



# Codford War Graves

Lest we Forget

## World War I



**3587 PRIVATE A.POLLOCK**

**57TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**21ST FEBRUARY, 1919**

Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte A. Pollock is located in Main Third Row (Right hand side) Grave Plot # 48 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)

(CWGC Reference - Grave # 91 )

Alexander Pollock was born in 1893 in Derby, near the town of Bridgewater, Bendigo, Victoria. He was a 22 year old, single Labourer from Derby, Bridgewater, Bendigo, Victoria when he enlisted on 12<sup>th</sup> July, 1915 with the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 3587 & his religion was Church of England \*(as shown on his Attestation Papers but other forms in his Service Record file state Church of Christ, including the Burial Report). His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Annie Pollock of Derby, Bridgewater, Bendigo, Victoria.

He embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Demosthenes* (A64) on 29<sup>th</sup> December, 1915 & disembarked at Tel el Kebir, Egypt on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 1916.

Pte Pollock embarked from Alexandria, Egypt on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 1916 and disembarked at Marseilles, France on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 1916.

Alexander's next entry on his "Service and Casualty Form" is dated 6<sup>th</sup> March, 1918, where he has "Rejoined ex leave". Pte Pollock was then detached to 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade Headquarters for duty on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 1918. He rejoined 57<sup>th</sup> Battalion Unit in July, 1918.

Pte Pollock was on leave to U.K. from 26<sup>th</sup> December, 1918 to 9<sup>th</sup> January, 1919. He rejoined to Base Depot in January, 1919. He was located at Havre on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 1919 & transferred back to England at Weymouth, 2<sup>nd</sup> Training Brigade on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1919.

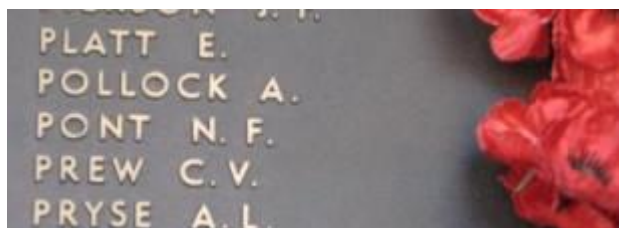
Alexander was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1919 originally with influenza & was reported to be Seriously Ill. He died at 7.45 p.m. on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 1919 at the No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital of Lobar Pneumonia.

A death for Alexander Pollock, aged 26, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

From the burial report of Alexander – he was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery Codford, Grave no. 91 on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 1919. Coffin was Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun- Carriage preceded by a Firing Party and Band 2<sup>nd</sup> Training Brigade, Codford. Six of deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall. The "Last Post" was sounded and volleys fired over the grave. Headquarters A.I.F. depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.

Probate was granted on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1919 covering the Will of Pte A. Pollock, which was dated 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1915. His Real & Personal Estate was left to Pte Pollock's brother, in equal shares and proportions. He named his brother – John Pollock of Derby and Charles Harrison of Woodstock-on-Loddon, Victoria (Farmers) as his Executors.

Private A. Pollock is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 164.



(Photos by Cathy

Sedgwick)

Pte A. Pollock is also remembered on the Bridgewater Memorial Hall and Free Library, Eldon & Erskine Streets, Bridgewater on Loddon, Victoria (38 km NW of Bendigo).



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(Photo by Mrs Heather Ford)



Pte Alexander Pollock was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Pollock's eldest brother – David Pollock of Derby (March, 1923 & February, 1923). The medals were received by David Pollock in February, 1923.

(64 pages of Pte Alexander Pollock's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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

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A war Pension was applied for by Janet Pollock in regards to the death of her brother Pte Alexander Pollock as both parents were deceased. The claim was rejected.

#### Newspaper Reports

A.I.F. CASUALTIES

List No. 462 Victoria DIED – OTHER CAUSES

POLLOCK, A., Derby, 21/2/19

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria, Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1919)

#### 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 at Codford War Graves Cemetery. 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*)

Pte A. Pollock does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte A. Pollock's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery

*(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*

