

**St. Lawrence Churchyard,
Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2156A PRIVATE

F. R. MASON

5TH AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS

11TH AUGUST, 1918 Age 22

Gone But Not Forgotten

Frederick Rupert MASON

Frederick Rupert Mason was born at Lucindale, South Australia on 10th May, 1895 to parents George Litchfield Mason and Evangeline Mason (nee Tregilgas).

Frederick Rupert Mason attended Public School at Meningie, South Australia.

Evangeline Mason, mother of Frederick Rupert Mason, died 24th March, 1904 at Kingston, South Australia.

Frederick Rupert Mason was a 20 year old, single, Labourer from Meningie, South Australia when he enlisted at Adelaide, South Australia on 6th April, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2156 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Mrs Amy Sarah Sneath, of Rove, South Australia (Note: “Rove” was listed on Embarkation Roll. It should be “Robe”). Frederick Rupert Mason stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected from A.I.F.as medically unfit.

Private Frederick Rupert Mason was posted to “B” Company, 2nd Depot Battalion on 6th April, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 3rd Reinforcements of 5th Pioneer Battalion on 20th April, 1916.

Private Frederick Rupert Mason was admitted to Mitcham Clearing Hospital on 15th June, 1916 with Measles. He was transferred to No. 6 Infectious Diseases Hospital on the same day. Private Mason was transferred to No. 16 Auxiliary Hospital for Convalescence from 30th June, 1916 then transferred & admitted to No. 17 Auxiliary Hospital on 8th July, 1916 with Bronchitis.

Private Frederick Rupert Mason was transferred to 4th Reinforcements of 5th Pioneer Battalion on 12th July, 1916 while still in Hospital.

Private Frederick Rupert Mason was transferred to Military Hospital at Keswick on 19th July, 1916 with Bronchitis. He was transferred & admitted to No. 17 Auxiliary Hospital on 15th August, 1916.

Private Frederick Rupert Mason was transferred to 5th Reinforcements of 5th Pioneer Battalion on 16th August, 1916. He was discharged from Hospital on 1st September, 1916.

Private Frederick Rupert Mason embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Commonwealth (A73)* on 21st September, 1916 with the 5th Pioneer Battalion, 5th Reinforcements. He was admitted to Ship's Hospital with a Cold on 28th September, 1916 & discharged on 1st October, 1916. Private Mason disembarked at Devonport, England on 14th November, 1916. (As per Casualty Form – Active Service. The Statement of Service form recorded he disembarked at Plymouth, England on 14th November, 1916)

5th Pioneer Battalion

The 5th Pioneer Battalion was an Australian infantry and light engineer unit raised for service during the First World War as part of the all volunteer Australian Imperial Force (AIF). Formed in Egypt in March 1916, the battalion subsequently served on the Western Front in France and Belgium, after being transferred to the European battlefields shortly after its establishment. Assigned to the 5th Division, the 5th Pioneer Battalion fought in most of the major battles that the AIF participated in between mid-1916 and the end of the war in November 1918. It was subsequently disbanded in early 1919.

The 5th Pioneers were established on 10 March 1916, at Tel-el-Kebir in Egypt, and were subsequently assigned to the 5th Division. The battalion was formed in the aftermath of the failed Gallipoli campaign when the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) was expanded as part of plans to transfer it from the Middle East to Europe for service in the trenches along the Western Front. This expansion saw several new infantry divisions raised in Egypt and Australia, as well as specialist support units such as machine gun companies, engineer companies, artillery batteries and pioneer battalions, which were needed to meet the conditions prevalent on the Western Front.

Trained as infantrymen, they were also tasked with some engineer functions, with a large number of personnel possessing trade qualifications from civilian life. As such, they were designated as pioneer units. The pioneer concept had existed within the British Indian Army before the war, but had not initially been adopted in other British Empire forces. In early 1916, the Australian Army was reorganised ahead of its transfer to the Western Front in Europe. A total of five pioneer battalions were raised by the AIF at this time, with one being assigned to each of the five infantry divisions that the Australians deployed to the battlefield in France and Belgium. Tasked with digging

trenches, labouring, constructing strong points and light railways, and undertaking battlefield clearance, the troops assigned to the pioneers required construction and engineering experience in addition to basic soldiering skills.

The 5th Pioneer Battalion was formed from volunteers from the 5th Division who possessed relevant trade qualifications, or who were deemed to be suitable for manual labouring tasks. Many were skilled and experienced in mining and other artisanal trades. According to some sources a majority of the battalion's recruits were from South Australia, although others refer to a significant proportion originating from Western Australia.

(Extract of Pioneer Battalion information from Wikipedia)

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 Frederick Rupert Mason was marched in to Pioneer Training Battalion at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 15th November, 1916.

Private Frederick Rupert Mason was sent sick to Hospital at Parkhouse from Pioneer Training Battalion – No. 26 Camp at Larkhill, Wiltshire on 9th January, 1917 with Mumps. He was marched in to Pioneer Training Battalion at Larkhill on 30th January, 1916 from Hospital.

Private Frederick Rupert Mason proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 28th February, 1917 per S.S. *Golden Eagle*. He was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 1st March, 1917. Private Mason was marched out to his Unit from 5th A.D.B.D. on 5th March, 1917 & was taken on strength of 5th Pioneer Battalion on 7th March, 1917.

Private Frederick Rupert Mason had the letter "A" added to his Regimental number due to duplication of numbers – was 2156 then 2156A.

Private Frederick Rupert Mason was sent sick to Hospital on 24th April, 1917 with Scabies & discharged to duty on 28th April, 1917. Private Mason rejoined 5th Pioneer Battalion from Hospital on 30th April, 1917.

Private Frederick Rupert Mason was sent sick to Hospital on 20th June, 1917. He was admitted to 7th Field Ambulance on 20th June, 1917 with Rheumatism then transferred & admitted to No 2 Divisional Rest Station the same day. Private Mason was transferred to 5th D.R.S. (Divisional Rest Station) on 20th June, 1917. He was admitted to 7th Field Ambulance on 1st July, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion on 3rd July, 1917 from Hospital.

Private Frederick Rupert Mason was sent sick again to Hospital on 27th July, 1917. He was admitted to 15th Field Ambulance on 27th July, 1917 with Rheumatism Tenosynovitis then transferred to & admitted to 56th Casualty Clearing Station on 27th July, 1917. Private Mason was transferred to 11th Ambulance Train on 1st August, 1917. He was admitted to 1st General Hospital at Etretat on 2nd August, 1917 then transferred & admitted the same day to No. 4 Convalescent Depot. Private Mason was discharged to Base Depot at Havre, France on 8th September, 1917 & was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D. at Havre the same day. He was to be transferred to England as "P.B." (Permanent Base duties) from 5th A.D.B.D. at Havre from 20th September, 1917.

Private Frederick Rupert Mason was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot from No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset ex France on 21st September, 1917.

Private Frederick Rupert Mason was sent sick to Camp Isolation Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire on 6th October, 1917 with Scabies. He was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot on 12th October, 1917 from Camp Isolation Hospital.

Private Frederick Rupert Mason was admitted to 3rd New Zealand Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire on 22nd October, 1917 then transferred to 1st Australia Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield on 8th November, 1917. He was discharged to No.2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset on 29th November, 1917.

Private Frederick Rupert Mason was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset from Hospital at Harefield on 29th November, 1917. He was medically classified as B1 b & had "*Rhue pain in hands.*"

Private Frederick Rupert Mason was marched out from No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 12th December, 1917 & marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire the same day. He was medically classified as B1

b & it was noted "*complains of pain in hands.*" On 17th January, 1918 Private Mason was admitted to Group Hospital, No. 3 Command Depot it was recorded "*Complains of pain in hips & thighs. Period of isolation as measles contact expired on the 19th. Has much improved, but requires further treatment. To be transferred to Fovant.*"

Private Frederick Rupert Mason was sent sick to Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire on 21st February, 1918 with "*Arthritis.*" He was admitted to Military Hospital at Fovant on 22nd February, 1918 – cause NYD (not yet determined). The Hospital Admissions for recorded Myalgia. "*___ pains in both legs & along cause of sciatic nerve.*"

Private Frederick Rupert Mason was transferred to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield on 22nd April, 1918. He was discharged to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 3rd May, 1918.

Private Frederick Rupert Mason was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 3rd May, 1918 from 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield. The Hospital Admissions form recorded Myalgia Neurasthenia. "*Neurotic*" & classified B1 A1 (fit for light duty only for 4 weeks). On 8th May, 1918 – "*Definate bony something over left ___ for XRay.*" Private Mason was medically classified as B1 A2 (fit for overseas camp in 3 – 4 weeks) on 15th May, 1918 & again on 7th June, 1918 & 11th June, 1918. On 14th June, 1918 "*X ray report no change in bone visible.*"

Private Frederick Rupert Mason was marched out from No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 25th June, 1918 & marched in to No.4 Command Depot at Hurdcott the same day. On 1st July, 1918 Private Mason was medically classified as B1 A3 (Fit for overseas camp in 2 – 3 weeks). He was classified as B1 A3 on 9th July, 1918, 16th July, 1918 & 23rd July, 1918.

Private Frederick Rupert Mason was sent sick to Group Hospital at Hurdcott on 1st August, 1918 with Influenza.

Private Frederick Rupert Mason was admitted to Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire on 6th August, 1918 with Influenza. It was recorded "*suspected case of No. 5 sent to Salisbury Isolation Hospital...*" (No. 5 = (Cerebro Spinal Fever)

Private Frederick Rupert Mason was sent sick to Salisbury Isolation Hospital on 9th August, 1918 from Fovant Military Hospital. He was admitted to Salisbury Isolation Hospital on 10th August, 1918 with Cerebro Spinal Fever. "*Gradually increasing coma & exhaustion.*"

Private Frederick Rupert Mason died at 5.30 am on 11th August, 1918 at Isolation Hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

A death for Frederick R. Mason, aged 22, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

Private Frederick Rupert Mason was buried on 14th August, 1918 in St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England – Plot number 135 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Frederick Rupert Mason - *Coffin was good polished Elm with brass mountings. The late Private Mason was buried with full Military Honours. The funeral was preceded by a Firing Party and Band. Six comrades of deceased acted as Pallbearers and a number of N.C.O.'s and men of his company attended as mourners. A beautiful floral wreath from the Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of No.4 Command Depot was placed on the grave. The late Pte Mason was very popular with all ranks of the Depot and always proved himself a good and true comrade. Headquarters, A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

The personal effects of the late Private Frederick Rupert Mason were sent to his sister - Mrs A. S. Sneath, of Robe, South Australia.

Base Records contacted Mrs A. S. Sneath, of Robe, South Australia, in March, 1921 stating she was noted as the registered next-of-kin on the records of the late Private Frederick Rupert Mason but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically asked if his father and mother were living, if not has he any brothers (stating the eldest) 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 Mrs A. S. Sneath, of Robe, South Australia, again in November, 1922 stating that there had been no reply to their letter of 29th March, 1921 & requested to know if *"the parents, any brothers, (stating the eldest) or any sisters older than yourself, (stating the eldest) were still alive, and if so their address"* so that the late Soldier's War Medals could be disposed of. *"I am holding the matter open for 21 days from this date, when, if no reply is to hand, these mementos will be placed upon the untraceables list."*

Mrs A. S. Sneath replied to Base Records on 19th November, 1922 regarding the letter of 29th March, 1921 stating she had replied *"per same mail telling you I was the eldest sister & next of kin to the late No. 2156A Pte Fred R. Mason & have often wondered why I did not get the Medals. That is all I can get – two of my brothers gave their lives & not a penny would the Military allow me (Gratuity money) no the Government get that its there for the boys if they come back if they don't who should get it but the next of kin. I was a mother to Pte F. R. Mason from when he was 8 years old & yet they ___ & tell me I am not entitled to it – as I was not dependant on him. If I am not entitled to it I would like to know who is (not the Government) not doubt they feathered their nests some of them with the poor boys money.....I will be please to get the Medals (I want all that is due to me.) Yours faithfully A. S. Sneath Eldest sister & next of kin to Pte F. R. Mason No 1921 Also G. R. Mason died in Adelaide after his return from the War would I be entitled to Medals for him.*

Base Records replied to Mrs A. S. Sneath on 4th December, 1922 stating that the information supplied was not sufficient to enable them to dispose of the late soldiers' war medals according to instructions under the Deceased Soldiers' Estates Act. The letter continued with *"I note from the file of Sapper G. R. Mason that he nominated his father as next-of-kin.....I shall be glad if you will let me know whether he is still livingif however he no longer survives, will you kindly state definitely whether the late soldiers' mother is still living and if so, her present address; also whether there are any surviving brothers..."*

Mrs A. S. Sneath replied to Base Records on 9th December, 1922 stating *"I am sure I stated clear enough to you that I was the next of kin to GR & FR Mason & eldest sister. I am the eldest of the family. Our father G. L. Mason has been dead nearly 7 years & our mother 18 years therefore I am the next of kin. As I told you in my letter I have been a mother to Pte F. R. Mason since he was 8 years old & still not entitled to the poor boys money.....I have two brothers & 1 sister in Meningie. E.C. & A. W. Mason & Mrs Jamieson. Do you think it any use me having another try for the War Gratuity. Why should the Government have what is due to the poor boys next of kin. They gave their lives for us. Its no use writing to Adelaide. I was advised to write to Melbourne. I think I ought to stick up for my rights. Kindly let me know & send along the Medals by return."*

Base Records replied to Mrs A. S. Sneath on 5th January, 1923 stating they had to *"inform you that according to the instructions under the Deceased Soldiers' Estates Act of 1918, the claims of brothers must be considered before those of sisters, unless there are some very good and sufficient reasons for varying the procedure. I am therefore writing to Mr E. C. Mason, of Meningie, S.A., whom I presume is the late soldiers' eldest surviving brother, and shall ascertain from him whether he desires the war mementoes issuable on account of their services or whether he would have any objections to all or a proportion of them being handed over to you...."*

Base Records wrote to Mr E. C. Mason, Meningie, South Australia on 5th January, 1923 stating they understood he was the eldest surviving brother of the late Nos. 2156 Private F. R. Mason, 5th Pioneer Battalion, and 4904 Sapper G. R. Mason, 2nd Signal Company. The letter continued *"do you desire their war medals, etc issued to you, as the person entitled to receive, in keeping with the instructions under the Deceased Soldiers' Estates Act of 1918, or would you have any objections to all or a proportion of the mementos being handed over to Mrs A. S. Sneath, the late soldiers' sister, who is desirous of receiving these items.."*

Mr E. C. Mason replied to Base Records on 19th January, 1923 stating he was the eldest surviving brother of the late No. 2156 Private F. R. Mason & 4904 Sapper G. R. Mason & *"would like you to forward on to me their war medals etc."*

Base Records wrote to Mrs A. S. Sneath on 5th February, 1923 stating that Mr E. C. Mason wishes for the items in question to be transmitted to him. *"As he is the person entitled to receive them in accordance with the instructions under the Deceased Soldiers' Estates Act of 1918, I am complying with his request."*

Private Frederick Rupert Mason was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Mason's brother – Mr E. C. Mason, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent March, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Frederick Rupert Mason – service number 2156A, aged 22, of 5th Australian Pioneers. He was the son of George Litchfield Mason and Evangeline Mason.

Private F. R. Mason is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 175.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

F. R. Mason 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)

F. R. Mason is remembered on the Meningie Soldiers Memorial, located at Meningie Memorial Park, Princes Highway, Meningie, South Australia.



Meningie Soldiers Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



F. Mason is remembered on the Kingston SE War Memorial, located at James Street, Kingston SE, South Australia.



Kingston SE War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

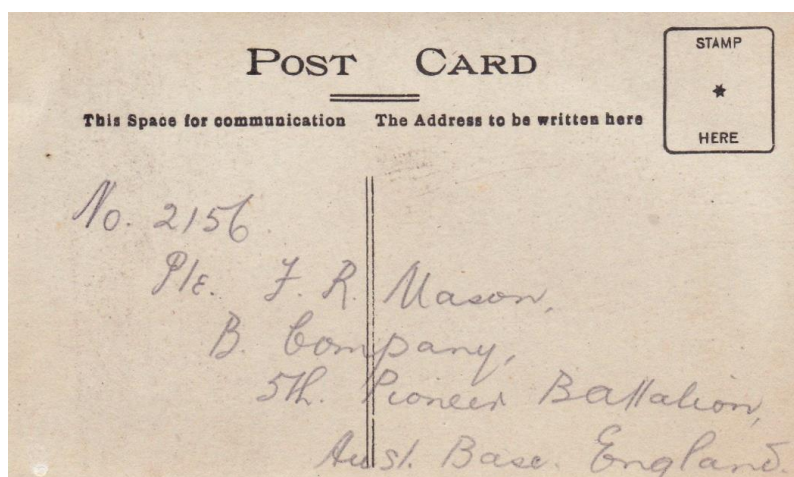


(92 pages of Private Frederick Rupert Mason's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



 Private Frederick Rupert Mason & his brother





Private Frederick Rupert Mason



Newspaper Notices

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

MASON – In sad and loving memory of our dear brother, Private Fred R. Mason, died in England, August 11, meningitis, aged 22 years.

We pictured you returning, Fred,
And longed to clasp your hand;
But God has postponed that meeting;
It will be in a better land.

-Inserted by his sorrowing sister and brother-in-law, Amy and Jim Sneath, Robe.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 22 August, 1918) & (*The Express and Telegraph*, Adelaide, South Australia – 22 August, 1918) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 24 August, 1918)

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

MASON – Died in England, 11th August, of meningitis, Private Fred R. Mason, aged 22 years. Beloved by all who knew him. –Inserted by his sorrowing brother, G.R.M., 20, West-terrace

(*The Express and Telegraph*, Adelaide, South Australia – 23 August, 1918) & (*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 23 August, 1918) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 31 August, 1918)

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

MASON – In loving memory of Private Fred R. Mason, 5th Pioneers, who died in England, 11th August, 1918, of meningitis, after two years' service. "Some day we'll understand." – Inserted by his sorrowing friends, Mr and Mrs Dalwood, and daughters, Dulce, Tot, and Marjorie, Pirie-street.

MASON – Died of meningitis, in hospital, England, August 11, Private Fred R. Mason, youngest loved son of the late Mr and Mrs G. K. Mason, Kingston, South-East.

Far away from those who loved him,
Comrades laid him down to rest;
In a hero's grave he is sleeping,
One of God's bravest and best.

-Inserted by his true friend, Mr and Mrs Bryan, Olive, Norman, and Chriss, Murray Bridge, late Kingston, S.E.

(*The Express and Telegraph*, Adelaide, South Australia – 26 August, 1918) & (*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 26 August, 1918)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR: THEY GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR KING AND COUNTRY



Private F. R. MASON.

(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 31 August, 1918)

South Australian Heroes

CASUALTY LIST, No 426

Died other Causes

Pte F. R. Mason, Robe, illness

(*Port Pirie Recorder*, South Australia – 31 August, 1918)

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

MASON – In sad and loving memory of our dear brother, Private Fred. R. Mason, died in England, August 11 (meningitis), aged 22 years.

No loved ones stood around you, Fred,
To bid a fond farewell;
No word of comfort could we give
To you we loved so well.

-Inserted by his sorrowing sister and brother-in-law, Agnes and Andrew Jameson, Meningie.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 7 September, 1918)

Local and District War Items

The following names appear in the 426th casualty list:- Died from other causes than wounds – Pte F. R. Mason, Robe (Aug. 11, died of illness).

(*The Narracoorte Herald*, South Australia – 10 September, 1918)

UNVEILING AN HONOR ROLL

MENINGIE, November 21 - At the Council Hall on Friday evening an honor roll was unveiled, containing the photographs of the men who enlisted from this district and who fell during the war. The secretary of the sub-branch of the R.S.A., who presided, stated that the honor roll had been erected by the members of the sub-branch. The audience remained standing while Bro. A. B. Walter, performed the unveiling ceremony and read the names of the fallen men. He paid a tribute to the men who served in the war, and made special reference to those who fell. The honor roll contains the photographs of the following:— Private W. O. Goldfinch, Private C. Forster, Trooper O. B. Powell, Private E. A. Scott, Private W. J. Rigby, Lance-Corporal T. E. Rhue, Private R. H. McBeath, Private W. A. Bennett, Private P. H. May, Private A. J. Rhue, Trooper R. G. Robinson, Private A. A. Scott, Private H. Mack, Private F. R. Mason, and Private M. T. Wilks. Miss M. Botten contributed a song and Miss Lizzie Botten officiated at the piano. The Hon. T. McCallum, chairman of the Meningie District Council, delivered an address. British War medals were distributed to returned men, and French poppies were sold.

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 3 December, 1921)

A War Memorial

MENINGIE, January 31.— An impressive service was held at St. John's Church last night, when the altar rails were dedicated by the Bishop of Adelaide (Right Rev. Dr. Thomas). The altar rails together with a brass tablet, have been placed in the church by the members of the congregation at a cost of £30, in memory of the men who fell during the war. In performing the ceremony, Dr. Thomas delivered an impressive address. The tablet contains the following names: — Messrs. W. A. Bennet, W. J. Botten, E. Forster, W. C. Goldfinch, A. C. Hunter, H. Mack, F. R. Mason, R. H. McBeath, P. H. May T. E. Rhue, J. A. Rhue, W. J. Rigby, J. W. Robinson, A. A. Scott, E. A. Scott. and M. T. Wilts. There was a large attendance, and the offering was in aid of the memorial fund. Mr. B. Botten presided at the organ.

(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 4 February, 1922)

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 21th July, 1921, to Mrs A. S. Sneath, of Robe, South Australia, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her brother, the late Private F. R. Mason, 5th Pioneer Battalion, 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 F. R. Mason does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Gone But Not Forgotten

St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards. Most of the 47 First World War burials in Stratford-sub-Castle (St Lawrence) Churchyard were made from the local hospital and more than half of them are of Australian servicemen who were based at the many Australian depots and training camps in the area. There are also two burials of the Second World War in the cemetery. *(Information from CWGC)*



St. Lawrence Church, Stratford-sub-Castle



Churchyard of St. Lawrence, Stratford-sub-Castle with CWGC Cross of Sacrifice



Original Grave Markers in Churchyard of St. Lawrence, Stratford-sub-Castle



Original Grave Marker for Private F. R. Mason



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)

Photo of Private F. R. Mason's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England.

(Note: the Service number engraved on the CWGC headstone is incorrect. CWGC were advised of the error at the time of researching)

****UPDATE:** A new headstone has been erected with correct service number – see below



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)



(Photo courtesy of CWGC)

Stratford-sub-Castle War Graves

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A	RAF	British Army		↓	NZ	NZ	Rogers 3 AIF		Robson Nurse	NZ	
B			Nicol AFC	Mason 5 Aus Pioneer	Dundas 29 AIF	Thorsby 20 AIF	Walpole (Wilson) 3 AIF	O'Grady 10 AIF	Kubank 40 AIF	NZ	
C	NZ	Jacob 31 AIF	Wood 9 AIF	Smith 55 AIF	British Army	British Army	Smith Aus ASC	O'Donnell 16 AIF	Knight 52 AIF	Lawrence 54 AIF	Edmonds 48 AIF
D		Lewis 30 AIF	British Army	Whitchurch 51 AIF	British Army	Dee 52 AIF	Greenslade 17 AIF	British Army	Thorburn 13 AIF	Knight 13 AIF	Hannabry 16 AIF
E					Adams 13 AIF	Crow Aus FA	British Army	Bolton 40 AIF	British Army	British Army	
F		British Army		British Army	British Army	British Army		Canada		British Army	

(Information for layout of graves – courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)