

**Milton Cemetery,
Portsmouth, Hampshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



LIEUTENANT

H. A. C. GEARING

AUST. ARMY SERVICE CORPS

16TH MARCH, 1917 Age 31

Harry Alan Cheshire GEARING

Harry Alan Cheshire Gearing was born on 15th August, 1884 in India to parents George and Mary Gearing (nee Grinnol). Henry Allen Cheshire Gearing was baptised on 25th November, 1884 at Calcutta, Bengal, India to parents Henry George & Mary Ann Gearing.

The 1901 Scotland Census recorded Harry Gearing as a 16 year old Scholar who was a Boarder at Middle Walk Argyle House, Dollar, Clackmannanshire, Scotland which was a Scholastic Boarding House run by Jane Gibson.

Harry Alan Cheshire Gearing qualified in India Police Examination.

Harry Allen Cheshire Gearing married Bertha Mary Frances Morrison on 2nd September, 1911 in Queensland.

The 1912 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Oxley, subdivision of Toombul, Queensland listed Harry Alan Cheshire Gearing, Clerk & his wife Bertha Mary Frances Gearing, Home Duties, of Uralla, Hockings Street, Eagle Junction.

The 1913 & 1914 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Lilley, subdivision of Toombul, Queensland listed Harry Alan Cheshire Gearing, Clerk & his wife Bertha Mary Frances Gearing, Home Duties, of New Sandgate Road, Clayfield.

The 1915 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Oxley, subdivision of Toombul, Queensland listed Harry Alan Cheshire Gearing, Clerk & his wife Bertha Mary Frances Gearing, Massie Street, Tower Hill, Hamilton.

Henry George Gearing, father of Harry Alan Cheshire Gearing, died on 9th September, 1916 in India.

The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Lilley, subdivision of Toombul, Queensland listed Harry Alan Cheshire Gearing, Clerk & his wife Bertha Mary Frances Gearing, Home Duties, of Massey Street, Hamilton. (The 1919 Australian Electoral Roll only listed Harry Alan Cheshire Gearing at the same address).

Harry Alan Cheshire Gearing was a 30 year old, married, Accountant from care of W. Norwood Brown, A.B.C. Bank, Brisbane, Queensland when he applied for a Commission with the Army Service Corps or Light Horse of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) on 7th February, 1915. His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as Mrs Bertha Gearing, care of W. Norwood Brown, A.B.C. Bank, Brisbane, Queensland. His Military Qualifications were listed as: Colour-Serjeant Cadet Corps, Scotland (attached to 2nd Battalion Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders). At present School of Instruction Enoggera – Lieutenant Senior Cadets.

Harry Alan Cheshire Gearing was appointed Second Lieutenant 17th Company, Army Service Corps on 22nd April, 1915.

Second Lieutenant Harry Allan Cheshire Gearing embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Ascanius* (A11) on 24th May, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 17th Company, Army Service Corps.

Second Lieutenant Harry Alan Cheshire Gearing was appointed Lieutenant on 1st June, 1915.

A Medical Board was convened on 21st July, 1915 at No. 1 Australian General Hospital, Heliopolis for the purpose of examining and reporting upon the state of health of Lieutenant Harry Gearing. The Board found that "*Lieut. H. Gearing is suffering from Diabetes. Symptoms first developed on the transport S/S "Ascanius" en route from Australia 5 weeks ago. He now has glycosuria, unquenchable thirst and asthenia. He is 31 years old.*" The Board concluded that Lieutenant Gearing was not fit for General Service & that his disability had been contracted in the Service but not caused by Military duty. The Medical Board recommended that Lieutenant Gearing be discharged as permanently unfit.

Lieutenant Harry Alan Cheshire Gearing was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth on 7th August, 1915 with Diabetes Mellitus. He was discharged to furlough on 31st August, 1915.

Another Medical Board was convened on 21st August, 1915 at the 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth for the purpose of examining and reporting upon the state of health of 2nd Lieutenant H. A. C. Gearing. The Board concluded that 2nd Lieutenant Gearing was not fit for General Service & that his disability had been contracted in the

Service but was caused by Military duty - Strain. The Medical Board found that 2nd Lieutenant Gearing was unfit for light duty at Home for 3 months.

Lieutenant H. A. C. Gearing advised the Military Records Office that his address until 10th September, 1915 would be c/o Mrs Stewart, Culgruft, Crossmichael, Scotland.

Lieutenant H. A. C. Gearing advised the Officer in Charge of Railway Warrants on 15th October, 1915 that he would be returning to London shortly & to kindly forward a Railway Warrant to Corsock, Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland so he could sit before a Medical Board. Lieutenant Gearing stated that he was returning to duty & was entitled to a free warrant. A "Lieutenant Colonel R.A.E." replied to Lieutenant Gearing stating he had "*made it perfectly clear in my memorandum to you.... that it would be entirely at your own responsibility and wish to come to London, and consequently you could not claim to come in on duty.....Again, with regard to your being given employment immediately after your case had been considered by the Medical Officers, that is a promise which it would be quite impossible for me to make as – as far as the London Head Quarters Office is concerned – there might not be a vacancy suitable for your qualifications, and the only alternative would be to send you to the Depot where you could undertake light duty, and that could only be done with the permission of the Medical Department.*"

Lieutenant H. A. C. Gearing advised Records Dept. at London on 23rd October, 1915 to forward all his letters to Calmaghie House, Castledouglas, Scotland.

Lieutenant H. A. C. Gearing advised on 30th October, 1915 that his address would be Laurieston Hall, Mossdale, Scotland until 2nd November, when he would "*probably be returning to London*".

Another Medical Board was convened on 26th November, 1915 at 130 Horseferry Road by order of The Commandant, Australian Hospitals into the present state of health of Lieutenant H. A. C. Gearing. The Medical Board found that he was permanently unfit for General Service & permanently unfit for Service at Home.

Lieutenant Harry Alan Cheshire Gearing was admitted to 6th Australian Auxiliary Hospital, 1 Moreton Gardens, Westin on 2nd December, 1915 with Diabetes & was discharged on 19th January, 1916.

Lieutenant Harry Alan Cheshire Gearing was on leave from 19th January, 1916 & his address was listed as Torre Vene, Porthleven, Cornwall, England.

Lieutenant Harry Alan Cheshire Gearing was discharged /resigned from the Australian Imperial Force in England on 1st April, 1916 with the recommendation of the Medical Board due to being permanently unfit. His Certificate of Resignation was confirmed & dated 6th May, 1916.

A Pension was paid to Henry Allen Cheshire Gearing, Lieutenant 17th A.A.S.C., in the sum of £4 per fortnight commencing from 7th May, 1916 with a revision date of 8th November, 1916. His wife, Bertha Mary F. M. Gearing, was also paid a pension in the sum of £2 per fortnight with a revision date of 8th November, 1916.

A Pension was paid to Henry Allen Cheshire Gearing, Lieutenant 17th A.A.S.C., in the sum of £4 per fortnight commencing from 9th November, 1916 with a revision on 23rd May, 1917. His wife, Bertha Mary F. M. Gearing, was also paid a pension in the sum of £2 per fortnight.

Lieutenant Harry Alan Cheshire Gearing died on 16th March, 1917 from Diabetes (re The Australian War Memorial).

A death for Harry A. C. Gearing, aged 32, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Portsmouth, Hampshire, England.

Lieutenant Harry Alan Cheshire Gearing was buried in Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England – Plot number I. 1. 40 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Bertha Mary F. M. Gearing, of Red Lodge, Craneswater Pk, Southsea, widow of the late Lieutenant Harry Alan Cheshire Gearing, was awarded a Military Pension in the sum of £3.10.0 per fortnight, commencing from 29th March, 1917.

Base Records contacted Mr A. B. Morrison. Esq, 2nd Floor, New Zealand Chambers, Queen Street, Brisbane, Queensland in June, 1920, enquiring if he knew that current address of his sister – the wife of Lieutenant Harry Alan Cheshire Gearing. Mr Morrison stated in his letter to Base Records that his sister “is always in the move” & it would be necessary for him to write to another family member for her correct address. Notifications had previously been placed in the local newspapers in May, 1920 looking for the next-of-kin of Lieutenant H. A. C. Gearing.

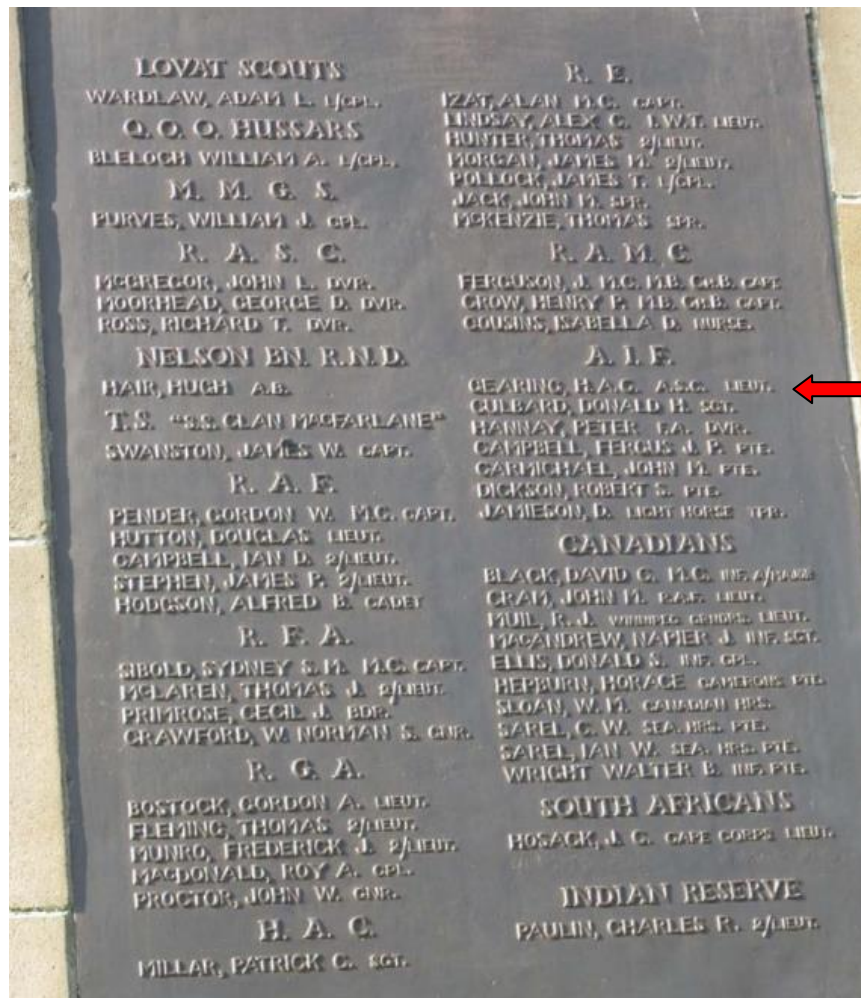
Lieutenant Harry Alan Cheshire Gearing was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & The Victory Medal.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lieutenant Harry Alan Cheshire Gearing, aged 31, of Australian Army Service Corps. He was the son of George and Mary Gearing; husband of Bertha Gearing.

Lieutenant H. A. C. Gearing is remembered on the Dollar Academy War Memorial, Dollar, Clackmannan District, Scotland.



Dollar Academy War Memorial



Dollar Academy War Memorial

Lieutenant H. A. C. Gearing is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 181.



Roll of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(134 pages of Lieutenant Harry Alan Cheshire Gearing'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



Henry "Harry" A. C. Gearing



Newspaper Notices



H. A. C. Gearing

(*The Queenslander Pictorial, supplement to the Queenslander* – 8 May, 1915)

THE AUSTRALIANS

FIFTY-NINTH CASUALTY LIST

QUEENSLAND

Wounded – Second-Lieut. H. A. C. Gearing.

(*The Register, Adelaide, Sth Australia* – 3 August, 1915)

Social and Personal

Mrs H. A. C. Gearing, of Brisbane, has arrived in England to be with her husband, who is still an invalid (says the "British Australasian" of 31st August). Her address is care of the Australian Bank of Commerce, 37 Threadneedle street, E.C.

(*The Week, Brisbane, Qld* – 27 October, 1916)

The following item appeared in the "British Australasian" December 21: - Mr and Mrs H. A. C. Gearing, of Brisbane, are living at 3, Bembridge-crescent, Southsea, for the benefit of Mr Gearing's Health. He has recently been under treatment at the London Hospital.

(*The Northern Herald, Cairns, Qld* – 9 March, 1917)

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)

Lieutenant H. A. C. Gearing does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England

Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth contains 426 Commonwealth War Graves – 192 relating to World War 1 & 234 relating to World War 2. There are 12 Australian War Graves from World War 1 in this cemetery.

It was opened in 1911, and contains war graves of both World Wars. The 1914-1918 burials are mainly in Plot 1. After the war a Cross of Sacrifice was erected on the northern side of the chapel in honour of all the servicemen buried in the cemetery.

The 1939-1945 War burials are widely spread throughout the cemetery.

(Information from CWGC)



Cemetery Chapel at Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth *(Photo by Basher Eyre)*

Photo of Lieutenant H. A. C. Gearing's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers)



**Photo of the other 11 Australian War Graves in Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth
that were re-interred to Plot H. Lieutenant Gearing was left buried in Plot I** *(Photo by Mr Peter Bennett)*