

Compton Chamberlayne War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



55821 PRIVATE

A. A. DRECKOW

32ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

19TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 23

IN MEMORY

OF THE DEARLY LOVED SON

OF MRS DRECKOW OF CLEVE

Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte A A Dreckow is located in Back Row

Grave Plot # 5 of Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery

Alfred Alwin Dreckow was born in Eudunda, South Australia in 1895 to parents Christian and Mary Dreckow. He was a farmer, single & aged 23 years living at Cleve, South Australia when he

enlisted at Adelaide on 23rd April, 1918 with the 32nd Infantry Battalion, 2nd Reinforcements of the Australian Army. His Service number was 55821 & his religion was Lutheran. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary Dreckow, Cleve, South Australia.

Pte Dreckow embarked from Sydney on the RMS *Orontes* on 5th June, 1918 & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 11th August, 1918 having spent 5 days in the Ship's Hospital with Influenza.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain area, in the county of Wiltshire.

On 13th August, 1918 Pte Dreckow was sent to 9th Training Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire. On 24th August, 1918 he was admitted to Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire with mumps. On 13th September, 1918 he was transferred to Group Hospital at Hurdcott, Wiltshire until 20th September, 1918. On 10th October, 1918 Pte Dreckow was admitted to Group Hospital at Hurdcott, Wiltshire with influenza & then transferred to Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire with "Broncho Pneumonia-Seriously Ill" on 14th October, 1918.

Pte Alfred Alwin Dreckow died on 19th October, 1918 at 12.15 a.m., aged 23 years & 6 months at the Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire. A death for Alfred A Dreckow was registered in the December quarter of 1918, in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire. (Fovant was a parish in the district of Wilton).

Pte Dreckow was buried at Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery on 24th October, 1918 at 11 a.m. From the burial report of Pte – Coffin was good, Elm with Brass Mountings – *Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag was borne to the graveside on a gun carriage, preceded by the Firing Party & Band from the 14th Australian Training Battalion. Six of deceased's comrades acted as pall bearers. Three officers and fifty N.C.O.'s and men from the deceased's Unit were in attendance as mourners. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Pte Dreckow requested in his Will that all his property whatsoever, including his military estate be given to his mother Mary Dreckow of Cleve, South Australia.

Private A A Dreckow is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 120 .

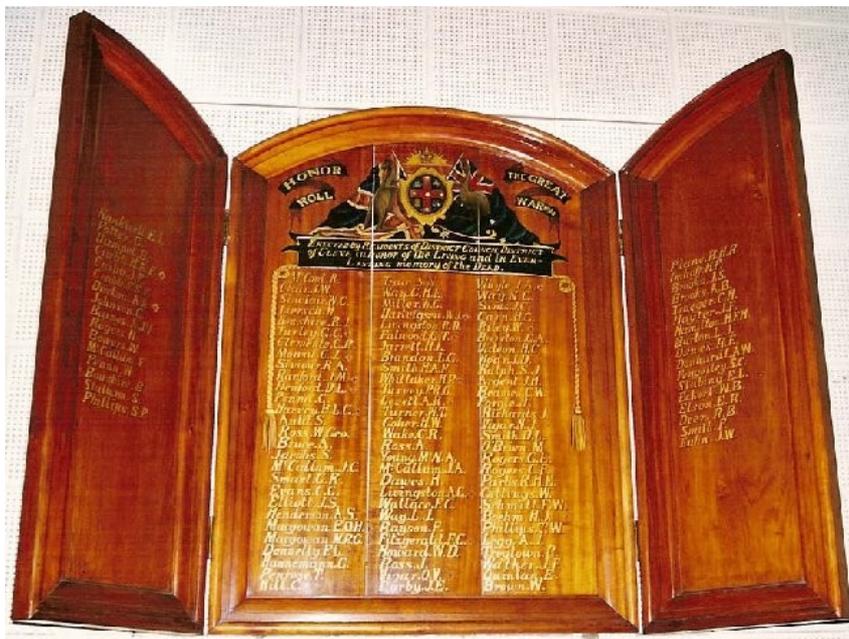


(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Private A A Dreckow is also commemorated on the Memorial Honour Board located in the Town Hall on Main Street, Cleve. Pte Dreckow's name is located on left door, seventh name.



(Photo by Fay Kraehe)

Private A A Dreckow is also commemorated on the War Memorial located at the junction of Fourth and Main streets (centre strip), Cleve, South Australia.



(Photos by Fay Kraehe)

Pte Dreckow was entitled to British War Medal. A Memorial Scroll (August, 1921) & Memorial Plaque (December, 1922) were sent to Pte Dreckow's mother – Mrs Mary Dreckow.

(47 pages of Pte Dreckow'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) & National Archives

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THE ROLL OF HONOUR “Faithful Unto Death”

Australian Soldiers – Died For Their Country

Private A. A. Dreckow, who died of pneumonia in England, October 19, was the youngest son of Mrs Dreckow, Yadnarie. He enlisted in March and went into camp April 22. He sailed with the 2nd General Reinforcements on May 31, but spent most of his voyage in hospital. He arrived in England August 10 and after a few weeks training was admitted to hospital suffering from mumps. Then he contracted pneumonia and died. Private Dreckow was 23 years of age and attended the Cleve Public School. He was engaged in farming with his father and brother up to the time of enlisting.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – Friday 1st November, 1918)

THE COUNTRY

CLEVE, October 30 – Much regret was expressed on Saturday when the news was cabled from abroad that Mr Alfred Dreckow, of Yadnarie, had died from pneumonia on his way to the front. It is only a few months since a farewell social was tendered to him. Mr Dreckow was popular with all classes and was highly respected for his manly dealings. Much sympathy is explained for the family and Mrs Dreckow.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – Saturday 2nd November, 1918)

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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 Compton Chamberlayne 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 Dreckow does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte A A Dreckow's Headstone at Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery



Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey