

**St. Mary's Churchyard,
Standon, Hertfordshire, England**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3098/B PRIVATE

S. F. NICHOLSON

AUST. ARMY VETERINARY CORPS

16TH JANUARY, 1919

Stanley Frank NICHOLSON

Stanley Frank Nicholson was born in London, England on 24th September, 1897 to parents Frank & Minnie Gertrude Nicholson (nee Mather).

(Note: Stanley Frank Nicholson stated on his Attestation Papers he was born in Standon, Hertfordshire, England.)

The 1901 England Census recorded Stanley F. Nicholson as a 3 year old, living with his family at 4 Albany House, Clerkenwell, London, England. His parents were listed as Frank Nicholson (Electrician, aged 35, born Manchester) & Minnie Nicholson (aged 27, born Manchester). Stanley was one of three children listed on this Census – William R. Nicholson (age 5, born Manchester) then Stanley & Lesley H. Nicholson (aged 1, born London).

Three of the Nicholson children were baptised on 10th June, 1903 in St. Jude's Church, Grays Inn Road, Holborn, London, England – William Roberts Nicholson (born 30th November, 1895) then Stanley Frank Nicholson & Lucy Constance Nicholson (born 10th December, 1902). The family lived at 144 Kings Cross Road & their father Frank Nicholson was listed as an Electrician.

Stanley Frank Nicholson attended school at Standon, Hertfordshire, England.

The 1911 England Census recorded Stanley Frank Nicholson as a 13 year old, attending School, living with his stepfather, mother & siblings at Westcott Farm, Standon, Hertfordshire, England. His Stepfather was listed as Frederick Wilson Davis (Farmer, aged 47, born London) & his mother – Minnie Gertrude Davis (Assistant on Farm, aged 35). Frederick & Minnie Davis had been married for 3 years & had no children together. Stanley was the eldest of three children listed on this Census – Stanley, Leslie Harold Nicholson (At School, aged 11) & Lucy Constance Nicholson (At School, aged 8, born London).

According to information supplied by his mother for the Roll of Honour - Stanley Nicholson came to Australia when he was 17 years old. Stanley F. Nicholson, aged 17, & his brother Leslie H. Nicholson were passengers on *Benalla* which departed from the port of London, England & arrived in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia on 6th March, 1915.

Stanley Frank Nicholson was a 21 year old, single, Boundary Rider from Sydney, New South Wales (his Application to Enlist in the Australian Imperial Force had his postal address as Sandy Cany, Quambone, Coonamble, N S Wales) when he enlisted at Show Ground Camp, Sydney, New South Wales on 7th November, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3098 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Minnie Gertrude Davis, Old House Farm, Standon, Herts, England. Stanley Nicholson had been an apprentice as a Gun Smith with McClay, London.

Private Stanley Frank Nicholson was posted to Recruits at Sydney Show Ground, Camp, Sydney New South Wales on 7th November, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to Depot Signal Training Company on 8th November, 1916 then transferred to 7th Reinforcements of 35th Battalion on 22nd January, 1917.

Private Stanley Frank Nicholson embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Anchises (A68)* on 24th January, 1917 with the 35th Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 27th March, 1917.

35th Battalion

The 35th Battalion was formed in December 1915 in Newcastle, New South Wales. The bulk of the battalion's recruits were drawn from the Newcastle region and thus it was dubbed "Newcastle's Own". Reflecting the demographics of the area, there were a high proportion of miners among the battalion's original members.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

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 Stanley Frank Nicholson was marched in to A.I.F. Details at Fovant, Wiltshire, England on 28th March, 1917 from Australia. He was marched in to 9th Training Battalion at Durrington Camp on 7th April, 1917 from Fovant.

Private Stanley Frank Nicholson was transferred to 36th Battalion Details on 2nd November, 1917.

Private Stanley Frank Nicholson proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 6th November, 1917 from 9th Training Battalion. He was marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 7th November, 1917 & marched out to his Unit on 10th November, 1917. Private Nicholson was taken on strength of 36th Battalion in Belgium on 17th November, 1917 from Reinforcements.

Private Stanley Frank Nicholson was On Leave to Paris from Belgium from 7th March, 1918 & rejoined 36th Battalion from Leave on 18th April, 1918.

Private Stanley Frank Nicholson was transferred from 36th Battalion to 33rd Battalion in France on 30th April, 1918.

Private Stanley Frank Nicholson was re-allotted a new Regimental Number – the letter “B” was added to 3098 on 9th July, 1918. His new Regiment number was 3098 B (usually due to duplication of numbers).

Private Stanley Frank Nicholson was wounded in action on 22nd August, 1918. He was admitted to 10th Australian Field Ambulance on 22nd August, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Arm then transferred & admitted to 55th Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Private Nicholson was transferred to Ambulance Train 23 on 22nd August, 1918 & was admitted to 5th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 23rd August, 1918. He was transferred to 2nd Convalescent Depot on 26th August, 1918 then transferred to 11th Convalescent Depot on 27th August, 1918.

33rd Battalion

The 33rd Battalion was formed in January 1916 at a camp established at the Armidale showground in New South Wales. The bulk of the battalion's recruits were drawn from the New England region and thus it was dubbed "New England's Own". The Battalion's first, and only, commanding officer was Lieutenant Colonel Leslie Morshead, who would become famous as the commander of the 9th Australian Division during the Second World War.....

When the German Army launched its last great offensive in the spring of 1918, the Battalion was part of the force deployed to defend the approaches to Amiens around Villers-Bretonneux. It took part in a counter-attack at Hangard Wood on 30 March, and helped to defeat a major drive on Villers-Bretonneux on 4 April.

Later in 1918, the 33rd also played a role in the Allies' own offensive. It fought at the battle of Amiens on 8 August, during the rapid advance that followed, and in the operation that breached the Hindenburg Line at the end of September, thus sealing Germany's defeat. The 33rd Battalion disbanded in May 1919.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 33rd Battalion

K.18.a.3.5 – 22.8.18:

The Barrage opened about 1½ minute early - and viewed from Battalion Headquarters was a wonderful sight. Dawn was just breaking and the flashes of our bursting shells showed out prominently against the black smoke of the Bosche H.E. The Enemy kept a heavy fire from 4.0 a.m and it

it seemed as if he had been expecting the attack. This was afterwards confirmed by prisoners who informed us that they had been "Standing To" from midnight. All Objectives were taken up to schedule time. At about 6.30 a.m the first prisoners were brought in and included a Captain i/c of a Battalion and all his Staff. He was interviewed by the C.O but not very much useful information could be gained from him.

Shortly afterwards our own wounded commenced to arrive at the Dressing Station and the R.M.O. (Captain W.J.Binns) and Staff commenced to get busy. He was ably assisted by the Battalion Padre (Chaplain the Rev W.E.Burkitt) who was an old Field Ambulance man. Lieut A.H.Fletcher - wounded by an aerial bomb - was the first Officer to appear and he was able to give some idea as to how things were going. About this time word was received that Captain Tollis of "C" Coy. and Lieut Farleigh, M.C., of "B" Coy. had been killed by shorts from our own Barrage. At 11.45 a.m the C.O and I.O went forward to reconnoitre and take up new position in a Forward Battalion Headquarters at L.S.c.l.7. On their way, at 1.0 p.m, they observed a number of Bosche on a ridge coming forward to counter-attack. These were evidently spotted by one of our planes who put artillery on to them with the desired effect. In the meantime the Battalion forward was having a fairly warm time from machine guns in BRAY, especially "C" Coy. on the Right. During the morning a Bosche plane was brought down by a single rifle shot fired by L/Cpl JAMIESON of "B" Coy. The Pilot and Observer were both captured - the latter having been shot thro the foot. In the afternoon the Tommies on our left retired before a Bosche Counter-attack and left our left flank in the air. Our Support Companies were moved over to the left and the 34th Battalion A.I.F filled the gap-our left flank still held on to it's original line. Major F.G.Grant, O.C. 34th Battalion A.I.F and the Colonel of the 22nd London Regt. stayed at our Headquarters for the night. Things quietened down as evening came on and a hot meal was taken down to the Front Line by limber. This was greatly appreciated by the men who were very tired. For full report see Co's report on operations (App.17).

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Stanley Frank Nicholson was transferred to 2nd M. B. B. Depot at Rouen on 15th September, 1918 & was discharged to A.I.B.D. on 17th September, 1918.

Private Stanley Frank Nicholson was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 17th September, 1918. He was transferred to Calais on 22nd September, 1918.

Private Stanley Frank Nicholson was transferred from 33rd Battalion to Veterinary Hospital on 24th September, 1918 & was taken on strength of Australian Veterinary Hospital at Calais on the same day from 33rd Battalion.

Private Stanley Frank Nicholson proceeded on Leave to UK from 7th October, 1918 & rejoined Australian Veterinary Hospital at Calais on 25th October, 1918.

Private Stanley Frank Nicholson was sent sick to Hospital on 7th November, 1918 & admitted on 8th November, 1918 to 10th Canadian Stationary Hospital at Calais with Dispbaxia. He was discharged on 12th November, 1918 & rejoined Australian Veterinary Hospital on the same day.

Private Stanley Frank Nicholson was sent sick to Hospital again on 19th November, 1918. He was admitted to 10th Canadian Stationary Hospital at Calais on 19th November, 1918 with Appendicitis. He was diagnosed with Acute Nephritis & embarked from Calais on 14th December, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Brighton*.

Private Stanley Frank Nicholson was admitted to St. Michael's Hospital, Birchington, Kent, England on 14th December, 1918 with Nephritis chronic. The Medical Case Sheet for Private Nicholson has the hospital recorded as "*St. Michael's Aux: Hosp: Birchington*" but this has been crossed out & written in red is "*Queen's Park V.A.D.*"
"14.12.18 Admitted. No temperature. Very distressing vomiting. Urine leaded with albumen. 20.12.18 Still vomiting. Passing average 30ozs urine per diem. 27.12.18 About the same. 31.12.18 Vomiting ceased.....10.11.1.19 Passed no water. Having convulsions. 12.1.19 Passing more water, better. 14.1.19 About the same. 15.1.19 Less water passed. Convulsions again."

Private Stanley Frank Nicholson died at 8.15 am on 16th January, 1919 at Queen's Park V.A.D. Hospital, Birchington, Kent, England from Acute Nephritis.

A death for Stanley Nicholson, aged 21, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Thanet, Kent, England.

Private Stanley Frank Nicholson was buried on 23rd January, 1919 in St. Mary's Churchyard, Standon, Hertfordshire, England and now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Nicholson -*Coffin was Elm, 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 many wreaths sent from: St. Michael's Hospital, Queens Park Hospital, and Mrs Beverley & Family. The "Last Post"*

was sounded at the graveside, and the burial service conducted by Chap. the Rev: R. B. Little of Standon. Deceased was interred in a private family grave, a temporary oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.

Names of relatives & friends present at the Funeral – Brother – 2941 Signaman Nicholson, 57th Battalion, A.I.F. & Mrs Dwyer.

[Stanley's younger sister Lucy was buried just six weeks later, in St. Mary's Churchyard, Standon in 1919, aged 15, following a riding accident.]

Private Stanley Frank Nicholson requested in his Will, dated 26th May, 1918, (extracted from his Paybook) *"I want the money in this book to go to my Mother – Mrs Davis "Oaklands" Wellpond Green, Standon, Herts."*

The Australian Imperial Force, Headquarters, London, wrote to Base Records, Melbourne, Victoria on 30th August, 1920 to advise that information had been received that the next-of-kin of the late Private Stanley Frank Nicholson has remarried – now Mrs Glidewell.

An application was received on 8th September, 1922 from Mrs M. G. Glidewell, "Normanhurst" Bromley Lane, Standon, Ware., Herts., England for "Nearest Female Relative" badge in connection with ex-No. 2941 Private W. R. Nicholson, 57th Battalion and the late No. 3098B Private S. F. Nicholson, Veterinary Hospital, A.I.F.

An application was received on 13th October, 1922 from Mrs M. G. Glidewell, "Normanhurst" Standon, Ware., Herts., England for an "In Memoriam" badge in respect of the late No. 3098B Private S. F. Nicholson, Veterinary Hospital, A.I.F.

Private Stanley Frank Nicholson was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Nicholson's remarried mother - Mrs M. G. Glidewell, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private S. F. Nicholson – service number 3098B, of Vet. Hospital, Australian Army Veterinary Corps. No family details are listed.

Private S. F. Nicholson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 184.

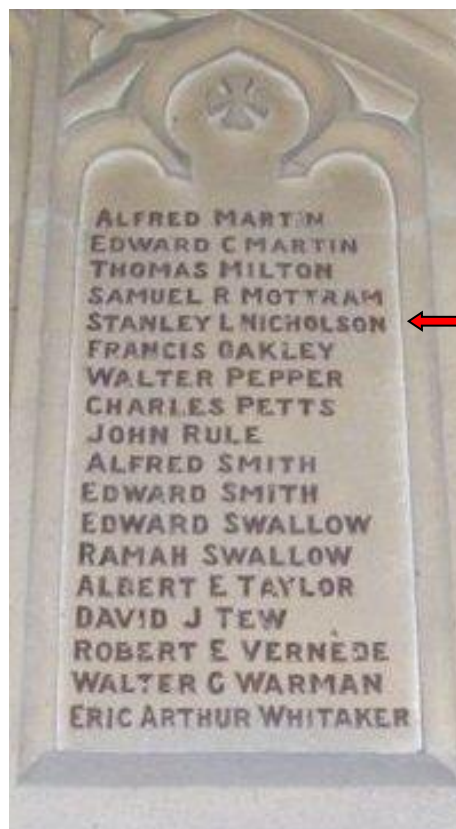


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Stanley L. Nicholson is remembered on Standon World War 1 Roll of Honour, located in St. Mary's Church, Standon, East Hertfordshire, England.



Standon World War 1 Roll of Honour (Photos from Find a Grave – Geoffrey Gillon)



(47 pages of Private Stanley Frank Nicholson'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 Stanley Frank Nicholson *(Photo with permission – Di Rogvan)*

Connected to Private Stanley Frank Nicholson:

Older Brother – William Robert Nicholson – Enlisted 25th September, 1916 as a 21 year old Storeman from Tarana, NSW. Embarked with 58th Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements as Private 2941 from Sydney, NSW on 3rd November, 1916 on HMAT *Afric*.

Wounded in action in France on 16th October, 1917 – G.S.W. right thigh. Rejoined 57th Battalion on 13th September, 1918.

William Robert Nicholson married Pearl Esme Heseton on 9th July, 1919.

Returned to Australia per *Ormonde* 15th November, 1919. Entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.



William Robert Nicholson & his wife Esme (Photo with permission – Di Rogvan)



Newspaper Notices

Australia's War Losses

THE 434th CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED

S. F. Nicholson (England)

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

Military Funeral of Pte. Stanley Frank Nicholson

Pte. Stanley Frank Nicholson, second son by her first marriage of Mrs Davis of Oaklands, Well Pond Green, Standon, emigrated with his younger brother, Mr Leslie Nicholson, early in 1914 to join their elder brother in Australia. For a time they were engaged in sheep farming near Maitland, N.S.W. Pte Stanley Nicholson joined the 30th Batt. A.I.F. in 1917 and in August of the same year went to France. He was a gallant, courageous soldier of sterling character and formed one of that heroic band of Australians known as 'Carmichael's Thousand' that fought so pluckily against overwhelming odds on Anzac Day, April 25th of last year, at Villers Bretna. He was badly gassed and wounded in the arm and side and one of the few survivors. Eventually he partially recovered and, after a short leave at home, in October last returned to France. He had, however, a recurrence of his severe illness, he was invalided to England and passed away at St Michael's Hospital, Birchington, on the 16th ult, at the early age of 21. His remains were removed to his home in Standon on the following Saturday. The funeral took place with full military honours at Standon churchyard on the 23rd ult. The coffin, enfolded in the Australian flag, was conveyed from Well Pond Green in a Washington car. Sergt. Mercer and twenty soldiers from the A.I.F. HQ Horseferry Road, Westminster, came down to attend the funeral. Seven soldiers acted as the bearer party, and the firing party, consisting of twelve soldiers under Sergt. Mercer, marched in front of the funeral car and formed a guard of honour as the procession entered the church. The immediate mourners were Mrs Davis (mother), Signaller W.R. Nicholson, A.I.F., who had come from France to attend the funeral (brother), Mrs W.G. Dyer and Mr D.H. Deacon. There was a large attendance of parishioners, including many soldiers, anxious to pay a reverent tribute to the memory of the brave young soldier. The service, which was most impressive, was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. R.B. Little. As the cortege left the church the organist, Mrs Hemingway, played the Dead March in "Saul". The firing party with arms reversed stood near the grave-side while the committal portion of the service was read and at the close fired three volleys over the grave and then at the word of command fixed bayonets and presented arms while Bugler Corporal B. Molineau sounded the "Last Post". The deceased was buried in the grave where rest the remains of his step-father. Wreaths with deep sympathy were sent from the Commandant, staff and patients of Quex Park Military Hospital, Birchington, and also from St Michael's Hospital, Birchington, and among others was one from his mother, sister and brothers. Following their usual custom the Australians brought a wooden cross painted white, the deceased's number, name, rank and date of death upon it, to be erected at the head of the grave."

(Herts & Essex Observer, England – 2 February, 1919)

N.S.W. CASUALTIES

Many Ill

List No. 458

Died Other Causes

Pte S. F. NICHOLSON (England), illness, 16/1/19, at Randwick, N.S.W.

(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 26 February, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

NICHOLSON – Stanley Frank Nicholson, aged 21, Birchington Hospital, England, January 16, 1919, late 36th Batt. Ever remembered, Sister, brother, Railway parade, Penshurst.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 17 January, 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)

Private S. F. Nicholson has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone but no inscription.

St. Mary's Churchyard, Standon, Hertfordshire, England

St. Mary's Churchyard, Standon contains 6 Commonwealth War Graves – 2 relating to World War 1 & 4 relating to World War 2.



St. Mary's Church, Standon *(Photo from Find a Grave – Julia&keld)*



St. Mary's Churchyard, Standon (Photos from *Find a Grave* – Julia&keld)



Photo of Private S. F. Nicholson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary's Churchyard, Standon, Hertfordshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Di Rogvan)



Older brother William Nicholson & his wife Esme's plaque *(Photo by Geoffrey Gillon)*