

**Comely Bank Cemetery,
Edinburgh, Scotland
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2796 SAPPER

A. FROST

AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

5TH FEBRUARY, 1919

Albert FROST

Albert Frost was born in Dumaresq, near Armidale, NSW on 27th February, 1886 to parents George & Vashti Frost (nee Carter).

Albert Frost married Elizabeth Alecia Russell Austin in 1911 in the district of Uralla, NSW.

Albert Frost was a 32 year old, married, Railway Guard from Clifford Street, Goulburn, NSW when he enlisted on 13th June, 1918 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2796 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs E. A. R. Frost, of Clifford St, Goulburn, later Woodville, Uralla, NSW. Albert Frost stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 2 years with Light Horse.

At the time of enlisting, Albert Frost had 3 children – Veta (aged 6 years), Edna (aged 3 years) & Daphne (aged 8 months).

Pte Albert Frost was in Recruit Camp from 13th June, 1918. He was transferred to Railway Unit at Broadmeadows on 17th September, 1918.

Private Albert Frost embarked from Melbourne on SS *Zealandic* on 5th October, 1918 with the Railway Unit, Special Draft, 1918, Reinforcements & disembarked at London, England on 5th December, 1918.

Private Albert Frost was marched in the A.R.O.D. (Australian Railway Operating Division) Depot at Longmoor (Hampshire) from Australia on 6th December, 1918.

Sapper Albert Frost was written up for an Offence at Longmoor – While on Active Service & in isolation was absent without leave from surprise Roll Call at 21.45 hrs until 22.25 hrs on 17th December, 1918. He was awarded 5 days C.B. (Confined to Barracks).

Sapper Albert Frost was admitted sick to Military Hospital Edinburgh Castle, while on leave on 6th January, 1919.

Sapper Albert Frost died at 2.45 pm on 5th February, 1919 at Military Hospital, Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh, Scotland from Broncho & Lobar Pneumonia.

[Edinburgh Castle converted an ordnance store into a 60 bed military hospital. The small hospital was equipped with all the amenities of a war hospital, including an operating theatre. The castle hospital dealt with over 100 German casualties after the Royal Navy sunk the German battleship Blucher.]

Sapper Albert Frost was buried on 10th February, 1919 in Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland – Plot number D. 49 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Sapper Frost - *Coffin was good with brass mounts. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and conveyed to the graveside surmounted by beautiful flowers went from – The Victorian League. The “Last Post” was sounded at the graveside, and the Rev. A. J. Seaton of 34 New Battle Terrace, Edinburg, officiated. 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.*

Albert Frost lodged his Will with Sendall & Johnson Solicitors, Goulburn, NSW before he left for Active Service abroad. Probate was granted in Sydney at the Supreme Court of NSW on 13th October, 1919 covering the Will of No. 2796 Sapper A. Frost. His real & personal estate was left to his wife – Elizabeth Alecia Russell Frost & she was also named Executrix of the Will. The Will was dated 8th August, 1918.

Sapper Albert Frost 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 Sapper Frost's widow – Mrs E. A. R. Frost, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sapper A. Frost - service number 2796, of Railway Operating Div. Details, Australian Engineers. No family details are listed.

Sapper A. Frost is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 26.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(69 pages of Sapper Albert Frost'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

SICK SOLDIERS

CASUALTY LIST No. 461

DIED – OTHER CAUSES

A. FROST, Woodville (illness)

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 18 March, 1919)

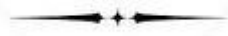
Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

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)

Sapper A. Frost does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland

Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland contains 302 War Graves. There are only seven Australians buried in this cemetery from World War 1.

During the First World War, Edinburgh was headquarters to the 4th, 5th, 6th and 9th Battalions of the Royal Scots, with the 7th Battalion at Leith. The 2nd Scottish General Hospital (1,000 beds) occupied Craighleith Poorhouse, the Edinburgh War Hospital (2,600 beds) was in the Asylum buildings at Bangour and the Leith War Hospital (585 beds) in the infirmary at Leith. The port of Leith was used by hospital ships from north Russia and about 4,500 officers and men passed through it.

Second World War military hospitals were in Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and Bangour. The city was also Scottish Command Headquarters.

Edinburgh (Comely Bank) Cemetery contains 225 burials of the First World War, most of them forming a war graves plot in Section D. The Second World War plot is immediately in front and contains more than half of the 76 Second World War burials. The cemetery also contains a Finnish war grave and two non-war service burials.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland



Communal Commonwealth War Graves plot in Section D

An unusual feature of the War Graves plot is that the granite headstones lie flat. This was a decision made by the architect, Sir Robert Lorimer. The plot contains WW1 and WW2 casualties/Spanish Flu victims and a member of the Finnish Legion.

Photo of Sapper A. Frost's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Scotland.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Drysdale)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J00524

Australian Graves at Comely Bank Cemetery in Edinburgh, Scotland.

(From the collection of Mr Alfred Thomas Sharp, who was the Commonwealth Immigration Officer of Victoria and was based in the London Office during the First World War.)