

**Tidworth Military Cemetery,
Tidworth, Wiltshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



25942 DRIVER

F. A. HAMILTON

AUST. MACHINE GUN CORPS

1ST FEBRUARY, 1919 Age 21

A Life Made Beautiful

By Kindly Deeds

And Loved By All

Who Knew Him

Frederick Alexander HAMILTON

Frederick Alexander Hamilton was born at South Melbourne, Victoria in 1897 to parents Frederick Alexander and Selina Hamilton (nee Ward).

Frederick Alexander Hamilton attended State School at Albert Park, Victoria.

Frederick Alexander Hamilton was an 18 year old, single, Letter Carrier from Shaftesbury Street, Coburg, Victoria when he enlisted on 14th February, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 25942 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr F. A. Hamilton, 11 Shaftesbury Street, Coburg, Victoria. Frederick Hamilton stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with Senior Cadets at Coburg for 4years & served with Citizens Forces for 3 months at Coburg.

Private Frederick Alexander Hamilton was posted to 22nd Depot Battalion at Royal Park, Victoria on 16th February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 8th Depot Squadron, Light Horse at Seymour, Victoria on 26th February, 1916. Private Hamilton was transferred to 17th Reinforcements of 4th Light Horse at Seymour on 2nd March, 1916. He was transferred again on 26th March, 1916 to 2nd Reinforcements of 46th Battalion at Broadmeadows then transferred to Reserve Company on 1st April, 1916. Private Hamilton was transferred to Field Artillery at Maribyrnong on 25th April, 1916 then transferred to 1st Divisional Ammunition Column on 10th July, 1916 as Driver.

Driver Frederick Alexander Hamilton embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Orsova* (A67) on 1st August, 1916 with the 1st Divisional Ammunition Column, 18th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 14th September, 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.

Driver Frederick Alexander Hamilton proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 20th November, 1916 on S.S. *Victoria* from 15th Training Battalion. He was marched in to Machine Gun Base Depot at Camiers, France from England on 20th November, 1916.

Driver Frederick Alexander Hamilton reverted to the rank of Private on joining Machine Gun Base Depot on 20th November, 1916. He was reinstated as Driver on 20th November, 1916 (Authority CR file 1429/9/9).

Driver Frederick Alexander Hamilton proceeded to join 15th Machine Gun Company from Machine Gun Base Depot at Camiers on 2nd January, 1917. He was taken on strength of 15th Machine Gun Company on 4th January, 1917.

Driver Frederick Alexander Hamilton was On Command at "*Offensive Warfare Sec.*" in France from 8th May, 1917 & rejoined his Unit on 25th May, 1917.

Driver Frederick Alexander Hamilton was sent to Hospital sick on 11th September, 1917. He was admitted to 15th Australian Field Ambulance on 11th September, 1917 with Scabies then transferred the same day to 5th Divisional Scabies Station. From there he was transferred on 15th September, 1917 & admitted the same day to 4th Stationary Hospital, Arques, France on 15th September, 1917. Driver Hamilton was discharged to duty on 19th September, 1917 & rejoined his Unit on 21st September, 1917.

Driver Frederick Alexander Hamilton proceeded on Leave from 5th January, 1918 & rejoined his Unit from Leave on 22nd January, 1918.

A query was made on 4th February, 1918 on Driver Frederick Alexander Hamilton re his appointment to Driver. A reply was noted on 7th February, 1918 "*No appointment*".

Driver Frederick Alexander Hamilton was on Leave to UK from France from 19th November, 1918 to 3rd December, 1918.

Driver Frederick Alexander Hamilton was admitted to Hospital in France on 8th December, 1918 "*whilst returning from Leave.*" He was admitted to 7th General Hospital at Wimereux on 9th December, 1918 with VD then transferred to 39th General Hospital, Havre, France on 20th December, 1918 & admitted on 21st December, 1918 – cause NYD

(not yet determined). Driver Hamilton was transferred to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital on 15th January, 1919.

Driver Frederick Alexander Hamilton was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire, England on 16th January, 1919.

Driver Frederick Alexander Hamilton was reported to be dangerously ill on 31st January, 1919 at 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire, England.

Driver Frederick Alexander Hamilton died at 3 am on 1st February, 1919 at 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire, England from Pneumonia.

A death for Frederick A. Hamilton, aged 21, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire, England.

Driver Frederick Alexander Hamilton was buried on 7th February, 1919 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 360 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Driver Frederick Alexander Hamilton - *Coffin was Elm with brass furnishings. Deceased was buried with full Military honors the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun-carriage preceded by a Firing Party from A.I.F. Headquarters Tidworth. Six Australians acted as pall bearers. The funeral was attended by an Officer and 30 N.C.O.'s and Men from the A.I.F. Camp at Parkhouse. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in U.K. was represented at the funeral.*

Driver Frederick Alexander Hamilton was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver Hamilton's father - Mr F. A. Hamilton, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent May, 1922).

Mr F. A. Hamilton, 7 Glencairn Avenue, Moreland, Victoria, father of the late Driver Frederick Alexander Hamilton, was sent a letter by Base Records on 11th January, 1930 *"I am forwarding herewith at the request of an officer stationed at Tidworth two photographs showing the sprig of wattle placed on the grave of your son, the late No. 25942 Driver F. A. HAMILTON, 5th Machine Gun Battalion, in Tidworth Cemetery, England."*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver Frederick Alexander Hamilton – service number 25942, aged 21, of 5th Battalion, Australian Machine Gun Corps. He was the son of Frederick Alexander and Selina Hamilton, of 50 The Grove, Coburg, Victoria.

Driver F. A. Hamilton is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 176.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

F. A. Hamilton is remembered on the Postmaster General's Department Honour Roll, located in former G.P.O. Building, Bourke & Elizabeth Streets, Melbourne, Victoria.



Postmaster General's Department Honour Roll, Melbourne
(Photo above from Monument Australia – Kent Watson; below VWMA)



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIA'S HEROES

CASUALTY LIST No. 460

VICTORIA

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte Hamilton, F. A., Coburg

(The Ballarat Star, Victoria – 6 March, 1919)

DIED ON SERVICE

HAMILTON – Died of pneumonia, on the 1st February, at the First Dermatological Hospital, France, No. 25942, Driver Frederick Alexander Hamilton, 15th Australian Machine Gun Corps, late of Moreland, the eldest son of Alexander and Selina Hamilton, of No 11 Shaftesbury street, Moreland, aged 21 years, after 3 years active service.

A mother's part is a broken heart,

And a burden of lonely years.

Loved by all who knew him.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 12 February, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

HAMILTON – In sad and loving memory of my dearly loved son, Driver F. A. Hamilton, 5th Machine-gun Battalion, died of pneumonia in the 1st Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, England, on the 1st February, 1919, aged 21 years.

Under the flag with the five-starred cross,

The pride of our southern sea,

He laid down his life in the deadly strife,

To keep Australia free.

None who knew him need ever be told,

A warmer heart death never made cold,

A life made bright by kindly deeds,

A helping hand in others' needs.

Good was his heart, his friendship sound,

Loved and respected by all around.

-Inserted by his loving father, 50 The Grove, Coburg.)

HAMILTON – In sad and loving memory of my dearly loved son, Driver F. A. Hamilton, 5th Machine-gun Battalion, died of pneumonia in the 1st Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, England, on the 1st February, 1919, after 3 years' active service, aged 21 years.

Dearly loved and sadly missed.

A true Australian, no finer God ever made.
Nature blessed him with her choicest gifts,
A clear straight life and a hero's death.
Close as the fondest links could strain,
 Twined round my very heart he grew,
But, oh, the sad fate that broke that chain,
 My heart is almost broken too.
If I could have my dearest wish fulfilled,
And asked from Heaven what e'er it willed,
Or take my choice of all earth's treasures, too
My darling son, I'd only ask for you.
Home is dark without you, Fred,
 Bitterly I miss your dear sweet face;
Sadness lurks where once was sunshine.
 None on earth can ever fill your place.

-(Inserted by his loving mother, 50 The Grave, Coburg.)

HAMILTON – In loving memory of my dear brother, Driver F. A. Hamilton, 5th Machine-gun Battalion, died of pneumonia in the Bulford Hospital, England, on 1st February, 1919, after 3 years' active service, aged 21 years.

Sadly a brother is thinking
 Of his soldier brother so brave,
Who fought for the cause of freedom,
 Now lies in a hero's grave.
I miss you brother for I loved you,
 As memories I recall;
The parting with you, brother,
 Was the saddest day of all.
And now you have given your young life for freedom,
 My brother so good and brave,
May God grant the flag he died for
 Float for ever over his grave.

-(Inserted by his loving brother Reg, 50 The Grove, Coburg.)

HAMILTON – In loving memory of Driver F. A. Hamilton, late 5th Machine-gun Battalion, died of pneumonia in the Bulford Hospital, England, on 1st February, 1919, aged 21 years.

Oh for the touch of a vanished hand,
And a sound from the voice that is stilled.

-(Inserted by H.E., Coburg)

HAMILTON – A tribute to the memory of Pte F. A. Hamilton, 15th M.G. Coy., who died of pneumonia at Bulfordm England, on February 1, 1919. (Inserted by Vera Hobson, Heidelberg).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 31 January, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

HAMILTON – In loving memory of our dear friend and pal, Gunner F. A. Hamilton, who died in England on 1st February, 1919.

Loved and remembered.

-By Mr and Mrs Roberts, Will and Jack, Albert Park.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 2 February, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

HAMILTON – In loving memory of my dear grandson and nephew, F. A. Hamilton, 5th Machine Gun Battalion, died of pneumonia in England February, 1919.

Far away from all who loved him,
Comrades gently laid to rest,
In hero's grave he is sleeping,
One of God's brightest and best.
He lies in a distant grave,
Our beloved hero.

-Inserted by loving grandmother, uncles, auntie.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 February, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

HAMILTON – In sad and loving memory of our dearly loved son and brother, Driver Frederick Alexander Hamilton, 5th Machine Gun Battalion, died of pneumonia in the 1st Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, England, 1st February, 1919, after 3 years' active service, aged 21 years.

My heart just aches with sadness,
My eyes grow dim with tears;
No one know how much I have missed you, Fred,
These two long, weary years.
I know what it means to be lonesome,
I know how it feels to be blue;
I know what it means to long in my dreams
For the dear son I loved so true.
I have sighed and cried since we parted,
No one knows what I have gone through;
I would give all I own just to have you back home,
I am lonesome, dear Fred, for you.

-Inserted by mother

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Time, slowly passing, brings its many changes,
It cares, its sorrow and its joys;
But deep in our hearts remains unchanged
The lasting love of our gallant boy.

-Father.

Nothing but memory as we journey on
Longing for a smile and a face that is gone;
None knows the depth of our regret,
We remember, Fred, when others forget.

-Reg

Vainly we yearn for a loved, lost voice,
And a form that will come no more.

-Ethel.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 1 February, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

HAMILTON – In sad and loving memory of our dearly loved son and brother, Driver Frederick Alexander Hamilton, 5th Machine Gun Battalion, died of pneumonia in the 1st Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, England, 1st February, 1919, after 3 years' active service, aged 21 years.

No more our home does his dear presence brighten
Still he lives in the hearts of those left behind.
For all who have met him will never forget him,
His ways were so courteous, so true and so kind.
All other wounds I would gladly seek to heal,
All other sorrows willingly forget.
Yet pain from this one wound I still feel
As I recall my lost one with regret.

-Inserted by his loving mother, S. Hamilton, Coburg.

HAMILTON – In memory of dear Fred.

To-day brings back sad memories
Of a loved one gone to rest.
And those who think of him to-day
Are those who loved him best.

-Inserted by his loving father, F. A. Hamilton, Coburg.

HAMILTON – In loving and sad memory of brother Fred.

Australia should not soon forget
The men who made her shine.
The noblest of a noble race
Was this dear brother of mine.

Oh, well do I remember
The days before this sadness,
And I recall them each and all
As days of joy and gladness,
But when the time of sorrow came
And with it banished pleasure,
Still come what may, dear brother,
Your memory I will treasure.

-Inserted by his loving brother, Reg. Hamilton, Coburg.

HAMILTON – In fond and loving memory of dear Fred., No. 25942, 29th Battalion, who passed away in England on 1st February, 1919.

Loved by all.

Why, what we long for most of all
Eludes so of our eager hand.
Why hopes are crushed and castles fall,
___ there some time we'll understand

-Inserted by Ethel

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 1 February, 1922)

***Notices were also placed in Newspapers in 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926

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*)

Driver F. A. Hamilton does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

A Life Made Beautiful By Kindly Deeds

And Loved By All Who Knew Him



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00327

The AIF Tidworth cemetery under snow. – March 1919.

Identified graves marked by a cross and headstone in the foreground

Front row: 50727 Private Rowland James Dickson, Australian Machine Gun Corps, died 14 October 1918.

Second row, left to right: 18282 Driver John Thalma Jackson, Details Australian Engineers, died 30 October 1917; 17445 Pte Roland Travers Woodville, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 13 September 1917; 31712 Gunner John Alexander McDonald, 15th Field Artillery Brigade, Australian Field Artillery, died 30 July 1917, aged 37, at Tidworth Military Hospital; 3062 Pte Even Thomas Kennedy, 3rd Australian Pioneers, died 7 August 1917.

Note Gunner McDonald has a large headstone which reads in part 'erected by his sorrowing comrades of the Australian Field Artillery. His duty done.'

Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Tidworth Military Cemetery, which contains burials of both wars, was directly connected with training grounds on, or near, Salisbury Plain.

During the First World War, the cemetery was used for burials from Tidworth and Fargo Military Hospitals and the 417 graves, many of them of Australian or New Zealand servicemen, are scattered throughout the cemetery.

There are 106 Second World War graves in the cemetery, two substantial groups of which can be found in sections F and D. The rest are scattered.

The cemetery also contains 40 war graves of other nationalities, many of them Polish.

(Information from CWGC)



Tidworth Military Cemetery (Photo by *julia&keld* – Find a Grave)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo courtesy of *John Prestidge*)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire *(Photo by Chris Talbot 2009)*



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers – Kevin)

Photo of Driver F. A. Hamilton's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England



(Photo courtesy of Selena Hardie)

