

**Arnos Vale Cemetery,
Bristol, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4452 PRIVATE

W. F. HAM

22ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

23RD NOVEMBER, 1916 Age 43

William Francis HAM

William Francis Ham was born at Clunes, Victoria on 4th January, 1873 to parents William Henry & Maria Johns Ham (nee Uren).

William Francis Ham attended Clunes State School, Victoria.

William Henry Ham, father of William Francis Ham, died on 5th December, 1895 in NSW.

William Francis Ham married Mary Griffiths on 22nd August, 1907 at St. Arnaud, Victoria.

Maria Johns Ham, mother of William Francis Ham, died 11th December, 1908 at Catherine Hill Bay, NSW.

The 1914 & 1916 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Flinders, subdivision of Wonthaggi, Victoria listed William Ham, Miner & his wife Mary Ham, home duties, of Wonthaggi.

William Francis Ham was a 44 year old, married, Miner from Merrin Crescent, Wonthaggi, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 5th February, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4452 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Mary Ham, Nerrin Crescent, Wonthaggi, Victoria.

Private William Francis Ham was posted to "C" Company, 10th Depot Battalion on 5th February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to "B" Company, 10th Battalion on 15th February, 1916. Private Ham was transferred to 11th Reinforcements of 22nd Battalion at Broadmeadows on 23rd March, 1916.

Private William Francis Ham embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on RMS *Orontes* on 29th March, 1916 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 22nd Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements.

Private William Francis Ham proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 30th May, 1916 on *Tunisian* & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 5th June, 1916.

Private William Francis Ham joined 22nd Battalion in France on 31st July, 1916.

Private William Francis Ham was wounded in action on 13th November, 1916. He was admitted to 38th Casualty Clearing Station on 13th November, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wounds) to both Arms. He was transferred to Ambulance Train & admitted to 6th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 15th November, 1916. Private Ham embarked for England on 19th November, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Dunluce Castle*.

22nd Battalion

The 22nd Battalion AIF was formed on 26 March 1915 at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria. The battalion became part of the 6th Brigade of the 2nd Division.....

The battalion's first major action was at Pozieres, part of the massive British offensive on the Somme. In September/October they were moved to the Ypres sector then back to the Somme for the winter.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 22nd Battalion

Flers – Front Line – 12th November, 1916:

"C" Coy relieved right coy 5th Bde moving forward from FLERS TRENCH and connected up with the left flank of Battn.

"B" Co. moved from CARLTON CAMP (5.16.c 7.4) to FLERS TR.

Casualties 1 killed 3 wounded.

Flers – Front Line – 13th - 14th November, 1916:

Dispositions as above. During afternoon 14/11/16 18 enemy aircraft reconnoitred our line flying low. Light signals were dropped.

Casualties 2 Killed 11 wounded.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private William Francis Ham was admitted to Bishop's Knoll Auxiliary Hospital, Bristol, England on 20th November, 1916 with G.S.W. to arms & fractured left Humerus. The Hospital sent a Telegram to Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. on 23rd November, 1916 advising that Private Ham was placed on the dangerously ill list.

Private William Francis Ham died on 23rd November, 1916 at Bishop's Knoll Auxiliary Hospital (affiliated with 2nd Southern General Hospital) from wounds received in action – GSW to right arm, fractured Humerus. The Hospital Admissions form also recorded that Private Ham also died of Septic poisoning.

A death for William F. Ham, aged 51, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Bristol, Gloucestershire, England.

Private William Francis Ham was buried on 27th November, 1916 in Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England. His name is remembered on the CWGC Screen Wall & he has a flat Memorial Stone. Cemetery/Memorial reference Screen Wall 4. 733.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private William Francis Ham contains a letter from Matron E. Prout, Bishop's Knoll Hospital, 2nd Southern General Hospital, Stoke Bishop, Bristol which reads: "*Pte W. F. Ham, 4452 Died - He was admitted to this hospital on the 20th November 1916. He had Gunshot Wounds of the Right arm and the bone was badly fractured. He was fairly well until the second day after admission when he became suddenly collapsed and weak. We immediately reported him to Headquarters as dangerously ill. Medical opinion was that a clot of maren had escaped from the fractured bone & found its way to the blood stream. Under treatment he rallied until 8 o'clock on the 23rd November when another clot escaped and he died very quietly just then. He was very plucky and we are thankful to say did not suffer. He had a military funeral and was buried at Arnos Vale, Bristol on the 27th Nov. We trust this may be some help to you & a slight comfort to his people.*"

Base Records forwarded on to Mrs M. Ham, 259 Westgarth Street, Northcote South, Victoria, widow of the late Private William Francis Ham, on 17th June, 1931, a copy of the "*Western Daily Press*" containing an article referring to the Anzac Day Pilgrimage and Memorial Service held at Arnos Vale Cemetery, where her late husband was interred. The items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Base Records forwarded on to Mrs M. Ham, 259 Westgarth Street, Northcote South, Victoria, widow of the late Private William Francis Ham, on 17th June, 1932 & 15th June, 1933, a copy of the "*Western Daily Press*" and "*Evening World*" featuring this year's Anzac Day Pilgrimage and Memorial Service held at Arnos Vale Cemetery, where her late husband was interred. The items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Base Records forwarded on to Mrs M. Ham, 259 Westgarth Street, Northcote South, Victoria, widow of the late Private William Francis Ham, on 28th June, 1935, 22nd June, 1936 & 12th August, 1937, a copy of the "*Western Daily Press and Bristol Mirror*" featuring Pilgrimage and Commemoration Service, on the occasion of last Anzac Day, held at Arnos Vale Cemetery, where her late husband was interred. The items had been sent from Mr Robert Bush, Bishop's Knoll, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, England.

Private William Francis Ham was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Ham's widow – Mrs M. Ham, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent May, 1922).

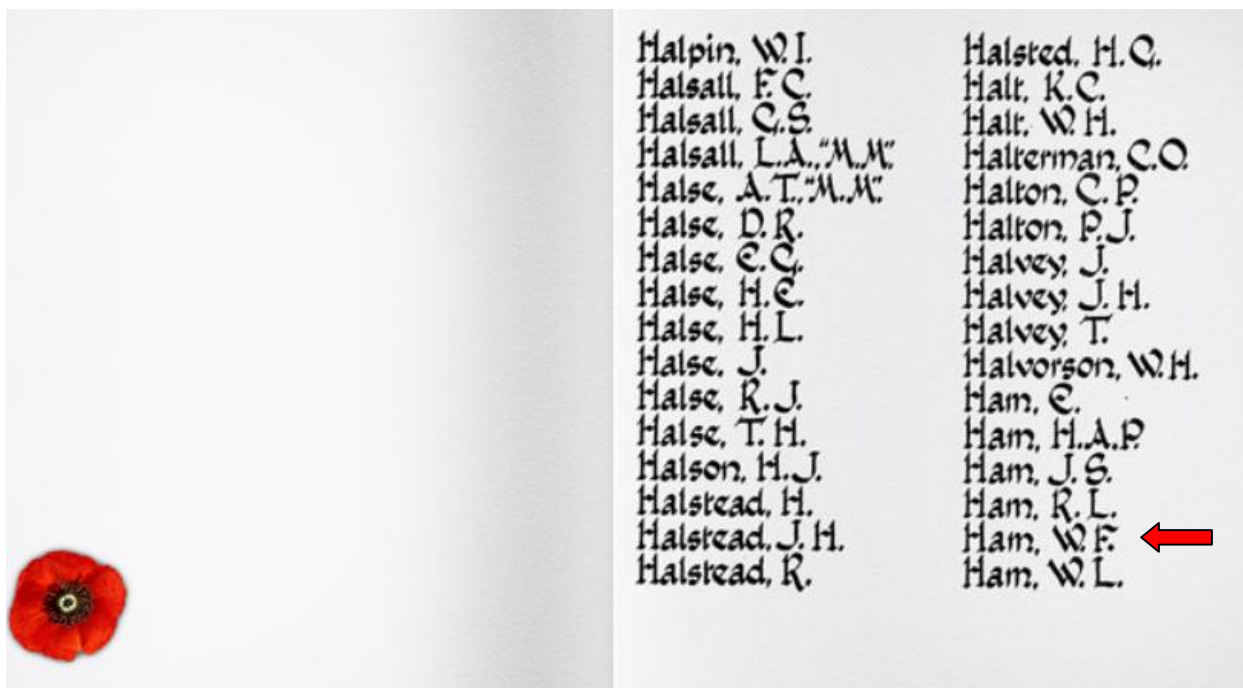
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Francis Ham – service number 4452, aged 43, of 22nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of John Henry Ham.

Private W. F. Ham is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 96.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. F. Ham is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.





(40 pages of Private William Francis Ham'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

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

250th LIST

Died, Other Causes

Pte W. F. HAM, Wonthaggi, 23/11/16, cause not stated.

(The Bendigo Independent, Victoria – 15 December, 1916)

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.

Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England

The cemetery was established in 1837. During both wars, there were a number of military hospitals at Bristol and the city was the depot of the Gloucestershire Regiment. During the Second World War there were also a number of Royal Air Force stations and prisoner of war camps in the area. ARNOS VALE CEMETERY contains burials of both wars. Most of the 356 First World War burials were of men who died at the local hospitals, particularly the 2nd Southern General and the Beaufort, many of whom were landed at Avonmouth from hospital ships from the Mediterranean. Their graves can be found in the 'Soldiers Corner', a plot established by the British Red Cross, near the main entrance. The 238 casualties buried here are commemorated on a memorial at the rear of the plot. The rest of the graves are scattered throughout the cemetery. There are also special memorials to one casualty buried in the cemetery whose grave could not be located and another commemorating a casualty buried in Bedminster Church Cemetery whose grave could not be maintained. There are 149 burials from the Second World War, some forming a small plot in an area in the upper part of the cemetery set aside for burials from the Naval Hospital at Barrow Gurney; the rest are scattered. Those whose graves are not marked by headstones are named on a Screen Wall Memorial. BRISTOL (ARNOS VALE) CREMATORIUM stands within the cemetery. A memorial in front of the crematorium commemorates 68 servicemen and women of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there.

(Information from CWGC)



Arnos Vale Cemetery - Main Entrance on Bath Road *(Photo by JohnM – Find a Grave)*



(Photo from CWGC)



(Photo by JohnM – Find a Grave)



Soldiers' Corner – Arnos Vale Cemetery (Photo by JohnM – Find a Grave April, 2017)



New Memorial Stones (Photo by JohnM – Find a Grave November, 2018)

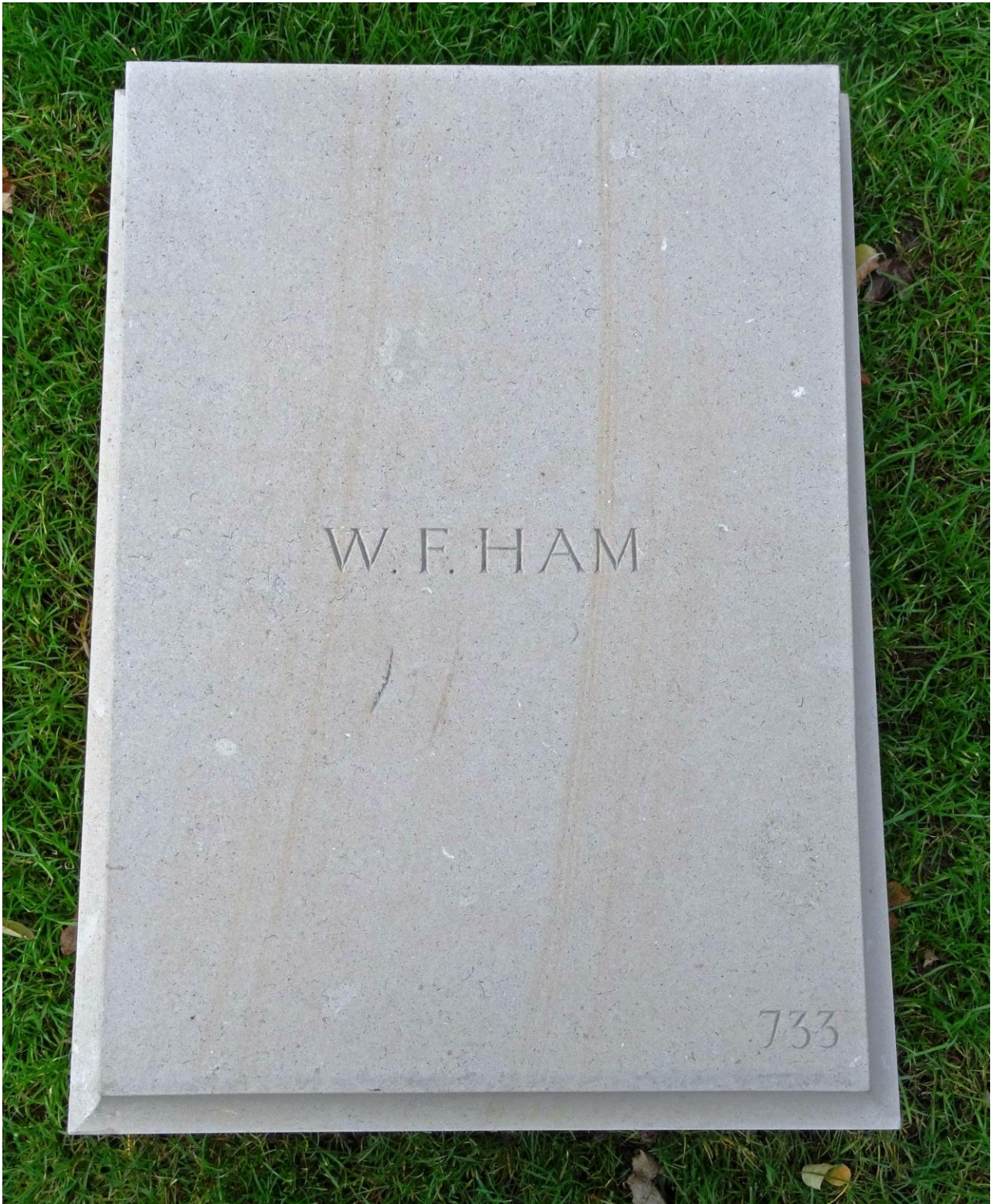
Photo of Private William Francis Ham's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England & his Memorial Stone in Soldiers' Corner.

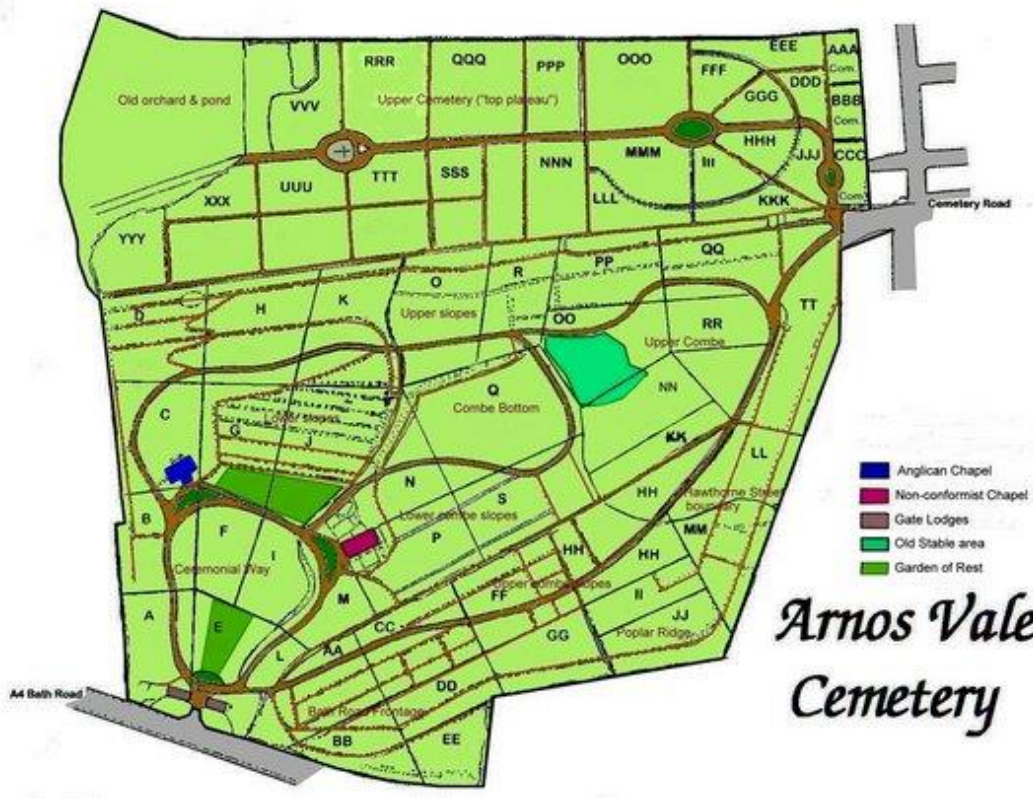


(Photos by JohnM – Find a Grave April, 2019)

PTE. HENRY FULLECK
PTE. RICHARD GOSSAGE
PTE. WILLIAM GREATHEAD
PTE. WILLIAM FRANCIS HAM
PTE. STANLEY L. JENKINS
PTE. THOMAS H. JACKSON
CPL. WILLIAM THORNTON JOHNSON

3RD M.G. BN.
40TH BATTN.
33RD BATTN.
22ND BATTN.
11TH BATTN.
26TH BATTN.
25TH BATTN.





Arnos Vale Cemetery

(Photo by Debra Polly – Find a Grave)