

**Stourbridge Cemetery,
Stourbridge, West Midlands, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1346 SERJEANT

A. A. WOOD D.C.M. M.M.

19TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

14TH DECEMBER, 1916 Age 22

Memory Sweet Memory

Alfred Arthur WOOD

Alfred Arthur Wood was born at Bathurst, New South Wales on 29th October, 1894 to parents George Walter & Sarah Ann Wood (nee Chilvers). He was baptised at All Saints Cathedral, Bathurst, New South Wales on 5th December, 1894.

Alfred Arthur Wood attended Liverpool Public School, Sydney, NSW.

Alfred Arthur Wood was a 20 year old, single, Carpenter from Marion Street, Auburn, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 19th February, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1346 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Sarah Wood, Merrigang Street, Bowral, NSW. Arthur Wood stated on his Attestation Papers that he been an apprentice for 5 years with Clyde Eng____, Clyde, Sydney, NSW. He also stated he had served with 43rd Werriwa Infantry & had left to enlist.

Private Alfred Arthur Wood was posted to “D” Company, 19th Battalion on 18th February, 1915. He was promoted to Sergeant on 1st May, 1915.

Private (as listed on Embarkation Roll) Alfred Arthur Wood embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 25th June, 1915 with the 5th Infantry Brigade, 19th Infantry Battalion “D” Company.

Sergeant Alfred Arthur Wood proceeded to join M. E. F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli on 16th August, 1915.

Sergeant Alfred Arthur Wood was wounded at Gallipoli Peninsula on 2nd September, 1915. He was admitted to 16th Casualty Clearing Station on 3rd September, 1915 with shrapnel wound/s to wrist. He was transferred on Hospital Ship *Nile* on 8th September, 1915 to Mudros & admitted to Hospital at Malta. Sergeant Wood embarked from Malta *Bornu* on 15th November, 1915 as he was classed as fit for Active Service.

19th Battalion

The 19th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. A large number of the 19th's original recruits had already served with the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) in the operations to capture German New Guinea in 1914. The 19th left Australia in late June, trained in Egypt from late July until mid-August, and on 19 August landed at ANZAC Cove.

At Gallipoli the Battalion participated in the last action of the August Offensive ' the attack on Hill 60 ' before settling into defensive routine in the trenches. From mid-September, until its withdrawal from the peninsula on the night of 19 December, the 19th Battalion was responsible for the defence of Pope's Hill.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Sergeant Alfred Arthur Wood returned to duty with 19th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 8th January, 1916.

Sergeant Alfred Arthur Wood proceeded from Alexandria on 20th March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 27th March, 1916.

Sergeant Alfred Arthur Wood was written up on 5th April, 1916 at Boeseghen: “*Conduct to the prejudice of good order & military discipline in that when out of camp he was improperly dressed.*” Sergeant Wood was reprimanded.

Sergeant Alfred Arthur Wood was recommended for the Military Medal on 18th June, 1916 by C. O. 19th Battalion: “*At Gallipoli, early in September, 1915, when in charge of a post only 15 yards from enemy trenches he kept enemy bombers from interfering with the work of consolidation of trench.*”

Sergeant Alfred Arthur Wood was awarded the Military Medal. (*London Gazette* – 27 October 1916 - page 10488) & (*Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* – 17 April 1917 – page 920)

Military Medal

The Military Medal (MM) was a military decoration awarded to personnel of the British Army and other arms of the armed forces, and to personnel of other Commonwealth countries, below commissioned rank, for bravery in battle on land. The award was established in 1916, with retrospective application to 1914, and was awarded to other ranks for "acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire". (*Wikipedia*)



Military Medal (MM)

Sergeant Alfred Wood, 1346, 19th Battalion was recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal on 26th & 28th August, 1916 by G. O.C., 5th Australian Infantry Brigade: *"For his devotion to duty at all times both at GALLIPOLI and in FRANCE, and particularly for his coolness and presence of mind on 25th August, 1916 at POZIERES, France, when he, at great personal risk extinguished a fire in a bomb store and by his promptitude saved many lives as well as large quantities of stores.*

At about 4.35 pm on 25th August 1916, the enemy heavily shelled the 5th Aust. Infantry Brigade and 19th Battalion Dumps in SUNKEN ROAD, S.E. of POZIERES, and set on fire a stack of boxes containing detonated Mills Bombs in the former dump. Sergeant WOOD with great promptitude and presence of mind at once rushed to the spot with a shovel and threw earth over the flames until they were extinguished. This took him at least 5 minutes, the whole of which time he was exposed to hostile shell fire, several shells falling close around him. It is owing to the courage and presence of mind of this N.C.O. that casualties and damage to stores were avoided as there was a considerable number of men around the Dump at the time, and it contained large quantities of R.R. material, 8.A.A. and Bombs. Sergeant WOOD has at all times both at GALLIPOLI and in FRANCE performed his duties with untiring energy and an apparent disregard for his own safety."

Sergeant Alfred Arthur Wood was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal *"for conspicuous and consistent gallantry & devotion to duty. On two occasions he extinguished fires in bomb stores at great personal risk & under heavy shell fire."* (*London Gazette* – 26 September 1916 - page 9447) & (*Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* – 14 December 1916 – page 3389)

Distinguished Conduct Medal

The Distinguished Conduct Medal (D.C.M.) was established as a decoration for gallantry in the field by other ranks of the British Army. It is the oldest British award for gallantry and was a second level military decoration, ranking below the Victoria Cross until its discontinuation in 1993 when it was replaced by the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross. The medal was also awarded to non-commissioned military personnel of the Commonwealth.

During the First World War, concern arose that the high number of medals being awarded would devalue the medal's prestige. The Military Medal was therefore instituted on 25 March 1916 as an alternative and lower award, with the Distinguished Conduct Medal reserved for more exceptional acts of bravery. (*Wikipedia*)



Distinguished Conduct Medal (D.C.M.)

Sergeant Alfred Arthur Wood was to be Temporary Company Sergeant Major from 20th September, 1916, vice Arnold.

Temporary Sergeant Major Alfred Arthur Wood was wounded in action in France on 14th November, 1916. He reverted to the rank of Sergeant on being evacuated & was admitted to 38th Casualty Clearing Station on 15th November, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to left shoulder & right leg. Sergeant Wood was transferred to Ambulance Train then admitted to No. 1 Australian General Hospital at Rouen, France on 16th November, 1916. He embarked for England from Havre on 20th November, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Formosa*.

19th Battalion

After further training in Egypt, the 19th Battalion proceeded to France. It took part in its first major offensive around Pozieres between late July and the end of August 1916. After a spell in a quieter sector of the front in Belgium, the 2nd Division, which included the 5th Brigade, came south again in October. The 19th Battalion attacked near Flers between 14 and 16 November, in conditions that Charles Bean described as the worst ever encountered by the AIF.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 19th Battalion

14th November, 1916 – France N. Flers:

6.45 am – Attack by Composite 5th Brigade 19th Battn 25th & 26th Battalions 7th Brigade and by British 149t Brigade on GIRD TRENCHES N. of EAUCORT L'ABBAYE and FLERS.

19th Battn went into action H51 all ranks.

19th Battn & part of 5th Northumberland Fusiliers took & consolidated part of Enemy's first line. Attacks of 25th & 26th Battalions on the Right & of British on left of 5.N.F. failed. Held captured line until relieved by 28th Battalion 7th Brigade at Midnight 15/16.

19th Battalion Casualties – 12 Officers 369 O.R.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Sergeant Alfred Arthur Wood was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital, England on 21st November, 1916 with G.S.W. to Arm & Right Leg.

Sergeant Alfred Arthur Wood died at 8.50 pm *(as per notification to A.I.F. Records, London, however the Morning State of Sick – form A.27 recorded the time as 8.40 pm)* on 14th December, 1916 at 1st Southern General Hospital, Stourbridge, England from wounds received in action in France – shrapnel wounds to left shoulder & right leg. Cause of death as listed by Registrar & Assistant Administrator of 1st Southern General Hospital, Stourbridge was “*Wounds of knee & shoulder. Haemorrhoea.*”

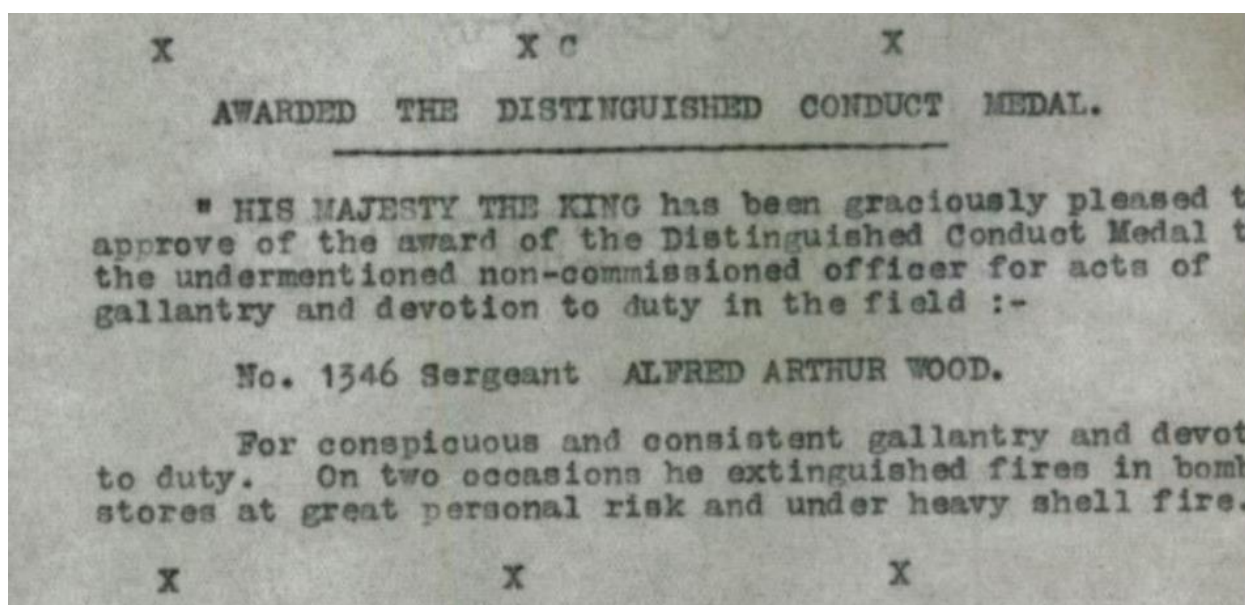
A death for Alfred A. Wood, aged 22, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Stourbridge, Worcestershire, England.

Sergeant Alfred Arthur Wood was buried on 19th December, 1916 in Stourbridge Cemetery, Stourbridge, West Midlands, England – Plot number C. 326 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

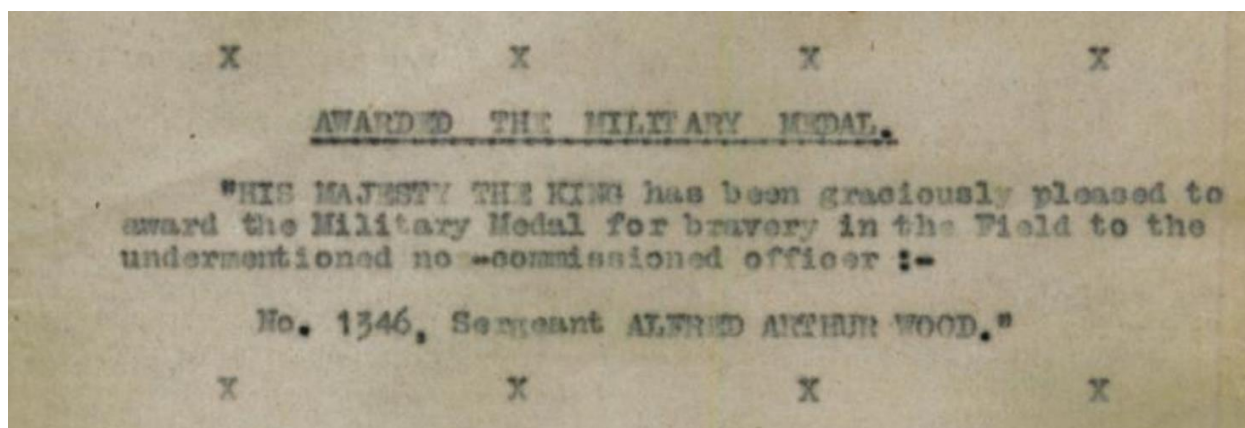
The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Sergeant Alfred Arthur Wood contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives to obtain particulars of his death & burial. Matron Cotham, 1st Southern General Hospital, Stourbridge Section, England wrote the following letter: “*In reply to your letter, I am very pleased to comply with your request and send the following particulars of the death and burial of 1346 Company Sergeant Major Wood, 19th Batt. A.I.F. He was admitted on the 21st November, 1916 suffering from severe wounds in the left shoulder and right leg.*”

The wounds were very septic and complications set in. He had severe haemorrhage from the shoulder more than once. He died on the 14th December. Two Australians were at his bed-side when he died – one of them – Driver Reece, has I believe written to his relatives and given them many particulars. Sgt. Major Wood was buried with full Military Honours in the Stourbridge Cemetery, and all Australians able to go were present at the funeral. Three wreaths were on the coffin, one from his Australian connections, the other from the members of the Territorial Force Training Staff and the third from the Woman Clerks of the Hospital. Sgt. Major Wood had won the respect of all with whom he came in contact during his stay here and his death was a great sorrow to all. He was a splendid example of courage and patience and a hero of whom Australia might well be proud. Only aged 22 he had won the D.C.M. and the Military Cross. His Australian comrades have collected among themselves for a wooden cross, similar to those in France, which they have designed themselves. The order is now in hand – when erected it is intended to send a photograph to his friends. His father has been to Stourbridge and saw the sister of the ward where his boy was nursed. I believe he also went to the cemetery. I hope these few particulars will be a comfort and pleasure – though a sad one – to his people. We have been glad to honour so fine a character.”

Mrs Sarah Wood, Mill Road, Liverpool, New South Wales, was advised by Base Records on 24th January, 1917 that her son, the late No. 1346 Sergeant A. A. Wood, 19th Battalion had been awarded the Military Medal. A copy of extract from Second Supplement No. 29794 to the *London Gazette* for 20th October, 1916 was forwarded.



Mrs Sarah Wood, Mill Road, Liverpool, New South Wales, was advised by Base Records on 25th April, 1917 that her son, the late No. 1346 Sergeant A. A. Wood, 19th Battalion had been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. A copy of extract from First Supplement No. 29765 to the *London Gazette* for 26th September, 1916 was also forwarded.



Sergeant Alfred Arthur Wood was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sergeant Wood's father – Mr G. W. Wood, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent April, 1922).

Hubert John Wood, 20 Alice St., Auburn, NSW applied for the Gallipoli Medallion on 8th August, 1967 in respect of Soldier Alfred Arthur Wood, 1346, 19th Battalion & declared that he was the eldest living brother.

Corporal H. J. Wood, M.M., 17th Battalion, of St. Quentin, 20 Alice St., Auburn, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 23rd August, 1967 stating *"Last April I made a request that my brother's Anzac Commemorative Medal be forwarded to the above address as I am the next of kin. I also have all his other Medals such as the D.C.M. M.M. 1914 Star & overseas Service Medals. My brother was a Sergeant Major in the 19th Battalion was wounded on _____ & died of wounds received in France in Stourbridge hospital in England. I wish to state that all the above details were given on a special form which I filled in over four months ago but so far I haven't had any acknowledgement of my application but I hope to hear soon in the future."* The letter was stamped by Army Registry Canberra as being "Received" on 25th August, 1967 & stamped by Army Records on _ September, 1967.

Mr G. W. Wood, Membrey St, Granville, NSW was sent the following letter on 4th June, 1925 by Base Records: *"You will doubtless be interested to learn that in the occasion of the recent Anzac Day pilgrimage to the graves of Australian soldiers buried in the United Kingdom, the cemetery at Stourbridge, Worcestershire, wherein the remains of your son, the late No. 1346 Warrant Officer A. A. Wood, D.C.M., M.M., 19th Btn, and other members of the Force are interred was again visited by Mr L. M. Instone, of "Elmdene", Woodfield Avenue, Penn. Wolverhampton, England. The thanks of the Department have been conveyed to Mr Instone for this further evidence of his continued interest in and attention to the graves of our fallen soldiers, and it is thought you may desire to personally express your appreciation of his kindness."*

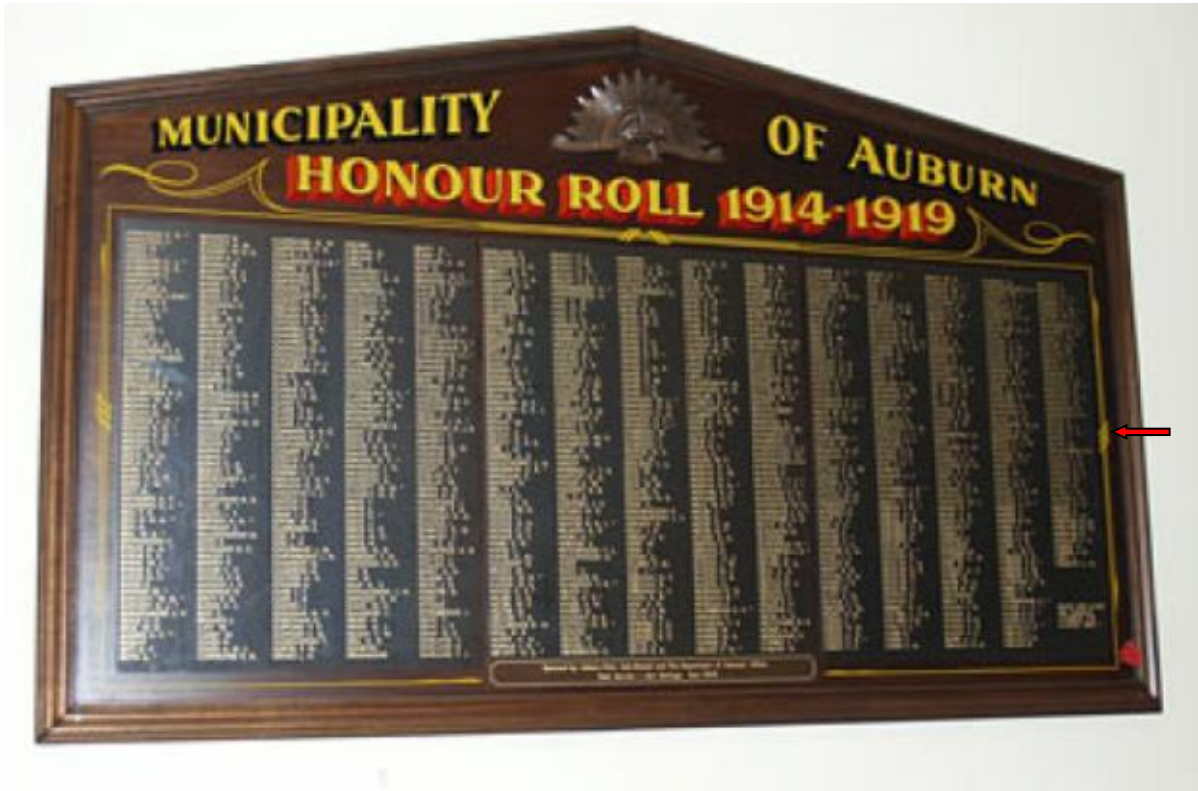
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant Alfred Arthur Wood – service number 1346, aged 22, of 19th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of George Walter & Sara Ann Wood, of 10 Membrey St., Granville, New South Wales.

Sergeant A. A. Wood is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 90.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. A. Wood is remembered on the Municipality of Auburn Honour Roll 1914-1919, located in Auburn RSL Sub-Branch, 33 Northumberland Road, Auburn, Sydney, NSW.



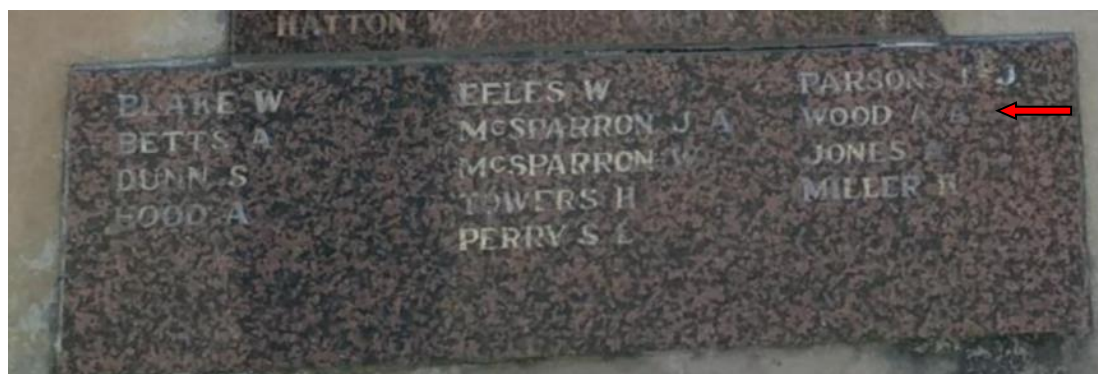
Municipality of Auburn Honour Roll 1914-1919 (Photos from War Memorials Register NSW)



A. A. Wood is remembered on the Auburn War Memorial, located in Auburn Memorial Park, Rawson Street & Station Road, Auburn, Sydney, NSW.



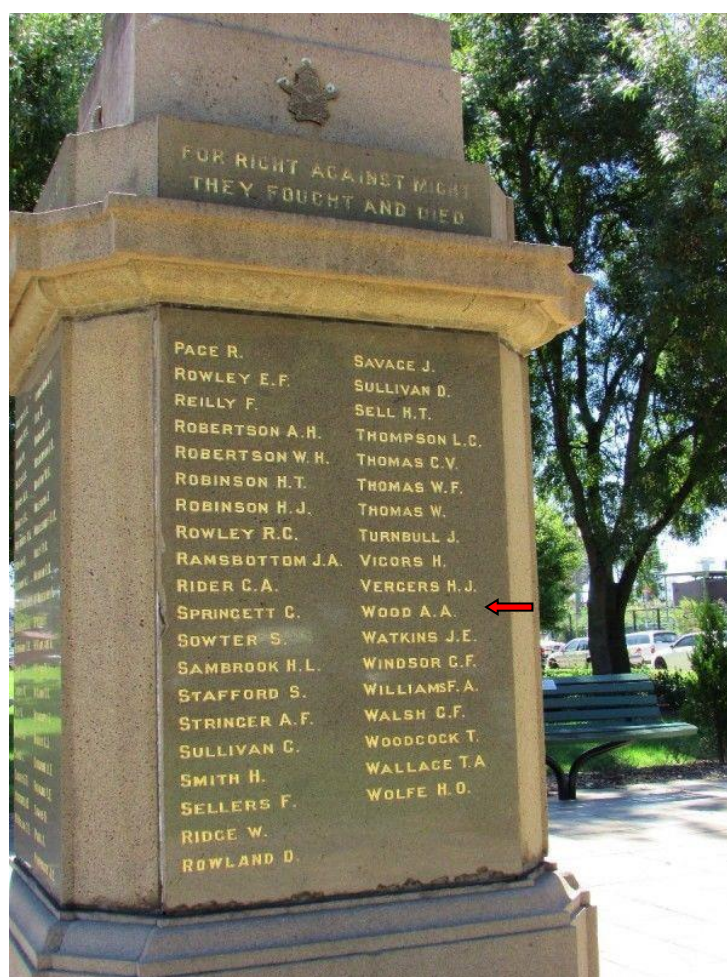
Auburn War Memorial (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride)



A. A. Wood is remembered on the Granville War Memorial, located in Granville Soldiers Memorial Park, Memorial Drive, Granville, Sydney, NSW.



Granville War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)



(51 pages of Sergeant Alfred Arthur Wood's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

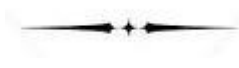
Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Connected to Sergeant Alfred Arthur Wood:

Older brother: Corporal Hubert J. Wood, 2278 – Enlisted 23rd July, 1915 as a 22 year old Letter Carrier. Embarked from Sydney, NSW on 30th September, 1915 with 17th Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements. Awarded Military Medal M.M. Returned to Australia 9th March, 1919.

Father – Private George Wood – also enlisted.



Alfred Arthur Wood



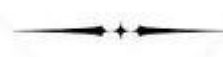
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H06112

Alfred Arthur Wood



Alfred Arthur Wood



Newspaper Notices

N.S.W. HONOR ROLL



**SERGEANT A. A.
WOOD.**
19th Battalion,
of Liverpool and
Bowral, wounded.

(*Evening News*, Sydney, NSW – 8 October, 1915)

MILITARY AWARDS

SERGEANT A. A. WOOD

Amongst the names in the latest list of honoured Australians is that of Sergeant A. A. Wood, of Liverpool, who has won the D.C.M. for bravery displayed on the battlefield in France. The young soldier at great risk extinguished fires in the bomb stores, thereby saving hundreds of lives. Sergeant Wood sailed for the front on June 25 of last year, and took part in the battle of Suvla, where he was wounded and invalided to Malta. He rejoined his Battalion in Egypt just after the evacuation, and left shortly afterwards for France, where he has seen heavy fighting. Before the battle in which he won distinction he was recommended for a commission.

(*The Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, NSW – 29 September, 1916)

Sergt. A. A. Wood

D.C.M.

FIRST BATHURSTIAN HONORED

FATHER NOW IN BATHURST CAMP

The first Bathurstian to win distinction on the battlefield in the present European upheaval is Sergeant A. A. Wood, whose name appears in the last list of military awards. He won a D.C.M., having at great risk extinguished fires in a bomb store, thereby saving hundreds of lives.

Sergeant Wood sailed for the front on June 25 of last year, and took part in the battle of Suvla, where he was wounded and invalided to Malta. He rejoined his Battalion in Egypt just after the evacuation, and left shortly afterwards for France, where he has seen heavy fighting. Before the battle in which he won distinction he was recommended for a commission.

He also has a brother at the front, while his father. Private George Wood, is at present in 'B' Company of the 53rd Battalion at the Bathurst Camp.

Father and sons are all well known in Bathurst, Mr. Wood, senior, having at one time been employed at the Municipal Gasworks. Not contented with seeing his sons doing their duty, the father sacrificed a lucrative position with the Newcastle Gas Company in order to enlist.

(National Advocate, Bathurst, NSW – 2 October, 1916)

Millthorpe News

SERGT. A. A. WOOD, D.C.M.

Sergeant A. A. Wood, who is a nephew of Mr J. Chilvers, of Millthorpe and a son of Private George Wood, of Bathurst, has been placed on the list of military awards, to receive the distinguished conduct medal for services rendered at the front. He is the first Bathurst soldier to be so honoured. He risked his life to save hundreds by extinguishing a fire in a bomb store. Sergeant Wood fought at the battle of Suvla, and is now on service in France, where he has seen some very severe fighting. His father is to sail in a few days for the front.

(Leader, Orange, NSW – 4 October, 1916)

SERGT. A. A. WOOD, D.C.M.

BATHURST, Wednesday

Another Bathurst boy has won distinction at the front, Sergeant A. A. Wood, having been awarded the D.C.M. for extinguishing a fire in a bomb store, and this saving many lives. Sergeant Wood took part in the Gallipoli campaign, and after being wounded was taken to Malta. He later left for France. Just before winning the distinction which is now officially notified, he was recommended for a commission. Sergeant Wood has a brother at the front, and his father is now in camp in Bathurst.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 5 October, 1916)

HEROES ALL



Sergeant A. A. Woods,
awarded D.C.M.

(*The Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, NSW – 5 October, 1916)

MEN WHO FELL

KILLED

Sergeant-Major A. A. Wood, D.C.M. – Mrs George Wood, of Mill Road, Liverpool, received news on Tuesday that, her son, Sergeant-Major A. A. Wood, D.C.M., recently reported wounded, died on December 14 last at the General Hospital, Lowbridge, England, aged 22 years. Sergeant-Major Wood was engaged as a railway carriage builder at the Clyde Engineering Works, Granville, and resided at Liverpool with his parents. A few months ago he was awarded the D.C.M. for conspicuous gallantry in France. His father, Private George Wood, his brother, Private Bert Wood, and brother-in-law, Walter Wood, are now at the front.

(*The Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, NSW – 21 December, 1916)

WAR CASUALTIES

DIED OF WOUNDS

SERGEANT-MAJOR A. A. WOODS, D.C.M. Sergeant-major Alfred Arthur Woods, D.C.M., succumbed to wounds on December 14. Sergeant-major Woods was wounded in the Gallipoli campaign, and a few months ago was awarded the D.C.M. for conspicuous gallantry in France, where he was again wounded. Prior to enlisting, he was a railway carriage builder, employed at the Clyde Engineering Works, Granville. His father, brother, and brother-in-law are at the front. His father was until recently manager of the Yass Municipal Gas Works.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 23 December, 1916)

Our Boys on the Battle-Fields of France

Where Many of Our Brave Fighters Have Fallen



DEATH OF SERGEANT A. A. WOOD, D.C.M.

The Rev. H. J. Noble, rector of St. Luke's, Liverpool, conveyed the sad intelligence to Mrs. Geo. Wood, Mill-road, Liverpool, on Tuesday, that her gallant son, Sergeant, Alfred A. Wood, D.C.M., had succumbed to wounds. Sergeant Wood was a member of the Star of Liverpool Lodge Oddfellows, and his name is inscribed on the honor roll in Liverpool Town Hall. He is the fourth surviving son of Mr. G. Wood (late manager of Liverpool Gasworks). Word was previously received by the parents that their son had been wounded on 8th September, 1915, and was in Malta Hospital. He left Sydney on 25th June, 1915, and was attached to D Company 19th Battalion. Sergeant Wood was a carriage builder by trade, and was for some years employed at Clyde works. The late Sergeant Alfred Wood gained the D.C.M. for twice extinguishing fires in bomb stores at great risk to his own life. He had a brother (Bert) and a cousin (Walter Wood) with him in France, and only a few weeks ago his father, who, for many years was manager of the Liverpool Municipal Gas works, was given a great send-off by his Liverpool friends. He also has enlisted, though getting on in years, his great desire being to be with his boys at the front. The soldier with the D.C.M. took part in the Gallipoli campaign and was wounded, and was amongst the first to go to France from Egypt. Sergeant Wood, when writing home last, stated that he was about to go into the trenches as acting lieutenant, and was expecting to see heavy fighting. A coincidence was that the late Corporal S. F. Chippindale, D.C.M., and Sergeant Wood were fast friends for many years, and probably won their distinctions at the same time. Official intimation was received less than a fortnight ago that he had received a gun shot wound on the arm and left leg in recent fighting, and was an inmate of the First Southern General Hospital, Westminster, London.

(The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Parramatta, NSW – 23 December, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

WOOD – Died of wounds, December 14, Sergeant-major Alfred Arthur Wood, D.C.M., aged 21 years, beloved nephew of Private S. H. Pitt (on active service) and Mrs Pitt, Caversham, Wood-street, Randwick.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 1 January, 1917)

A Liverpool Hero

TWIC DECORATED

Liverpool has every reason to be proud of having been represented in the great war by the late Company Sergeant-Major A. A. Wood, who, besides winning the D.C.M. (previously mentioned in these columns) was decorated with the Military Medal a few days before he received his fatal wounds. The latter honor was for meritorious work during the big push at the battle of Pozieres. He was able to write home on November 25 from Stourbridge Hospital in England and was evidently in good spirits, for he had every confidence that he would recover from his wounds. Some complications must have ensued, as the bravo hero passed away on 14th December. The following excerpt is taken from the letter referred to: — "I have again had the bad luck to get wounded, this time in two places. The battalion was waiting for the order to 'hop over,' and I was observing for the Germans' second line of trenches when I got hit in the left shoulder. One of my boys was helping me to the dressing station when I was hit in the right leg. A few minutes later the chap helping me was shot through the knee and dropped. I can tell you it was 'somme' lively. Anyway, I managed to get to the station and embarked straight away for England. The bone of my shoulder is fractured and I find it awkward to write in bed. Do not worry about me, as I soon will be O.K. and am looking forward to having my Christmas dinner in 'Blighty.' (This is a soldier's word for England.)

(The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Parramatta, NSW – 20 January, 1917)



Sergt.-Major A. A. Wood, D.C.M.,
OF Liverpool, N.S.W., who has died of wounds received in France. He was also wounded at Gallipoli.

(Sydney Mail, NSW – 31 January, 1917)

AUSTRALIAN HEROES KILLED IN FRANCE



(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 21 February, 1917)

Sgt. Major A. A. Wood is remembered on his parents' headstone, located in Liverpool Pioneer Memorial Park, Campbell Drive & Macquarie Street, Liverpool, Sydney, New South Wales.



Liverpool Pioneer Memorial Park (Photo courtesy Liverpool City Council)



Wood Family Headstone (Photo from Find a Grave – Elmes – 2014)

*My Dear Husband
& Our Father*
GEORGE W. WOOD
*Died 11th Oct. 1922
Aged 60 Years*

Also Sgt. Major
A.A. WOOD, D.C.M., M.M.
*19TH Batt. A.I.F.
Son Of The Above*
Died of Wounds Stourbridge
England 14TH Dec. 1916
Aged 22 Years

Our Dear Mother
SARAH ANN WOOD
Died 15TH July, 1933
Aged 75 Years



Wood Family Headstone (Photo from Find a Grave – Brian Harvey – 2019)

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)

Serjeant A. A. Wood does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Memory Sweet Memory

Stourbridge Cemetery, Stourbridge, West Midlands, England

The cemetery contains 47 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war, (including those of 13 Australian soldiers, near which a Cenotaph is placed); and a War Cross is erected on the main roadway close to the entrance. The 1st Southern General Hospital had a Section in the Stourbridge Infirmary.

Most of the First World War burials are scattered but 17 form a small plot. The cemetery also contains 20 scattered burials of the Second World War and 1 Non World War burial here. *(Information from CWGC)*



(Photo by cookie – Find a Grave)



Australian Plot *(Photo courtesy of Margaret Carter)*

Stourbridge Cemetery Overseas Soldiers Sarcophagus

Adjacent to the Plot where the 13 Australian WW1 War Graves are located sits a Sarcophagus Memorial (listed by CWGC above as a Cenotaph) which reads:

*"In Grateful Memory Of Our Comrades From
Overseas Who Died In The Stourbridge Military
Hospital During The Great War 1914-19."*

The names of the 13 Australians are listed on the Plaque along with a Soldier from Canadian Contingent & 2 Soldiers from U.S.A.



Stourbridge Cemetery Overseas Soldiers Sarcophagus/Memorial

(Photos courtesy of Peter Bennett)



Arrow showing the Plot where Australian WW1 War Graves are located (Photos courtesy of Margaret Carter)



Photo of Serjeant A. A. Wood's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Stourbridge Cemetery, Stourbridge, West Midlands, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett – Private Collection)



Australian Plot *(Photo courtesy of Margaret Carter)*