

**St. John the Baptist Churchyard,
Eversholt, Bedfordshire**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



89/B L. CPL

H. A. OAKLEY

AUST. ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

4TH NOVEMBER, 1917 Age 27

His Country Called

He Answered

And Now In God He Rests

Herbert Arthur OAKLEY

Herbert Arthur Oakley was born at Eversholt, Bedfordshire, England in 1890 to parents Richard & Kate Oakley (nee Baker). His birth was registered in the September quarter, 1890 in the district of Woburn, Bedfordshire.

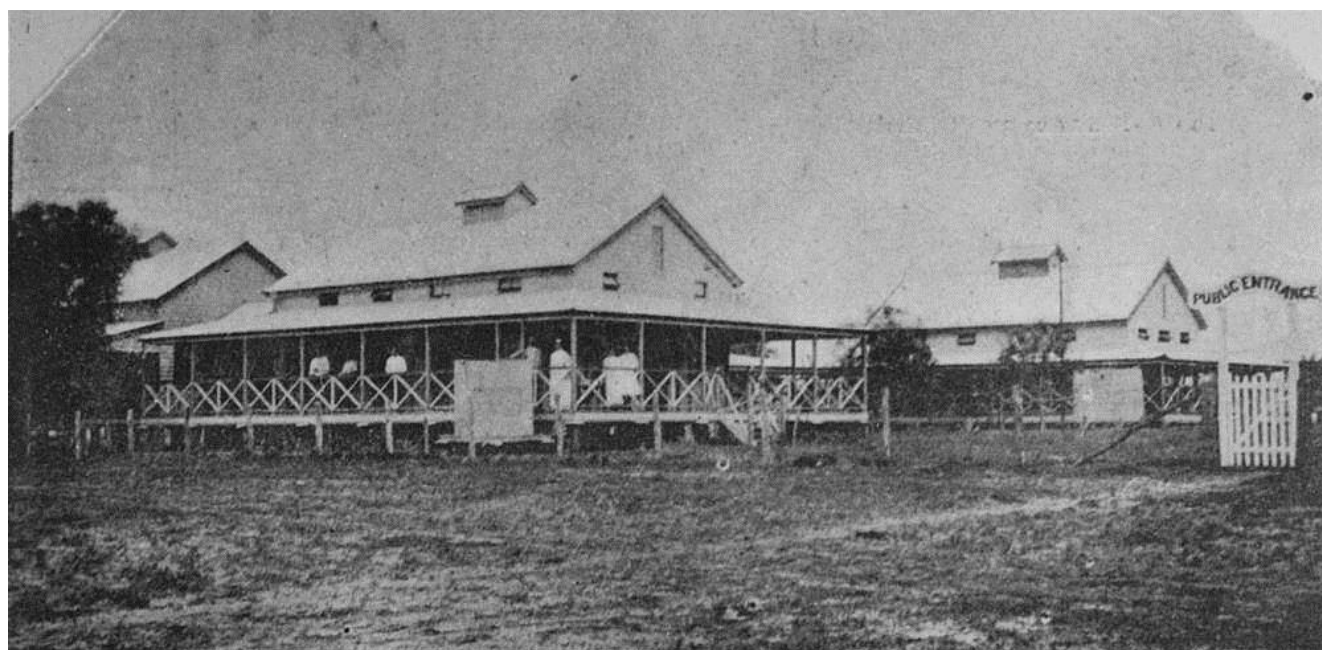
The 1891 England Census recorded Herbert A. Oakley as 9 month old living with his parents at Brookend, Eversholt, Bedfordshire. His parents were listed as Richard Oakley (General Labourer, aged 24, born Eversholt, Bedfordshire) & Kate Oakley (Dressmaker, aged 23, born Eversholt, Bedfordshire).

The 1901 England Census recorded Herbert Ar. Oakley as a 10 year old living with his family at Church End, Eversholt, Bedfordshire. His parents were listed as Richard Oakley Jr. (Yard Ma___ Woburn Abbey, aged 34) & Kate Oakley (aged 33). Also listed was Herbert's younger sister – Winifred K. Oakley (aged 7, born Eversholt).

Herbert Oakley, Farmer, was listed as a passenger on *Banffshire* which departed from the port of London on 26th March, 1909. The ship was bound for Port Said, Suez, Thursday Island, Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton & Brisbane, Australia. Herbert Oakley had contracted to land at the port of Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia.

[The 1911 England Census recorded Richard Oakley (Indoor Watchman at Woburn Abbey, aged 44) & Kate Oakley (aged 43) living with their daughter Winifred Oakley (School Teacher – County Council, aged 17) in a 6 roomed dwelling at Church End, Eversholt, Woburn, Bedfordshire. Richard & Kate Oakley had been married for 22 years & had 2 children.]

Herbert Arthur Oakley was a 25 year old, single, Wardsman from Blackhall (correct spelling Blackall) Hospital, Queensland when he enlisted at Brisbane on 7th June, 1915 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 31st Infantry Battalion, Headquarters of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 89 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Kate Oakley, of Eversholt, Woven, Bedford, Woburn, England.



Blackall Hospital, 1908

Private Herbert (listed as Hubert on Nominal & Embarkation Rolls) Arthur Oakley embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Wandilla* (A62) on 9th November, 1915 & disembarked at Suez on 7th December, 1915.

Private Herbert Oakley was transferred to 14th Field Ambulance while at Ferry Post on 7th March, 1916.

Private Herbert Oakley embarked from Alexandria on Royal George for B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) on 19th June, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 25th June, 1916.

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Private Herbert Arthur Oakley was appointed Lance Corporal on 22nd July, 1916.

Lance Corporal Herbert Oakley was admitted to hospital on 16th August, 1916 & rejoined his Unit on 21st August, 1916.

Lance Corporal Herbert Oakley was admitted to hospital on 18th September, 1916 with influenza & discharged to duty on 20th September, 1916.

Lance Corporal Herbert Oakley was admitted to hospital again on 28th November, 1916 & rejoined from Hospital on 4th December, 1916.

Lance Corporal Herbert Oakley was on leave to England from 25th April, 1917 & rejoined from leave on 30th April, 1917.

Lance Corporal Herbert Oakley was admitted to hospital on 3rd August, 1917 & transferred to Ambulance Train on 12th August, 1917. He was admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital on 13th August, 1917 with Rheumatism. Lance Corporal Herbert Oakley was transferred to Hospital Ship *St. Andrew* on 18th August, 1917 for England with Rheumatic Fever.

Lance Corporal Herbert Oakley was admitted to Beaucroft Hospital at Bournemouth on 19th August, 1917.

Lance Corporal Herbert Oakley was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on 8th October, 1917.

Private Herbert Oakley was on furlo from 11th October, 1917 to 25th October, 1917 & was then to report to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Lance Corporal Herbert Oakley was medically classified as B1 A1 (fit for light duty only – 4 weeks) on 26th October, 1917 while at No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Lance Corporal Herbert Arthur Oakley was sent sick to Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire from No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott on 4th November, 1917 – cause – not yet determined.

Lance Corporal Herbert Arthur Oakley died at 5.30 pm on 4th November, 1917 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire from Cerebral Haemorrhage.

A death for Herbert A. Oakley, aged 27, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Lance Corporal Herbert Arthur Oakley was buried at 3 pm on 10th November, 1917 in St. John the Baptist Churchyard, Eversholt, Bedfordshire, England – Plot number – north of the church in a private family grave and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Oakley - *Coffin was good, polished Elm. The deceased soldier was interred privately. The funeral left the house of his Mother at 3 pm. A service was conducted in the Church and at the graveside by Rev. W. E. Collins, C. of E. Many relatives and friends of the deceased were present at the funeral. Wreaths were sent by the following persons:*

<i>Mrs Oakley (Mother)</i>	<i>Mrs Lansbury</i>	<i>Mrs Baker</i>
<i>Mrs Scarrott (Sister)</i>	<i>Mrs J. Oakley</i>	<i>Miss Crouch</i>
<i>Miss Bryant</i>	<i>Miss Clark</i>	<i>Mrs Chopping</i>
<i>Mr & Mrs Marlow</i>	<i>Mr & Mrs Reddell</i>	<i>Mrs Cooney</i>
<i>Mrs T. Oakley</i>	<i>Mr & Mrs Flawn</i>	

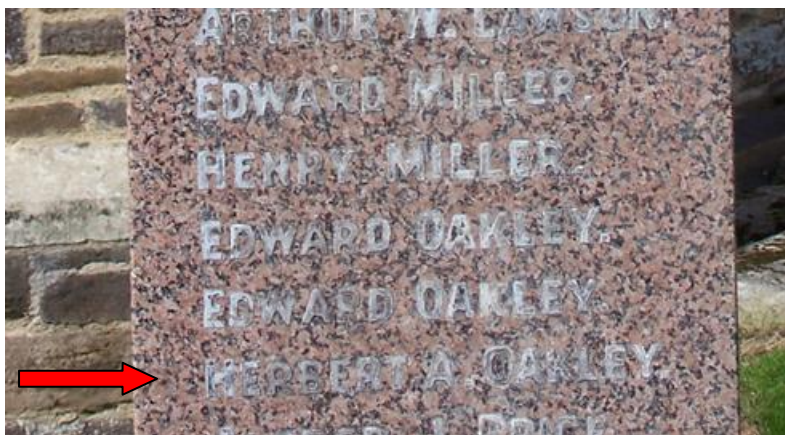
Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.

A War Pension was granted to Kate Oakley, mother of late Pte Herbert Arthur Oakley, 14th Field Ambulance, in the sum of 40/- per fortnight from 6th January, 1918.

Lance Corporal Herbert Arthur Oakley was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Oakley's mother – Mrs R. Oakley, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent to England in October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Herbert Arthur Oakley – service number 89B, aged 27, of 14th Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps. He was the son of Richard & Kate Oakley, of Church End, Eversholt.

Herbert A. Oakley is named on the Eversholt War Memorial located in the churchyard of St. John the Baptist.



Eversholt War Memorial (Photos courtesy of Dai Bevan)

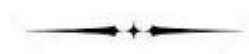
Lance Corporal H. A. Oakley is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 183.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(32 pages of Lance Corporal Herbert Arthur Oakley'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

CASUALTIES

371st AND 372nd LISTS

DIED OF ILLNESS

H. A. Oakley, England, 4/11/17

(Daily Standard, Brisbane, Qld – 17 December, 1917)



Herbert Arthur Oakley – Service Number 89. Band Member

(Photo from The Queenslander Pictorial, 11 March, 1916. Digitised by State Library of Queensland)



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)

L. Cpl. H. A. Oakley does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

His Country Called He Answered And Now In God He Rests

Photo of L. Cpl. H. A. Oakley's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. John the Baptist Churchyard, Eversholt, Bedfordshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of julia&keld)

St. John the Baptist Churchyard, Eversholt, Bedfordshire

St. John the Baptist Churchyard, Eversholt contains 4 War Graves only, all relating to World War 1.



St. John the Baptist Church (Photo by Julian Osley)



St. John the Baptist Churchyard (Photo by Basher Eyre)