

**St. George's Churchyard,
Fovant, Wiltshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



SECOND LIEUTENANT

A. E. GRAY

AUSTRALIAN REINFORCEMENT

28TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 29

Dearlly Beloved Husband

Of Esme

Loving Father Of Keith

Alfred Edgar GRAY

Alfred Edgar Gray was born at Kyabram, Victoria on 19th October, 1889 to parents Matthew and Susan Jane Gray (nee Saggars).

Alfred Edgar Gray attended Dowling Forest School, Ballarat, Victoria.

The 19th (Yarrowee) Australian Light Horse Regiment, 1913 listed Second Lieutenant A. E. Gray of "A" Squadron, Ballarat-Clunes-Creswick-Learmonth, dated 27th March, 1911.

The 1914 & 1915 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Wimmera, Mildura, Victoria listed Alfred Edgar Gray, Drill Instructor, of Langtree Avenue, Mildura.

Alfred Edgar Gray married Esme Gladys De Garis in 1915 in Victoria.

A birth was registered in 1916 for Keith Montrose Gray, son of Alfred Edgar & Esme Gray.

The 1917 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Bourke, subdivision of Brunswick North, Victoria listed Alfred Edgar Gray, Soldier & his wife Esme Gladys Gray, Home Duties, living at 45 Murdock Street, Brunswick.

Staff Sergeant Major Alfred Edgar Gray applied for a Commission in the Australian Imperial Force on 21st January, 1916 & 18th July, 1917. He was appointed Second Lieutenant on 24th September, 1917.

Second Lieutenant Alfred Edgar Gray was a Soldier from 5 Edith Street, Caulfield, Victoria when he received a Commission on 24th September, 1917 with the 3rd (V.) Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Presbyterian & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs E. G. Gray, of 5 Edith Street, Caulfield, Victoria. Alfred Edgar Gray stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 7 years with 19th Australian Light Horse Regiment with rank of Lieutenant & 5 years as Instructional Staff – present rank S.S.M. (Staff Sergeant Major).

Alfred Edgar Gray was posted to Recruits Battalion at Broadmeadows – N.C.O. School on 2nd October, 1917. He was transferred to 1st Battalion at Broadmeadows - N.C.O. School on 13th February, 1918.

Second Lieutenant Alfred Edgar Gray embarked from Sydney for active service on RMS *Orontes* on 5th June, 1918 & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 11th August, 1918.

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.

Second Lieutenant Alfred Edgar Gray having arrived from Australia was taken on strength of A.I.F. in England on 11th August, 1918.

Second Lieutenant Alfred Edgar Gray was marched in from Australia to 9th Training Battalion on 12th August, 1918.

Second Lieutenant Alfred Edgar Gray was admitted to Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire on 23rd October, 1918. He was reported seriously ill (no date).

Second Lieutenant Alfred Edgar Gray died at 7.50 am on 28th October, 1918 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire, England from Pneumonia, Influenza.

A death for Alfred E. Gray, aged 29, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Second Lieutenant Alfred Edgar Gray was buried at 3 pm on 1st November, 1918 in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England – Plot number I. B. 3. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Second Lieutenant Alfred Edgar Gray - *Coffin was polished Elm with heavy brass furnishings. Deceased was buried with full Military honours the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun-carriage preceded by a Firing Party and Band from the 2nd Australian Training Brigade. Six of deceased's brother Officers supported the Pall. Wreaths from Brother Officers were placed on the grave. About*

twenty Officers and 200 N.C.O.'s and Men from deceased's late Unit followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.

Second Lieutenant Alfred Edgar Gray 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 Second Lieutenant Alfred Edgar Gray's widow - Mrs E. G. Gray, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Second Lieutenant Alfred Edgar Gray, aged 29, of Australian Reinforcements. He was the son of Matthew and Susan Gray; husband of Esme G. Gray, of 2 Glenmack Avenue, St. Kilda, Victoria. Born at Kyabram, Victoria.

Second Lieutenant A. E. Gray is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 185.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. E. Gray is remembered on the City of Caulfield Honour Roll for World War 1 (North Wall – Part B), located in Glen Eira City Hall, Glen Eira & Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield, Victoria.



City of Caulfield Honour Roll for World War 1
(Photo above from Monument Australia; below from VHG)



North wall, composite of 4 pics.

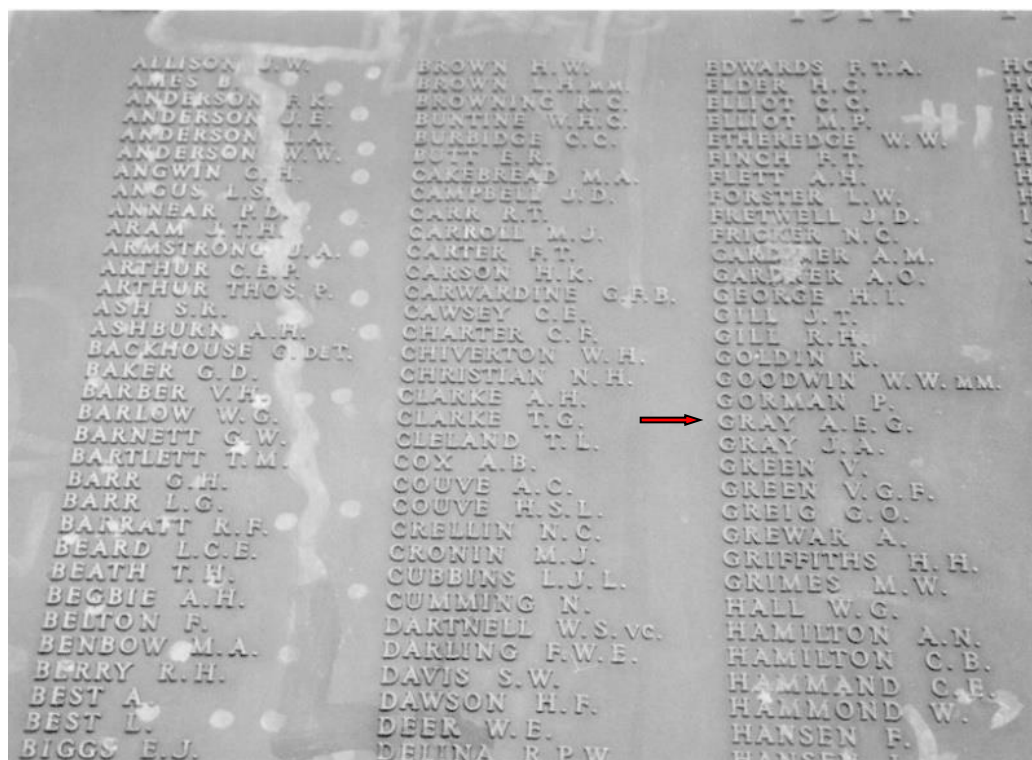
A. E. Gray is remembered on the Caulfield Memorial Stone, located in Caulfield Park, Hawthorn & Balaclava Roads, Caulfield North, Victoria.

The Caulfield Memorial Stone is a metal plaque which originally marked the North Road Avenue of Honour which no longer exists. The plaque lists the names of the fallen from Caulfield.

The Avenue of Honour on North and Nepean Roads was a joint collaboration between the Brighton and Caulfield Councils to commemorate those who had served in World War One. The final planting in North Road took place on Anzac Day 1919. In the 1960s, the avenue was removed due to road widening .

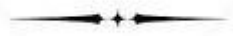


Caulfield Memorial Stone (Photo above from Monument Australia; below from VHD)



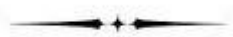
(73 pages of Second Lieutenant Alfred Edgar Gray's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll,) & National Archives



Second Lieutenant Alfred Edgar Gray

(All Australia Memorial)



Newspaper Notices

DIED ON SERVICE

GRAY – Officially reported died of pneumonia at Fovant, on 28th October, Lieut. Alfred Edgar Gray, 3rd Refts., beloved husband of Esme, and E. de Garis, aged 29 years.

GRAY – Officially reported died of pneumonia at Fovant, on 28th October, Lieut. Alfred Edgar Gray, 3rd Refts., beloved husband of Esme, loving father of Keith, aged 29 years.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 8 November, 1918)

DEATHS

On Active Service

GRAY – Officially reported died of pneumonia at Fovant on 28th October, Lieutenant Alfred Edgar Gray, 3rd Reinforcements., beloved husband of Esme, loving father of Keith, aged 29 years.

GRAY – Officially reported died of pneumonia at Fovant on 28th October, Lieut. Alfred Edgar Gray, 3rd Refts., beloved son-in-law of G. N and E. de Garis, aged 29 years.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 8 November, 1918)

DIED ON SERVICE

GRAY – On the 28th October, of pneumonia, at Fovant Military Hospital, Lieut. Alfred Edgar Gray, loved eldest son of Mr and Mrs M. Gray, Middleboro road, Box Hill, loving brother of Lieut. Monty and Pte Bob Gray (on service), aged 29 years.

GRAY – Officially reported died of pneumonia at Fovant on 28th October, Lieut. Alfred Edgar Gray, 3rd Refts., beloved son-in-law of G. N and E. de Garis, aged 29 years.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 9 November, 1918)

THE 448th and 449th CASUALTY LISTS

VICTORIAN NAMES

DIED OF ILLNESS

2nd Lieut. A. E. Gray, Caulfield

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, , Victoria – 4 December, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

GRAY – A tribute to the memory of Lieut. Alfred E. Gray, who died at Fovant 28th October, 1918, beloved husband of Esme and loving father of Keith. Loved and remembered.

GRAY – In loving memory of Lieut. Alfred E. Gray, who died at Fovant 28th October, 1918, beloved son-in-law of G.N. and E. de Garis, loved brother-in-law of Rex (on active service).

Deeply regretted

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 October, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

GRAY – A tribute to the memory of Lieutenant Alfred E. Gray, who died at Fovant October 28, 1918, beloved Husband of Esme, and loving father of Keith.

Loved and remembered.

GRAY – In loving memory of Lieutenant A. E. Gray, who died at Fovant, 28th October, 1918, loved son-in-law of G.N. and E. De Garis, brother-in-law of Rex (late A.I.F).

Ever remembered

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 October, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

GRAY – A tribute of love to the memory of our beloved son and brother, Lieut. A. E. Gray (AIF), died on October 28, 1918, at Fovant Military Hospital.

Ever remembered

-(Inserted by his parents, brothers and sisters, Box Hill).

GRAY – A tribute to the memory of Lieut. Alfred E. Gray, who died at Fovant October 28, 1918, beloved husband of Esme, and loving father of Keith.

Loved and remembered.

GRAY – In loving memory of Lieut. A. E. Gray, who died at Fovant, October 28, 1918, loved son-in-law of G.N. and E. De Garis, brother-in-law of Rex De Garis

Ever remembered

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 October, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

GRAY – A tribute to the memory of Lieutenant Alfred E. Gray, who died at Fovant, 28th October, 1918; beloved husband of Esme, and loving father of Keith. Loved and remembered.

GRAY – In loving memory of Lieutenant A. E. Gray, who died at Fovant, 28th October, 1918; loved son-in-law of G.N. and E. De Garis

Ever remembered

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 October, 1922)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

GRAY – A tribute to the memory of Lieut. Alfred E. Gray, who died at Fovant, 28th October, 1918, beloved husband of Esme, and loving father of Keith. Loved and remembered.

GRAY – In loving memory of Lieut. A. E. Gray, who died at Fovant, 28th October, 1918, loved son-in-law of G.N. and E. De Garis

Ever remembered

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 October, 1923)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

GRAY – A tribute to the memory of our beloved son and brother, Lieut. A. E. Gray (AIF), who died at Fovant, on 28th October, 1918.

Loved and remembered

-(Inserted by his parents, brothers and sisters, Box Hill).

GRAY – A tribute to the memory of Lieut. Alf. E. Gray, who died at Fovant, October 28, 1918, beloved husband of Esme, and loving father of Keith.

Loved and remembered.

GRAY – In loving memory of Lieut. A. E. Gray, who died at Fovant, October 28, 1918, loved son-in-law of G.N. and E. De Garis, brother-in-law of Rex De Garis

Ever remembered

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 October, 1924)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

GRAY – A tribute to the memory of Lieut. Alfred E. Gray, who died at Fovant, 28th October, 1918, beloved husband of Esme, and loving father of Keith.

Loved and remembered.

GRAY – In loving memory of Lieut. Alfred E. Gray, who died at Fovant, October 28, 1918, loved son-in-law of G.N. and E. De Garis, brother-in-law of Rex De Garis

Ever remembered

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 October, 1925)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

GRAY – In loving memory of our beloved son and brother, Lieut. A. E. Gray, who died at Fovant, 28th October, 1918.

Loved and remembered

-(Inserted by his father, mother, brothers and sisters, Box Hill).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 October, 1925)

** Notices were also placed in 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932 & 1933

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*)

Second Lieutenant A. E. Gray does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Dearly Beloved Husband Of Esme

Loving Father Of Keith

St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England

There was a 600 bed hutted military hospital at Fovant during the First World War, and the concentration of Australian depots and training camps in the area is reflected in the 63 First World War burials in this churchyard. The war graves form two groups, one west of the church and the other at the east end. There is also one burial of the Second World War. There are 44 War Graves belonging to those who served with the Australian Imperial Force in World War 1.

(*Information from CWGC*)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00299

(Photo c 1919)





St George's Churchyard, Fovant – War Graves at front & rear (*Churchyard photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey*)



Photo of Second Lieutenant A. E. Gray's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy Andrew Stacey)



Cross of Sacrifice (Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)