

**Accrington Cemetery,
Lancashire, England**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2378 PRIVATE

A. HALL

4TH AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS

13TH MARCH, 1919

*He Still Lives
In The Hearts Of Those
Who Loved Him*

Arthur HALL

Arthur Hall was born around April, 1890 at Accrington, Lancashire, England to parents Thomas Edward & Martha Hall (nee Cross). His birth was registered in the June quarter, 1890 in the district of Haslingden, Lancashire.

The 1891 England Census recorded Arthur Hall as an 11 month old living with his parents at 11 Crossland Street, Accrington, Lancashire. His parents were recorded as Thomas Edward Hall (Machine Joiner, aged 25, born Accrington) & Martha Hall (aged 26, born Accrington).

The 1901 England Census recorded Arthur Hall as a 10 year old living with his family at 9 Crossland Street, Accrington, Lancashire. His parents were recorded as Thomas E. Hall (Joiner (Carp. wood), aged 35) & Martha Hall (aged 36). Arthur was the eldest of 3 children listed on this Census. The younger children were – John Hall (aged 9, born Accrington) & Margaret Hall (aged 6, born Accrington).

Arthur Hall married Beatrice Walsh in 1910. Their marriage was registered in September quarter, 1910 in the district of Haslingden, Lancashire.

Sydney Hall, son of Beatrice & Arthur Hall was born on 7th June, 1913.

According to a letter in Arthur Hall's Australian Army Service Record file, dated 19th March, 1914, – Arthur Hall joined the Ipswich branch of the Queensland Railways as a Moulder in the Ipswich Shops on 8th February, 1912 & *“on account of slackness of work in the Foundry he was reduced to the position of Skilled Labourer in February of the present year and resigns of his own accord to day.” “During the period of his employment he gave every satisfaction both at his trade and in his reduced position whilst his conduct was uniformly good.”*

Arthur Hall was a 25 year old, married, Moulder from Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted at Brisbane, Queensland on 15th January, 1916 with the 4th Pioneer Battalion, 4th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2378 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Beatrice Hall, 13 Crossland Street, Accrington, Lancashire, England.

Private Arthur Hall embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Itonus (A50)* on 8th August, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 18th October, 1916.

Private Arthur Hall was marched in to Australian Details from Hurdcott, Fovant, Wiltshire on 3rd November, 1916.

Private Arthur Hall proceeded overseas to France from Folkestone on 31st December, 1916 on *Princess Victoria*.

Private Arthur Hall was marched in to 4th Australian Divisional Base Depot, Etaples France on 1st January, 1917.

Private Arthur Hall was sent sick to Hospital on 24th February, 1917 from 4th Australian Divisional Base Depot. He was admitted to 26th General Hospital at Etaples on 14th March, 1917 with an infection of middle ear. He embarked from Calais, France on Hospital Ship *Brighton* on 13th March, 1917 suffering from Otitis Media. He was admitted to Dover Military Hospital on 13th March, 1917 & later discharged.

Private Arthur Hall was marched into No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 15th March, 1917.

A Medical Report on Private Arthur Hall conducted at No. 2 Australian Command Depot, Weymouth, dated 20th March, 1917, described his disability as “Otitis Media” (group of inflammatory diseases of the middle ear) which occurred prior to his enlistment in the A.I.F. The Medical Report found that Pte Arthur Hall was permanently unfit for General Service & permanently unfit for Home Service.

Private Arthur Hall was accepted to be enrolled under the Australian Munitions Workers Scheme. Arrangements were then made to have him discharged from the Australian Imperial Force.

The Commonwealth of Australia (The War Pensions Act 1914-1916) Medical Certificate for Arthur Hall (4th Pnr) of C/- Mrs Hawkes, 2 Ilchester Road Weymouth, dated 5th November, 1917, states he is suffering from “Deafness in left ear, no discharge had discharge up till recently, tinnitus, had it for 18 months, had ear trouble as a child, none at

the time of enlistment, right ear quite healthy. Iron and Glass moulder by trade." The above condition was a result of "Infection prior to enlistment aggravated by active service (4 months in France)."

Private Arthur Hall was discharged from Australian Imperial Force in the UK on 5th November, 1917, as he was permanently unfit for General Service. Pte Arthur Hall had served for 1 year & 295 days with Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). He received a Parchment Certificate of Discharge – No. 689. Arthur Hall was to take up employment as an Australian Munitions Worker.

A War Pension was granted to Arthur Hall of 2 Ilchester Rd, Weymouth in the sum of 15/- per fortnight commencing from 6th November, 1917. A War Pension was also granted to Beatrice Hall, wife of Arthur Hall, in the sum of 7/6d per fortnight commencing from 6th November, 1917. A War Pension was also granted to Sidney Hall (aged 3 ½ years), son of Arthur Hall, in the sum of 5/- per fortnight commencing from 6th November, 1917.

Australian Munitions Workers

Men enlisted under a joint Australian Commonwealth - Imperial Government scheme for providing skilled Australian workers to British war industries during the First World War. Under this scheme the volunteers would receive free passage to Great Britain, an allowance for travel time, a special allowance for the duration of service, and eventual repatriation to Australia. Married men also received a separation allowance, but were required to allot a portion of all their earnings to dependants. The men were expected to work in whatever industries they were directed to by the British Board of Trade, and under the prevailing conditions and wages for the duration of hostilities.

Government newspaper adverts appeared in August, 1916, and the first party of 76 workers departed Australia in September. Groups continued to be recruited and sent at intervals, with the eventual number of workers under the scheme totalling just over 5,000. Almost 1,000 of these had already been working in Britain under private agreements with large firms such as Vickers, and were brought under the conditions of the scheme. An additional 200 former AIF soldiers were also recruited in Britain. Initially only skilled workers were sought, however at the request of the British Government later groups included large numbers of navvies for general labouring.

These men were not members of the Australian Imperial Forces and did not serve in combat units, but were recruited to meet the shortfall in skilled labour that threatened many of Britain's key wartime industries including munitions.

(Source: Australian War Memorial)

A letter from O.C. Australian Muniton Workers, Australia House, Strand, London, dated 3rd December, 1917, to the Commandant, A.I.F. Headquarters, Westminster, in regards to 2378 Pte A. Hall. 4th Pioneers stated "*... the above soldier I have to inform you that although Hall was discharged from the A.I.F. to become an Australian Munitions Worker on the 5th November, he failed to report to O i/c Australian Munitions Workers. Until this ex-soldier reports to the O i/c Australian Munitions Workers and is placed at work by the Ministry of Labour he is not enrolled as an Australian Munitions Worker and is liable to forfeit his return passage to Australia.*"

A reply letter from Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F., London to Australian Muniton Workers, Australia House, Strand, London, dated 30th November, 1917, stated that Pte Arthur Hall had been "*discharged from the A.I.F. (with effect from 5th November, 1917) in order to take up employment as an Australian Muniton Worker. He was instructed to report to you on 6th November, 1917.*"

Administrative Headquarters wrote to Mr A. Hall, c/- Hawker, 2 Ilchester Road, Weymouth, on 11th December, 1917 advising that they had received information from O.C. Australian Muniton Workers that he "*had not yet reported to be enrolled as an Australian Muniton Worker. As you were discharged in England from the A.I.F. in order to take up employment as an Aust. Muniton Worker, you should communicate immediately with the O.C. Australian Muniton Workers as stated above.*"

Another memo (no date) in Pte Hall's service record file states "*O.C. Australian Munitions Workers stated on phone that Hall communicated with him on 14th inst., and stated he reported to Australia House and was referred to the*

Labour Exchange who gave him leave. He has been waiting for notification from Labour Exchange as to employment. O.C. Munitions notifying these Headquarters how case now stands."

A letter from O i/c Australian Munitions Workers, Australia House, Strand, London, dated 22nd ,December, 1917 to the Commandant, A.I.F. Headquarters, Westminster, in regards to 2378 Pte A. Hall. 4th Pioneers stated "*.... it has now been ascertained that the above mentioned soldier reported to this Office on the 6th November, as instructed by you. He was sent to the Officials of the Ministry of Labour with a letter of introduction in order that he might be placed at work and he should have returned to report at this Office what arrangements had been made for his employment. He omitted to do this, however, and I learn from Hall himself that he went straight from the Ministry to Weymouth, having been given a few days' leave by the Labour Officials to visit his sick child. Apparently he thought his instructions would be sent to him there. As Hall did not report and notify this Office of these arrangements, his name was not included on the roll. Hall has now been placed on the Index of Australian Munitions Workers and is entitled to the full benefits of the Australian Munitions Workers Scheme."*

The Silver War Badge & Certificate - No. A. 13679 were received & signed for by A. Hall of 191 Manor Rd, Itchen, Southampton, England on 15th March, 1918.

Arthur Hall was enrolled in the Australian Munitions Worker Scheme with a number of 2748.



Badge of Australian Munitions Workers

Australian Munitions Worker No. 2748, ex A.I.F., Arthur Hall died on 13th March, 1919 at 8 Pansy Street, Accrington, Lancashire. The cause of death was listed as (1) Phthisis Pulmonalis & (2) Influenza.

A death was registered for Arthur Hall, aged 28, in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Haslingden, Lancashire.

Private Arthur Hall was buried in Accrington Cemetery, Lancashire, England – Plot number E. J. 831 on 17th March, 1919 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Pte Arthur Hall was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

On 28th October, 1925 Base Records wrote to The Secretary War Office, Medal Branch advising that the British War Medal & the Victory Medal issued to ex-No. 2378 Pte A. Hall, 4th Pioneer Battalion had been returned from a Mrs Ball of Williamsons Farm, Rufford near Ormskirk who had received them in error.

The widow of the late Arthur Hall – Beatrice Hall died on 13th February, 1929. A death was registered for Beatrice Hall, aged 41, in the March quarter, 1929 in the district of Haslingden, Lancashire.

A letter was sent from Base Records on 12th March, 1934 to Mr J. Walsh, of 25 Willows Lane, Accrington, Lancashire, being the guardian of the son of the late ex-No. 2378 Pte A. Hall, 4th Pioneer Battalion. Base Records advised that they would like to forward the two War Medals to the late Pte Hall's son but requested to know the son's full name and present address so that could be forwarded.

A. Hall is remembered on the Accrington War Memorial located in Oak Hill Park, Lancashire, England.



Accrington War Memorial (Photo by Alexander P. Kapp)



A Panel of the Accrington War Memorial (Photo by David Larkin)

Private A. Hall is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 174.

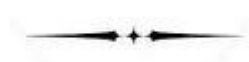


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Arthur Hall – service number 2378, aged 29, of 4th Australian Pioneers. He was the son of Thomas and Martha Hall, of Accrington; husband of Beatrice Hall, of 8 Pansy St., Accrington, England.

(78 pages of Private Arthur Hall'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



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)

Private Arthur Hall does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

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Accrington Cemetery contains 97 Commonwealth War Graves – 55 from World War 1 & 42 from World War 2.



Cross of Sacrifice in Accrington Cemetery (Photos courtesy of Andrew Mackay – 2021)



Photo of Private A. Hall's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at Accrington Cemetery, Lancashire recognising his service in the Australian Imperial Force.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Mackay – 2021)