

**Lodge Hill Cemetery,  
Birmingham, West Midlands  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**1064 PRIVATE**

**A. GEARY**

**AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS**

**12TH APRIL, 1917**

## Adam GEARY

Adam Geary was born in 1895 at Woodford, Victoria (as listed on Victorian Births Deaths & Marriages, however Adam Geary stated his place of birth on his Attestation Papers as "Wangoon" – should be "Wangoom", which is near Woodford) to parents John & Jane Geary (nee Smith).

The 1917 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Corangamite, subdivision of Colac, Victoria listed Adam Geary, Chauffeur, from Swan Marsh. The following were also listed from Swan Marsh – Jane Geary, Home Duties, Jane Geary junior, Home Duties, John Geary, Dairyman and John Geary junior, Labourer.

Adam Geary was a 21 year old, single, Motor-Driver from Swan Marsh, Victoria when he enlisted on 12th December, 1916 in Melbourne, Victoria with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1064 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr John Geary, Swan Marsh, Victoria.

Private Adam Geary was posted to 4th Squadron, A.F.C. (Australian Flying Corps) at Laverton, Victoria on 13th December, 1916 for recruit training.

Private Adam Geary embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Omrah (A5)* on 17th January, 1917 with the Australian Flying Corps, No. 4 Squadron, "C" Flight. He was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 24th March, 1917 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 27th March, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

### **No. 4 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps**

4 Squadron, the last Australian Flying Corp (AFC) Squadron to be formed during the First World War, was established at Point Cook, Victoria, in late October 1916. Fully mobilised by 10 January 1917, the unit embarked for England on 17 January, arriving at Plymouth on 27 March, and was sent for training to Castle Bromwich, near Birmingham. After familiarisation with a variety of aircraft, the squadron was equipped with Sopwith Camel fighters. In the United Kingdom the squadron was designated 71 (Australian) Squadron, Royal Flying Corps (RFC), and would retain this designation until it reverted to its original title on 19 January 1918.

The squadron arrived in France on 18 December 1917 and established itself at Bruay. It was assigned to the 10th Wing of the Royal Flying Corps, and operated in support of the British 1st Army, undertaking offensive patrols and escorting reconnaissance machines. The unit's first patrol over German lines took place on 9 January 1918, and its first air combat action occurred on 13 January 1918.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Adam Geary was marched into A.F.C. (Australian Flying Corps) Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire from Australia on 27th March, 1917.

Private Adam Geary was transferred to No. 71 Squadron, A.F.C. at Castle Bromwich, Birmingham on 2nd April, 1917 as 2 A.M. (2nd Air Mechanic).

2nd Air Mechanic Adam Geary was sent sick to 1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham from No. 71 Squadron on 5th April, 1917 with Pneumonia.

2nd Air Mechanic Adam Geary died on 12th April, 1917 at 1st Southern General Hospital, Edgbaston, Birmingham, England from Bronchitis & Pneumonia.

A death for Adam Geary, aged 22, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Kings Norton, Worcestershire, England.

2nd Air Mechanic Adam Geary was buried at 12 noon on 16th April, 1917 in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England – Grave No. 414 Section B10. Private Geary's name is remembered on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall B10.414 as he does not have a headstone.

From the burial report of Private Adam Geary – *Military Funeral*. "The portion of the cemetery where the soldiers are buried has been given by the Corporation of Birmingham for this purpose. There is a large temporary cross & a small one to each grave. There are about 170 soldiers buried there now, & the Australians are buried in single graves. It is proposed after the War to enclose with ornamental railings this portion of the cemetery & to erect a large War Monument. I enclose a photograph but I am afraid many have been buried there since it was taken. The piece of ground is on the top of a hill."

[Note: The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website lists Adam Geary as "Private" however, the Graves Registration Report form held by Commonwealth War Graves Commission has his rank listed as "2/A.M." His rank is listed in the Screen Wall as "Private".]

Mr John Geary, Swan Marsh, Victoria wrote to Colonel Hawker on 20th April, 1917 stating "As regards the telegram informing me of the death of my son Private A. Geary at 1st Southern General Hospital from Bronchitis I would be deeply thankful to you if you would look through the records as there was an A. Geary who enlisted from near this district, and may be that there is a mistake. My son (Adam) gave me his address as Air Mechanic A. Geary C Flight 4th Squad, A.F.C. P.S. As there was nothing mentioned in telegram of Air Mechanic, I think there may be a mistake."

Base Records replied to Mr J. Geary on 27th April, 1917 stating "...there has been no mistake regarding your son, No. 1064, Private Adam Geary, 4th Squadron Australian Flying Corps, reported as having died of bronchitis ...."

Mr J. Geary, Swan Marsh, Victoria was sent two photographs of the grave of his son the late Private A. Geary on 28th March, 1919.

Private Adam Geary 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 Private Geary's father – Mr J. Geary, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent 17th August, 1922 with rank listed as Second Air Mechanic & Plaque sent 11th August, 1922 with rank recorded as Private).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private A. Geary – service number 1064, of Australian Flying Corps. No family details are listed.

Private A. Geary 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

Adam Geary is remembered on the Swan Marsh State School Roll of Honour, located in Swan Marsh Primary School, Government Street, Swan Marsh, Victoria.



**Swan Marsh State School Roll of Honour** (Photo from VHD Heritage Victoria)

A. Geary is remembered on the Colac Soldiers' Memorial, located at Murray Street, Colac, Victoria.





Colac Soldiers' Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia)

A. Geary is remembered on the Shire of Colac Roll of Honor, located in Colac RSL Club, 21 Murray Street, Colac, Victoria. Another is located at Colac & District Historical Society's History Centre, Colac Performing Arts & Cultural Centre, Gellibrand & Rae Streets, Colac, Victoria.



Shire of Colac Roll of Honor (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)

(46 pages of Private Adam Geary'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**

### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **290TH LIST**

Died of Illness

Pte A. GEARY, Swan Marsh

*(The Bendigo Independent, Victoria – 1 May, 1917)*

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### **NOTES AND EVENTS**

The following district names were mentioned in the casualty list issued by the Defence Department on Monday evening:- ... Died of illness, Private A. Geary, Swan Marsh...

*(The Colac Herald, Victoria – 2 May, 1917)*

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

#### **On Active Service**

GEARY – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Air Mechanic Adam Geary, 4th Squadron, A.F.C., who died of illness at 1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham, on April 12, 1917.

No father or mother to soothe his brow,

    No brother to say good-bye,

No sister to take him by the hand

    When death was drawing nigh.

Sleep on, dear Adam, it is but a while

    Till we shall meet once more,

And we shall clasp each other's hands

    Upon the golden shore.

-(Inserted by his sorrowing parents, brothers and sisters)

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 12 April, 1918)*

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Adam Geary is named on the family memorial in Colac Cemetery, Victoria.



**Colac Cemetery**



**Geary Family Plot in Colac Cemetery** *(Photos courtesy of Carol's Headstone Photos)*





IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF  
JANE GEARY  
WHO DIED 21ST JAN. 1868  
AGED 81 YEARS.  
JOHN GEARY  
WHO DIED 20TH OCT. 1845  
AGED 81 YEARS.  
ALSO OUR DEAR BROTHER  
**ADAM GEARY A.F.C.**  
WHO DIED IN ENGLAND  
12TH APRIL 1917  
AGED 22 YEARS.



*Also Our Dear Brother*

*ADAM GEARY A.F.C.*

*Who Died in England*

*12th April 1917*

*Aged 22 Years*

## Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Private Adam Geary does not have CWGC headstone, his name is instead remembered on a CWGC Screen Wall as his grave was one that could not be individually marked with a headstone.

## **Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England**

The First World War saw four important hospitals - besides many smaller - posted at Birmingham: the 1st Southern General (3,500 beds) was in the university and other buildings, with a section at Stourbridge; the 2nd/1st Southern General (1,800 beds) in the Dudley Road Infirmary and in billets; the 1st Birmingham War Hospital (1,000 beds) at Rubery Hill Asylum and the 2nd Birmingham War Hospital (900 beds) at Hollymoor Asylum. Military hospitals were at Birmingham again during the Second World War, including No 7 Canadian Hospital at Marston Green. Birmingham and Coventry were among the chief manufacturing areas producing materials for the war effort and were subjected to many devastating air raids during the Blitz of 1940-41.

BIRMINGHAM (LODGE HILL) CEMETERY contains 499 First World War burials, most of them in a war graves plot in Section B10. The names of those buried in the plot, or in graves elsewhere in the cemetery which could not be individually marked, are inscribed on a Screen Wall. Second World War burials number 125, most of them scattered throughout the cemetery, although there is a small plot in Section 2E. Birmingham Municipal Crematorium stands within the cemetery. In the chapel, there is a bronze plaque commemorating 48 servicemen of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there.

*(Information from CWGC)*



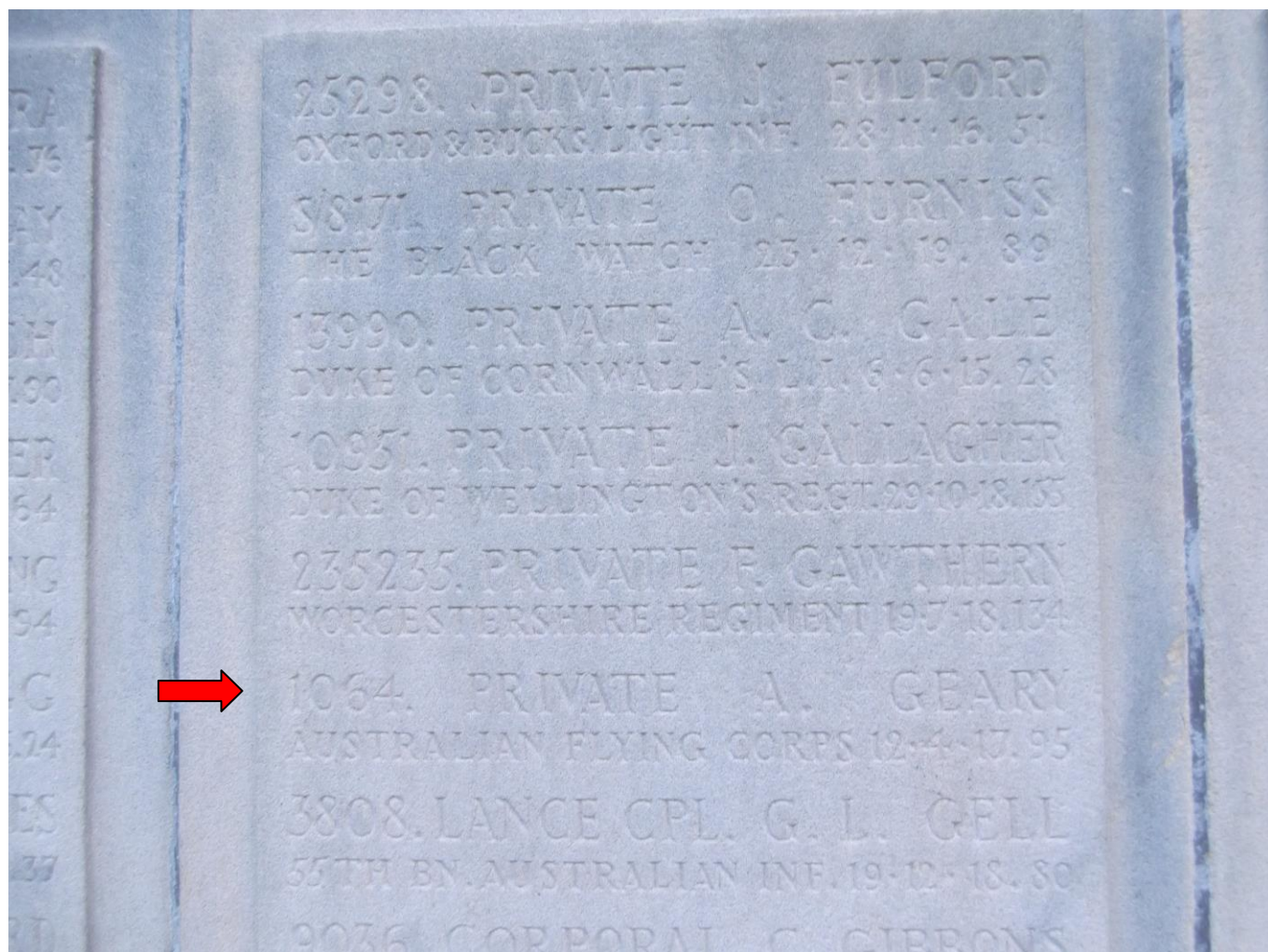
*(Photo by Lepidus Magnus)*



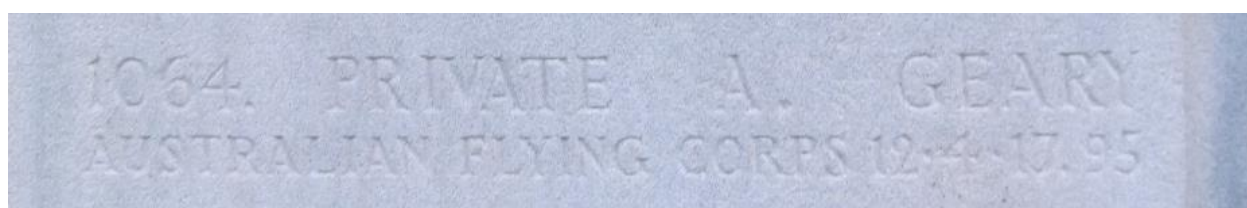
**Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham** (*Photos from CWGC*)



Photo of Private A. Geary's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission WW1 Screen Wall in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England.



(Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)





**WW1 Screen Wall in Garden of Remembrance** (Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)



**WW2 Garden of Remembrance** (Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)

# Lodge Hill Cemetery

