

**Havelock Cemetery,
Southall, Greater London, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2939 PRIVATE

G. SANDERSON

6TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

13TH DECEMBER, 1916

George SANDERSON

George Sanderson was born at Lincoln, England in 1891 to parents Robert F. & Emma Sanderson (nee Robey).

[The 1881 England Census recorded Robert Sanderson (Farmer, aged 33, born Barrow) living with his wife – Emma Sanderson (aged 30, born Hull, Yorks) & their two children – Len Sanderson (Scholar, aged 4, born Faldingworth, Lincolnshire) & Robert Fowler Sanderson (aged 1, born Faldingworth, Lincolnshire). The family of four were living with Isabella Blow & Robert Sanderson was listed as her son.]

[The 1891 England Census listed Robert Sanderson (Farmer, aged 45) & his wife Emma Sanderson (aged 43) & their three children (all born Faldingworth, Lincolnshire) – Leonard Sanders (aged 14), Susannah M. Sanderson (Scholar, aged 9) & John F. Sanderson (aged 1). The family of five were living at Faldingworth, Lincolnshire with Isabella Blow (Farmer, aged 74) & Robert Sanderson was listed as her son.]

The 1901 England Census recorded George Sanderson as a 10 year old Scholar, living with his family at Barlings, Lincolnshire, England. His father was listed as Robert Sanderson (widower, Agricultural Labourer, aged 57, born Barrow on Humber). George was the youngest of four children listed on this Census (all born Faldingworth) – Leonard Sanderson (Agricultural Labourer, aged 24), Susana M. Sanderson (Housekeep, aged 18), John F. Sanderson (Scholar, aged 11) & George.

The 1911 England Census recorded George Sanderson as a 19 year old Farm Waggoner boarding at Caenby, Lincolnshire, England with George Mumby (Working Farmer, aged 25) & his wife Edith Mumby (aged 23).

According to information supplied by his brother for the Roll of Honour – George Sanderson was born at Faldingworth, Lincolnshire & came to Australia when he was 19 years old.

George Sanderson was a 25 year old, single, Labourer from 470 Flinders Street, Melbourne, Victoria when he enlisted on 5th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his brother – R. F. Sanderson, 136 Ballarat Road, Footscray, Victoria.

Private George Sanderson was posted to Depot on 2nd July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 9th Reinforcements of 21st Battalion on 20th July, 1915. Private Sanderson was transferred to 9th Reinforcements of 6th Battalion on 9th September, 1915.

Private George Sanderson, Service number 2939, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Star of Victoria* (A16) on 10th September, 1915 with the 6th Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements.

Private George Sanderson was taken on strength of 6th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 7th January, 1916.

Private George Sanderson proceeded from Alexandria on *Ballarat* on 26th March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 2nd April, 1916.

Private George Sanderson was wounded in action in France on 23rd July, 1916. He was admitted to 6th M.A.C. (Motor Ambulance Convoy ?) on 23rd July, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to left eye & arm fracture. Private Sanderson was admitted to No. 1 General Hospital at Rouen, France on 24th July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Left eye & France. He embarked for England on *Gloucester Castle* on 26th July, 1916.

6th Battalion

The 6th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 7th and 8th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade....

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion was heavily involved in operations against the German Army. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. After Pozieres the battalion fought near Ypres, in Flanders, returning to the Somme for winter....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 6th Battalion

23rd July, 1916:

0800 – Batt moved forward to trenches at X 14 D. Large parties worked admirably at carrying food water & ammunition to the front line which was gained by 1st to 3rd Brigades.

C Coy was detailed to report to 3rd Bde for duty.

1600 – Batt less C Coy moved forward to trenches in X 15 A.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private George Sanderson was admitted to Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol, England on 27th July, 1916.

Base Records advised Mr R. F. Sanderson, 136 Ballarat Road, Footscray, Victoria on 10th August, 1916 that No. 2939 Private G. Sanderson, 6th Battalion had been reported wounded.

Private George Sanderson was transferred to No. 2 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Southall, London, England on 11th December, 1916 (as per Casualty form – Active Service, however, Statement of Service form recorded date as 25th November, 1916) with G.S.W. to Face. He was reported later to be dangerously ill.

Private George Sanderson died on 13th December, 1916 at 2nd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Southall, London, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Face & Pneumonia.

A death for George Sanderson, aged 26, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Uxbridge, Middlesex, England.

Private George Sanderson was buried on 16th December, 1916 in Havelock Cemetery, Southall, Greater London, England – Section A New Ground Lot 3.

The Report of Death of a Soldier (Field Service - Army Form B 2090A) has the burial place changed from Section A New Ground Lot 3 to Grave No. 3 Section 2. Grave No. 3 Section 2

Private George Sanderson's place of burial is now recorded by Commonwealth War Graves Commission as X2. 3 & he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The 3rd Military District, Melbourne, Victoria replied to Base Records on 4th January, 1917 regarding No. 2939 Private G. Sanderson, 6th Battalion: *".....please note that no trace can be found of the next-of-kin (Brother Mr R. F. Sanderson). Enquiries were made at the office of the District Paymaster, and it was ascertained that the Allottee of Private Sanderson was Mr William Brumpton, 470 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. Mr Brumpton was communicated with by urgent letter on the 20th ultimo, asking if he could inform this office of the present whereabouts of the next of kin, but up to the present, no reply has been received."*

A notice for the Press was prepared on 6th January, 1917 with the following: *"The Defence Department would be glad of the next-of-kin of No. 2939 Private G. Sanderson, 6th Battalion, would communicate with the Officer in Charge, Base Records, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, as soon as possible."*

Two replies were received at Base Records in regards to the notice in the newspaper for the next-of-kin. Olivia Burrows & S. Sanderson both wrote letters in response to the notice & both mentioned Gilbert Sanderson as the person of interest. Base Records advised both that the advertisement referred to No. 2939 Private George Sanderson, 6th Battalion *"....and is consequently, is not identical with the subject of your enquiry."*

The details for the next of kin for the late Private George Sanderson were changed on 15th January, 1917 by Base Records after being advised by letter dated 8th January, 1917. The next of kin was previously listed as brother - R.

T. Sanderson, 36 Ballarat Road, Tookeroy, Victoria & were changed to show brother – R. F. Sanderson, The Grange, Snelland near Lincoln, England.

The 3rd Military District, Melbourne, Victoria wrote to Base Records on 24th January, 1917 regarding No. 2939 Private G. Sanderson, 6th Battalion: *“.....please note that a reply from Mr W. Brumpton, 470 Flinders Street, Melbourne, has been received, which states the latest address he has in his possession is – Mr R. F. Sanderson, c/o Mrs Goodwin, Snelland, vis Lincoln, Lincolnshire, England. Mr R. F. Sanderson is the next-of-kin of the above soldier.”*

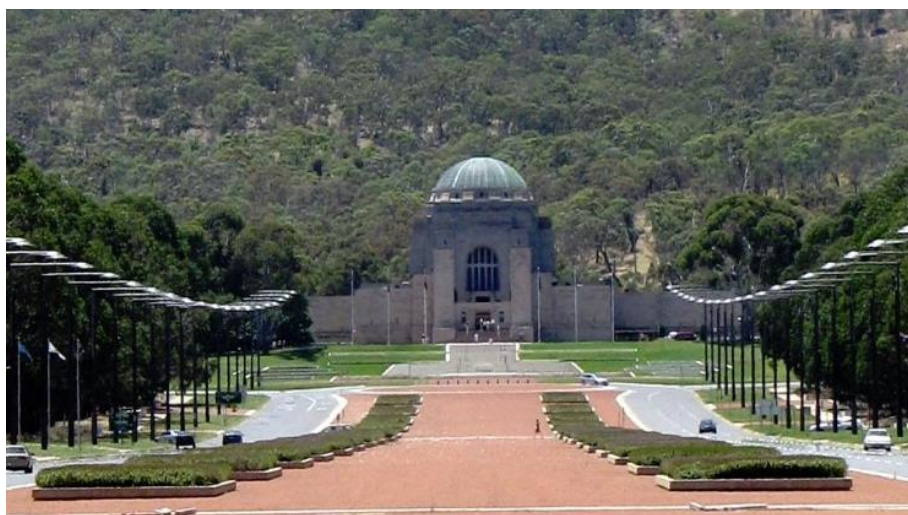
Private George Sanderson was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Sanderson’s brother – Mr R. Sanderson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in May, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private George Sanderson – service number 2939, of 6th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private G. Sanderson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 48.



Roll of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

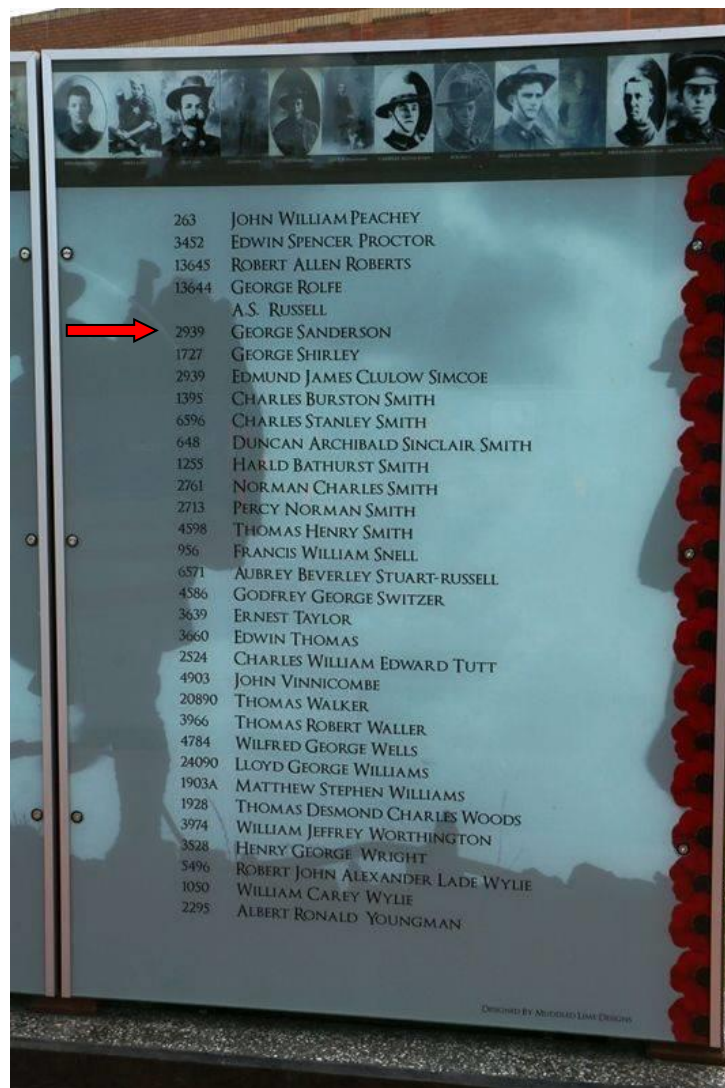


G. Sanderson is remembered on the Nambour Heroes Walk, located in Quota Park, Matthew & Ann Streets, Nambour, Queensland.

(Note: the connection to Nambour is not known but both Nambour Memorials quote Private George Sanderson's Service number of 2939)



Nambour Heroes Walk (Photos from Monument Australia)



G. Sanderson is remembered on the Nambour – Maroochy Shire War Dead Cairn, located in Quota Park, Matthew Street, Nambour, Queensland.



Nambour Remembers Cairn (Photos from Queensland War Memorials – Shirley & Trevor McIvor)



(35 pages of Private George Sanderson'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

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

196th LIST

WOUNDED

VICTORIA

Pte G. SANDERSON (Footscray)

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 19 August, 1916)

THE 257th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF WOUNDS

Private G. Sanderson, Footscray

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 30 December, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOR

By unhappy coincidence the season of peace and goodwill has been marked by a large increase in the number of Australian casualties. In these Footscray so large a contributor to the forces, has naturally suffered. We offer our sympathy to the relatives for whom the traditional festive season has been darkened by painful news.

Pte. G. Sanderson.

The name of Pte Sanderson appeared in the year-end casualty list as a Footscray enlistee. Pte Sanderson was an immigrant, from England, and had only been in Australia a very short time when he joined the colors. He worked in Footscray a few weeks.

(Advertiser, Footscray, Victoria – 6 January, 1917)

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)

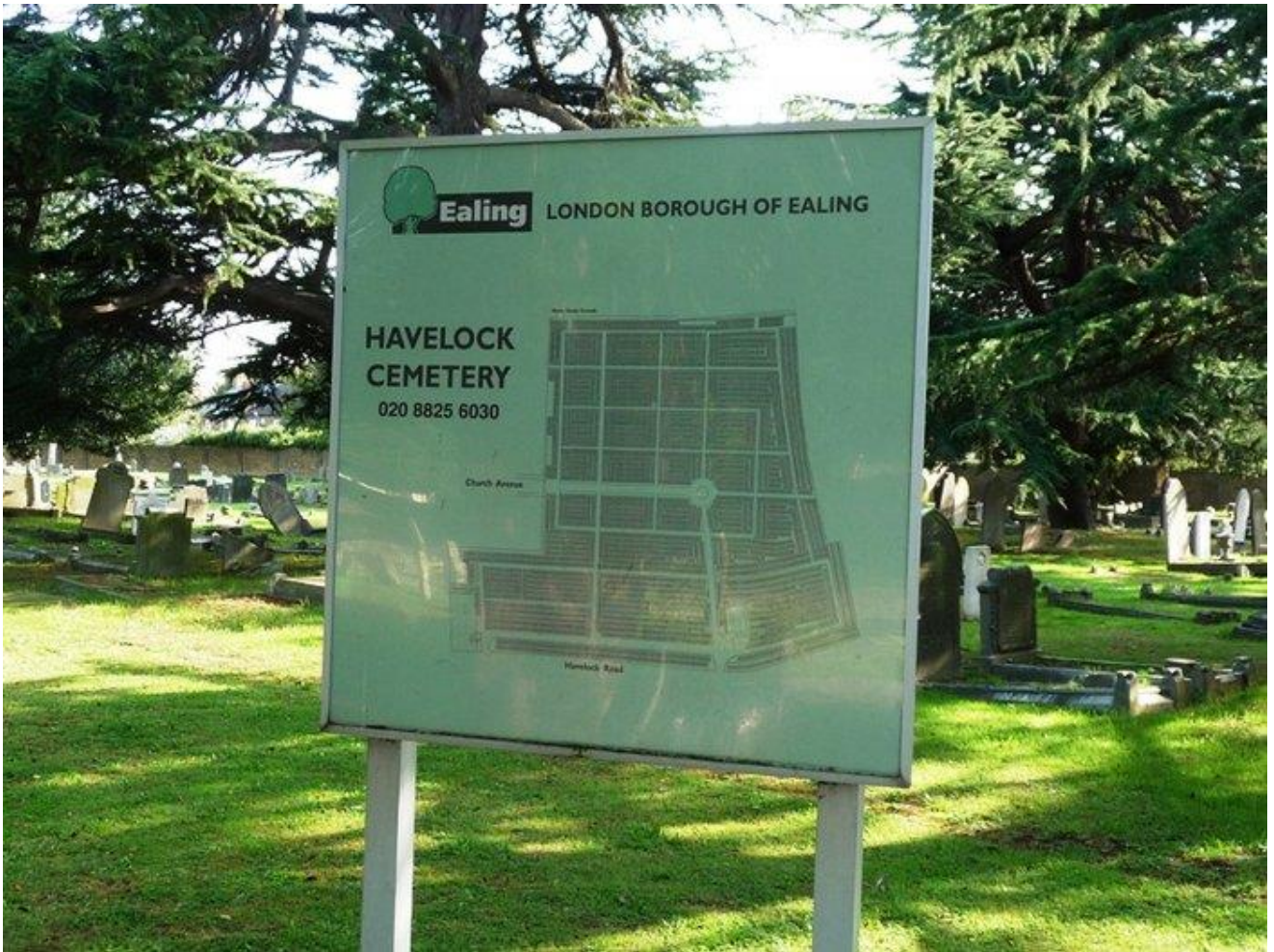
Private G. Sanderson has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone but no inscription.

Havelock Cemetery (also known as Havelock Norwood Cemetery), Southall, Greater London, England

There are 83 Commonwealth War Graves located in Havelock Cemetery, Southall – 39 from World War 1 & 44 from World War 2.



Havelock Cemetery – Church Avenue Entrance



(Photo from Find a Grave – Daghish 2010)



Four WW1 Australian War Graves – Read, Alexander, Sanderson & Bennett

(Photo courtesy of Kevin – Portsmouth Remembers)

Photo of Private G. Sanderson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Havelock Cemetery, Southall, London, England.



(Photo courtesy of Kevin – Portsmouth Remembers)



(Photo from Find a Grave – Julia&keld 2010)



Four WW1 Australian War Graves – Read, Alexander, Sanderson & Bennett

(Photo courtesy of Kevin – Portsmouth Remembers)