

**Hawkhead Cemetery,
Paisley, Glasgow, Scotland**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2906/A PRIVATE

D. GRAHAM

20TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

7TH JULY, 1917 Age 45

Greater Love Hath No Man

That He Lay Down

His Life For His Brother

David (Dick) GRAHAM

David Graham was born at Bendigo, Victoria around 1872 to parents William and Annie Griffiths Graham (nee Davies). (The Red Cross file for Private David Graham has a letter from his nephew stating that his uncle may also be known as Richard or Dick).

David Graham attended Iron Bark National Common School, Victoria.

William Graham, father of David Graham, died in 1886 in Victoria.

David Graham was a 43 year old, single, Miner from Newport, Victoria when he enlisted at Royal Agricultural Showgrounds, Sydney, NSW on 14th June, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2906 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his brother – James Graham, of 36 Wilkinson Street, Newport, Victoria.

Private David Graham was posted to "A" Company, 1st Battalion at Cootamundra, NSW for recruit training on 27th May, 1916. He was transferred to Goulburn, NSW to "A" Company, Depot Battalion on 7th July, 1916. Pte Graham was transferred to "B" Company, 56th Battalion on 4th September, 1916 & the letter "A" added to his Regimental Number.

Private David Graham embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Ascanius (A11)* on 25th October, 1916 with the 56th Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 28th December, 1916.

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.

Private David Graham proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on S.S. *Golden Eagle* from 14th Training Battalion on 28th February, 1917. Pte Graham was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 1st March, 1917. He was marched out to join his Battalion on 21st March, 1917.

Private David Graham was transferred to "A" Company, 20th Battalion on 23rd March, 1917.

Private David Graham was wounded in action in France on 2nd May, 1917. He was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance with gunshot wounds to his face then transferred to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station on 3rd May, 1917. Pte Graham was transferred to Ambulance Train on 5th May, 1917 & admitted to 11th Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France the same day. Pte Graham was reported as dangerously ill on 10th May, 1917 & removed from the dangerously ill list on 19th May, 1917. Pte Graham was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Warilda* from Havre, France on 21st May, 1917.

Private David Graham was admitted to University War Hospital, Southampton, England on 23rd May, 1917 dangerously ill with gunshot wounds to face. He was transferred to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley on 4th June, 1917 suffering from mental trouble.

Private David Graham died at 9.45 pm on 7th July, 1917 at Dykebar War Hospital, Paisley, Scotland from wounds received in action and Meningitis following gunshot wounds to head. Dykebar War Hospital was for patients with mental diseases.

Private David Graham was buried on 11th July, 1917 in Hawkhead Cemetery, Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland – Plot number 13. 4. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte David Graham - *Coffin was covered with black cloth and black mountings. The deceased soldier was buried in Hawkhead Cemetery, Paisley. No relatives were present. Rev. E. J. Moore, 84 New Swaddon, Paisley conducted the service.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private David Graham contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives to obtain the fullest details possible into his wounds, death and burial. A letter from Matron, Dykebar War Hospital, Paisley reads: "No. 2906 Pte D. Graham of the 20th Batn A.I.F. was admitted to the 11th Stationary

Hospital France 5th May 1917 with two penetrating wounds of left side of head. X Rays showed shell splinters and after operation for removal of these, he became delirious and confused. In this condition he was sent to us via Netley reaching this hospital in an exhausted and weak condition. He rallied a little and at first seemed to gain strength, but he gradually sunk and died on 7.7.17. A Specialist was called in to see him with the hope that some further private treatment might save Graham's life but he was unable to suggest more than had been done. Although conscious till near the end Graham was confused and rambling and difficult to understand. He did not seem to be in any pain except for headaches in the earlier part of his illness, and the end came very peacefully. He was visited by the Hospital Chaplain."

Private David Graham's nephew – Midshipman D. D. Aitken, Royal Australian Navy had written to the Red Cross in 1918 seeking details on the burial place of his Uncle as he was planning on visiting the grave.

A War Pension was applied for by Amy F. Graham, sister-in-law of the late Private David Graham but was rejected as she was "not a dependant as defined by the War Pensions Act."

Base Records contacted Mr J. Graham, 36 Wilkins Street, Newport, Victoria, brother of the late Private David Graham, on several occasions in 1921 & 1922 regarding the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. Base Records were requesting a definitive answer on whether his parents were still living.

Private David Graham was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Graham's eldest brother as both parents were deceased - Mr James Graham, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private David Graham – service number 2906/A, aged 45, of 20th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of William and Annie Graham. Born at Bendigo, Victoria, Australia.

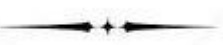
Private D. Graham is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 91.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(58 pages of Pte David Graham'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

THE 307th CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED

Private D. Graham, Newport

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 9 June, 1917)

THE 326th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private D. Graham, Newport

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 25 July, 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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 13th July, 1921, to Mr J. Graham, 36 Wilkins Street, Newport, Victoria, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his brother, the late Pte D, Graham, in Hawkhead Cemetery 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 D. Graham does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Greater Love Hath No Man That He Lay Down His Life For His Brother

Hawkhead Cemetery, Paisley, Glasgow, Renfrewshire, Scotland

Hawkhead Cemetery, Paisley contains 221 Commonwealth War Graves – 88 from World War 1 & 133 from World War 2.



Cross of Sacrifice, Hawkhead Cemetery, Paisley, Glasgow (Photos from CWGC)



Photo of Private D. Graham's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Hawkhead Cemetery, Paisley, Glasgow, Renfrewshire, Scotland.

