

**All Saints Cemetery,
Nunhead, Greater London, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3103 LANCE CORPORAL

E. E. GLADSTONES

2ND AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS

19TH MARCH, 1917

Eric Eason GLADSTONES

Eric Eason Gladstones was born in 1893 at Brunswick, Victoria to parents Arthur William & Mary Kathleen/Catherine (Katie) Gladstones (nee Short).

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Flinders, subdivision of Lang Lang, Victoria recorded Eric Eason Gladstones, Farmer from Tooradin. His parents – Arthur William Gladstones, Farmer & Katie Gladstones, Home Duties, were also listed at Tooradin.

Eric Eason Gladstones was a 23 year old, single, Farm Labourer from Geelong Road, Brooklea, Victoria when he enlisted on 22nd July, 1916 in Melbourne, Victoria with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Arthur W. Gladstones, Geelong Road, Brooklea, Victoria.

Private Eric Eason Gladstones was posted to 23rd Light Horse Reinforcements at Seymour on 24th July, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to Pioneers from 16th August, 1916. Private Gladstones was transferred to No. 8 N.C.O.'s School at Geelong from 20th September, 1916 then was posted to 7th Reinforcements of 2nd Pioneers from 21st October, 1916 with the rank of Corporal. Corporal Gladstones was promoted to Acting Sergeant from 22nd November, 1916.

2nd Pioneer Battalion

The 2nd Pioneers were established on 10 March 1916, at Tel-el-Kebir in Egypt, and were subsequently assigned to the 2nd Division. Trained as infantrymen, they were also tasked with some engineer functions, with a large number of personnel possessing trade qualifications from civilian life. As such, they were designated as pioneer units. In early 1916, the Australian Army was reorganised ahead of its transfer to the Western Front in Europe. A total of five pioneer battalions were raised by the AIF at this time, with one being assigned to each of the five infantry divisions that the Australians deployed to the battlefield in France and Belgium. Tasked with digging trenches, labouring, constructing strong points and light railways, and undertaking battlefield clearance, the troops assigned to the pioneers required construction and engineering experience in addition to basic soldiering skills.

(Pioneer Battalion information from Wikipedia)

Private Eric Eason Gladstones (rank as per Embarkation Roll), Service number 3103, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Hororata* (A20) on 23rd November, 1916 with the 2nd Pioneer Battalion, 7th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 29th January, 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.

Acting Sergeant Eric Eason Gladstones reverted to Ranks on marching in to the Pioneers Training Battalion at Larkhill, Wiltshire on 30th January, 1917. He was to be E.D.P (Extra Duty Pay) Sergeant from 31st January, 1917.

E.D.P. Sergeant Eric Eason Gladstones reported sick on 11th February, 1917 to Lewisham Hospital. He reverted to E.D.P Corporal from 6th March, 1917 then reverted to Lance Corporal from 13th March, 1917 (P.B. No. 130 841).

Lance Corporal Eric Eason Gladstones died at 6.20 am on 19th March, 1917 at Military Hospital, Lewisham, England from Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Eric E. Gladstones, aged 24, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Lewisham, London, England.

Lance Corporal Eric Eason Gladstones was buried on 24th March, 1917 in All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead, Greater London, England – Square 49 Grave No. 9686. He is now remembered on CWGC Screen Wall 49. 9686. He does not have a headstone but his death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

From the burial report of Lance Corporal Eric Eason Gladstones - *Coffin was good. Polished Elm. Died of Broncho Pneumonia. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. Firing Party provided by the King's Royal Rifles Regiment of Wimbledon. Buglers of the King's Royal Rifle Regiment sound the "Last Post" at the graveside. Floral tributes were sent by the relatives, patients and Nursing Staff of the Lewisham Military Hospital. Chaplain Stiff officiated at the graveside. The deceased soldier was buried in a private (family) grave. Relatives present at the funeral were:- Mr & Mrs J. W. Gladstones, Cousin, Honor Oak Rd, Forest Hill, S.E. Dr H. Gladstones, Cousin, Sydenham, S.E. Prof: & Mrs R. Wilton, Cousin Forest Hill. Pte V. T. Gladstones, Cousin, A.I.F. Headquarters. Miss Priestly, Cousin, Forest Hill.*

A War Pension was granted to Kathleen M. Gladstones, Geelong Rd, Brooklea, mother of "A/Sgt" Eric E. Gladstones, 3103, 2nd Pioneers, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 23rd May, 1917. Pensions were also granted to brothers – Stanley Gladstone, Geelong Rd, Brooklea & Robert Gladstones, Geelong Rd, Brooklea – both in the sum of 10/- per fortnight from 24th May, 1917.

Lance Corporal Eric Eason Gladstones 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 Lance Corporal Gladstones father – Mr A. W. Gladstones, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Eric Eason Gladstones – service number 3103, of 2nd Australian Pioneers. No family details are listed.

Lance Corporal E. E. Gladstones is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 172.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(41 pages of Lance Corporal Eric Eason Gladstones' 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

DIED ON SERVICE

GLADSTONES – On the 19th March, at Lewisham Military Hospital, London, Sergeant Eric E. Gladstones, 2nd Pioneer Battalion, eldest son of Arthur W. and Katie Gladstones, of Brooklyn, aged 24 years.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 26 March, 1917) & (*The Australasian*, Melbourne, Victoria – 31 March, 1917)

AUSTRALIA'S HEROES

284th CASUALTY LIST

VICTORIA

DIED OF ILLNESS

Sgt. E. E. Gladstones, Brooklea.

(*The Ballarat Star*, Victoria – 31 March, 1917)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

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.

Lance Corporal E. E. Gladstones is named on the CWGC Screen Wall

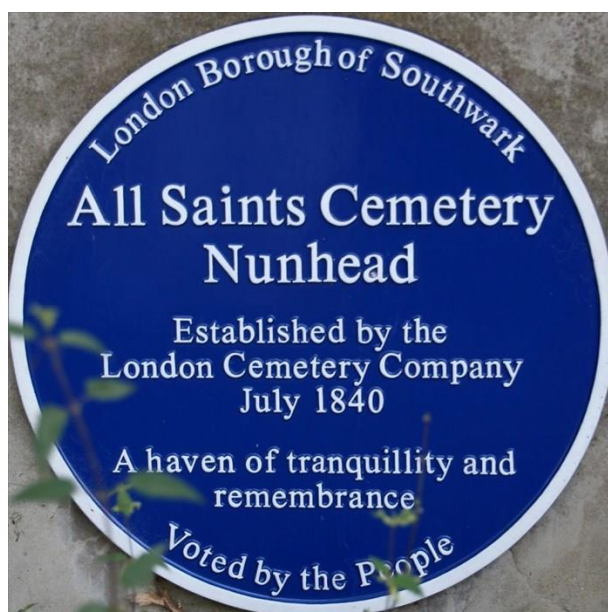
(*Note: Surname has been mis-spelled on the CWGC Screen Wall*)

All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead, Great London, England (also known as Nunhead Cemetery)

Nunhead (All Saints) Cemetery contains 592 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war. The majority are in three war graves plots; the United Kingdom plot (in Square 89) has 266 graves, the Australian plot (near the main entrance) has 23 and the Canadian plot (in Square 52, also containing New Zealand and South African burials) has 36. The graves in the Australian and Canadian plots are marked with individual headstones. The graves in the United Kingdom plot and the remaining war graves scattered throughout the cemetery could not be marked individually; the casualties buried in these graves are therefore commemorated by name on a Screen Wall inside the main entrance gate to the cemetery.

A second Screen Wall commemorates the 110 burials of the 1939-1945 war in a further war graves plot in Square 5 and elsewhere in the cemetery whose graves could not be marked by headstones.

There is also 1 Belgian burial of the 1914-1918 war and 7 Non-war Service burials, all commemorated on the Screen Wall. *(Information from CWGC)*



All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J00776

The Australian area at Nunhead Cemetery. The grave in the centre front is 27 Lance Corporal Eric Lyndon Lowe, 18th Battalion, from Clarence Town NSW, who died on 10 September 1915 aged 18 years. The grave to the right is 1560 Private (Pte) Leslie Raymond Talbot Gilbert, 14th Battalion, born in England, from Kogarah West NSW, who died on 20 January 1916 aged 19 years. The grave 2nd row right side is 1019 Sergeant (Sgt) Victor Ronald Coombe, 15th Battalion, of Campbelltown, Tas, who died on 29 September 1915 aged 26 years. From the collection of Mr Alfred Thomas Sharp. Mr Sharp was the Commonwealth Immigration Officer of Victoria and was based in the London Office during the First World War. He and his wife hosted and visited many soldiers, particularly those from Victoria, who were recuperating in London. He also photographed many Australian graves in English cemeteries. His photograph collection relating to this period in London was bequeathed to the Memorial in 1922 after his death. During his time in London he was a member of the British Volunteer Regiment, serving with the Willesden Battalion, Middlesex Volunteer Regiment.



Australian War Graves in All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead (Photos courtesy of Neil Bright)



Photo of Lance Corporal E. E. Gladstones' name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in All Saints Cemetery, Nunhead, Greater London, England.

(Note: Surname has been mis-spelled on the CWGC Screen Wall – should be “Gladstones”)



(Photo courtesy of Andy Callaghan)

