

**Efford Cemetery,
Plymouth, Devon, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3133 PRIVATE

L. A. HEAD

4TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

4TH OCTOBER, 1918

*We Thank Our God
Upon Every Remembrance
Of Him*

Leslie Arthur HEAD

Leslie Arthur Head was born at Alpha, Queensland on 10th July, 1895 to parents Alfred Joseph & Christiana Head (nee Strongman).

Leslie Arthur Head attended school at Lismore S.P.S., New South Wales & later attended Sydney Technical College, NSW for Architecture.

Leslie Arthur Head was a 20 year old, single, Draughtsman from Leverton, Angelo Street, Burwood, NSW when he enlisted on 5th August, 1915 at Holdsworth (Holsworthy), New South Wales with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Methodist & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs C. Head, Leverton, Angelo Street, Burwood, NSW. Leslie Head stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served with 40th Infantry Burwood.

Private Leslie Arthur Head was posted to 19th Battalion, 7th Reinforcements from 5th August, 1915 for recruit training.

19th Battalion

The 19th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. A large number of the 19th's original recruits had already served with the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) in the operations to capture German New Guinea in 1914.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Leslie Arthur Head, Service number 3133, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Suevic* (A29) on 20th December, 1915 (Statement of Service form & Casualty Active Service form both recorded he embarked from Australia on "23.12.15") with the 5th Infantry Brigade, 19th Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements.

Private Leslie Arthur Head was transferred from 19th Battalion to 4th Battalion on 14th February, 1916. He was taken on strength of 4th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 14th February, 1916.

Private Leslie Arthur Head embarked for overseas from Alexandria on 23rd March, 1916 on H.T. *Simla* & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 30th March, 1916.

Private Leslie Arthur Head was written up for an Offence on 8th August, 1916 – "*Being in Paris Place & producing a false pass on 8.8.16*". He was deprived of 3 days pay by Commanding Officer Lewis Gun School.

Private Leslie Arthur Head was wounded in action in France between 15 & 17th August, 1916. He was admitted to 4th Australian Field Ambulance on 17th August, 1916 with shrapnel wound/s to left Forearm then transferred to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station on the same day. Private Head was transferred to 29th Ambulance Train on 17th August, 1916 & was admitted the same day to 23rd General Hospital at Etaples, France with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to left Forearm. He was transferred from Etaples to Calais on 22nd August, 1916 & embarked for England the same day on Hospital Ship *Dieppe*.

4th Battalion

The 4th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these other battalions, formed the 1st Brigade.....

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. Later the battalion fought at Ypres, in Flanders, before returning to the Somme for winter.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

From the War Diary – 4th Battalion (very brief extract)

15th August, 1916 – The Battalion were located at Vadencourt.

16th August, 1916 – The Battalion were at Pozieres – Mouquet Farm. Remainder of Battalion were marched in from Sausage Calley & relieved 51st Battalion. Heavy enemy bombardment of front line & rear communication trenches commenced at 18.00.

17th August, 1916 – The Battalion were at Mouquet Farm.... Casualties now more than 100.

(War Diary extract information from The Australian War Memorial)

Private Leslie Arthur Head was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital, Dudley Rd, Birmingham, England on 23rd August, 1916 – wounded. He was transferred to 2nd Auxiliary Hospital on 21st October, 1916 then discharged from 2nd Auxiliary Hospital on 24th October, 1916 to Weymouth.

Mrs C. Head, "Leverton", Angel Street, Burwood, NSW, mother of Private Leslie Arthur Head, was advised by Base Records on 8th September, 1916 that No. 3133 Private L. A. Head, 4th Battalion, late 19th Battalion, had been reported wounded. Mrs Head was advised on 18th September, 1916 that Private L. A. Head had been admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital on 23rd August, 1916 suffering from gunshot wound (mild).

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

Private Leslie Arthur Head was marched in to No. 2 Australian Command Depot, Weymouth, Dorset, England on 24th October, 1916 from Southall Hospital.

Private Leslie Arthur Head was transferred to No. 4 Command Depot on 7th November, 1916 (as per Hospital Admissions form). (Statement of Service form recorded "4th Bn – 4th Com Depot 15/1/18"). He was medically classified as B1 A3 (Fit for Overseas Training Camp in 2 – 3 weeks). Private Head was transferred to No. 4 Command Depot (Group 2) on 18th January, 1917. He was medically classified as "B" on 10th March, 1917 & again on 4th May, 1917 as B1 A4 (fit for Overseas Training Brigade when passed dentally fit). Private Head was classified as dentally fit on 20th June, 1918.

Private Leslie Arthur Head was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 21st June, 1918 from No. 4 Command Depot.

Private Leslie Arthur Head proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 17th July, 1918. He was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 18th July, 1918. Private Head was marched out from A.I.B.D on 20th July, 1918 to join his Unit & rejoined 4th Battalion in France on 22nd July, 1918 from being wounded.

Private Leslie Arthur Head was wounded in action in France on 23rd August, 1918 (2nd occasion). He was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to right Shoulder & transferred & admitted to 53rd Casualty Clearing Station on 23rd August, 1918. Private Head was transferred to Ambulance Train on 23rd August, 1918 & admitted to 11th Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 24th August, 1918. He was invalided to England on 1st September, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Aberdonian*.

4th Battalion

.... In 1918 the battalion returned to the Somme valley and helped to stop the German spring offensive in March and April. The battalion subsequently participated in the Allies' great offensive of that year, launched east of Amiens on 8 August 1918. The advance on this day by British and empire troops was the greatest success in a single day on the Western Front, one that German General Erich Ludendorff described as "the black day of the German Army in this war".

The battalion continued operations until late September 1918.... (Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 4th Battalion

23rd August, 1918 – Amiens Area:

Bn moved at 2.30 am and assembled for attack East of Proyart. Move completed by 3.45. Attack began at 4.45 am. For narrative see Appendix. Weather warm and fine, Captures included 6 Guns (field) 1 derelict 15" gun 64 M.G's 7 TM's 463 prisoners. Our casualties about 50.

(War Diary information from The Australian War Memorial)

Private Leslie Arthur Head was admitted to 4th Southern General Hospital, Plymouth, England on 2nd September, 1918 with bullet wound to Shoulder. The Hospital Admissions form recorded he was admitted on 3rd September, 1918 to 4th Southern General Hospital, Devonport with "severe gunshot wound of shoulder. Bullet extracted. Broncho pneumonia died 11.20 pm 4.x.18"

Mrs C. Head, "Leverton", Angel Street, Burwood, NSW, mother of Private Leslie Arthur Head, was advised by Base Records on 5th September, 1918 advising that Private L. A. Head had been reported wounded 2nd occasion. Mrs Head was advised on 20th September, 1918 that Private L. A. Head had been admitted on 2nd September, 1918 to 4th Southern General Hospital, Plymouth, England with gunshot wound to right shoulder, actual condition not stated.

Base Records advised Mrs Head on 1st October, 1918 that Private Leslie Head was dangerously ill.

Private Leslie Arthur Head died at 11.20 pm on 4th October, 1918 at 4th Southern General Hospital, Devonport (Ford House Section), England from wounds received in action - (1) G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to right Shoulder & (2) Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Leslie Head, aged 23, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Devonport, Devon, England.

Private Leslie Arthur Head was buried on 8th October, 1918 in Egg Buckland Cemetery, Plymouth, England – General Class "C" Grave No 4342.

From the burial report of Private Leslie Arthur Head - Coffin was good. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party and Band being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and conveyed to the graveside, where the burial service was conducted by the Rev: C. G. Danbury. A party of convalescent members of the A.I.F. from V.A.D. Hospital, Millbay, attended the funeral. Some beautiful flowers were sent from the Nursing Staff, and A.I.F. The grave will be turfed, and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented.

Private Leslie Arthur Head's burial place is now recorded by the CWGC as Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England – Plot number General C. 4342 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Leslie Arthur Head contains the following reports:

- Informant 3893 Private Cecil Rhodes, 4th Battalion: *"We were in action at the Proyart stunt 2/8/18. We were attacking. I saw Head just after he was hit. He was lying on the side of the road and appeared to be badly wounded. Stretcher-bearers took him away, and I saw or heard nothing further. Aged about 24, height about 5ft 6". He was in "A" Company.*
- Helene Graham Cloete, Mount Famar, St. Budeaux, S. Devon: *"Re 3133 Pte Leslie Arthur Head 4th Battn, A.I.F., I found out that he died at Ford House Hospital. Everything possible was done for Pte Head and the Wesleyan clergyman was with him at the end and officiated at the Burial Service. The Matron at Camels Head Hospital tole me that a good many of her Australians went to the Funeral and although some of them were hardly fit to do so they insisted on going – with the men from Ford House. I feel sure that Heads Comrades have written to the relatives in Australia. I find the men at the Royal Military usually do so when there is a death. I have written and asked Mrs Webber the Visitor at Ford to find out is she can whether the Wesleyan Minister did write to the relatives and shall forward any further information."*

Private Leslie Arthur Head requested in his Will dated 15th July, 1917 that all his real estate & personal estate be bequeathed to his mother – Mrs Christiana Head, “Leverton” Angelo Street, Burwood, NSW.

Mrs C. Head, “Leverton”, Angel Street, Burwood, NSW, mother of Private Leslie Arthur Head, wrote to Base Records on 15th October, 1918 requesting a Certificate of Death for Private Leslie Arthur Head, No. 3133 4th Battalion (formerly of 19th Battalion).

Base Records replied to Mrs C. Head on 31st January, 1918 enclosing as requested a Certificate of report of Death of the late No. 3133 Private L. A. Head, 4th Battalion.

Christiana Head, Baden Powell St, Rockhampton, wrote to Base Records on 24th February, 1919 advising she was in receipt of a Certificate of Death of Private L. A. Head who died of wounds in 4th Southern General Hospital, Devonport, England on 4th October, 1918. *“Will you kindly forward another copy as we find that the A.M.P. Society want one & Friendly Society want another.”*

Base Records replied to Mrs C. Head on 5th March, 1919 enclosing as requested a Certificate of report of Death of the late No. 3133 Private L. A. Head, 4th Battalion & noted her change of address.

The Protestant Alliance Friendly Society of Australasia, Sydney, NSW wrote to Base Records on 26th March, 1919 requesting a Certificate of Death of the late No. 3133 Private Leslie Arthur Head.

Base Records replied to The Grand Secretary, P.A.F.S.O.A. on 3rd April, 1919 enclosing a certificate of report of death of the late No. 3133 Private L. A. Head, 4th Battalion.

Base Records contacted Mrs C. Head, Baden-Powell Street, Rockhampton, Queensland on 7th October, 1921 stating she was registered in the records of the late Private L. A. Head as the next of kin but required to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & was specifically asked if his father was still alive due to the “Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918” which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Base Records wrote to Headquarters, 1st District Base on 20th December, 1922 advising that a communication to Mrs C. Head at Baden-Powell Street, Rockhampton, Queensland on 7th October, 1921 asking if her husband still survived had not been answered & *“shall be much obliged for any action you may be able to take that will obtain the desired information...”*

A letter was received at Base Records on 16th February, 1923 from A. J. Head, Leverton”, Angelo Street, Burwood, NSW which reads: *“Re advt in daily standard (Brisbane) on 29th Jan for next of kin of deceased soldiers Pte L. A. Head (was my son) No. 3133 4th Battn, died of wounds Oct 4th 1918 Plymouth Hospital England.”*

Private Leslie Arthur Head was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal (signed for by A. J. Head on 24th March, 1923). A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Head’s father – Mr A. J. Head, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent March, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Leslie Arthur Head – service number 3133, of 4th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Alfred Joseph & Christiana Head, of “Loverton”, Angelo St., Burwood, New South Wales.

Private L. A. Head is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 40.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

L. A. Head is remembered (twice) on the Burwood War Memorial Arch, located in Burwood Park, 2 Comer Street, Burwood, NSW.



Burwood War Memorial Arch (Photos courtesy of Peter Miller)

THESE MEN GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR KING AND EMPIRE
 THE SOULS OF THE RIGHTEOUS ARE IN THE HAND OF GOD

ABRAHAMS F.W.	HAMPSON J.T.	PALEY W.L.
ALLAN E.A.	HANNAH J.	PARSONSON C.C.
ALLEN E.H.	HART E.	PATTEN R.E.
ASHTON R.	HELSON S.W.	PATTISON A.D.
BUCHANAN J.B.	HENLEY W.G.	PEEL R.J. DE N.
BALL R.J.T.	HOOD N.C.	PHILLIS R.I.
BANCROFT C.	HOVENDEN F.	PIKE W.G.
BANCROFT H.W.	HOVENDEN W.	PRIEST C.J.
BAX B.	HUMBLEY W.L.	PRIDDLE A.J.
BAXTER C.J.	HEAD L.A.	READ F.
BAYLEY H.B.	IPKENDANZ E.P.	RICH S.C.
BEADLE J.	KIRBY R.O.	RICHARDS A.H.
BILBEY W.H.	JAMES R.W.	RICHARDSON T.
BILLING W.H.	KEANE H.S.	RICKS J.
BINKS F.	KEMP R.S.K.	RITCHIE J.
BLUNDEN E.V.	KEMP W.F.K.	ROBINSON A.W.
BOSWELL S.H.	KIRBY D.B.	ROSS E.C.
BRADWELL W.	KNAPMAN A.R.	ROTHWELL F.
BRECKENRIDGE H.	KERR R.E.	ROWE R.L.
BREWER A.J.	LAMBERT S.W.	RABONE S.C.
BROWN M.	LANG W.	SANDON S.F.
BRYANT J.B.	LEVER L.J.	SANDY J.L.M.
BUCKLEY E.A.	LEWIS A.D.	SKOW E.L.
BULL L.V.	LONG N.A.J.	SKOW E.S.
BUTCHER G.	LONG W.S.G.	SMITH E.S.
BORLAND D.		SMITH E.J.
CAMBIN I.R.	MACDIARMID A.M.	SMITH F.L.
CLARKE E.J.C.	MALLETT C.P.	SOUTH E.P.
COLLETT E.	MALTHOUSE W.H.	SQUIRE S.
CONNELL W.H.	MANNIX O.	STARK J.S.
CONYERS A.E.	MENZIES E.S.	STARK M.R.V.
CONYERS E.F.	MILLER G.	STEED F.I.
CORCORAN G.F.	MINNIS J.A.	STEVENS H.
COX J.W.	MONIE B.L.	SMALL K.C.
CANVIN J.R.	MONIE R.D.	THOMPSON B.A.
DEMPSEY J.(REV)	MORGAN J.W.	TYSON J.W.
DOOLEY W.	MOSS A.D.	THOMPSON W.
DUTTON A.	MUIR A.R.	WRIGHT H.
FERRIS E.R.	MULLINS A.J.T.	WATSON S.
FITZGERALD E.M.	MCDERMOTT F.C.	WHAITES O.L.
FORSYTH J.	MCDONALD A.A.	WHAITES W.H.
FULJAMES H.J.F.	MCDONALD D.	WHITLEY L.A.
CASKILL W.	MCDONALD R.	WILCOX J.G.
GOLLEN R.J.H.	MC FARLANE W.J.	WOODHILL R.C.
CORE H.A.	MCLAUGHLAN R.V.	WOOLLEY C.R.
CORHAM E.H.	MCRROBERT J.W.	WOOLLEY D.S.
COWANS W.J.	MCRROBERTS W.D.	WOTTON C.P.
GREEN J.		WRIGHT C.J.
CUILLE F.W.	NOLAN C.H.	WRIGHT H.
CALBRAITH F.R.	NOON J.	ZINK H.O.
HACKMAN W.	OUTRAM E.W.	
HAMPSON W.H.	OWEN C.	
	OTTAWAY H.J.	

Burwood War Memorial Arch



Burwood War Memorial Arch

(76 pages of Private Leslie Arthur Head'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

Lists Nos. 216 to 219

Wounded

Pte L. A. HEAD, Burwood

(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 27 September, 1916)

CASUALTIES

THE 268TH LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

RETURNED TO DUTY

Pte L. A. HEAD, Burwood

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 25 January, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOR

Head – Died 4th October, 1918, of wounds received in France, Private Leslie Arthur Head, 4th Battalion, after 3 years' service, aged 23 years. Inserted by his sorrowing parents, Mr and Mrs A. J. Head, of Burwood, brothers Albert and Roy, and his loving friend, Sylvia.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 19 October, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

Head – Died 4th October, 1918, of wounds received in France, Private Leslie Arthur Head, 4th Battalion, after 3 years' service, aged 23 years. Inserted by his sorrowing parents, Mr and Mrs A. J. Head, of Burwood, brothers Albert and Roy, and his loving friend, Sylvia.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 19 October, 1918)

Australia's War Losses

THE 434th CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED

NEW SOUTH WALES

L. A. Head (Burwood), 2nd

(The Farmer and Settler, Sydney, NSW – 29 October, 1918)

443rd CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte LES. ARTHUR HEAD, Burwood

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 22 November, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

HEAD – In sacred but loving memory of Pte Leslie A. Head, late 4th Batt., A.I.F., died October 4, 1918, of wounds received in France. Inserted by his loving father, mother, and brother, of Burwood.

HEAD – In loving memory of our dear friend, Private Leslie Head who died of wounds, October 4, 1917.

His sacrifice in what he gave,
Ours in what we lost.

Inserted by his loving friend, Olive Hurst and Walter Clissold.

HEAD – In loving memory of our dear friend, Les, who died of wounds, October 4, 1918. Inserted by Mrs Hurst, Sylvia, Dorothy and Phyllis

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 4 October, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

HEAD – In loving memory of our dear friend, Leslie A. Head, 4th Battalion, who died of wounds, October 4, 1918. Inserted by Mrs Hurst, Sylvia, Dorothy and Phyllis

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 4 October, 1920)

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 L. A. Head does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

We Thank Our God Upon Every Remembrance Of Him

Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England

During the First World War, Plymouth, Devonport and Stonehouse contained between them the Royal Dockyard, Royal Naval Barracks (known as H.M.S. Vivid), the Royal Marine Barracks of the Plymouth Division, and naval and military hospitals. For the duration of the war, Devonport was made headquarters of the Auxiliary Patrol Area. Plymouth was a naval station second only to Portsmouth during the Second World War. Devonport was also an important military station and there was a R.A.F station at Mount Batten, opposite Plymouth. PLYMOUTH (EFFORD) CEMETERY contains 338 scattered burials of the First World War. The 109 Second World War burials, including 5 unidentified, are also scattered apart from a small group in Section C, in a plot set aside for service burials that was actually little used. The Commission also maintains five non-war burials within the cemetery and 12 war graves of other nationalities, most of them Greek merchant seamen. PLYMOUTH CITY CREMATORIUM is situated in Plymouth (Efford) Cemetery and 61 servicemen and women of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there are commemorated on a screen wall set into a recess in the hedge behind the Cross of Sacrifice.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth *(Photo from CWGC)*



War Graves in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth *(Photo from CWGC)*



War Graves in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth *(Photo courtesy of Rebecca Smith)*

Photo of Private L. A. Head's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Cliff Barry)



(Photo from Twitter – Roger Weale)