

**Stonehouse Cemetery,
Stonehouse, Lanarkshire, Scotland**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



18923 PRIVATE

P. HAMILTON

AUSTRALIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

15TH MAY, 1919 Age 30

He Gave His Life

For His Country

Peter HAMILTON

Peter Hamilton was born at Stonehouse, Lanarkshire, Scotland on 22nd November, 1888 to parents Robert and Marion Allan Hamilton (nee Weir).

The 1891 Scotland Census recorded Peter Hamilton as a 2 year old, living with his family at 25 Kirk Street, Stonehouse, Lanarkshire, Scotland. His parents were listed as Robert Hamilton (Silk Weaver, aged 43, born Stonehouse, Lanarkshire) & Marion Weir Hamilton (Silk Winder, aged 41, born Stonehouse, Lanarkshire). Peter was the youngest of 7 children listed on this Census (all born Stonehouse, Lanarkshire) – Isabella Hamilton (Silk Weaver, aged 20), Robert Hamilton (Silk Weaver, aged 17), John Hamilton (Silk Weaver, aged 15), William Hamilton (Scholar, aged 10), Jane Hamilton (Scholar, aged 8), Marion Hamilton (Scholar, aged 4) then Peter. Also listed was Robert Hamilton (senior) (Retired Weaver, aged 75).

Peter Hamilton attended Cam'nethan Street Public School, Stonehouse, Lanarkshire, England.

Marion Weir, mother of Peter Hamilton, died in 1901.

According to information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour – Peter Hamilton was trained as an Electrical Engineer & came to Australia when he was 22 years of age.

Peter Hamilton was an 18 year old (age as listed on Embarkation Roll, however his actual age was 28 years & 7 months as listed on his Attestation Papers), single, Clerk from Alberton, South Australia when he enlisted in Adelaide, South Australia on 3rd July, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 18923 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr R. Hamilton, 25 Kirk Street, Stonehouse, Lanarkshire, Scotland. Peter Hamilton stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served “*116 days A.I.F. Medically Unfit*” & “*1 yr 229 days A.I.F. H.S. Re-enlisting for Active Service.*” (Note: H.S. “Hospital Ship”). He also stated he had previously been rejected for His Majesty's Service due to being medically unfit.

Mr H. G. Redman, Taieri, Coburg Road, Alberton, South Australia wrote to Base Records in May, 1920, stating he was “*Australian Executor of the late Private Peter Hamilton 18923 of 4th Light Horse Field Ambulance...*” & was “*sending a gratuity form in respect to deceased Soldiers to his Father in Scotland by request of Mr Hamilton who also asks for information of his son's Adelaide Military history..... He served several months in Currie Street Recruiting Depot as a private under Major Johnson. He was then transferred to the Exhibition Camp & worked under Major Jay as A.M.C. Sergeant & after at least one year was transferred to Mitcham on A.M.C. work & remained there until he was accepted for active service as a private....*”

Private Peter Hamilton was posted to “B” Company, at Mitcham, South Australia on 3rd July, 1917 for recruit training. He was transferred to A.M.C. (Army Medical Corps) Base on 3rd July, 1917 & posted with 14th Australian General Hospital on 1st July, 1917 (date as per Statement of Service form).

Private Peter Hamilton embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Wiltshire (A18)* on 31st August, 1917 with the 14th Australian General Hospital (May) Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 5th October, 1917.

Private Peter Hamilton was marched in to Details Camp at Moascar from Australia on 5th October, 1917. He was marched out from Details Camp on 11th October, 1917 to join 14th Australian General Hospital & joined 14th Australian General Hospital at Abbassia on 11th October, 1917.

Private Peter Hamilton was struck off strength of 14th Australian General Hospital on 18th March, 1918 & taken on strength at Belah with 4th Light Horse Field Ambulance on 19th March, 1918. He was detached as A.M.C. Details vice Hampton transferred.

Private Peter Hamilton was sent sick to 4th Light Horse Field Ambulance on 12th July, 1918 & admitted on 13th July, 1918 & then transferred & admitted to Anzac Rest Station on 13th July, 1918 with Malaria BT. Private Hamilton was admitted to 66th Casualty Clearing Station on 14 July, 1918 with Malaria then transferred to 47th Stationary Hospital at Gaza on 15th July, 1918. He was transferred on 21st July, 1918 & admitted to 44th Stationary Hospital at Kantara on 22nd July, 1918. Private Hamilton was transferred on 23rd July, 1918 & admitted to 31st General Hospital at Abbassia.

Private Peter Hamilton was reported as dangerously ill on 29th July, 1918 with Malaria & Myocarditis. He was reported to be out of danger on 11th August, 1918.

A Medical Report was completed on Private Peter Hamilton on 22nd August, 1918 at 31st General Hospital, Cairo concerning his disability of Malaria which had originally occurred in May, 1918 at Jordan Valley. His present condition was listed as – *“General Conditions - weak & debilitated; Heart – Myocarditis; Abdomen – nothing abnormal detected but unable to eat solids without vomiting.”* The Officer in charge of the Medical case recommended that Private Hamilton be transferred for a change to England for 6 months. The Medical Board decided that a change to Australia for 6 months for Private Hamilton.

Private Peter Hamilton was marked for embarkation to UK on 11th November, 1918 & embarked on Hospital Ship Karoola on 13th November, 1918. He disembarked at Southampton on 27th November, 1918.

Private Peter Hamilton was admitted to University War Hospital, Southampton, England on 27th November, 1918 with Malaria. He was discharged on 2nd December, 1918 & was granted furlough & was then to report to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny on 17th December, 1918.

Private Peter Hamilton was due to report to O.C. Troops Headquarters, London on 17th December, 1918 but was granted an extension of leave to 24th December, 1918.

Private Peter Hamilton was reported A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from 10 am on 24th December, 1918 to 10 am on 30th December, 1918. He forfeited a total of 12 days pay.

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. Later Training & Convalescing Units were combined under the one Command Depot.

Private Peter Hamilton was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot (No. 2 Group) at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 31st December, 1918 from Leave.

Private Peter Hamilton's location was queried by A.I.F. Depots in UK on 27th March, 1919. He was reported to be *“at present in D Coy, Orderly Room 9 Camp, No. 1 Command Depot.”*

Private Peter Hamilton was *“still at No. 2 Group, Sutton Veny”* on 18th April, 1919.

Private Peter Hamilton was admitted to 1st Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 15th May, 1919 having been knocked down by a motor car & injured.

Private Peter Hamilton died at 11.15 pm on 15th May, 1919 at 1st Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny Camp, Wiltshire, England from injuries incurred by motor car accident. The Coroner's Inquest was held on 28th May, 1919 & the Finding was *“Accidental Death”*.

A death for Peter Hamilton, aged 30, was registered in the June quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Private Peter Hamilton was buried on 21st May, 1919 in Stonehouse Cemetery, Stonehouse, Lanarkshire, Scotland – Plot number A. 396 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Peter Hamilton - *Coffin was good Elm, brass fittings. The deceased soldier was interred privately in Stonehouse Cemetery, Stonehouse, by relatives residing in that locality. A very large number of relatives and friends were present at the graveside, and many beautiful wreaths surmounted the coffin. The burial service was conducted by Chap. J. Good, and Chap. W. Wilson, of Stonehouse. An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Who were represented at the funeral.*

Names of relatives & friends present at the Funeral – Father, Brother & Sister, Aunts, Mrs Baxter & Bennett. Cousins, Bob Hamilton, Uncle, Tom Hamilton, Nephew, Bob Hamilton.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT SUTTON VENY

Motor Driver's Alleged Evasion.

Censured by the Coroner

Conduct described by the coroner (Mr F. A. P. Sylvester) as being unmanly and disgraceful was alleged at an adjourned inquest held at Sutton Veny Military Hospital on Wednesday afternoon, into the circumstances surrounding the death of Private Peter Hamilton, 9th Battalion, A.I.F., stationed at No 9 Camp in the Warminster district. Mr H. C. Ashby was foreman of the jury.

At the initial proceedings, held before the coroner, without a jury about a week since the medical evidence given went to show that deceased who was admitted to the Hospital on the 15th inst. at about 11 pm was suffering from severe bruising on the back and the legs, that he had probably been knocked down by a vehicle and dragged along, and that he was besprinkled with tar off the roads. A post-mortem held showed that deceased, who was about 35 years of age, had received injuries to the collar bone, the right thumb was dislocated, the third and fourth ribs were fractured and one of the lungs was deeply lacerated. The kidneys were also diseased. The internal damage was very severe and was compatible with the man having been rolled over and over by a heavy vehicle such as a motor car.

Private W. J. Norman, of the 2nd Machine Gun Battalion, A.I.F. stated that on the evening of the accident, he was with the driver of the car, Tom Harris. They picked up four Australian soldiers at the Picture Palace and drove to Sutton Veny. Witness was sitting on the front of the car with one foot in and one foot out of the car. It was a dark night, but they could see well going along the road as there were arc lights to help them. The driver drove steadily from Warminster, but just as they were slowing down opposite Nos. 5 and 6 Camps they felt a bump and he told the driver to stop at once. The car pulled up within 50 yards. He estimated the speed of the car at five miles an hour when the accident happened.

The Coroner asked witness to reconsider the latter part of his evidence as were the driver going at only five miles an hour he could pull up within two or three yards. Witness did not reply.

Continuing his evidence, witness said on getting out they found an Australian soldier lying in the road; he was on the left side of the road coming from Warminster and about two yards from the side. They picked the man up and took him to the Military Hospital, and afterwards witness and the driver Harris drove away, as they thought they were not wanted any further. When witness heard that the soldier had died he advised Harris to go and see the police. He was certain Harris sounded his hooter when going over the railway level crossing. Witness was on the look out and he did not see anybody in the road before he felt the bump.

Questioned by Superintendent Brooks, witness said each of the soldiers in the car paid his own fare, but he was not certain whether they did pay.

Superintendent Brooks: Is it not a fact that Harris went off and did not receive any pay at all? Witness : I think he did.

By the Coroner: Witness did not see anybody pay Harris for the journey from Warminster. Harris was sober.

Private Oswald C. Whalan, 3rd Machine gun Battalion, A.I.F., stated that Private Stanley was to pay, as this soldier hired the car. He did not think Harris drove at an excessive pace. As they were going over the level crossing witness saw an Australian soldier cross the road from the right to the left side of the road. The man did not look around and as far as witness knew the driver did not see him. The deceased walked right across the front of the car and was knocked down by the near side wing. The car was then travelling as fast as a good horse trot.

By Superintendent Brooks: The deceased was on the near side of the road when the accident happened, and he had almost crossed the road.

Private Leslie H. G. Stanley, 31st Battalion A.I.F., stated that he arranged with Harris to pay for the hire of the car, They drove to Sutton Veny at about 15 miles an hour.

The Coroner: Why did the driver go at that very, very moderate speed? – Witness said he thought Harris usually drove at that speed; he appeared to be a more careful driver than others. Witness did not see anything of a man in the road, but he suddenly felt a bump and then the car pulled up. Harris pulled up in about 15 to 20 yards. After they went to the Hospital with deceased, on coming out they found that Harris had gone. No one had paid any far. He did not see the first witness in the Hospital or that he helped to pick the deceased up.

Private Edward D. Flack, A.I.F., stated that the car was driven at an ordinary pace to Sutton Veny.

Private Geo Rayner, 31st Battalion, A.I.F., said he thought Harris was a fair driver. He had been in other cars and had got frightened by the was not frightened in Harris' car. He estimated the speed of the car when the accident happened at 2 miles per hour. As they were carrying deceased into the Hospital the car began to move off, but they stopped it as their hats were in it.

Thomas Henry Harris, who stated that he lived as 26 Vicarage Street, Warminster said he was 18 ½ years old and he had been driving since he was 17. He was previously employed by Mr Cruse but was now driving for his father. On the night of the accident he was driving a 1915 Ford car.

At this stage the Coroner warned the witness as to any further evidence he might give in case it might be used against him upon his trial.

Witness said that the witness Norman was a friend of his and rode about with him. The brakes were all in good order. Just after passing the level crossing at Sutton Veny he was about to pull up as his "fares" wanted to get down when he felt a jar on the right front when and the steering wheel was twisted out of his hands. He pulled up steady within about 15 to 20 yards. After they had taken deceased to the Hospital he waited for Norman to come out and then they drove away for other "fares." No one took his name or the number of his car, and he did not think he would be wanted again. He heard just afterwards that the soldier was dead. He admitted the police questioned him about the affair. He said he did not know anything about it, as he was frightened and didn't know what he was doing. He could not give any explanation as to why he did not see deceased before he felt the car bump.

Replying to the Coroner, witness agreed that the electric lights along the side of the road dazzled one's eyes, and they sometimes made a reflection on the wind screen.

Questioned at to why he did not wait for the fare, witness said he did not give it a thought.

The Coroner advised witness not to say anything more on that point, as it would not do him any good.

Witness said he did not tell his father the next day what had happened.

P.S. Thompson, stated at Warminster said in consequence of what he heard of the affair he made some enquiries and saw the driver Harris on the 17th inst. In reply to questions, Harris said: "I picked up four soldiers at the Picture Palace about 10 pm and took them to Heytesbury. I cam along the bottom road and picked up my sister about 11.15 pm. I returned to the dance again and took a party to Trowbridge. I didn't pass along the Hospital road until that time." Witness also asked Harris if he knew of any driver who had taken a soldier to the Hospital that night, and he replied "No, all I know is I haven't been to the military hospital."

The deposition of a witness who did not respond to the summons to attend the inquiry was to the effect that deceased was a private in the Australian Light Horse Field Ambulance, No. 9 Camp, and that he both saw and heard well.

The Coroner, summing up, said it was undoubtedly the fact that this driver, Harris, did attempt to evade any responsibility for this accident in a very unmanly and disgraceful fashion, so that no one would find out what car it was that caused this soldier's death. That fact in itself did not make Harris criminally liable and in order to come to his decision the jury must be satisfied that there was a very gross degree of negligence on the driver's part. He did not attach much importance of the evidence of Norman, but from the evidence of the other witnesses there did not appear to have been anything in the driving until this affair happened to show that the lad Harris was a reckless driver. He appeared to have been on the whole more careful than those who plied for hire between Sutton Veny and Warminster. The fault seemed to have been that the driver could not have been looking out properly at the time of the accident, but he took into consideration the effect the arc lights might have had in hampering his movements. The Coroner drew the jury's particular attention to the evidence of one of the medical men, who said that deceased was not in good health at the time of the accident, and that his general physical condition was compatible with certain temporary mental dullness. He also pointed to the fact that it was obvious, from the speed of cars that there was not sufficient control along the roads, and anybody who walked along the road as he had done on the few occasions lately, could see that this was so, but it was not for the jury to go closely into that. This was a matter for the police, and still more for the military authorities, but he was sorry to say, from his own observation, that the military were the worst offenders with regard to the speed at which they drove their cars along the road. Motor drivers must not assume that because they sounded their horn everything was clear; foot passengers had a perfect right to cross the road.

The jury retired to conder their verdict, and on return the foreman said their verdict was one of "Accidental death." They added a rider that the driver, Harris, should be severely reprimanded for attempting to conceal his share in the accident.

Calling Harris into the Court, the Coroner informed him of the jury's verdict, and said no doubt he had the intention to drive off as quickly as he could and so evade any questioning afterwards. This was a very unmanly thing to do, and as he got older he would find that it became him, when he did any injury, to stop and see what could be done, He was sorry it was not in his power in any way to punish Harris for giving everybody a lot more trouble. Anyhow, he could disallow his expenses, which he should do as a small penalty.

Private Peter Hamilton was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Hamilton's father – Mr R. Hamilton, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in October, 1922).

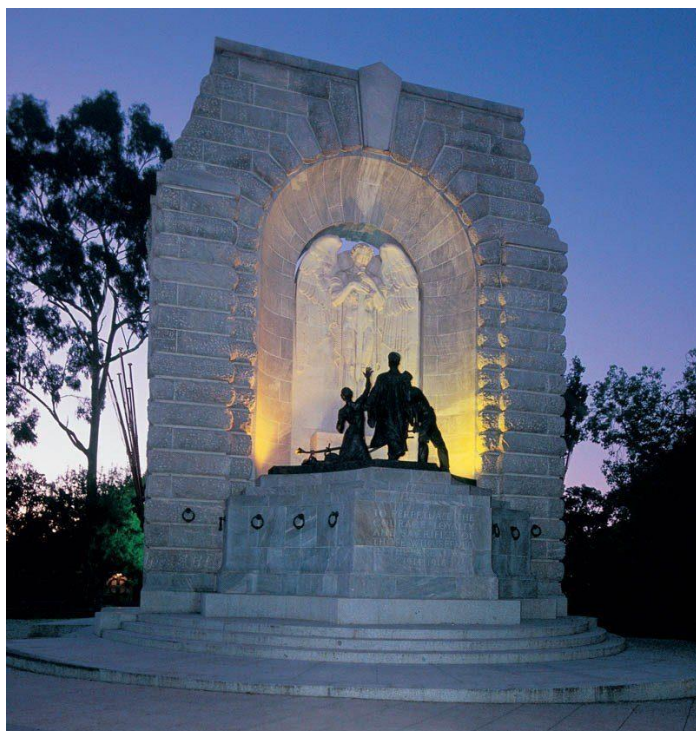
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Peter Hamilton – service number 18923, aged 30, of 4th Light Horse Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps. He was the son of Robert and Marion Weir Hamilton, of 25 Kirk St., Stonehouse, Lanarkshire.

P. Hamilton is remembered on the South Australian Brush Co. Ltd WW1 Honor Roll, located in Museum at Daw Park Repatriation Hospital, Goodwood Road, Daw Park, South Australia.



South Australian Brush Co. Ltd WW1 Honor Roll (Photo from VWMA)

P. Hamilton is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

Private P. 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 182.

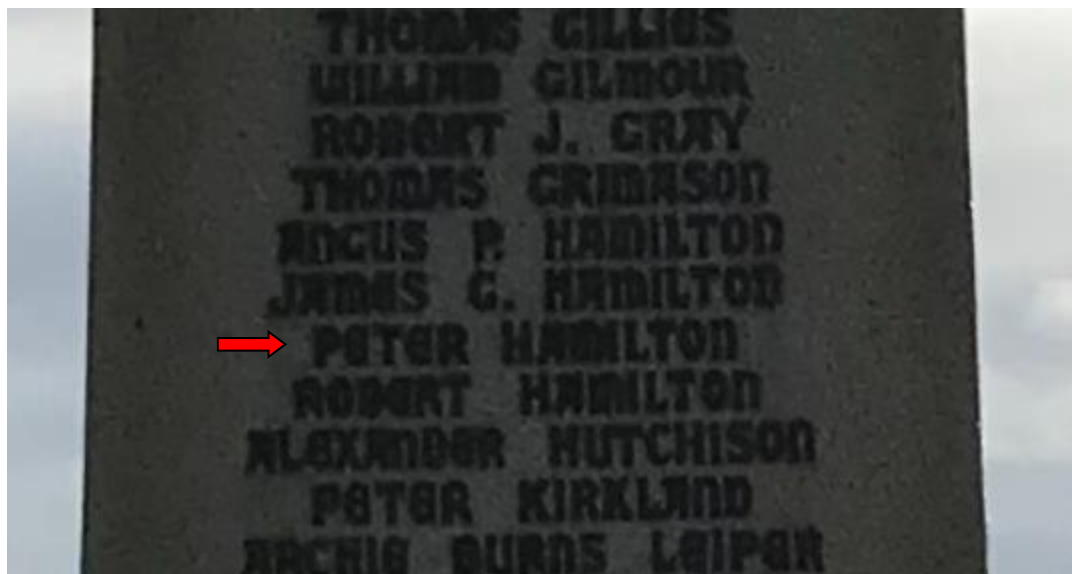


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Peter Hamilton is remembered on the Stonehouse Cemetery War Memorial, located in Stonehouse Cemetery, Manse Road, Stonehouse, Lanarkshire, Scotland.



(Photo Find a Grave -rob freel)



Peter Hamilton is remembered in the Roll of Honour books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad shelf in front of each of the bays, the names of the dead are listed in leather-bound books.



The Scottish National War Memorial & the Hall of Honour & the Roll of Honour books.

(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)



(44 pages of Private Peter Hamilton'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





Private P. HAMILTON.

(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 23 August, 1919)



Newspaper Notices

A.A.M.C. EXHIBITION A.I.F. CAMP, 1916

A.A.M.C. EXHIBITION A.I.F. CAMP, 1916.



Back Row—Ptes. M. A. Healey, F. G. Hubbard, C. E. V. Hunt, F. R. Waters, O. B. Schaifer, H. H. Francis, R. H. Harro'd, W. J. Hearn, J. T. Colbert, L. Wells, H. G. Davis, R. A. R. Jones.
Middle Row—Ptes. T. Banner, W. P. Hynes, L. B. Ward, S. W. Scriven, D. G. Weidenhofer, A. Polkinghorne, J. J. Bullock, E. T. C. Higginson, J. H. O'Neill, G. R. Snodgrass, R. G. Shepherd, R. R. Chambers.
Front Row—Ptes. P. P. Forrestal, B. F. Watson, Cpl. P. Hamilton, Sgt. F. Miles, Major T. C. Bennett (M.O.), Capt. H. M. Jay (S.M.O.), Quartermaster Sgt. A. S. Cocks, Staff-Sgt. Pritchard, Cpl. H. Munday, Ptes. G. A. J. Williamson, J. F. Moore.

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(*Critic*, Adelaide, South Australia – 27 September, 1916)

KNOCKED DOWN BY A CART

It was reported to the City Watchhouse last evening by Constable Boucher that at 6.20 pm he found a man lying unconscious in King William street, near Currie street. He took the man to the hospital, where he was admitted and detained by Dr. Cowan. The man gave his name as George Batt, driver, of Port Adelaide. Sergeant Peter Hamilton, of Mitcham, told the constable that he saw the man standing in the road, and a moment later fall to the ground, while a two-wheel cart driven by Peter Saloti, greengrocer, of Hindley street, was driving away. Fred Rager, a trackman in the employ of the Tramways Trust, stated that he saw the near side wheel of Saloti's cart knock the man down. Enquiries at the hospital elicited the fact that Batt had recovered sufficiently to go home.

(*Daily Herald*, Adelaide, South Australia – 22 June, 1917)

THE ROLL OF HONOR

424th CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ILL

18923 – Pte P. HAMILTON, Scotland, dang.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 22 August, 1918)

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

HAMILTON – ON the 15th May, at Sutton Vine Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England, Private Peter Hamilton, of 4th Light Horse Field Ambulance, and formerly sergeant of A.M.C., Adelaide (result of accidental injuries), only surviving son of Robert Hamilton, of 25, Kirk-street, Stonehouse, Lanarkshire, Scotland, aged 31 years.

-Inserted by H. G. Redman, Coburg-road, Alberton.

(The Express and Telegraph, Adelaide, South Australia – 2 June, 1919) & (Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 7 June, 1919)

THE AUSTRALIANS

CASUALTY LIST No. 466

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DIED OTHER CAUSES

18923 – Pte P. HAMILTON, Scotland (May 15, injuries)

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 19 June, 1919)

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 P. Hamilton has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone with the following inscription:

He Gave His Life For His Country

Stonehouse Cemetery, Stonehouse, Lanarkshire, Scotland

Stonehouse Cemetery contains 8 Commonwealth War Graves – 4 relating to World War 1 & 4 relating to World War 2.

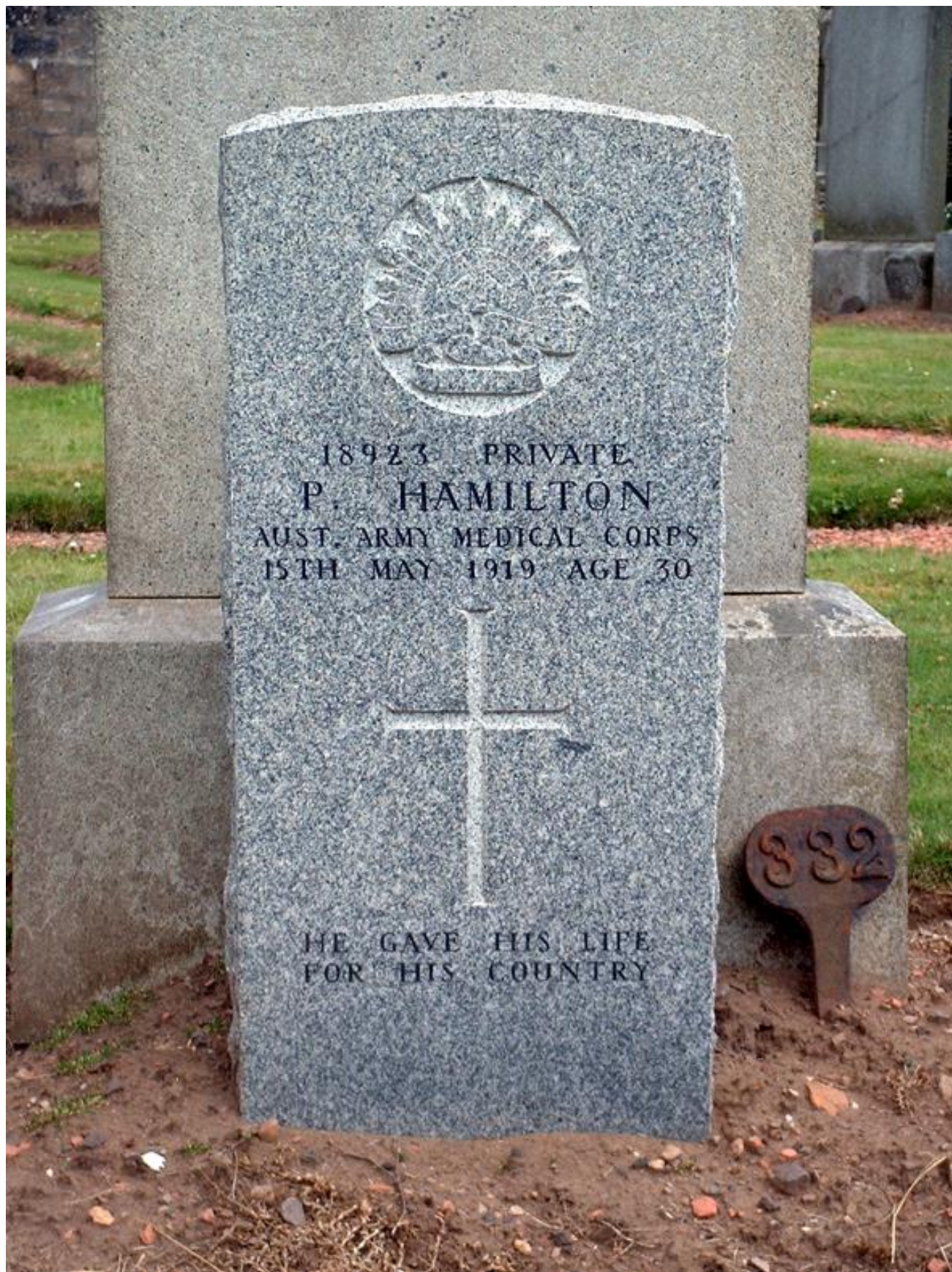


(Photo Find a Grave -rob free!)

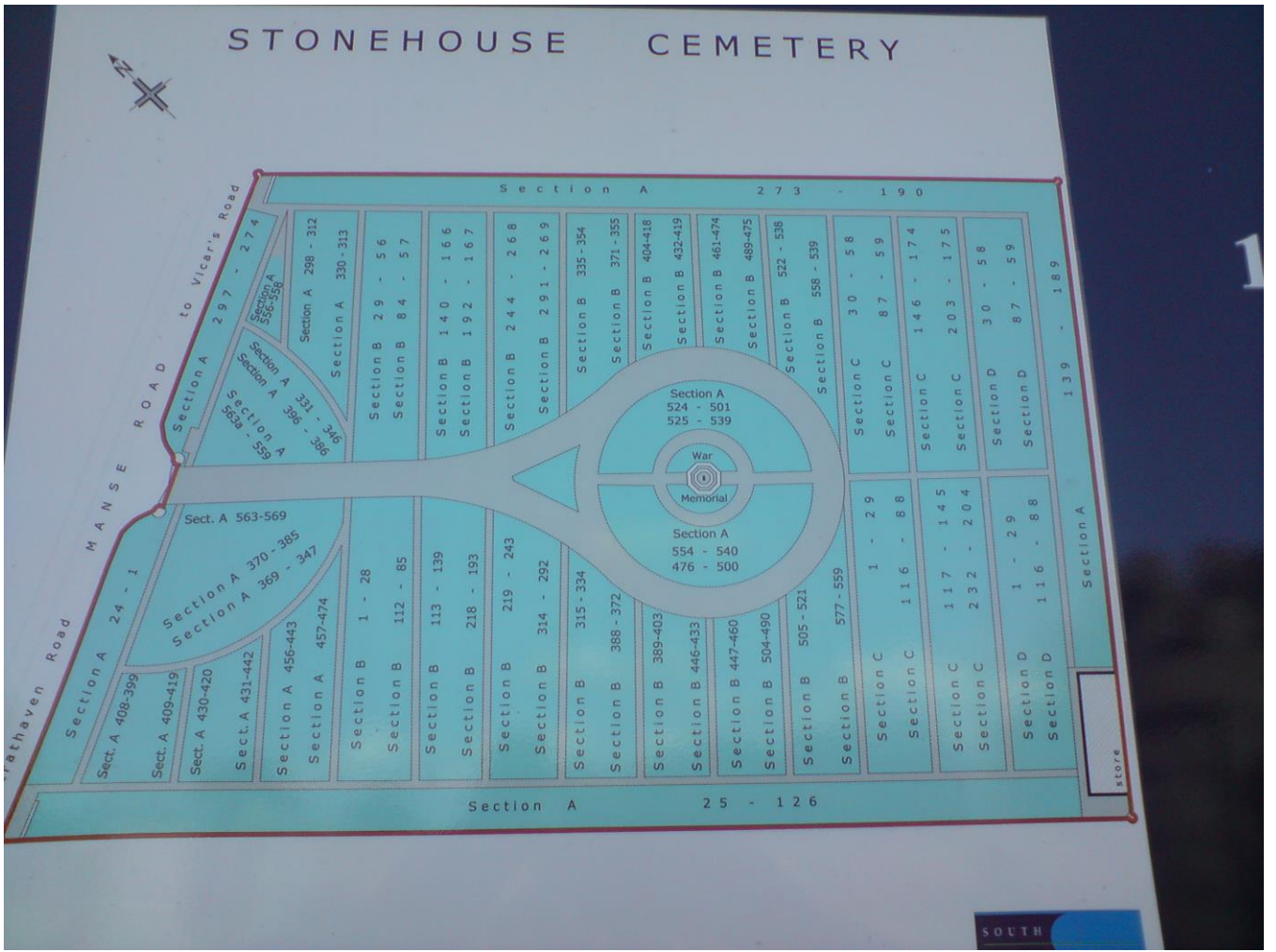


(Photo – CWGC)

Photo of Private P. Hamilton's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Stonehouse Cemetery, Stonehouse, Lanarkshire, Scotland.



(Photo Find a Grave -rob freel)



(Photo from Find a Grave – Marc Kinleyside)