

**Hove Old Cemetery,
Hove, East Sussex
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



15642 GUNNER

A. D. LANE

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

28TH DECEMBER, 1920 Age 24

He Is Not Dead

Who Lives For Ever

In Our Hearts

Alexander Danvers LANE

Alexander Danvers Lane was born at Hounslow, Middlesex, England in 1896 to parents Alexander Maurice and Florence Lane (nee Danvers). Alexander Danvers Lane was baptised on 8th November, 1896 at St. Stephen's Church, Hounslow, Middlesex, England. His father was listed as a Civil Engineer & the family lived at Staines Road.

Alexander Danvers Lane, aged 6, was a passenger on S.S. *Nicaraguan* which sailed from Liverpool, England on 12th June, 1903 & arrived at the port of New Orleans on 29th June, 1903. He was accompanied by his mother – Florence Lane, aged 36, and his older sister – Margherita Evelyn Lane, aged 8. The family's last residence was listed as Twickenham. Also travelling with them was Jessie Shepherd, a 37 year old Governess. Their final destination was British Honduras to join Florence's husband – A. M. Lane in Belize.

Alexander Lane, aged 7, was a passenger on S.S. *Olympia* which departed from Belize, British Honduras on 18th December, 1903 sailing for the port of New Orleans & arriving on 21st December, 1903. Also listed with Alexander – his mother - Florence Lane (aged 37), his sister – Madge Lane (aged 9) & Jessie Shepherd ("Maid", aged 38)..

Alex. Lane, aged 11 & his mother Florence Lane, aged 44, & sister Margh., aged 15, were passengers on *Afric* which had departed from Liverpool, England & arrived at the port of Sydney, NSW, Australia on 26th May, 1910.

New South Wales Police Gazette – 2 April, 1913:

Apprehensions

Alexander Danvers Lane (17) and Edgar Gibbon (15 ½), charged, Lane with stealing skins and fur goods value £330 (two charges), and Gibbon with stealing skins and fur good value £500 (great portion recovered), the property of R. H, Barber & Co. Ltd., have been arrested by Senior-detective Ward and Detective Ramsay; Gibbon further charged in company with Dugald Doig (14), arrested by the same officers, with forging signatures of McRobinson to cheques for various amounts (eight charges), and uttering the same to the E. S. and A. Bank. Lane committed for trial at Quarter Sessions; Gibbon and Doig released on probation for eighteen months, and each make restitution of the sum of £15.

New South Wales Police Gazette – 23 April, 1913:

First Offenders Discharged under Crimes Act of 1900

Alexander Danvers Lane (16 ½), tried at the Sydney Quarter Sessions on 15th April, 1913; stealing; sentence, eighteen months' hard labour. To be of good behaviour for eighteen months.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Waverley, subdivision of Bondi Road listed Florence Lane, domestic duties, of Waverley Street.

Alexander Danvers Lane stated he was a 22 year old, single, Clerk from "Birmingham" Glen Street, Bondi, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted on 10th January, 1916 with the 22nd Howitzer Brigade, 2nd Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 15642 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs F. Lane, of "Birmingham" Glen Street, Bondi, Sydney, NSW.

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane was posted to 1st Brigade, 16th Reinforcements on 10th January, 1916.

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 14th April, 1916.

V/O Cpl (Voyage Only) Alexander Danvers Lane reverted to the rank of Gunner on 17th May, 1916.

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane embarked with Artillery Details from Alexandria on 29th May, 1916 on Troop ship *Tunisian* & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 5th June, 1916.

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane was taken on strength of 2nd Australian Divisional base Depot at Etaples, France on 9th June, 1916.

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane was transferred to 2nd Divisional Artillery Column on 17th July, 1916.

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane was taken to 5th Field Ambulance in France on 15th August, 1916 with severe chills. He was transferred to 4th Casualty Clearing Station with influenza on 18th August, 1916 then transferred to No. 11 General Hospital at Camiers on 19th August, 1916. Gunner Lane was transferred to Convalescent Depot on 25th August, 1916 then joined 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional base Depot) at Etaples on 1st September, 1916.

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane rejoined 2nd Divisional Artillery Column on 18th September, 1916.

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane was taken to 112th Field Ambulance on 25th October, 1916 with Neuritis. He was discharged to duty on 2nd November, 1916.

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane was transferred to 22nd F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) on 8th November, 1916 & posted to 19th Battery on 9th November, 1916.

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane was transferred to Headquarters on 21st November, 1916.

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane was sent to Signal School on 4th December, 1916 & rejoined his Battery on 24th December, 1916.

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane was taken to 8th Field Ambulance on 24th December, 1916 with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin) then transferred to D.R.S. He was transferred & admitted to No. 1 New Zealand Stationary Hospital at Amiens on 3rd January, 1917 with Trench Fever. Gunner Lane was transferred by Ambulance Train on 5th January, 1917 & admitted to 10th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 6th January, 1917. Gunner Lane embarked for England on Hospital Ship from Havre, France on 17th January, 1917.

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane was admitted to No. 3 Australian General Hospital at Brighton on 18th January, 1917 with Trench Fever (subject to neurotic introspection). He was transferred to York Place Hospital, Brighton on 16th February, 1917 then transferred again on 4th April, 1917 to No.1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield where he was discharged on 11th April, 1917.

Mrs Florence Lane, mother of Gunner Alexander Lane, wrote to Base Records on 5th March, 1917 stating that she had seen her son's name under the Casualty List 274 but had not received any official notice. She stated that she had advised her change of address in June, 1916 to 3 Whistler Road, Manly. Advice had apparently been sent on 15th February, 1917 to Mrs Lane at her Glen Street, Bondi address but had been returned "Left". Mrs Lane's new address was noted on 9th March, 1917.

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane was marched in to No. 2 Australian Command Depot at Weymouth on 12th April, 1917 with Trench Fever & Rheumatism. The hospital admissions form records "*Left Unit with Trench Fever and Rheumatism. Comp. now of pains in L. shoulder and knee.*" Gunner Lane was medically classified on 21st April, 1917 as B1 A II (fit for overseas training camp in three to four weeks). On 29th May, 1917 Gunner Lane stated he had pain in his shoulder & was medically classified as B1 AIII (fit for overseas training camp in two to three weeks). He was marched out from No. 2 Command Depot on 15th August, 1917.

Mrs Florence Lane wrote to Base Records on 1st June, 1917 to advise her new address as c/o Charles Danvers 62 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW.

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 15th August, 1917. He was medically classified as B1 A3 (fit for overseas training camp in two to three weeks). Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane was admitted to Military Hospital (Delhi Hospital) at Tidworth, Wiltshire on 27th September, 1917 with Myalgia – lumbar regions. He was discharged to duty – Training Depot on 1st October, 1917.

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane was written up for an offence - "*AWL from midnight 27.10.17 till 10.30 pm 28.10.17.*" This was admonished on 9th October, 1917 but he still forfeited 1 days' pay.

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane was admitted to Group Clearing Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 1st November, 1917 suffering from Glycosuria. A Medical Report was completed on 22nd November, 1917 on Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane who was suffering from the disability – Glycosuria. The disability occurred on 4th December, 1916 in France. Gunner Lane's general physical condition was described as good. "*since admission to the Group Clearing*

Hospital on the 1.11.17 he has complained of persistent pains & aching in back... feels always tired.” He was discharged on 6th December, 1917 to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire & medically classified as C1 (Fir for Home Service Only).

The finding from the Medical Report from 22nd November, 1917 for Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane was that he was medically re-classified as C2 (Permanently Unfit for overseas service, temporarily unfit for Home Service) on 12th December, 1917.

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane was written up for an offence while posted at Sutton Veny - *“AWL from 9pm 26.12.17 till 4 pm 28.12.17.”* He was awarded 6 days confined to camp & forfeited 3 days pay.

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot, Weymouth from No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny on 29th December, 1917.

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane returned to Australia & embarked from England on 31st January, 1918 on H.M.A.T. Osterley. He disembarked on 15th April, 1918 and was medically discharged from the Australian Imperial Force on 8th June, 1918 due to Glycosuria.

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane was notified that *“You are required to attend before the Permanent Medical Referee Board in their Office, next to Post Office, No. 4 Australian General Hospital, Randwick at 2 pm on 1st May, 1918. Failure to comply with this will render you liable for Disobedience of Orders and Absent without Leave.”*

A record for Alexander Danvers Lane, born 17th October, 1896 at Hounslow, exists for British Royal Air Force – Officer’s Service Records. His address is listed as “Boisland” Landseer Rd, Sutton, Surrey. The only entry recorded is *“Flt Pilot or Obs _ .11.18”*

[Margherita Evelyn Lane, aged 24 & Florence Lane, aged 52, of “Boisland” Landseer Road, Sutton, were passengers on *Orduna* which had departed from the port of New York, United States & arrived at the port of Liverpool, England on 31st October, 1918. Their country of last permanent residence was listed as Australia & their country of intended future permanent residence was also listed as Australia.]

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane died on 28th December, 1920 at a Boarding House in Hove, Sussex, England as a result of suicide.

A death for Alexander D. Lane, aged 24, was registered in the December quarter, 1920 in the district of Steyning, Sussex, England.

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane was buried in Hove Old Cemetery, Hove, Sussex, England – Plot number S. B. 497. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal for his service during World War 1.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane – service number 15642, aged 24, of 22nd Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Alexander Maurice and Florence Lane, of 66 St. Leonards Rd., Hove, England. Born at Hounslow, England.

Gunner A. D. Lane is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 19.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(53 pages of Gunner Alexander Danvers Lane'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

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

CASUALTY LIST No. 274

NEW SOUTH WALES

ILL – A.-Cpl. A. D. Lane, Bondi

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 26 February, 1917)

UNREQUITED LOVE

Young Man's Suicide in a Fit of Insanity

The tragic story of a rejected lover who shot himself immediately after the refusal of his marriage proposal to a young woman with whom he had fallen in love was told at an inquest at Hove (Sussex) on Alexander Danvers Lane, twenty-four, an assistant manager in the Disposal Board of the Ministry of Munitions, who had been staying at a local boarding-house.

He left a letter to his mother, which ran:-

"My darling Mother, - I feel that it is awful having to write to you, but I have just discovered that "Babe" has been absolutely fooling me from first to last, and it is more than I can stand. I loved that girl more than life, mother. You have been right from the start. She is a heartless a little devil, but, all the same, I love her."

The young woman, who gave evidence at the inquest, stated that she is already engaged, and had on more than one occasion refused Lane's proposal that she should break off her other engagement and marry him.

The bullet which passed through Lane's heart also penetrated a packet of photographs.

The verdict was that Lane committed suicide while temporary insane.

(Leeds Mercury, Leeds, West Yorkshire, England – 1 January, 1921)

LOVE TRAGEDY

Rejected Man's Suicide

A tragedy of unrequited love was revealed at an inquest at Hove, England, recently, on Alexander Danvers Lane, 24, head of a department of the Disposals Board of the Ministry of Munitions.

It was said that Lane fell violently in love with a young woman who, he knew, was engaged to someone else, and when they were out walking together, he asked her to marry him.

She refused, and Lane was afterwards found in his bedroom at a boarding house with a bullet wound through the heart. A revolver lay by his side.

He left a letter implying that he was angry with the young woman, who, however, in evidence, denied that she had been "fooling" Lane.

A verdict of suicide during temporary insanity was returned.

(Evening News, Sydney, NSW – 28 February, 1921)

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)

Gunner A. D. Lane does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

He Is Not Dead Who Lives For Ever In Our Hearts

Hove Old Cemetery, Hove, Sussex, England

Hove Old Cemetery, Hove, Sussex contains 103 Commonwealth War Graves – 86 relate to World War 1 & 17 from World War 2.

Hove Cemetery consists of two parts, the original section south of Old Shoreham Road that was first consecrated in 1882 and a second to the north of the road that opened in 1923 as an extension. The northern section is divided further by a public footpath that links the A270 to Elm Drive.



Cross of Sacrifice in Hove Old Cemetery, Hove, Sussex *(Photo by Simon Carey)*

Photo of Gunner A. D. Lane's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Hove Old Cemetery, Hove, Sussex, England.



(Photo courtesy of julia&keld)