

**Campsie Cemetery,
Lennoxtown, Scotland**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4862 DRIVER

W. HAMILTON

AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

24TH JULY, 1916 Age 21

William HAMILTON

William Hamilton was born at 37 Cavendish Street, Glasgow, Scotland on 29th June, 1895 to parents Joseph & Mary Ann Hamilton.

William Hamilton attended school at Abbotsford Place, Glasgow, Scotland.

According to information supplied by his mother for the Roll of Honour – William Hamilton came to Australia when he was 18 years of age.

William Hamilton was a 19 year old, single, Blacksmith when he enlisted on 20th February, 1915 (as per Embarkation Roll) at Enoggera, Queensland with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) His service number was 598 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs M. A. Hamilton, 22 Ewing Street, Londonderry, Ireland. William Hamilton stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served with Royal Navy & A.I.F. (now serving).

Private William Hamilton was posted to "A" Company, 26th Battalion for recruit training (no date recorded).

Private William Hamilton was admitted to Hospital on 3rd August, 1915. (no other details recorded)

Private William Hamilton was transferred to 2nd Divisional Signal Company as a despatch rider with a service number of 4862 on 13th August, 1915 from 26th Battalion.

William Hamilton's Attestation Papers have the date of enlisting as 23rd May, 1915. His service number of 598 was crossed out & replaced with a service number of 4862. Also his Unit was listed as 26th Battalion, 7th Infantry Brigade, A.I.F – this has also been crossed out & replaced with 2nd Divisional Signal Company.

TRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 598 4862. Name William Hamilton

Unit 26th Bn. 7th Inf. Bde. A.I.F. 2nd Div. Sig. Coy.

Joined on 20. 2. 15

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? ... 1. William Hamilton.

Private William Hamilton embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Ascanius* (A11) on 24th May, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 26th Infantry Battalion "A" Company.

Driver William Hamilton was admitted to 1st Australian General Hospital at Heliopolis on 1st September, 1915 with a sore knee. He was discharged to duty the same day.

Driver William Hamilton was admitted to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station at Anzac on 29th October, 1915 with diarrhoea. He was transferred to Hospital Ship *Rewa* then admitted to Hospital at Malta on 2nd November, 1915 with Acute Epidyaumetis (?). The Casualty Form – Active Service recorded that Private Hamilton was admitted to Forest Hospital, Malta on 2nd November, 1915 with Gonorrhoea. Private Hamilton was discharged to Spinola Camp, Malta on 3rd December, 1915. He was fit for active service & embarked for Egypt on 7th December, 1915 on H.T. *Bornu*.

Driver William Hamilton was to rejoin his Unit from Giza on 28th December, 1915.

Driver William Hamilton was admitted to 1st Dermatological Hospital, Abbassia on 3rd February, 1916 with VDG. He was discharged to Overseas Base on 15th March, 1916.

Driver William Hamilton joined Miscellaneous Reinforcements at Tel-el-Kebir on 17th April, 1916.

Driver William Hamilton embarked from Alexandria on S.S. *Briton* on 28th May, 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. Later Training & Convalescing Units were combined under the one Command Depot.

Driver William Hamilton was admitted to Tidworth Hospital on 28th June, 1916 with Influenza. He was discharged on 1st July, 1916.

Driver William Hamilton was admitted to 3rd Scottish General Hospital, Glasgow, Scotland on 11th July, 1916 with Acute Enteritis. He was reported to be seriously ill on 17th July, 1916 with Pyrexia of uncertain origin.

Driver William Hamilton died on 24th July, 1916** at 3rd War Hospital, Glasgow, Scotland from Gastro Enteritis.

[**Note: There is a discrepancy with the date of death: the 24th July, 1916 was listed on Field Service Army Form B. 2090A – “*Report of Death of a Soldier*”; the Casualty Form – Active Service & all other forms in the Service Record file. Only 2 forms have date of death as 23rd July, 1916: Army Form B. 2090 – “*Report of Death of a Soldier*” recorded that Driver William Hamilton died on 23rd July, 1916 at 3rd Scottish General Hospital, Glasgow. The Hospital Admissions form recorded Driver Hamilton died at 1 am on 23rd July, 1916. Both The Australian War Memorial & the Commonwealth War Graves Commission have the date of death as 24th July, 1916.]

Driver William Hamilton was buried with a Private Funeral arranged by his mother on 26th July, 1916 in Lennoxton Churchyard (now referred to as Campsie Cemetery, Lennoxton, Scotland) Campsie Grave number 503 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Newspaper item – *Kirkintilloch Herald*, Scotland – 26 July 1916:

DEATH OF A CAMPSIE SOLDIER

It was with surprise and sorrow that the news was received of the death of Private Wm. Hamilton, despatch rider, Australian Contingent, which took place on Stobcross Hospital, Glasgow, on Saturday. Deceased was a son of the late Mr Joseph Hamilton and grandson of the late Mr James Hamilton, Lennoxton, and nephew of Miss H. Hamilton, merchant, Main Street. He had just recently emigrated to Australia when war broke out, and he immediately offered his services to the Australian Contingent. After a short time in training in his adopted country the contingent was drafted to Egypt, where he saw service. While stationed in Egypt he contracted malarial fever, and in course of time he was sent to this country and was an inmate of Stobcross Hospital. He had so far recovered that three weeks ago he paid a visit to his many friends in Lennoxton. He was twenty years of age, of a bright, cheerful disposition, and made his friends feel proud of such a gallant hero. His death has therefore come as a shock to all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. His remains are to be brought to Lennoxton and interred to-day (Wednesday).

Captain, Officer in Charge of Records, Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F., wrote to Mrs Hamilton, 53 Old Govan Road, Glasgow, on 15th November, 1916 stating “*Information has been received from the 3rd War Hospital, Glasgow that you late son’s (No. 4862 Dvr Hamilton W. 2nd Division Signal Company) remains were removed to your residence for interment. Could you advise this Office, please, the following particulars Grave Site, Grave Site Number and Date of Burial at you earliest convenience for purposes of record in this Office.*”

According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour – Driver William Hamilton “*was closely associated with Lieutenant Allan Clark, M.M. of the A.I.F.*”

Sapper William Hamilton requested in his Will, dated 26th January, 1916, that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects be given to his mother – Mary Ann Hamilton c/- Mrs Clendining, 22 Ewing St., Londonderry, Ireland.

A War Pension was awarded to Mary Ann Hamilton, 53 Govan Road, Glasgow, mother of the late Private William Hamilton, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 24th September, 1916.

The Paymaster, Brisbane, Queensland telegraphed Base Records on 15th November, 1916 asking “*what allotment was paid for 4862 Hamilton Second Divisional Signal Company, late 598 28th Battalion. No trace here or Perth. Please advise district & soldiers embarked from.*”

Base Records replied to Military Paymaster, Brisbane Queensland on 17th November, 1916 querying 4862 William Hamilton’s embarkation from Brisbane on 24th April, 1916 on Transport *Ascanius*.

[Note: The Australian War Memorial also had recorded that Sapper Hamilton had embarked in 1916 – they were advised at the time of researching – June, 2021 & corrected their records to show he embarked in May, 1915.]

The records for the next-of-kin for the late Driver William Hamilton were changed on 16th April, 1918 to show his mother’s new address as Mrs Mary A. Hamilton, Rutherglen Road, Glasgow, Scotland.

Driver William Hamilton was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver Hamilton’s mother – Mrs Hamilton, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England - August, 1922).



Memorial Plaque or “Death Penny” for Driver William Hamilton

(Photo from Find a Grave – Nancy Wright)

Mrs Mary Ann Hamilton, Hamilton House, Main Street, Paddington, Brisbane, Queensland, applied for “*Nearest Female Relative of a Soldier of the A.I.F.*” Badge on 13th May, 1925. She listed she was the mother of William Hamilton & listed three separate Regimental Numbers with the following remark: “*I have three medals and as there is a different number on each medal I have put the different numbers and units with which he served*” – “589 Pte 26 Bn; 598 Dvr 26 Bn & 4862 Dvr 2 Div Sig Coy.”

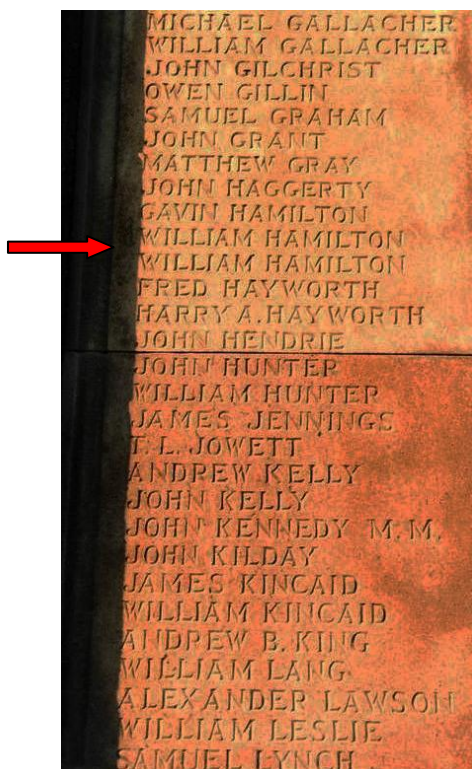
The Nearest Female Relative Badge was issued to Mrs Hamilton on 21st May, 1925 – Badge No. 234674.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver William Hamilton – service number 4862, aged 21, of 2nd Div. Signal Coy., Australian Pioneers. Son of Joseph and Mary Ann Hamilton, of 906 Rutherglen Rd., Glasgow, Scotland.

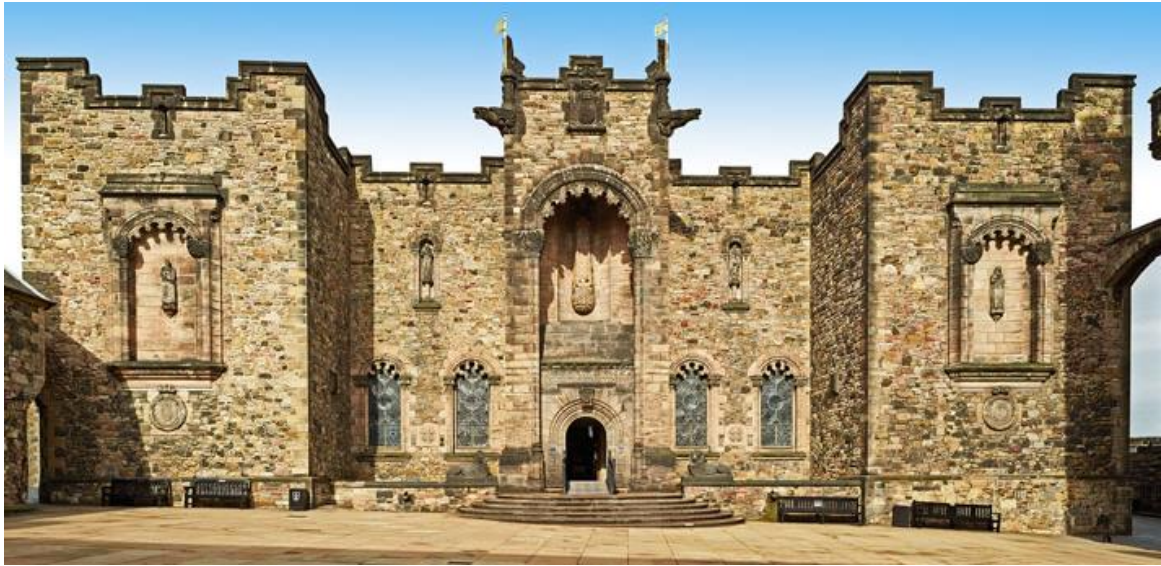
William Hamilton is remembered on the Campsie War Memorial, located Main Street, Lennoxton, Glasgow, Scotland.



Campsie War Memorial (Photo from War Memorials Online)



Driver William 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)



Driver W. 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 25.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(54 pages of Driver William 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



Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

Australian Casualties

The 122nd Australian casualty list was released by the censor early this morning....

QUEENSLAND

4862/592 Pte W. Hamilton, 2nd Div. Hqrs, late 26th Btn., Ireland, ill, at Malta.

(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia – 11 December, 1915)

ROLL OF HONOUR

Queensland and N.S.W. Casualties

128th List

Reported in Hospital

4862/592 Pte W. Hamilton, 2nd Div. Hqrs, late 26th Btn., Ireland, in hospital, Malta, prev, rep. ill.

(The Week, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia – 7 January, 1916)

LENNOXTOWN MEN IN THE LISTS

The death is reported of Private Wm. Hamilton, despatch rider, Australian Contingent, at Stobhill Hospital, on Sunday. Deceased, a son of the late Mr Joseph Hamilton, Lennoxton, had seen service in Egypt where he contracted malarial fever. On making a slight recovery he was sent home. He visited Lennoxton about three weeks ago, and his death has come as a surprise. The funeral took place at Campsie burying ground on Wednesday afternoon.

(Kilsyth Chronicle, Scotland – 28 July, 1916) & (Kirkintilloch Gazette, Scotland – 28 July, 1916)

DEATHS

HAMILTON – At Stobhill; Hospital, Glasgow, on 23rd July, Despatch Rider William Hamilton, Australian Exped. Force, aged 21 years, second son of the late Joseph Hamilton, Lennoxton, Campsie.

(Stirling Observer, Scotland – 5 August, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOR

191st CASUALTY LIST

Died of Illness – Sapp W. Hamilton, Ireland

(Townsville Daily Bulletin, Queensland, Australia – 11 August, 1916)

TWO YEARS' TOLL

Below we give a list of soldiers from the District who have fallen on the battlefield or succumbed while on service during the first two years of the war, also others who are missing.....

DIED ON SERVICE

.....

HAMILTON, Pte WM., Lennoxton – Australians

.....

(Kilsyth Chronicle, Scotland – 18 August, 1916) & (Kirkintilloch Gazette, Scotland – 18 August, 1916)

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 W. Hamilton does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Campsie Cemetery, Lennoxtown, Scotland

Campsie Cemetery, Lennoxtown, also known as Lennoxtown Cemetery, contains 15 Commonwealth War Graves – 9 from World War 1 & 6 from World War 2.



Campsie Cemetery, Lennoxtown

(Photos courtesy of Chris - Campsie Cemetery, Lennoxtown [Facebook](#) page)



Photo of Driver W. Hamilton's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Campsie Cemetery, Lennoxtown, Scotland.



(Photo by Stephen Farnell – Find a Grave)