

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



6177 PRIVATE

H. C. CANHAM

22ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

28TH JANUARY, 1917 Age 27

Peace Perfect Peace

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte H. C. Canham is located in Grave Plot # 162
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Herbert Chester CANHAM

Herbert Chester Canham was born at Kogarah, Sydney, New South Wales to parents Chester & Sarah Ann Canham (nee Arnold). His birth was registered in 1890 in the district of St. Peters, Sydney, NSW.

A marriage was registered in 1915 between Herbert Chester Canham and Ida E. McLachlan/Maclachlan in the district of Rockdale, Sydney.

Herbert Chester Canham was a 26 year old, married Carrier from Carroll's Hill, Kogarah, NSW when he enlisted on 12th October, 1916 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 22nd Infantry Battalion, 17th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6177 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Ada Elizabeth Canham of Carroll's Hill, Kogarah, NSW.

Pte Herbert Chester Canham embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 31st October, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 10th January, 1917.

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

Pte Herbert Chester Canham was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 24th January, 1917 with pneumonia – seriously ill.

Pte Herbert Chester Canham died at 1.30 a.m. on 28th January, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital of Pneumonia. Pte Canham was one of five men to die at Fargo Military Hospital in the space of 12 hours from Broncho-pneumonia / pneumonia. (Pte Hector Fraser, 6145, died 10.30 p.m. 27th January, 1917 buried Durrington Cemetery plot 161; Pte Albert Victor James, 2885, died 11.40 p.m. 27th January, 1917, buried Durrington Cemetery plot 160; Pte Ernest Beddow, 2545, died 5.50 a.m. 28th January, 1917, buried Bilston Cemetery, Staffordshire – private grave and Pte George Alfred Adams died at 10 a.m. 28th January, 1917, buried Durrington Cemetery plot 163)

A death for Herbert G. Canham, aged 27, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

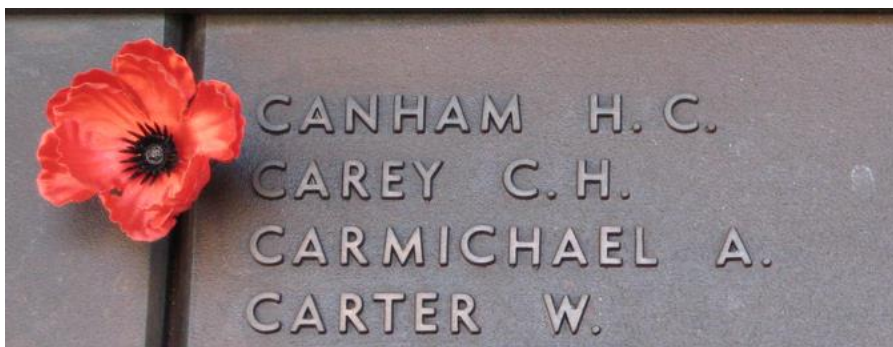
Pte Herbert Chester Canham was buried on 31st January, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – plot number 162 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Kogarah War Memorial, which was erected in 1923, does not have any names inscribed on it. It was intended however, that names would be added to the four panels of the memorial but this did not eventuate.



Kogarah War Memorial *(Photo from Monument Australia)*

Private H. C. Canham is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 96.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A War Pension was granted to Ida Elizabeth Canham – widow of late Pte Herbert Chester Canham in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 1.4.1917.

Pte Herbert Chester Canham was entitled to British War Medal only as he did not enter a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Canham's widow – Mrs I. E. Canham (December, 1922 & February, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Herbert Chester Canham – service number 6177 as being 27 years old & served with 22nd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Chester and Sarah Ann Canham; husband of Ida Elizabeth Canham of "Waratah" Evans St, Sans Souci, NSW. Born at Kogarah, NSW.

(53 pages of Pte Herbert Chester Canham'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 younger brother of Herbert's – George E. Canham, 2291 of 36th Battalion, also enlisted & served 3 years active service being returning home.

Newspaper Reports

CASUALTIES – 271st List Issued

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte H. C. Canham (Kogarah, NSW)

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW Friday 9 February, 1917)

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 Durrington 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 H. C. Canham does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Peace Perfect Peace

Photo of Pte H. C. Canham's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)