St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England War Graves

Lest We Forget

World War 1

3587 PRIVATE

A. POLLOCK

57TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

21ST FEBRUARY, 1919

Alexander POLLOCK

Alexander Pollock was born in 1893 in Derby, near the town of Bridgewater, Bendigo, Victoria to parents David & Annie Pollock (nee Dickenson).

Alexander Pollock was a 22 year old, single, Labourer from Derby, Bridgewater, Bendigo, Victoria when he enlisted on 12th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3587 & his religion was Church of England *(as shown on his Attestation Papers but other forms in his Service Record file state Church of Christ, including the Burial Report). His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Annie Pollock of Derby, Bridgewater, Bendigo, Victoria.

Private Alex Pollock embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Demosthenes (A64)* on 29th December, 1915 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 21st Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements & disembarked at Tel el Kebir, Egypt on 26th February, 1916.

Private Pollock embarked from Alexandria, Egypt on 17th June, 1916 and disembarked at Marseilles, France on 23rd June, 1916.

Private Pollock's next entry on his "Service and Casualty Form" is dated 6th March, 1918, where he has "Rejoined ex leave". Private Pollock was then detached to 15th Brigade Headquarters for duty on 22nd June, 1918. He rejoined 57th Battalion Unit in July, 1918.

Private Pollock was on leave to U.K. from 26th December, 1918 to 9th January, 1919. He rejoined to Base Depot in January, 1919. He was located at Havre, France on 14th February, 1919 & transferred back to England at Weymouth, 2nd Training Brigade on 15th February, 1919.

Private Alexander Pollock was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire on 15th February, 1919 originally with influenza & was reported to be Seriously Ill.

Private Alexander Pollock died at 7.45 p.m. on 21st February, 1919 at the No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital, Codford from Lobar Pneumonia.

A death for Alexander Pollock, aged 26, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Alexander Pollock was buried at St. Mary's New Cemetery Codford, Wiltshire, England - Grave no. 91 on 24th February, 1919. From the burial report - *Coffin was Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun- Carriage preceeded by a Firing Party and Band 2nd Training Brigade, Codford. Six of deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall. The "Last Post" was sounded and volleys fired over the grave. Headquarters A.I.F. depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Probate was granted on 31st October, 1919 covering the Will of Private A. Pollock, which was dated 16th July, 1915. His Real & Personal Estate was left to Private Pollock's brother, in equal shares and proportions. He named his brother – John Pollock of Derby and Charles Harrison of Woodstock-on-Loddon, Victoria (Farmers) as his Executors.
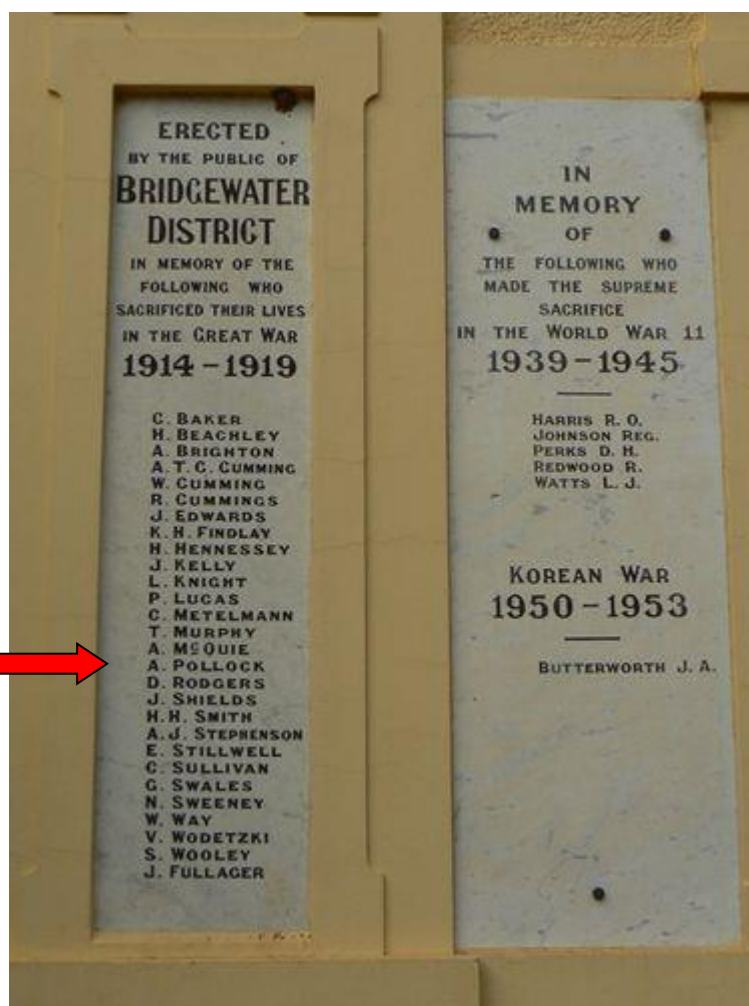
Private Alexander Pollock was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Pollock's eldest brother – David Pollock of Derby (March, 1923 & February, 1923). The medals were received by David Pollock in February, 1923.

A War Pension was applied for by Janet Pollock in regards to the death of her brother Private Alexander Pollock as both parents were deceased. The claim was rejected.

A. Pollock is also remembered on the Bridgewater Memorial Hall and Free Library, Eldon & Erskine Streets, Bridgewater on Loddon, Victoria (38 km NW of Bendigo).
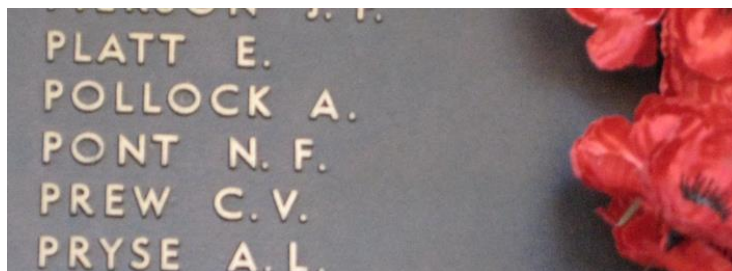

Bridgewater Memorial Hall *(Photo by Mrs Heather Ford)*

Bridgewater Memorial Hall Names *(Photo by Kent Watson – Monument Australia)*

Private A. Pollock is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 164.
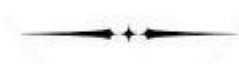

(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)

Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(64 pages of Private Alexander Pollock's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives

━━━ ◆ ━━━

Newspaper Reports

A.I.F. CASUALTIES

List No. 462   Victoria   DIED – OTHER CAUSES

POLLOCK, A., Derby, 21/2/19

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria, Tuesday 1st April, 1919)

Pollock, Alexander (Ike) - Pte 3587

(Photo courtesy of Michael – Inglewood & District Historical Society)

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 at Codford War Graves Cemetery. 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 A. Pollock does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

© Cathy Sedgwick/2013

St. Mary's New Churchyard (Anzac War Graves Cemetery), Codford, Wiltshire, England

The New Zealand Command Depot was established at Codford in June 1916 and the No 3 New Zealand General Hospital followed in July. The New Churchyard was established by deed of gift as the "Military Burial Ground," with a small part reserved for future burials from the parish. The war graves plot contains 98 burials, mostly of New Zealand and Australian forces. There is only one burial of the Second World War in the New Churchyard.

(Information from CWGC)

(Photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2013)

N.Z. and Australian Cemetery

(Photo by Romy Wyeth 2013)

© Cathy Sedgwick/2013

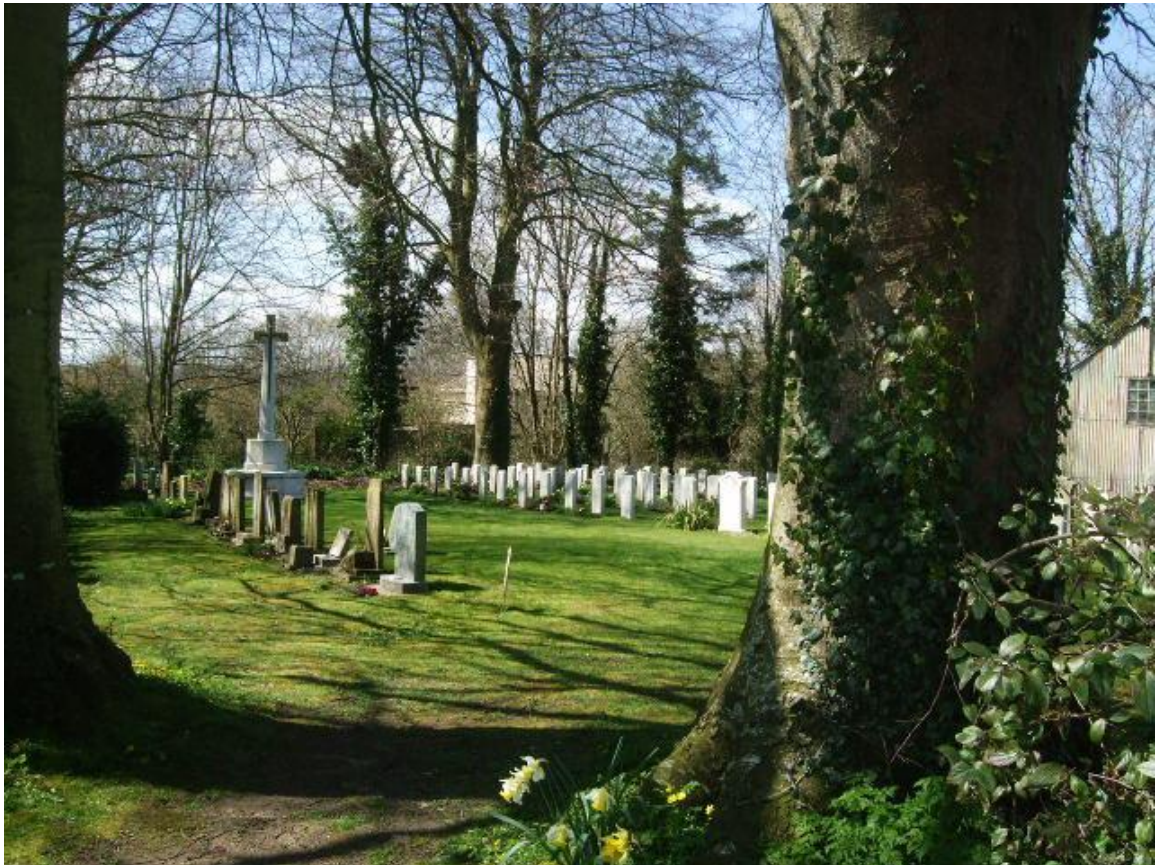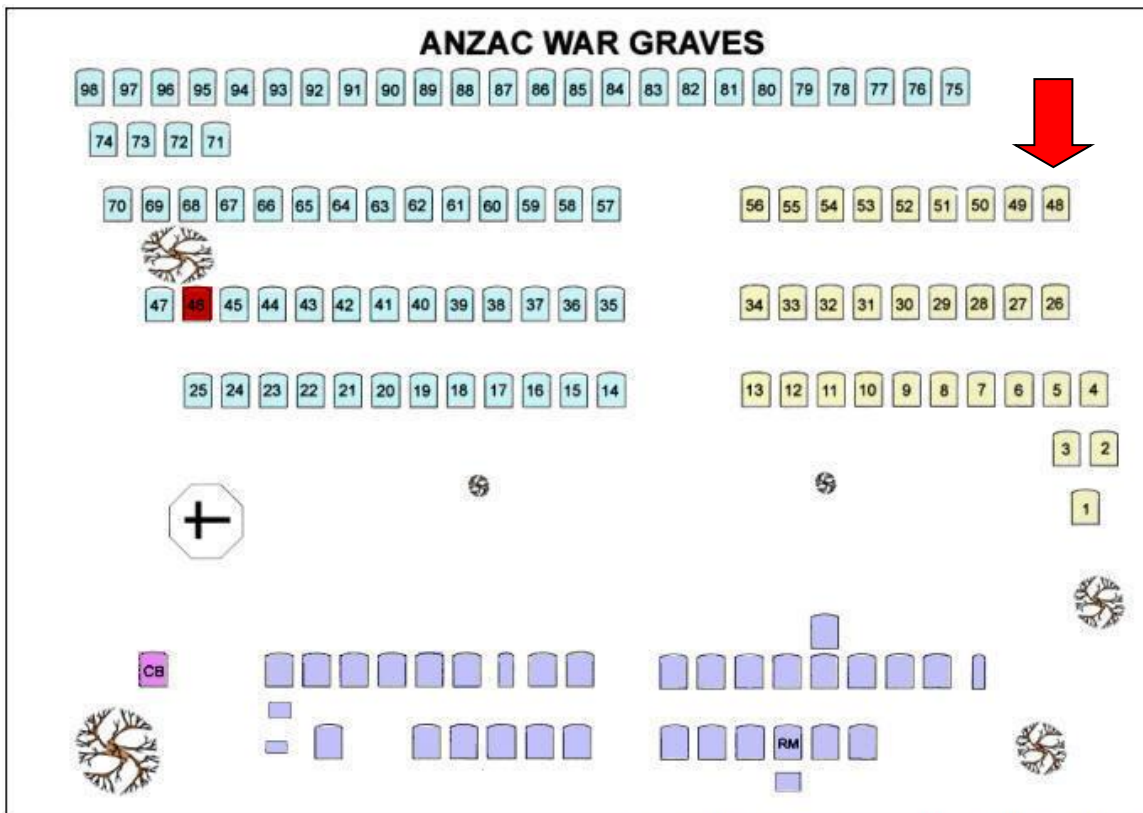*(Photos by Romy Wyeth 2013)*

Photo of Private A. Pollock's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary's New Cemetery (Anzac), Codford, Wiltshire, England.

(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)

Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Private A. Pollock is located in Main Third Row (Right hand side) Grave Plot # 48 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (CWGC Reference - Grave # 91)

(Photo by Romy Wyeth 2013)

© Cathy Sedgwick/2013