

**St Andrews & Jesmond Cemetery,  
Newcastle Upon Tyne  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**LIEUTENANT**

**A.WALD**

**ROYAL AIR FORCE**

**11TH AUGUST, 1918 Age 25**

## Alexander WALD

Alexander Wald was born on 19th June, 1893 at Petersburg, in the district of Frome, South Australia to parents Alexander & Esther Margaret Wald (nee Humphreys).

Alexander Wald was employed as a Railway Engineer & Surveyor for Commissioner of Railways, South Australian Railway Department.

Alexander Wald was a 21 year old, single, Draughtsman & Surveyor when he enlisted at Morphettville, South Australia on 30th August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2773 & his religion was Protestant. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Alec. Wald, of Largs Bay, South Australia. Alexander Wald stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 13 months with Senior Cadets.

Alexander Wald was posted to Divisional Ammunition Column from 30th August, 1914 to 10th September, 1914 for recruit training.

Alexander Wald was a 21 year old, single, Draughtsman when he re-enlisted at Melbourne, Victoria on 8th December, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1759 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Alec. Wald, of Largs Bay, South Australia. Alexander Wald stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 18 months with Senior Cadets.

Alexander Wald was posted to D.A.P. on 10th December, 1914 with the rank of Gunner.

Gunner Alexander Wald embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 22nd December, 1914 with the 301st Mechanical Transport, A.S.C. (17th Divisional Ammunition Park).

Gunner Alexander Wald embarked on *Franconia* from Alexandria on 14th May, 1915.

Gunner Alexander Wald was admitted to 4th Australian Field Ambulance at Anzac Cove (Statement of Service form & Casualty Form – Active Service both record he was admitted to New Zealand Field Ambulance) on 28th June, 1915 with a bullet wound in his back. He was discharged to duty on 1st July, 1915.

Gunner Alexander Wald was attached for duty to A.C Headquarters as Clerk to Br. Gen R. A. from 23rd October, 1915.

Gunner Alexander Wald proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on *Bohemian* from Alexandria on 22nd March, 1916. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 28th March, 1916.

Gunner Alexander Wald was promoted to Lance Corporal with 8th A.A.S.C. (Australian Army Service Corps) (no date recorded).

Lance Corporal Alexander Wald was appointed to Corporal (temp) from 21st April, 1916 while performing duties as Draughtsman at 1st Divisional Headquarters.

Corporal (temp) Alexander Wald reverted to the permanent rank of Private on 8th November, 1916 on ceasing to be employed as Draughtsman at 1st Divisional Headquarters. He was on command at Royal Flying Corps, England from 8th November, 1916.

Private Alexander Wald was on command at Royal Flying Corps Officers Cadet Battalion from 14th November, 1916 with a view of subsequent commission in R.F.C. (Royal Flying Corps).

Private Alexander Wald was on command to Brasenose College School, School of Military Aeronautics from 26th January, 1917.

Private Alexander Wald was discharged in England on 16th March, 1917, having been granted a Commission in Royal Flying Corps.

From *The London Gazette* – 10 April, 1917:

*The undermentioned cadets to be temp. 2nd Lts. (on prob):-*

17 Mar. 1917

.....

*Alexander Wald*

From *The London Gazette* – 4 March, 1918:

**AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS**

*2nd Lt. Alexander Wald, R.F.C., Spec. Res*

Second Lieutenant Alexander Wald was appointed Lieutenant with the Royal Flying Corps on 1st April, 1918.

Lieutenant Alexander Wald was posted to No. 100 Squadron on 9th April, 1918. He was attached to No. 6 Brigade Headquarters then transferred to H6 Wiry on 1st May, 1918.



**Lieutenant Alexander Wald - to No. 100 Squadron** *(Photo courtesy of Dave Limmer)*

Lieutenant Alexander Wald, of No. 36 Squadron, based at Hylton Aerodrome, was flying a F.E. 13 Serial no. C4896 on 3rd July, 1918 when the tip of the propeller blade touched the ground on landing turning the machine first on its nose & then on its back. Lieutenant Wald & Flight Cadet Horsington were both injured.



**Lieutenant Alexander Wald & the wreckage of his plane** (Photo courtesy of Dave Limmer)

Lieutenant Alexander Wald was involved in night flying on 11th August, 1918 from Ashington Aerodrome in a Royal Aircraft Factory F.E. 2b, Serial number 9793. He failed to recover flying position when spinning.

Lieutenant Alexander Wald died at 11.50 pm on 11th August, 1918 as a result of an aero accident.

A Court of Inquiry (No. 248444) was held – “*The cause of the accident was in our opinion the machine stalling and diving into the ground, the pilot being killed, when machine struck earth.*”

Newspaper item – Shields Daily News, Tynemouth, Northumberland, England – 14 August, 1918:

#### **KILLED WHILE NIGHT FLYING**

*An inquest was held in a Northumberland town yesterday on the body of Flight-Lieutenant Alexander Wald, an Australian.*

*P.C. Robert Tait stated that on Sunday night he saw signals from an aeroplane, which immediately afterwards crashed to the ground in a field. When he reached the spot the machine was burning fiercely.*

*Flight-Commander J. August Boret stated that, in his opinion, the airman, when descending, had misjudged the distance to the ground, and failed to recover himself. Deceased was an excellent pilot and had done a good deal of night flying.*

*The jury found Wald had been accidentally killed while night flying.*

A death for Alexander Wald, aged 25, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Morpeth, Northumberland, England.

Lieutenant Alexander Wald was buried on 16th August, 1918 in St. Andrew's & Jesmond Cemetery, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland, England – Plot number N. U. 261 and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Newspaper item – Newcastle Journal, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Northumberland, England - 17 August, 1918:

### **AUSTRALIAN AIRMAN'S FUNERAL**

*The remains of Lieut. Alexander Wald, M.C., of the Royal Air Force, who was accidentally killed whilst on flying duty on the 11th inst., were laid to rest with military honours at St. Andrew's Cemetery, Newcastle, yesterday. Deceased was the son of Mr A. Wald, of Largs, South Australia.*

*A service, held at the Jesmond Presbyterian Church, prior to the burial service, was conducted by the Rev. D. Fyffe.*

*The chief mourners were Mr and Mrs James Stewart, of Newcastle, and Mr and Miss Williams, Chester.*

*Amongst the floral tributes were wreaths from the N.C.O.'s and men of the R.A.F., "His English home with Mr and Mrs Stewart, 4 Govan Terrace, Newcastle," Bruce, Archie and Robin, sons of Mr W. A. Allan, Grosvenor Place; Mr and Mrs Allan and Sallie, his Australian friends in Chester; Mr and Mrs James Stewart, Newcastle; the Victorian League, Newcastle and District Branch; and his father and mother, and his captain and officers. Another wreath was sent by "A.G.," and "N.P.P." for his mother.*

*The coffin was carried on a gun-carriage, and the firing party and band (Bandmaster Elliott) were under the command of Lieut. H. Easton, R.A.F.*

*A large number of officers and men of the R.A.F. were in attendance.*

*The arrangements were in the hands of Mr W. Britain, of Messrs Bainbridge and Co.*

From The London Gazette – 16 August, 1918:

*Awarded the Military Cross*

*2nd Lt. Alexander Wald, R.F.C., Spec. Res.*

*For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He carried out a large number of night bomb raids on enemy headquarters, aerodromes and railways with great success. Many of these flights were carried out in bad weather and at very low altitudes. On one occasion, thought he had engine trouble and his radiator burst when he was over the enemy's lines, he continued his flight and bombed a railway station from 1,500 feet. He set a fine example of determination to his squadron.*

### **Military Cross**

The Military Cross (MC) is the third-level military decoration awarded to officers and (since 1993) other ranks of the British Armed Forces, and used to be awarded to officers of other Commonwealth countries.

The MC is granted in recognition of "an act or acts of exemplary gallantry during active operations against the enemy on land to all members, of any rank in Our Armed Forces".  
*(Information from Wikipedia)*





The Department of Defence, Australian Imperial Force wrote to The Secretary, Air Ministry, London on October, 1921 advising that ex No. 1759 Private Alexander Wald, 1st Division Headquarters had qualified by his service with the Australian Imperial Force for the 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal & that in consequence of his subsequent service with a commission in the Royal Flying Corps, the 1914/15 Star would be administered by the Department of Defence, Australia & the remaining medals by the Air Ministry, England. This information was confirmed by the Royal Air Force in January, 1922.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lieutenant Alexander Wald M.C., of 36th Sqdn., Royal Air Force. No family details are listed.

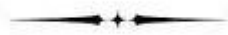
Lieutenant Alexander Wald is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



**Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial** *(Capital Photographer)*

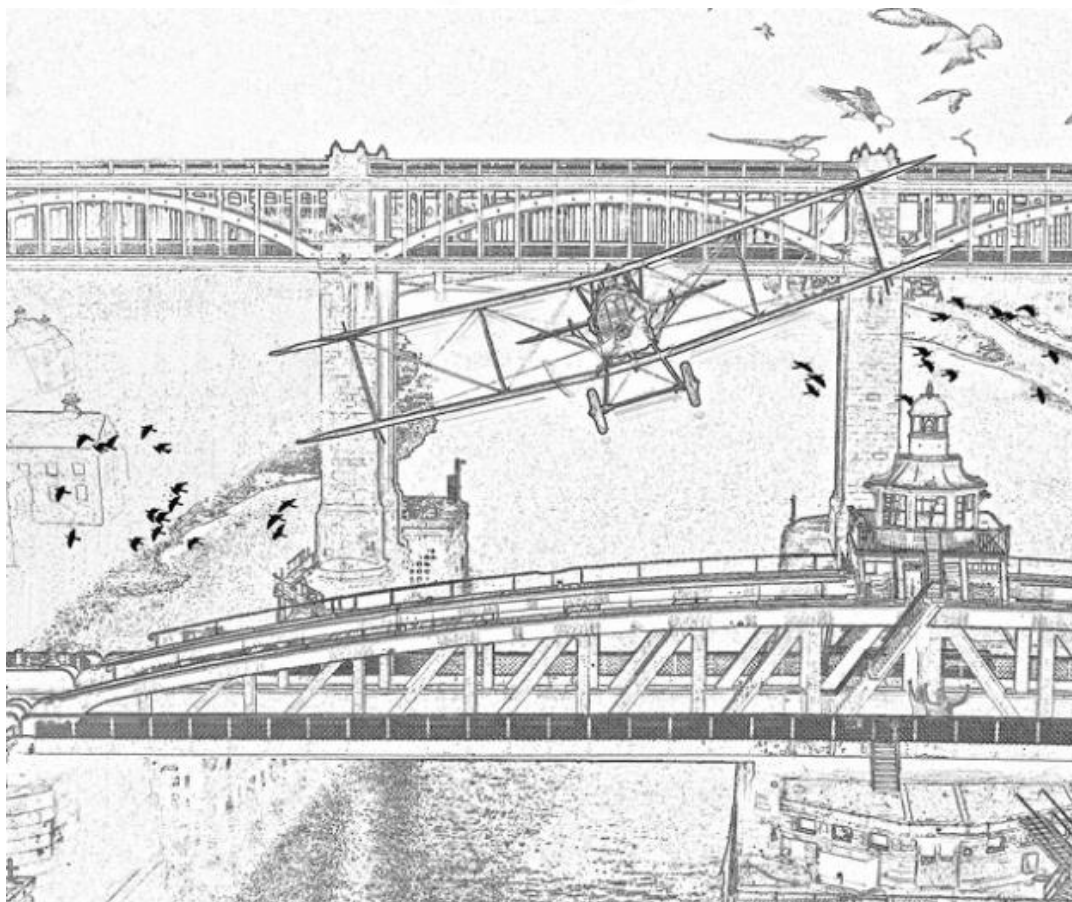
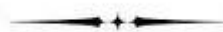
(47 pages of Lieutenant Alexander Wald's Australian Army Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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





Alexander Wald



Lieutenant Alexander Wald M.C.'s flight under the High Level Bridge on the 21st June 1918.

*This image hopefully captures the 'spirit' of his flight under the High Level Bridge.*

*(As depicted by David Pretswell & used with permission)*

The following information accompanying the above drawing has been used with permission of David Pretswell:

*Wald was a member of 36 Home Defence Squadron, based in the North East of England. Previously he had distinguished himself as a bomber pilot in France with 100 Squadron and was awarded the Military Cross for his gallantry.*

*Alec, an Australian from Largs Bay near Adelaide, had gained a reputation as being fearless and was given the nickname "Chimneypots".*

*Alec's diary logs that he flew under the Tyne Bridge on the 21st June 1918. At this time the "old Tyne bridge" had been demolished and the current "Tyne Bridge" had not yet been built.*

*Which of the bridges was known as the "Tyne Bridge" in 1918?*

*Trains carrying veterans returning from the Great War into Newcastle Central Station approached over the King Edward Bridge, giving a welcoming view of the High Level Bridge and the Swing Bridge.*

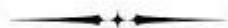
*Emotionally my Grandfather told of how "it was good to see the Tyne Bridge again," on his return from the front. Which bridge was it? Surely an aircraft could not be flown under the Swing Bridge! ... or could it?*

*During his flying career Alec had several crashes that he luckily survived.*

*Alec had a girlfriend in Jesmond and had been known to perform aerial stunts over her house.*

*Sadly his luck ran out in August 1918, while on a night time patrol from Ashington Aerodrome, he was seen to lose control and crash into the ground and was killed.*

*He is buried in a private grave in St Andrew's Cemetery, West Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, England.*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **NEWS ABOUT SOLDIERS**

Mr A. Wald, of Hannay Street, Largs, has received a cable that his son, Lieutenant A. Wald, M.C., of the Royal Air Forces, has been injured while flying England.

*(The Mail, Adelaide, South Australia – 13 July, 1918)*

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### **MORE AEROPLANE ACCIDENTS**

A Northumberland Coroner's jury decided that the death of Flight Lieutenant Alent Wald, an Australian, was due to an accident while night flying. Experts considered that the airman misjudged the distance in descending, and the machine crashed to earth, the petrol tanks taking fire, Wald was dead when extricated.

*(Birmingham Daily Post, Birmingham, Warwickshire, England – 14 August, 1918)*

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### **Roll of Honour**

WALD – Killed accidentally on 11th inst., while on flying duty, aged 25, Lieut. Alex. Wald, M.C., R.A.F., son of Mr A. Wald, Largs, South Australia. Interment to take place on Friday, the 16th Inst., at St. Andrews's Cemetery, North Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne, following upon service at 2.30 pm in Jesmond Presbyterian Church, Burdon Terrace. Friends will please accept this intimation and invitation.

*(Newcastle Journal, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Northumberland, England – 15 August, 1918 & 16 August, 1918)*



## FOR KING AND COUNTRY

WALD – Killed accidentally on the 11th August, while on night flying duty, Lieutenant Alexander Wald, M.C., Royal Air Force, beloved son of Alexander and Esther Wald, Largs, aged 25. Interred at St. Andrew's Cemetery, Newcastle-on-Tyne, England. Four years' service.

(*The Journal*, Adelaide, South Australia – 7 November, 1918)

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## DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

WALD – Aged 25, killed accidentally on 11th August while on night-flying duty, Lieutenant Alexander Wald, M.C., Royal Air Force, beloved son of Alexander and Esther Wald, Largs. Interred at St. Andrew's Cemetery, Newcastle-on-Tyne, England. Four years' service.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 7 November, 1918) & (*Observer*, Adelaide, South Australia – 9 November, 1918)

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## TRAGIC COINCIDENCE

By a tragic coincidence the award of the Military Cross to a flying officer who, although an Australian, had resided at Newcastle, and had many friends in the city, was announced in *The London Gazette* on the day he was buried in Newcastle, having been accidentally killed a few days ago (wrote *The North Mail* (England) of August 17). The dead hero is Lieut. Alexander Wald, the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Wald, Largs, South Australia, and he had made his home in England with Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, at 4 Gowan terrace, Newcastle. The funeral, at St. Andrew's Cemetery, on August 16, was preceded by a service in the Jesmond Presbyterian Church, and full military honours were accorded the deceased officer, whilst a large number of officers and men of the Royal Air Force attended. The Military Cross, *The Gazette* states, had been awarded to Lieut. Wald for the fine example of determination he set to his squadron in his fights. He carried out a large number of night bombing raids on enemy headquarters, aerodromes, and railways with great success. Many of these flights were made in bad weather and at very low altitudes. On one occasion, although he had engine trouble and his radiator burst when he was over the enemy's line, he continued his flight, and bombed a railway station from 1,500 ft.

(*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 7 November, 1918)

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## In Memoriam

WALD – In memory of Lieut. Alexander Wald, M.C., Royal Air Force, killed while on duty in England, August 11, 1918 (four years' service), second beloved son of Mr and Mrs A. Wald, Largs. "He nobly did his duty."

(*The Mail*, Adelaide, South Australia – 9 August, 1919) & (*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia - 11 August, 1919)

& (*Observer*, Adelaide, South Australia – 16 August, 1919)

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## MILITARY HONOURS

### DECORATIONS AND MEDALS

On Monday, at 2.30 pm, at Keswick Barracks, Brigadier-General R. L. Leane will present decorations and medals awarded during the war to officers and other ranks of the A.I.F. Following is the list of recipients:-

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Military Crosses to Deceased Officers - .... Second Lieutenant A. Wald, Royal Flying Corps (by father, Mr A. Wald)

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(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 1 November, 1919)

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## **HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR**

WALD – In memory of Lieutenant Alexander Wald, Royal Air Force, killed in England, August 11, 1918, beloved son of A. and E. M. Wald, Largs.

*(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 14 August, 1920)*

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## **IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE**

WALD – Alexander Wald, M.C., lieutenant Royal Air Force, killed while on duty on the 11th August, 1918, at Ashington Aerodrome, England, beloved son of A. and E. M. Wald, Largs.

*(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 11 August, 1921) & (The Mail, Adelaide, South Australia – 13 August, 1921) & (Observer, Adelaide, South Australia – 13 August, 1921)*

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## **IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE**

WALD – In loving memory of Alexander Wald, M.C., lieutenant Royal Air Force, son of A. and E. M. Wald, Hannay street, Largs, accidentally killed Ashington Aerodrome, England, on the 11th August, 1918. – Dorothea Wald.

*(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 11 August, 1922) & (Observer, Adelaide, South Australia – 19 August, 1922)*

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## **HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR**

WALD – In loving memory of Alexander Wald, M.C., lieutenant Royal Air Force, son of A. and E. M. Wald, Hannay street, Largs, accidentally killed Ashington Aerodrome, England, on the 11th August, 1918.

*(The Express and Telegraph, Adelaide, South Australia – 11 August, 1922)*

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## **HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR**

WALD – In loving memory of Alexander Wald, M.C., Lieutenant Royal Air Force, son of A. and E. M. Wald, Hannay street, Largs, accidentally killed Ashington Aerodrome, England, on August 11, 1918.

*(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 18 August, 1923)*

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## **DEATHS**

Alexander Wald, M.C., Lieutenant Royal Air Force, killed while on duty, Ashington Aerodrome, England, August 11, 1918. Beloved son of A. and E. M. Wald, Largs.

*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 11 August, 1924) & (Observer, Adelaide, South Australia – 16 August, 1924) & (Saturday Journal, Adelaide, South Australia – 16 August, 1924) & (Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 16 August, 1924)*

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*Note – Esther Margaret Wald, mother of the late Lieutenant Alexander Wald, died on 6th March, 1925. Alexander Wald, father of the late Lieutenant Alexander Wald, died on 17th April, 1925.*

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## **St. Andrew's & Jesmond Cemetery, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland, England**

St. Andrew's and Jesmond Cemetery, Newcastle-upon-Tyne contains 229 Commonwealth War Graves - 188 First World War burials, about half of them in a war graves plot. The 41 Second World War burials are scattered throughout the cemetery. There are also 11 Norwegian seamen buried in the cemetery; their graves are grouped together in Section P.



**St. Andrew's & Jesmond Cemetery, Newcastle Upon Tyne** *(Photo from CWGC)*





**St. Andrews & Jesmond Cemetery, Newcastle Upon Tyne** *(Photos by LostAncestors – Find a Grave)*





Photo of Lieutenant Alexander Wald's Private Headstone in St. Andrews & Jesmond Cemetery, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland, England.





*In Memory Of*

*Lieut. ALEX. WALD*

*M.C. R.A.F.*

*Of Largs Bay, South Australia*

*Killed At Ashington Aerodrome*

*11TH August 1918. Aged 25.*