

**Tring Road Cemetery,  
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3405 2ND AIR MECH.**

**H. NELSON**

**AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS**

**22ND OCTOBER, 1918 Age 28**

*R.I.P.*

*Dearly Loved*

*Sadly Mourned*

*By Wife & Baby Son*

## Henry Bramwell Ballington (Harry) NELSON

Henry Bramwell Ballington Nelson was born on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 1890 at Goulburn, NSW to parents Thomas A. & Mary Ellen Nelson (nee Evans).

Henry Bramwell Ballington Nelson attended Goulburn Public School.

Henry Bramwell Ballington Nelson married Florence Alice Maud Horan in Victoria in 1917.

Harry Nelson was a 27 year old, married, Blacksmith (also trained as a Motor Mechanic) from Kensington, Victoria when he enlisted at Melbourne on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 1917 with the Australian Flying Corps, January, 1918 Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). (Details listed on Embarkation Roll, however on his Attestation Papers Harry Nelson listed that his trade was Fruiterer.) His service number was 3405 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Florence Nelson of 20 City Road, Darlington, Sydney, NSW.

2nd Air Mechanic Harry Nelson was attached to Australian Flying Corps from 21<sup>st</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> December, 1917. A note in his Statement of Service form next to the above entry reads “5 A.G.H. as an outpatient.” 2nd Air Mechanic Harry Nelson was on Final Leave from 29<sup>th</sup> November, 1917 to 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 1917.

2nd Air Mechanic Harry Nelson was attached to Australian Flying Corps, Laverton from 17<sup>th</sup> December, 1917. He was promoted to Acting Lance Corporal while at Laverton between 8<sup>th</sup> February, 1918 & 7<sup>th</sup> May, 1918. Acting Lance Corporal Nelson entrained at Melbourne on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 1918.

Acting Lance Corporal Harry Nelson embarked from Sydney on RMS *Osterley* on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 1918 & disembarked at on Liverpool, England on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 1918. His rank reverted back to 2nd Air Mechanic on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 1918.

2nd Air Mechanic Harry Nelson was marched in from Australia at A.F.C. (Australian Flying Corps) Depot at Wendover, England on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 1918.

2nd Air Mechanic Harry Nelson was sent sick to Saunderton Carrier Centre on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 1918. He was marched back into A.F.C. (Australian Flying Corps) Depot at Halefield Camp, Wendover on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 1918.

2nd Air Mechanic Harry Nelson was admitted to Aylesbury Military Hospital, Buckinghamshire, seriously ill with Pneumonia, on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 1918.

2nd Air Mechanic Harry Nelson died at 3.30 pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 1918 at Central Military Hospital, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire from Pneumonia.

A death for Harry Nelson, aged 24, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Harry Nelson was buried on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 in Aylesbury (Tring Road) Cemetery, Buckinghamshire – Plot number II. 52 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Air Mechanic 2nd Class Harry Nelson - *Coffin Elm with brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by several wreaths sent from comrades of the Flying Corps, Wendover. The “Last Post” was sounded at the graveside, and the burial service conducted by the Rev. James Dobbs. An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented.*

Henry Bramwell Ballington Nelson requested in his Will, dated 30<sup>th</sup> April, 1918, that his brother – Carl Nelson be named as Executor. He bequeathed that his son – Henry Albert Nelson be given his Gold Cycling Medal with the rest and residue of estate to be turned into money and divided into equal shares between his wife – Florence Nelson and his mother – Mary Ellen Nelson. In letter to Base Records from Florence Nelson, widow of the late Harry Nelson, she states that her husband wished for his son to have his watch & chain but did not state this in his Will. Mrs Nelson had received word from the Solicitor who was handling the Estate of late Harry Nelson & he informed her that the Cycling Medal would be handed over to her son when he attained the age of twenty one. The Solicitor later advised Mrs Nelson that the Medal could not be accounted for, neither could the watch & chain & several other items that

Mrs Nelson would like to have had. Apparently the items in question had been left at Harry Nelson's mother's place & she states she cannot account for any of the items. Mrs Florence Nelson had been told by one of the aunts that Harry's brother Carl had been wearing Harry's watch & chain on his visit to Sydney. Also several of Harry's trophies that he had won for cycling were seen at his mother's home, previously. Mrs Florence Nelson also wrote that her husband was purchasing a piece of land at Garden Vale & had paid £110 deposit on the land & paid instalments but she wasn't sure how much had been paid. Harry Nelson, she said, "*had started in Broadmeadows Camp in a fruit stall in February, 1915 & was doing very well at the beginning & paying £20 per week rent for the shop. In October, 1915 he paid the deposit on the land & later on his business went down & he was in financial difficulties & he made an assignment of the land to his mother, stating she had provided all monies for the purchase of the land (I wish to say that the assignment is null & void) as the mother did not provide me one penny towards the purchase.....*"

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Harry Nelson was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Air Mechanic 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Nelson's widow – Mrs F. Nelson (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

Florence Nelson, widow of the late Harry Nelson, remarried on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 1922. She married Stanley Gordon Smith, ex 2440, Private, 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Several enquiries were made as to her location as letters sent to her address at Abercrombie St, Redfern, NSW had been returned unclaimed.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Air Mechanic 2nd Class Harry Nelson – service number 3405, aged 28, of Australian Flying Corps. He was the son of Thomas & Mary Ellen Nelson; husband of Florence Nelson, of 345 Abercrombie St, Redfern, Sydney, New South Wales. (CWGC incorrectly records that Harry Nelson was born at Sydney).

Air Mechanic Class II H. Nelson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 187.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

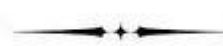
H. Nelson, along with his father & 3 brothers are remembered on the Roll of Honour Board located in Kensington Methodist (now Uniting) Church, McCracken Street, Kensington, Victoria.



Kensington Methodist Church Roll of Honour (Photo by Lenore Frost)

(84 pages of Air Mechanic 2nd Class Harry Nelson'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

### CYCLING FEAT

### WORLD'S RECORD FOR 100 MILES

### HORDER's GREAT RIDE

After investigation yesterday the Dunlop Rubber Company found that no attempts other than the Northern Suburbs District League Club's great performance were made on Thursday by any of the professional cycling clubs in Australasia, and, as the competition closed on that day, the Sydney club is therefore the winner of the first prize of £100, and the holder of the world's record for the distance.

It was a sensational ending to one of the most important contests which have engaged the attention of cyclists in the Commonwealth and New Zealand. Twelve months ago the Dunlop Company announced the abandonment of the world-famous Warrnambool road race, and in its stead substituted the 100 mile relay test to be contested against time by teams of 10 riders, each of whom had to ride an out-and-home course of 10 miles.



Early attempts were made. The Coburg Cycling Club (Vic.) and the North Suburban Club (Perth, W.A.), by successive attempts gradually brought the record to within four hours and a half. Then the New Zealand clubs entered the lists, and a month ago the South Canterbury Club set the standard at 4h 26m 3s, only to be carried a stage better by the Marshland (N.Z.) club, whose team, with the assistance of the great road "crack" O'Shea, covered the ten relays in the remarkable time of 4h 13m 28s. O'Shea's time for his ten miles was 22m 42s.


Last Saturday saw a determined attempt on the part of the newly-formed Granville League Club. In adverse circumstances of wind and road surface they were unable, however, to beat the New Zealand club's time, but ran into second position with the creditable time of 4h 24m 48s.

#### A BRILLIANT COMBINATION

With Thursday as the closing day, the competition appeared then at an end; but on Tuesday the Northern Suburbs District League Club determined to make a long postponed effort. Choosing the last few hours of daylight in the competition, the team consisting of G. H. Horder, the State champion, F.D. Walcott, A. C. Walcott, R. J. Hazelton, E. Ferguson, **H. Nelson**, J. Summers, J. Erskine, E. Priestley, and A. Keith, together with a quota of officials, journeyed to Campbelltown, and between the 14th and 19th mile pegs on the Appin-road a start was made shortly after 1 o'clock.

The result was unexpected, even by the most sanguine. Over the sheltered stretch of smooth, surfaced road in a perfectly still atmosphere the riders in turn tore along at speeds common enough on the track, but almost unheard of on the road in unpaced events. G. H. Horder covered his section in 21m 50s; or in approximately one minute less time than O'Shea's record for an individual relay. Keith, through a mishap, occupied 30m 40s for the same distance, and yet the 100 miles were reeled off in 4h 6m 55s, or in 6m 53s, less time than the Marshland (N.Z.) club's time. Horder wins a special prize of £10, for establishing the individual record.

The following table shows how the total time of 4h 6m 55s was compiled:-

Rider.	10 miles relay.		Time.
	Started.	Finished.	
R. J. Hazelton ....	1h 13m 30s	1h 37m 5s	23m 35s
F. D. Walcott ....	1h 37m 5s	1h 59m 50s	22m 45s
E. J. Fergusson ....	1h 59m 50s	2h 24m 0s	24m 10s
J. Erskine .....	2h 24m 0s	2h 49m 45s	25m 45s
 H. Nelson .....	2h 49m 45s	3h 14m 10s	24m 25s
E. Priestley .....	3h 14m 10s	3h 40m 0s	25m 50s
J. Summers .....	3h 40m 0s	4h 4m 30s	24m 30s
G. H. Horder .....	4h 4m 30s	4h 26m 20s	21m 50s
A. Keith .....	4h 26m 20s	4h 57m 0s	30m 40s
A. C. Walcott ....	4h 57m 0s	5h 20m 25s	23m 25s

The following is the result of the competition:-

- Northern Suburbs D.L. Club (NSW) 4h 6m 55s... 1
  - Marshland Cycling Club (NZ) 4h 13m 28s.....2
  - Granville Cycling Club (NSW) 4h 24m 48s.....3
  - South Canterbury Club (NZ) 4h, 26m 3s.....4
- (The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 2 May, 1914)

## CYCLING CHATTER

... Handicaps for the South Sydney League 1 mile track race, to be run at the Sports Ground this evening are:- R. Doodson, H. Nelson, R. Niven, C. Hanneman.....

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South Sydney League will hold a one mile handicap at the Sports Ground tonight, handicaps for which appear in today's "Sportsman." The scratch quartette now include that well-known League rider, Harry Nelson, who has put in his lot with the club. Appearance also point to the club having a prosperous season.

(*Sydney Sportsman*, Surry Hills, NSW – 25 November, 1914)

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## ROLL OF HONOUR

Harry Nelson, fruiterer, of 9 McConnell Street, Kensington, who is a prominent cyclist, enlisted on Tuesday. His Father and three brothers are already serving. The father is Driver Thomas Nelson, and his brothers are Sergeant Charles Nelson and Driver S. and Thomas Nelson.

(*The Essendon Gazette and Keilor, Bulla and Broadmeadows Reporter*, Moonee Ponds, Victoria – 11 October, 1917)

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## AUSTRALIANS AND THE WAR

Died of Illness

Pte H. NELSON, son of Mrs T. A. Nelson, 9 McConnell Street, Kensington, died of pneumonia in the Aylesbury Military Hospital, England. Deceased was 30 years of age, and a native of New South Wales. He was a well-known cyclist, and several years ago broke the world's record in a 100-mile contest. Thirteen months ago he enlisted in the Australian Flying Corps, and left for England last March. His father, Sergt. T. A. Nelson, an Anzac and two brothers, Sergt. S and Driver Sid Nelson, are still on active service, Two other Anzac brothers, Sergt. T. W. G. and Sergt. C. F. S. Nelson, have returned home invalided.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 8 November, 1918)

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## BEREAVEMENT NOTICES

Mrs NELSON and FAMILY desire to express their THANKS to all friends and relatives for letters, cards, visits and telegrams in the sad loss of their dear beloved son and brother, Lance-Corp. Harry Nelson, Warrnambool. New South Wales papers please copy.

9 McConnell Street, Kensington.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 13 November, 1918)

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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*)

2nd Air Mechanic Harry Nelson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*R.I.P. Dearly Loved Sadly Mourned By Wife & Baby Son*

Photo of 2nd Air Mechanic H. Nelson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tring Road Cemetery, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.



*(Photo courtesy of julia&keld)*



## Aylesbury (Tring Road) Cemetery, Buckinghamshire

Tring Road, Cemetery, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire contains 107 War Graves from both World Wars, 3 of these belong to Australian Air Mechanics 2<sup>nd</sup> Class.



**Tring Road, Cemetery, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire** *(Photo from CWGC)*