Primary School, 102 Vincent Street, Daylesford, Victoria.



Daylesford State School Honour Roll (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Phonse Crawford)

G. E. Freeman is remembered on the Daylesford Avenue of Honour, Midland Highway, Raglan Street, Daylesford, Victoria with Tree No. 52.

Newspaper item – Daylesford Advocate, Yandoit, Glenlyon and Eganstown Chronicle, Victoria – 30 July, 1918:

DAYLESFORD HONOR AVENUE

OPENING CEREMONY SATURDAY NEXT

The following is the order in which the trees for planting in the Honor Avenue on Saturday next were drawn. Mrs H. M. S. Cox has generously donated two additional trees to commence the Avenue—one in honor of General Sir W. Birdwood and the other to Admiral Sir David Beatty, having been decided upon by the committee at its last meeting. Notification has been given to relatives where practicable, stating the number of the tree allotted to the sons, etc., and the subscribing public are invited to be present on Saturday next at 1.30 p.m., when the ceremony of dedicating the trees will commence ;

..... 52 G. E. Freeman



Daylesford Avenue of Honour (Photo from AWM Places of Pride)

(41 pages of Private George Elliot 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



Newspaper Notices

CASUALTIES IN FRANCE

Mr and Mrs George I. Freeman, of Daylesford, have received word that their eldest son, Private G. E. Freeman, reported wounded in France, died in hospital at London on September 16.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 5 October, 1916)

DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY

PRIVATE G. E. FREEMAN

The deepest sympathy of the whole community is extended to Mr and Mrs G. I. Freeman, of West Street, they having received word from the Defence Department to the effect that their son, Private George E. Freeman, had died as a result of a gunshot wound in the head. The young soldier was a particularly good living lad and earned the highest respect of everyone with whom he came in contact. He had just reached manhood's years, and gave every indication of developing into a man of more than average ability. His father on September 8th received word that Private Freeman had been wounded in France on August 14th. On September 22 a message arrived stating that he was seriously ill, suffering from a gunshot wound in the head. Then on September 29th the parents received a letter from himself, in which he stated that he was getting on well. Both Mr and Mrs Freeman were hopeful that their son would pull through, particularly as such a length of time elapsed after the wound was received without any fatal consequences; the shock of his death therefore, came with stunning suddenness at the beginning of this week. [A letter written by Private Freeman, prior to his death, will be published in our next issue.]

(Daylesford Advocate, Yandoit, Glenlyon and Eganstown Chronicle, Victoria – 6 October, 1916)

THE ROLL OF HONOR

FALLEN AND WOUNDED

PRIVATE G. E. FREEMAN

Mr G. I. Freeman, contractor, of Daylesford, has received word from the Defence Department that his son, Pte G. E. Freeman, had died of wounds received in France.

(The Ballarat Courier, Victoria – 9 October, 1916)

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

The following letter was received by Mr and Mrs G. I. Freeman, of West street, Daylesford, from their son, Private George E. Freeman. A pathetic circumstance in connection with the receipt of the letter was that it only arrived about a week before the news of the young soldier's death, as the result of a gunshot wound in the head:-

Just received mother's letter to-day, dated May 28th, giving account of school concert. It is great to be getting mails again, as I had not had any for three months. I am getting the "Leaders"; my mate, Corporal Williams, is reading the latest one now. We have been on the go ever since we arrived in France and have had some pretty solid work. The marching is very heavy work, pack alone weighing over 60 lbs without rifle and rest of equipment. A man has to be in perfect condition to stand it; any amount of men drop out on the march. I have never either in Egypt or France fallen out on march, so think I can last with the next man. Well, as a few weeks ago was my first experience under fire, I will tell you a little about it. We left a certain village about 10 miles behind firing line at 6 30 p.m., had a stop of 10 minutes after going four miles, and never had another stop until we were in position in trenches; the last three miles

along the road we were under shell fire all the way, but were all too weary to bother about it; all we thought about was to get our packs off. The approach to the front firing lines is through a sap, which is about two miles long, just room for two men to pass. Just after we entered the sap a gas alarm was given, and we all had to don our helmets (we have practiced with them until we can take them out of satchel and have them properly fixed in 10 seconds), they have rather a stifling effect at any time so you can imagine what they were like after a solid march. We went the rest of the way in the helmets and could not see properly as the glass soon got clouded with our breathing ; we were floundering about in the mud in the trenches in all directions, and some of us must have presented a very funny spectacle. When we reached our trench we found it was a false alarm. I would not like to describe the language. It was 12 midnight before we relieved the other battalion and took over our positions. The German trench was from 100 to 200 yards away, and all night long they are sending up flares, which keep the French parapets illuminated. There is continuous rifle and machine-gun fire all night; both sides have correct range to sweep the parapets. We thought it great sport firing at the flare from their rifles, but am afraid most of the ammunition is wasted, as you never know when you score. The artillery generally, opens out at night and make things pretty lively; it is a great sight to see an artillery duel, nothing but a continual hum of shells. They generally pass over the trenches; it takes great judgment to put one right in the trench. When an artillery demonstration is taking place we all have to crouch against the parapet; it is marvelous how close you can hug the parapet when the shells are humming past. It is wonderful how soon one gets used to being under fire, and at all times you will hear the boys laughing and joking; there is generally something humorous to be found in the situation.

We are now on our way to a different front and are marching pretty well every day. Later—I am writing this in my little dug-out in the trenches. Came into trenches 4 days ago arriving here at midnight. We were shelled coming along the road, but their judgment was rather pussy as we had no casualties. One soon gets used to the shells; the worst trouble is to get sleep. We have to be up all night, generally raining. Am continuing this about about two weeks later. Had just got to raining when a torpedo shell lobbed about 20 yards from dug out shook the whole place for about 100 yards, I immediately evacuated. Did not wait to finish card. I think we got out of dug out in record time. It left a hole in the ground big enough to put a horse and dray in. No one was damaged which is the main thing. Were relieved at trenches last Tuesday night and marched back 12 miles to billets. Arrived there at 4 a.m. I slept until 12 noon that day, and left at 3.30 for a 12-mile march back to old billets. Arrived there at 7.30. Had a spell Thursday. Up at 2 a.m. Friday morning, marched 15 miles to catch train, and got to end of journey at 1.30 p.m. and started on a 16-mile march which took us till 8 p.m. Are moving on again in the morning. There are no Daylesford boys in our battalion, except Bob Bryan from the Flat; later, we are in the trenches—once more a very hot shop. Have been on our way for 3 days. My heels are all blistered with marching. Was lucky enough to see Alf this morning; they had just come out of the trenches. Saw all my old mates in his battalion, also Claude Carpenter and Viv Green. Will write as soon as I come out of the trenches again."

(Daylesford Advocate, Yandoit, Glenlyon and Eganstown Chronicle, Victoria – 10 October, 1916)

UNVEILING SCHOOL PHOTOS

On Tuesday afternoon, the 17th inst., at the Daylesford State School, the ceremony of unveiling enlarged photographs of old pupils of the school who fought in the Great War will take place at 2.30 o'clock sharp.

This will be the third ceremony of such a nature, and on this occasion twenty photos will be hung in the gallery of such heroes on the walls of the Higher Elementary School. A total of thirty old boys' memorials will thus be in the school, and it is doubtful if any other school can boast the possession of such a unique and honorable roll of honor. It makes an epoch in school history when it is remembered that these photos are the spontaneous gifts of parents to the school in which their ___ their early training. Parents and friends are asked by the head master, Mr P. Nettleton, B.A., to accept this invitation to be present at the ceremony. The Mayor of the Borough; Cr R. C. Densem, has accepted an invitation to preside at this gathering. The names of the photos to be unveiled are as follows :

THE FALLEN

Pte George E. Freeman, 46th Battalion, No.4192

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(Daylesford Advocate, Yandoit, Glenlyon and Eganstown Chronicle, Victoria – 13 December, 1918)

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 12th July, 1921, to Mr G. I. Freeman, West Street, Daylesford, Victoria, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late No. 4192 Private G. E. Freeman, 46th Battalion, 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.

Private G. E. Freeman does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

For God, King And Country

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)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H16917

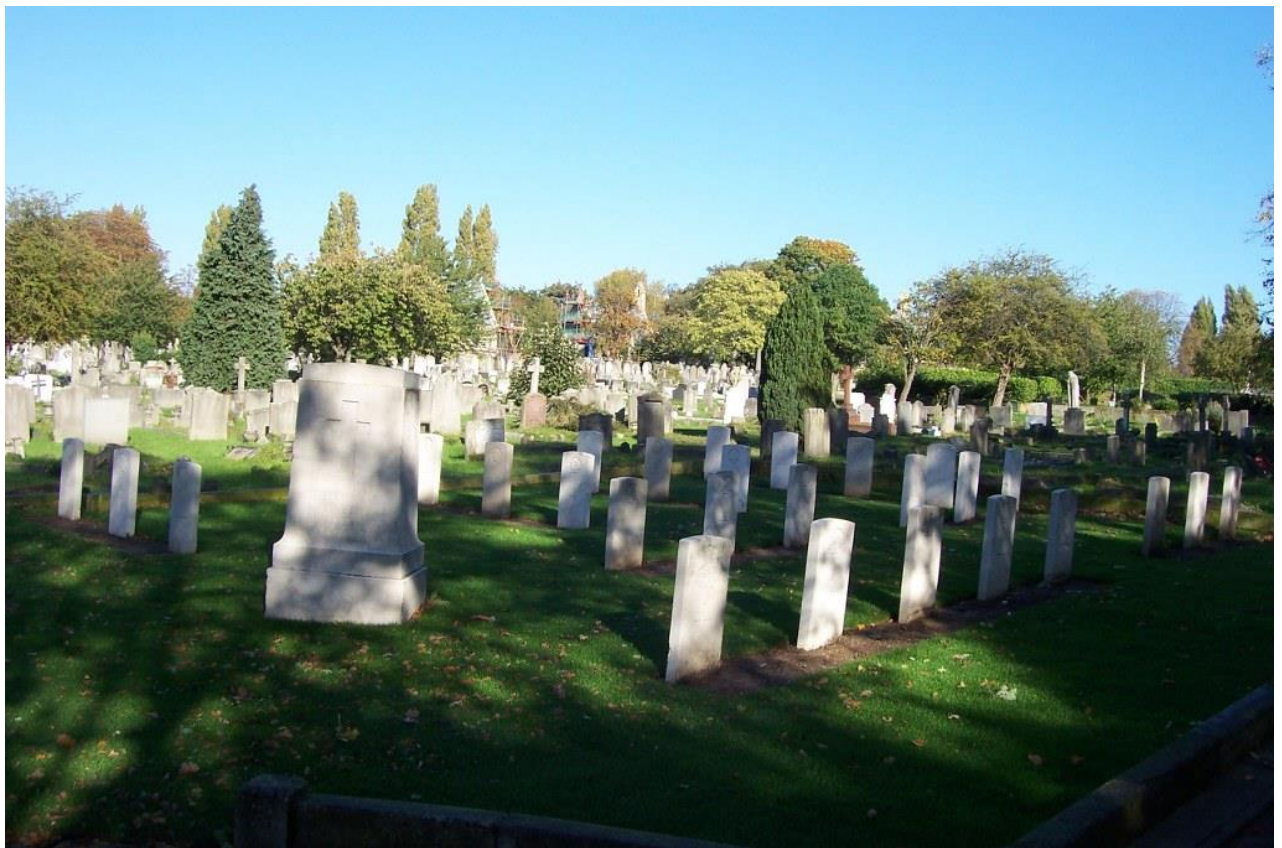
A group of Soldiers' graves in the Australian Section of Wandsworth Cemetery, London *(taken 15 April, 1931)*



(Photo by Scotch Mist 2013)



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





Cross of Sacrifice (Photos from CWGC)

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



(Photo from Find a Grave - julia&keld)