

**Wareham Cemetery,  
Wareham, Dorset  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**4699 PRIVATE**

**A. LOFDAHL**

**61ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**11TH MAY, 1917 Age 38**

*His Actions Speak*

*Though His Tongue Is Still*

## Alfred LOFDAHL

Alfred Lofdahl was born on 17th November, 1878 in Umea, Vasterbotten, Sweden to parents Alfred Samuel and Mary Annie Lofdahl.

Alfred Lofdahl served with the Prince Alfred's Volunteer Guards in the South African War from 1899 to 1902. His regimental number was 1249.

Alfred Lofdahl came to Australia when he was 23 years of age, according to information supplied by his widow for the Roll of Honour. From the Naturalization Records, Alfred Lofdahl arrived in Australia in May, 1906 on the *Excelsior* & disembarked at the port of Hobart, Tasmania. He was an Able Seaman.

Alfred Lofdahl married Mary Ann Date (nee Beaumont) in 1916 in the district of Canterbury, New South Wales.

A birth was registered in 1916 in Canterbury, NSW for Eric S. Lofdahl – parents Alfred & Mary A. Lofdahl.

Alfred Lofdahl, of Bonds Road, Punchbowl applied for a Certificate of Naturalization on 8th January, 1916. He stated he was a married, Wharf Labourer with 3 children & had lived in Australia for 10 years in Sydney & Canterbury, NSW. He took an Oath of Allegiance on 8th January, 1916.

Alfred Lofdahl was a 37 year old, married, Wharf Labourer from Bonds Road, Punchbowl, NSW when he enlisted at Casula, NSW on 1st February, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4699 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs M. A. Lofdahl, of Bonds Road, Punchbowl, NSW. Alfred had a tattoo of a female on his right forearm & a sailor on his left.

Private Alfred Lofdahl was posted to "C" Company, 18th Battalion on 3rd February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to "D" Company of 18th Battalion on 10th February, 1916 then "B" Company on 9th March, 1916. Pte Lofdahl was transferred to 12th Reinforcements of 18th Battalion on 21st March, 1917.

Private Alfred Lofdahl embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 13th April, 1916 with the 18th Infantry Battalion, 12th Reinforcements.

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.

Private Alfred Lofdahl proceeded overseas to France on 5th September, 1916 from 5th Training Battalion in England. He was marched in from England to 2nd Australian Divisional Base at Etaples, France on 6th September, 1916.

Private Alfred Lofdahl joined 118th Battalion in the field on 14th September, 1916 from 12th Reinforcements.

Private Alfred Lofdahl was sent sick to Hospital on 21st November, 1916. He was admitted to 1st Anzac M.D.S. on 22nd November, 1916 then transferred & admitted to 6th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 25th November, 1916 suffering from Trench Feet. Pte Lofdahl was transferred to England on Hospital Ship *Aberdonian* on 4th December, 1916.

Private Alfred Lofdahl was admitted to 2nd Birmingham War Hospital, England on 5th December, 1916 with Trench Feet. He was discharged to furlough on 11th January, 1917 & was then to report to Perham Downs on 26th January, 1917.

Private Alfred Lofdahl was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire from Furlough & was medically classified as B1 A (temporarily unfit for General Service).

Private Alfred Lofdahl was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Wareham, Dorset on 31st January, 1917 from Perham Downs,

Private Alfred Lofdahl was transferred from 18th Battalion to 61st Battalion on 23rd March, 1917 while posted at Wareham. He was taken on strength of 61st Battalion on 23rd March, 1917.

Private Alfred Lofdahl died on 11th May, 1917 at Worgret Camp Hospital, Wareham, Dorset, England from Rupture of "anumpare haemopericordium." (Note – The Field Service Army Form B. 2090A – Reporting the death of a Soldier has the place of death as Morgret Camp Hospital). Notification from Brigade Major, 16th Brigade, Worgret Camp to Administrative Headquarters A.I.F., London, states that Pte Alfred Lofdahl, 61st Battalion died "*in Battalion lines today.*" The Statement of Service form for Pte Alfred Lofdahl records that he died "*in Hut A22 about 09.00.*"

A death for Alfred Lofdahl, aged 38, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Wareham, Dorset, England.

Private Alfred Lofdahl was buried on 14th May, 1917 in Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset, England – Plot number B. D. 15 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Alfred Lofdahl - Coffin was polished Elm with black fittings. He was given a Military Funeral, officiated by Chaplain D. Sherris, 16th Infantry Battalion.

A War Pension was awarded to Mary Ann Lofdahl, widow of the late Private Alfred Lofdahl, in the sum of 40/- per fortnight from 17th July, 1917. A pension was also awarded to Sylvia Ellen Date, step-daughter of the late Private Alfred Lofdahl, in the sum of 20/- per fortnight; Jonah Leonard Date, step-son in the sum of 15/- per fortnight & Eric Samuel Lofdahl, son of the late Private Alfred Lofdahl, in the sum of 10/- per fortnight – all commencing from 17th July, 1917. (A birth was registered in 1903 in Merewether, NSW for Sylvia E. Date – parents Jonah J. & Mary Ann Date. A birth was registered in 1904 in Merewether, NSW for Jonah Leonard Date – parents Jonah J. & Mary Ann Date.)

Private Alfred Lofdahl was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Lofdahl's widow – Mrs M. A. Lofdahl, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Alfred Lofdahl – service number 4699, aged 38, of 61st Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Alfred Samuel and Mary Annie Lofdahl; husband of Mary Ann Lofdahl, of Bonds Rd., Punchbowl, New South Wales. Born in Sweden.

Private A. Lofdahl is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 86.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. Lofdahl is remembered on the Punchbowl Cenotaph, located on the Median strip, Broadway, Punchbowl, NSW.



**Punchbowl Cenotaph** (Photos from Monument Australia – Peter F. Williams)



(40 pages of Pte Alfred Lofdahl'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**

### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

##### **ILL**

Pte A. LOFDAHL, Punchbowl

*(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 16 January, 1917)*

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### **WAR CASUALTIES**

#### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

DIED, CAUSE NOT STATED

Pte A. LOFDAHL, Punchbowl, 11/5/17 (prev. rep. ill)

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 28 May, 1917)*

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

#### **On Active Service**

LOFDAHL – In loving memory of my husband, Alf. Lofdahl, 18th Battalion, who died Wareham Hospital, May 11, 1917.

His form was of the grandest,

His heart was brave and true.

Inserted by his loving wife, Mary Ann Lofdahl, and children, Bond's-road, Punchbowl.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 11 May, 1918)*

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

#### **On Active Service**

LOFDAHL – In loving memory of my dear husband and our father, Private Alfred Lofdahl, 18th Batt., A.I.F, died Wareham Hospital, May 11, 1917.

When days are dark and friends are few,

Dearest dad, how we long for you.

Inserted by his loving wife and children, May Ann Lofdahl

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 10 May, 1919)*

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### 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)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 21st July, 1921, to Mrs M. A. Lofdahl, Bonds Road, Punchbowl, NSW advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her husband, the late Pte A. Lofdahl, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private A. Lofdahl does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*His Actions Speak Though His Tongue Is Still*

### **Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset, England**

Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset contains 71 Commonwealth War Graves. Wareham Military Hospital, with 185 beds, was at Worgret Camp during the First World War and the regimental depot of the Royal Armoured Corps was at nearby Bovington during the Second World War. Wareham Cemetery contains 49 First World War burials and 15 from the Second World War, 5 being unidentified. The cemetery also contains 12 German burials, 1 being an unidentified airman. *(Information from CWGC)*



**Wareham Cemetery, Wareham** *(Photo courtesy of Tracy Dunne)*



**Wareham Cemetery, Wareham** (Photo courtesy of Tracy Dunne)



(Photo from "[Following the Twenty-Second](#)")

Photo of Private A. Lofdahl's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset, England.



(Photo courtesy of Tracy Dunne)