

**Trinity Gask Parish Churchyard,
Auchertarder, Scotland**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1888 DRIVER

G. STALKER

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

31ST DECEMBER, 1916 Age 32

Gilbert STALKER

Gilbert Stalker was born at Blackford, Perthshire, Scotland in mid-1884 to parents Peter & Margaret Stalker (nee Sorley).

The 1891 Scotland Census recorded Gilbert Stalker as a 7 year old Scholar, living with his family at the Old Toll House, Trinity Gask, Perthshire, Scotland. His parents were listed as Peter Stalker (Road Surfaceman, aged 40 born Crieff, Perthshire) & Margaret Stalker (aged 42, born Muthill, Perthshire). Gilbert was one of six children listed on this Census – Peter Stalker (Scholar, aged 12, born Auchterarder, Perthshire), Margaret Stalker (Scholar, aged 11, born Madderty, Perthshire), Cathrine Stalker (Scholar, aged 9, born Madderty, Perthshire), then Gilbert, Mary Stalker (Scholar, aged 5, born Auchterarder, Perthshire) & Helen Stalker (aged 1 born Trinity Gask, Perthshire).

Gilbert Stalker attended School at Trinity Gask, Perthshire

The 1901 Scotland Census recorded Gilbert Stalker as a 16 year old Tailor's apprentice, living with his family at the Drum of Cowgask, Trinity Gask, Perthshire, Scotland. His parents were listed as Peter Stalker (Road Surfaceman, aged 50) & Margaret Stalker (aged 52). Gilbert was the eldest of four children listed on this Census – Gilbert then Mary Stalker (Domestic Servant, aged 15), Helen Stalker (Scholar, aged 4) & Jessie (Scholar, aged 9).

Gilbert Stalker, Farmer, aged 28, was a passenger on *Commonwealth* which embarked from the port of London on 6th March, 1913. Gilbert Stalker had stated he was to disembark at Adelaide, South Australia.

Gilbert Stalker was a 31 year old, married, Labourer from Strathalbyn, South Australia when he enlisted at Adelaide, South Australia on 4th October, 1915 with the 3rd Light Horse Brigade, 9th Light Horse Regiment, 13th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1888 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Elizabeth Connie Stalker of Trinity Gask, Perthshire, Scotland. Gilbert & Elizabeth Stalker had one child at the time he enlisted.

Private Gilbert Stalker embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Afric (A19)* on 5th January, 1916.

Pte Stalker was taken on strength at Heliopolis on 10th February, 1916.

Pte Stalker was transferred to 5th Div. Artillery & taken on strength on 1st April, 1916 at Heliopolis from 9th Light Horse Regiment. He was attached to 13th F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) on 1st April, 1916.

Pte Stalker was mustered as Driver on 22nd April, 1916 at Ferry Post.

Driver Stalker was transferred to Base Details at Tel-el-Kebir on 26th May, 1916.

Driver Stalker embarked for overseas from Alexandria to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) on 1st August, 1916.

Driver Stalker was marched out to Winchester, England on 10th September, 1916 & marched in from Winchester on 2nd October, 1916.

Driver Stalker was transferred to 15th F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) on 26th October, 1916.

Driver Stalker was sent sick to Sutton Veny Hospital, Wiltshire on 18th December, 1916.

Driver Gilbert Stalker died on 31st December, 1916 at Isolation Hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire from Meningitis.

A death for Gilbert Stalker, aged 32, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

Driver Gilbert Stalker was buried privately on 4th January, 1917 in Trinity Gask Parish Churchyard, Scotland – north of foot path leading to Church door and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A War Pension was granted to Elizabeth Conacher Stalker, widow of late Driver Gilbert Stalker, of Borestone Cottage, Trinity Gask, Auchterarder, Perthshire in the sum of £2.3.0 per fortnight from 4th March, 1917. A pension was also granted to Peter Conacher Stalker, son of late Driver Gilbert Stalker, of Borestone Cottage, Trinity Gask, Auchterarder, Perthshire in the sum of 20/- per fortnight from 4th March, 1917.

Driver Gilbert Stalker was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver Stalker's widow – Mrs E. C. Stalker (Scroll & Plaque both sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver Gilbert Stalker – service number 1888, aged 32, of 15th Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Peter and Margaret Stalker; husband of Elizabeth Conacher Stalker, of Cairney Hill House, Bankfoot, Perthshire, Scotland.

Driver G. Stalker is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 18.



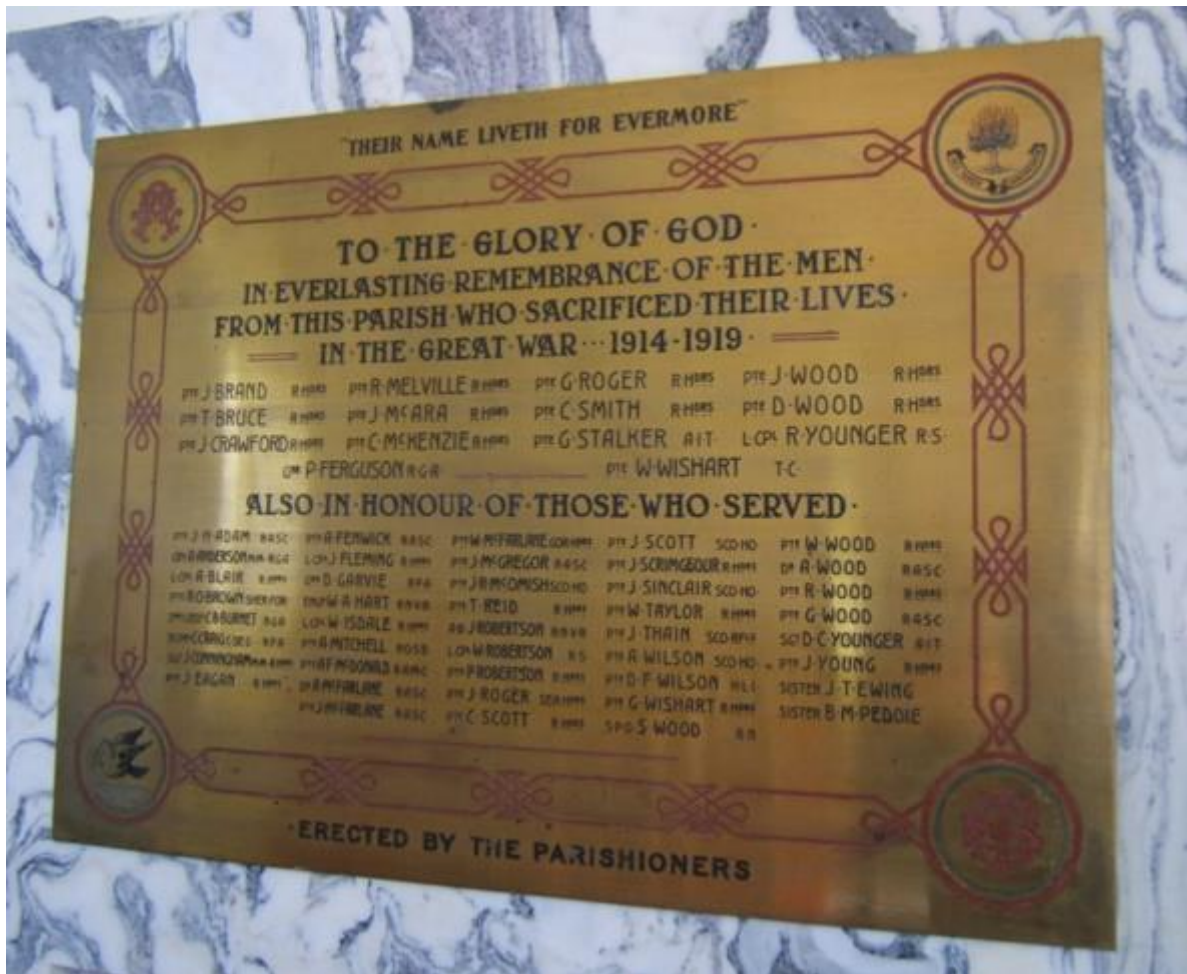
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

G. Stalker is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

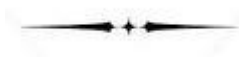
G. Stalker is remembered on the Trinity Gask Roll of Honour, now located in Auchterarder Parish Church.



Trinity Gask Roll of Honor (Photo by Dhubthaigh)

(28 pages of Driver Gilbert Stalker'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

THE AUSTRALIANS

264th CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DIED OF ILLNESS

Dvr. G. STALKER, Scotland (Dec. 31)

(*The Register*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 16 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)

Driver Gilbert Stalker does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



Trinity Gask Churchyard

Photo of Driver G. Stalker's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Trinity Gask Churchyard, Scotland.



(Photo courtesy of Mysie – Great War Forum)