

**Brandwood End Cemetery,
Birmingham, Warwickshire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



704 PRIVATE

W. A. VICKERY

4TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

28TH DECEMBER, 1920 Age 29

William Ashley VICKERY

William Ashley Vickery was born at Birmingham, Warwickshire, England on 23rd February, 1891 to parents William Henry & Sarah Jane Vickery (nee Beavis).

The 1891 England Census recorded William A. Vickery as a 1 month old, living with his parents at 4 St. Martin's Terrace, Birmingham, Warwickshire. His parents were recorded as William H. Vickery (Hairdresser's Assistant, aged 22, born Kingsnympton, Devon) & Sarah J. Vickery (aged 24, born Bristol, Gloucester).

The 1891 England Census recorded William A. Vickery as a 10 year old, living with his family at 166 Belgrave Rd (Lord Byron Inn), Balsall Heath, Worcestershire, England. His parents were listed as William H. Vickery (Publican, aged 32) & Sarah J. Vickery (aged 34). William was the eldest of three children listed on this Census – William then Reginald B. Vickery (aged 6, born Cardiff, Sth Wales) & Cyril M. Vickery (aged 3, born Birmingham, Warwickshire). Also listed was Annie Evans (Servant, aged 15, born Birmingham, Warwickshire).

William Ashley Vickery joined the Royal Navy on 19th May, 1908. He was to sign on for a period of 12 years from when he turned 18. He was discharged to Shore on 23rd October, 1908 due to Chorea.

William Henry Vickery, father of William Ashley Vickery, died on 9th March, 1909 at Birmingham, England.

William Ashley Vickery was a 24 year old, single, Milkcarter from 164 ½ Devonshire Street, Surry Hills, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Kensington, Sydney, NSW on 28th August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) as Ashley William Vickery. His service number was 704 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Sarah Jane Vickery, of 66 Leopold Street, Moseley, Birmingham, England. William Vickery stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served with Royal Navy but had resigned.

Private Ashley William Vickery was posted to "D" Company of 4th Battalion on 28th August, 1914 for recruit training.

Private Ashley William Vickery embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 20th October, 1914 with the 4th Infantry Battalion, "D" Company.

Private Ashley William Vickery embarked from Alexandria on 5th April, 1915 on Troopship *Lake Michigan* to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) in the Gallipoli campaign.

4th Battalion

The 4th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these other battalions, formed the 1st Brigade.

The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. The battalion took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves. The commander of the 4th Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel A. J. O. Thompson, was killed the next day. At ANZAC, the battalion took part in the defence of the beachhead and in August, along with the rest of the 1st Brigade, led the charge at Lone Pine. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Ashley William Vickery was admitted to Transport Ship *Gloucester Castle* on 9th May, 1915 from No. 2 Stationary Hospital at Mudros with Diarrhoea. He was transferred to Base Details at Zeitoun on 3rd June, 1915 for return to Australia.

A Medical Report was completed on Private Ashley William Vickery on 19th June, 1915 at 1st Australian General Hospital, Heliopolis, Egypt. His disability was listed as Functional Spasm Neurosis which had first occurred at Gallipoli on 6th May, 1915. "*Twitching of left side of face & left arm & hand, spasm cannot be controlled. Fingers*

continually moving. Noticed for 1 month. No improvement. Reflexes normal. Scarlet fever & some twitching after it 11 days at the front not wounded. Sent to Base for dysentery. Noticed at the Clearing Hospital that he had a continuous twitching of left side of face, arm & hand. Cannot control the spasm. In Royal Navy for 9 months and was discharged for spasm. Said to be "Chorea." The Officer in charge of the Medical case recommended that Private Vickery have a change to England. He was not regarded as permanently unfit.

Private Ashley William Vickery was admitted to Convalescent Camp at Helouan on 6th July, 1915 then transferred to 1st Australian General Hospital on 19th July, 1915.

Private Ashley William Vickery was embarked for England from Alexandria on Hospital Ship *Warilda* on 20th July, 1915. He was admitted to No. 3 London General Hospital at Wandsworth, England on 31st July, 1915 with Debility.

Private Ashley William Vickery was admitted to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield, Middlesex on 16th September, 1915.

A Medical Report was completed on Private Ashley William Vickery on 17th September, 1915 at Harefield Park, England. His disability was listed as Loss of power & tremor on left side & Dysentery. Private Vickery first had dysentery on 5th May, 1915 at Gallipoli. *"Has had Tremor on & off since he was 12 years old when he had Scarlet Fever. Did not have it when he enlisted. It became worse after he had the dysentery."* The Officer in charge of the Medical case recommended that Private Vickery be discharged as permanently unfit for War Service. Active Service had aggravated the disability.

Private William Ashley Vickery was discharged from the Australian Imperial Force with effect from 12th March, 1916 in consequence of being permanently unfit for War Service at home or abroad but was fit for employment in civilian life. He was discharged in the United Kingdom (normally Australian Soldiers were discharged in Australia) & had served for 1 year & 198 days. Private Vickery's conduct & character while serving in the Australian Imperial Force were described as very good.

(Private) William Ashley Vickery wrote Australian Imperial Force Headquarters on 25th October, 1916 requesting a *"Medal which are being given to Discharged soldiers, as I have been discharged from the A.I.F. since March 12th, 1916, as being physically unfit for War Service."* The Australian Imperial Force Administrative Headquarters, London, replied to Mr Ashley Wm. Vickery, 66 Leopold Street, Ashley, Birmingham stating that the Silver War Badge No. A 34 was being forwarded to him under separate registered cover in recognition of services rendered in the Australian Imperial Force. He was reminded that this *"Badge is to be worn only with plain clothes on the right breast or on the right lapel of the jacket. The enclosed Certificate must always be in your possession when the Badge is worn."*



Silver War Badge

A claim for a War Pension by A. W. Vickery, of 66 Leopold St, Moseley, Birmingham was later withdrawn (no date).

William Ashley Vickery married Lucy M. Ault in Birmingham, Warwickshire, England. Their marriage was registered in the June quarter, 1918.

(Private) William Ashley Vickery died on 28th December, 1920.

A death for William A. Vickery, aged 29, was registered in the December quarter, 1920 in the district of Birmingham, Warwickshire, England.

(Private) William Ashley Vickery was buried in Brandwood End Cemetery, Birmingham, Warwickshire, England – Plot number B. 8. "C" 6 & has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Private William Ashley Vickery was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Ashley Vickery – service number 704, aged 29, of 4th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the husband of L. M. Vickery, of 22 Greenwood Avenue, Acocks Green, Birmingham, England.

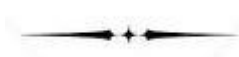
Private W. A. Vickery is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 42.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(59 pages of Private William Ashley Vickery'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



Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Private William Ashley Vickery has a Private Headstone.

Brandwood End Cemetery, Birmingham, Warwickshire, England

The First World War saw four important hospitals - besides many smaller - posted at Birmingham: the 1st Southern General (3,500 beds) was in the university and other buildings, with a section at Stourbridge; the 2nd/1st Southern General (1,800 beds) in the Dudley Road Infirmary and in billets; the 1st Birmingham War Hospital (1,000 beds) at Rubery Hill Asylum and the 2nd Birmingham War Hospital (900 beds) at Hollymoor Asylum. Military hospitals were at Birmingham again during the Second World War, including No 7 Canadian Hospital at Marston Green. Birmingham and Coventry were among the chief manufacturing areas producing materials for the war effort and were subjected to many devastating air raids during the Blitz of 1940-41. Birmingham (Brandwood End) Cemetery contains 110 scattered burials of the First World War, with screen walls to commemorate 35 servicemen whose graves could not be individually marked. Second World War burials number 98. The cemetery also contains two Polish war graves.

(Information from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice at Brandwood End Cemetery, Birmingham *(Photo from CWGC)*

Photo of Private W. A. Vickery's Private Headstone in Brandwood End Cemetery, Birmingham, Warwickshire, England.



(Photo by cresser – Great War Forum)



In Loving Memory

of

WILLIAM ASHLEY VICKERY

Who Entered Into Rest Decr 28th 1920

Aged 29 Years

Thy Will Be Done

Also His Beloved Wife

LUCY MAY

