

**Cambridge City Cemetery,  
Cambridge, Cambridgeshire  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**4876 PRIVATE**

**H. V. SHAW**

**54TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**7TH AUGUST, 1916 Age 28**

*His Memory Is As Dear Today*

*As In The Hour*

*He Passed Away*

## Herbert Victor SHAW

Herbert Victor Shaw was born at Newcastle, NSW in 1887 to parents Samuel and Ellen Matilda Shaw (nee Partridge).

Herbert Victor Shaw attended Public School at Newcastle, NSW.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Camperdown, subdivision of Darlington, NSW listed Herbert Victor Shaw, Clerk & his parents Samuel & Ellen Shaw living at 4 Wilson Street.

Samuel Shaw, father of Herbert Victor Shaw, died in 1914 at Redfern, Sydney, NSW.

Herbert Victor Shaw was a 28 year old, single, Packer from 4 Wilson Street, Redfern, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Warwick Farm, Sydney, NSW on 20th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4876 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. Shaw, of 4 Wilson Street, Redfern, Sydney, NSW.

Private Herbert Victor Shaw was posted to "B" Company, 2nd Battalion on 6th September, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 15th Reinforcements of 2nd Battalion on 24th January, 1916.

Herbert Victor Shaw, Soldier, of 4 Wilson Street, Redfern, Sydney, NSW married Emma Grace Winnacott, of Carlton, NSW on 2nd March, 1916 at St. Paul's Church, Cleveland Street, Sydney.

Private Herbert Victor Shaw embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Star of England (A15)* on 8th March, 1916 with the 2nd Infantry Battalion, 15th Reinforcements.

Private Herbert Victor Shaw joined 54th Battalion at Ferry Post on 20th April, 1916.

Private Herbert Victor Shaw embarked from Alexandria on H. T. *Caledonian* on 19th June, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 29th June, 1916.

Private Herbert Victor Shaw was wounded in action in France on 20th July, 1916 (Statement of Service form records date of wounded as 19th July, 1916). He was admitted to 13th General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 28th July, 1916 with gunshot wounds to Humerus. Private Shaw embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Jan Breydel* on 28th July, 1916 with gunshot wounds to arms.

### 54th Battalion

The 54th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 16 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 2nd Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 2nd, the 54th was predominantly composed of men from New South Wales. The battalion became part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Moving to France in June 1916, the 54th fought its first major battle on the Western Front at Fromelles, on 19 July. It was a disaster. The 54th was part of the initial assault and suffered casualties equivalent to 65 per cent of its fighting strength. Casualty rates among the rest of the 5th Division were similarly high, but despite these losses it continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

### War Diary – 54th Battalion

#### *Bac-St-Maur*

*19th July, 1916 – The Battn. moved from Bac-St-Maur at 2 pm to front line trenches. The Battn attacked the enemy trenches at 5.5 pm (see Appendix B attached) & occupied his front line trenches at about 6 pm. The Battalion withdrew from its new position & returned to*

20th July, 1916 – Billets at Bac-St-Maur at 7.30 am. Our casualties were Killed 3 Officers 70 other ranks. Wounded 11 Officers 277 other ranks. Missing 4 Officers 169 other ranks.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Herbert Victor Shaw was admitted to 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England on 28th July, 1916 with fractured shoulder & shrapnel wounds to hips. His condition was listed as dangerous.

Base Records advised Mrs E. Shaw, 4 Wilson Street, Redfern, on 4th August, 1916 that her son Private Herbert V. Shaw was dangerously ill.

Private Herbert Victor Shaw died on 7th August, 1916 at 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England from wounds received in action in France - multiple wounds & collapse.

A death for Herbert Shaw, aged 29, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England.

Private Herbert Victor Shaw was buried in Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England – Grave site "D" Grave number 2487.

In April, 1920 Mrs E. Shaw, 4 Wilson Street, Redfern, widowed mother of the late Private Herbert Victor Shaw, was advised by Base Records that the remains of her late son had been exhumed from former site & re-interred in Grave No. 3480, Section " C ", Cambridge Cemetery, Cambridge, England. *"This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain."*

Private Herbert Victor Shaw has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Herbert Victor Shaw contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives concerning his time in hospital & his death. The Matron, 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge wrote the following letter regarding Private S. Shaw, 4876: *" I am writing to say that above was admitted to this hospital in a serious state. He was very badly wounded in both legs and one arm. The arm had eventually to be amputated. I am glad to say he did not suffer so much towards the end. We always make a point of writing to the friends of all colonials who died in this hospital. We write as soon after the death as possible. We wrote to Mrs Shaw the day Pte Shaw died, and we have also sent to his mother photographs of his funeral and grave."*

A War Pension was granted to Emma Grace Shaw, of 34 Regent Street, City, widow of the late Private Herbert Victor Shaw, in the sum of £2 per fortnight granted from 16th October, 1916. A War Pension was also granted to Ellen Shaw, of 4 Wilson Street, Redfern, widowed mother of the late Private Herbert Victor Shaw, in the sum of £1 per fortnight granted from 16th October, 1916.

Base Records contacted Mrs E. Shaw, 4 Wilson Street, Redfern, widowed mother of the late Private Herbert Victor Shaw, in November, 1921 stating that Private Shaw enlisted as a single man & recorded her as the next-of-kin but it was noted from the file that Private Shaw left a widow. Base Records added "advise me whether there are any reasons as to why the War Medals should not be handed to deceased's widow" as according to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Mrs S. Shaw, mother of the late Private Herbert Victor Shaw, replied to Base Records on 6th November, 1922 stating *"I am the next of kin of 4876 Pte Herbert Victor Shaw, 54th Batt. "*

Base Records replied to Mrs S. Shaw, 4 Wilson Street, Redfern, on 17th November, 1922 stating that *"...concerning the war medals, etc., of your son.... to inform you that these items must be forwarded to his widow, she being the*

*person entitled to receive in keeping with the instructions under the Deceased Soldiers' Estates Act of 1918. I shall be much obliged if you will furnish me with that lady's present address, as we have been unable to get into touch with her."*

Base Records contacted the Deputy Commissioner for Repatriation, Sydney in December, 1922 stating that it was noted that a "*pension has been granted to Mrs E. G. Shaw on account of the service of her husband, the late No. 4876 Private H. V. SHAW, 54th Battalion, and I shall be much obliged if you can furnish me with present address, as communications forwarded to her at 93 Baptist Street, Redfern, NSW has been returned to this Office unclaimed and I desire to be in a position to properly dispose of the War Medals etc., issuable on account of the late soldier's service.*"

Mrs E. G. Shaw, of 23 Glebe Road, Glebe, Sydney, NSW, wrote to Base Records in April, 1923 stating "*I have been absent from Sydney for some time & on my return was told of an advertisement for me in regards to some medals & plaque. I am deceased soldiers widow - deceased soldiers name Private Herbert Victor Shaw, No. 4876, 2nd Batt.*"

Private Herbert Victor Shaw was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Shaw's widow – Mrs E. Shaw, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent April, 1923 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Herbert Victor Shaw – service number 4876, aged 28, of 54th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Samuel and Ellen Shaw, of 4 Wilson Street, Redfern, Sydney.

Private H. V. Shaw is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 159.



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



H. V. Shaw is remembered on the Redfern Town Hall Honour Roll located at Redfern Town Hall, 73 Pitt Street, Redfern, Sydney, NSW.



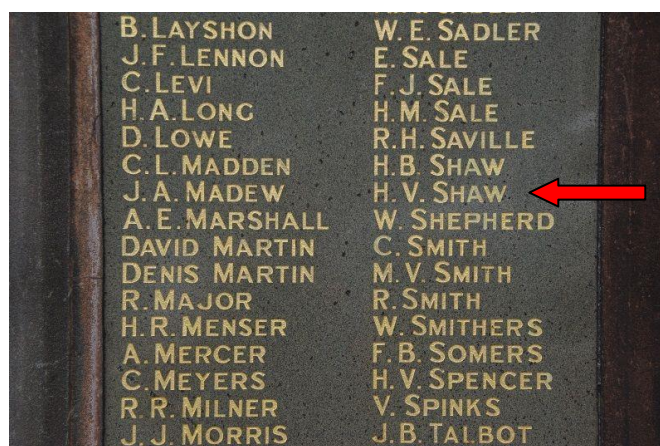
### Redfern Town Hall Honour Roll

(Photo from Register of War Memorials in NSW – Mr Aub Silcock, Redfern RSL Sub-Branch)

H. V. Shaw is remembered on the former St. Paul's Anglican Church Memorial Gates located at the now Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 242 Cleveland Street, Redfern, Sydney, NSW (right pillar).

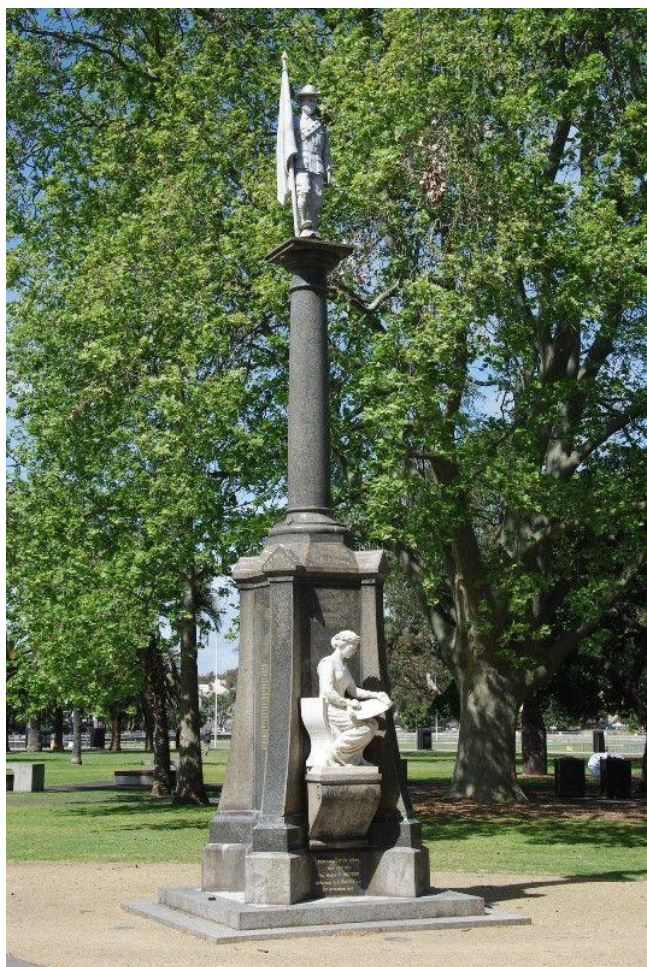


Former St. Paul's Anglican Church Memorial Gates, Redfern (Photos from Monument Australia – Peter F. Williams)

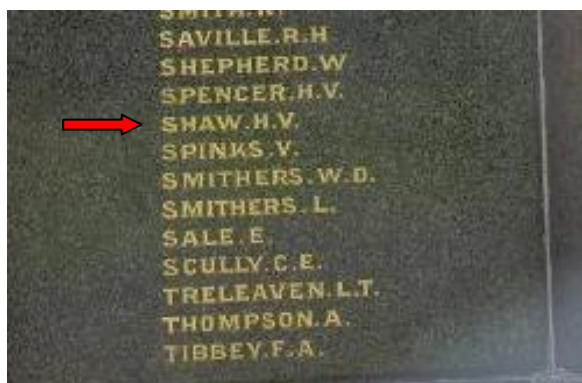




H. V. Shaw is remembered on the Redfern War Memorial, located in Redfern Park, 51 Elizabeth Street, Redfern, Sydney, NSW.



Redfern War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



(52 pages of Private Herbert Victor Shaw'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives

## **Newspaper Notices**

### **MORE CASUALTIES**

#### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

#### **TWO LISTS TODAY**

Dangerously Ill

Pte H. V. Shaw, (Redfern, NSW)

*(Evening News, Sydney, NSW – 17 August, 1916)*

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#### **PRIVATE SHAW**

The eldest son of the late Mr Samuel Shaw, of Newcastle, Private Herbert Victor Shaw, died in France on August 7th. His second son, Private Alfred Shaw, who was wounded in the foot, is in the London Hospital. Both soldiers are grandsons of Mr Andrew Shaw, of Newcastle.

*(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 21 August, 1916)*

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#### **NEWCASTLE**

Advice has been received of the following other casualties:- Private A. Taylor, Wallsend, killed in action; Private A. Collins, Waratah, Killed in action; Private Herbert Victor Shaw, Newcastle, died in France, Private D. Douglas, Wickham, killed in action.....

*(The Maitland Weekly Mercury, NSW – 26 August, 1916)*

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#### **203rd LIST**

#### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

Died of Wounds

H. V. Shaw, Redfern

*(The Land, Sydney, NSW – 8 September, 1916)*

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#### **IN MEMORIAM**

SHAW – In loving memory of my dear son, Private H. V. Shaw, who died of wounds received in France, August 7, 1916, aged 29.

Greatly loved and sadly missed.

Inserted by his loving mother, brothers, Sam and Andrew, and Alfred (on active service).

SHAW – A tribute to the memory of Private Herbert V. Shaw, who died August 7, 1916, from gunshot wounds received in France.

Far away from those he loved,

In a hero's grave he lies.

Inserted by his cousins, Alice and Will Sands.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 7 August, 1917)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

SHAW – In sad but loving memory of my dear husband, Herbert Victor Shaw, aged 29, died of wounds, in Cambridge, England, August 7, 1916.

I mourn for you, dear Herb,  
No eyes may see me weep;  
But many a silent tear is shed  
While others are asleep.  
I have lost my life's companion,  
A life linked with my own;  
One in love, hope and feeling,  
Death divided, now alone.

Inserted by his loving wife, Emma Grave Shaw.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 8 August, 1917)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

SHAW - Herbert V. Shaw, who died at Cambridge, England, August 7, 1916, from wounds received in France. Inserted by his cousins, Emma and Ray Shaw.

SHAW – Herbert Shaw, died of wounds received in France, August 7, 1916. Inserted by cousins, Grace and Jack Allsbury and family.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 9 August, 1917)*

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## **On Active Service**

SHAW – In loving memory of my dear son, Private H. V. Shaw, who died of wounds received in France, August 7, 1916, aged 29. His duty done, God called him. Inserted by his loving mother, brothers, Alf, Sam, Andrew.

SHAW – In loving memory of our dear cousin, Private H. Shaw, died of wounds, August 7, 1917, Cambridge, England.

He lives with us in memory still,  
And will for evermore.

Inserted by his loving cousins, Alice and Will Sands.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 7 August, 1918)*

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## **On Active Service**

SHAW – In loving memory of my dear son and our dear brother, Pte H. V. Shaw, who died of wounds received in France, August 7, 1916, aged 29.

A beautiful memory left behind,  
And a duty nobly done,  
His sacrifice is not in vain,  
Thank God for victory won.

Inserted by his loving mother, brothers, Alf., Sam, and Andrew.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 7 August, 1919)*

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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)*

Private H. V. Shaw does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*His Memory Is As Dear Today As In The Hour He Passed Away*

### **Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England**

Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge (known locally as Newmarket Road Cemetery) contains 1,019 Commonwealth War Graves – 186 from World War 1 & 833 from World War 2.

The 1st Eastern General Hospital, with 1,173 beds, was posted to Cambridge during the First World War, initially at the Leys School and Trinity College, later in huts. The First World War burials in Cambridge City Cemetery are mostly in two plots, one in the southern part of the burial ground, known as the Dominion Plot, and the other on the northern boundary. The Cross of Sacrifice stands on the western border of the Dominion Plot, while in the centre of the other is a memorial cross of Portland stone which was erected by private subscription. The Second World War graves are also mainly in two War Graves Plots with a few others scattered throughout the cemetery. The general Service plot was established in 1940, and the Air Force plot in 1942 for the burial of casualties from the Air Force stations set up in the eastern counties during the war. These included Bomber Command bases in Lincolnshire and fighter stations in Norfolk and Suffolk. The Stone of Remembrance, which was unveiled by Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Tedder in July 1951, stands near the centre of the Air Force plot. Cambridge City Cemetery contains 181 Commonwealth burials of the First World War and 829, (inclusive 3 unidentified), from the Second World War. The cemetery also contains four non-war service burials and ten war graves of other nationalities.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*









Photo of Private H. V. Shaw's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England.



(Photo by Julia&keld – Find a Grave)





**Cross of Sacrifice** (Photo from CWGC)



**Entrance to Cambridge City Cemetery & Map (below)** (Photos by Julia&keld – Find a Grave)

# Cambridge City CEMETERY

