

Exeter Higher Cemetery, Devon

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5057 PRIVATE

R. A. E. CARTER

59TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

10TH SEPTEMBER, 1918 Age 28

Robert Arthur Elliot CARTER

Robert Arthur Elliot Carter was born at "Rosebrook" Horsham, Victoria in late 1889 to parents George James and Mary Carter (nee Elliot).

Robert Arthur Elliot Carter attended State School & Hamilton College where he served as a Cadet.

The 1912 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Wannon, subdivision of Horsham South listed Robert Arthur Elliot, Grazier, of Wartook. Also listed at Wartook was John Charles Murray Carter, Grazier. His parents - George James Carter, Grazier, & Mary Carter, Home Duties, were listed at Rosebrook, along with Charles John Carter, Farmer, Rebecca Carter, Home Duties, & Samuel Charles Carter, Grazier.

The 1913, 1914, 1915 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Wannon, subdivision of Horsham South listed Robert Arthur Elliot, Grazier, of Wartook.

Robert Arthur Elliot Carter was a 26 year old, single, Grazier from "Rosebrook", Horsham, Victoria when he enlisted on 22nd December, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Presbyterian & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr G. Carter of "Rosebrook", Horsham, Victoria. Robert Arthur Elliot Carter's young brother – Thomas Leslie Carter, aged 20, also enlisted the same day. He was given a service number of 5058.

Private Robert Arthur Elliot Carter was in Camp at Ballarat with 14th Depot Battalion from 27th January, 1916 to 22nd March, 1916. He was transferred to 16th Reinforcements of 8th Battalion at Broadmeadows from 23rd March, 1916. May, 1916.

Private Robert Arthur Elliot Carter, Service number 5057, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Suffolk (A23)* on 1st April, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Battalion, 16th Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 14th May, 1916.

Private Robert Arthur Elliot Carter was transferred & allotted to 60th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 24th May, 1916.

Private Robert Arthur Elliot Carter embarked to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 21st June, 1916 on H.T. *Ivernia*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 30th June, 1916.

Private Robert Arthur Elliot Carter was transferred to 59th Battalion on 23rd July, 1916.

Private Robert Arthur Elliot Carter was detached to 15th Brigade for Grenade School of Instruction on 15th September, 1916 & rejoined his Unit on 21st September, 1916.

Private Robert Arthur Elliot Carter reported sick on 2nd October, 1916 & was admitted to 15th Field Ambulance with Mumps. He was transferred to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 5th October, 1916. Private Carter was discharged to duty on 16th October, 1916 & rejoined his Battalion.

Private Robert Arthur Elliot Carter was on furlough to UK from 7th August, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion on 18th August, 1917.

Private Robert Arthur Elliot Carter, 5057, 59th Australian Infantry Battalion, was awarded the Military Medal on 31st July, 1918 "*for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at Ville-sur-Ancre, south-west of Albert on 4th July, 1918. When a machine gun on the flank of his platoon was causing casualties he ran along the trench bombing the garrison, and put the machine gun out of action, killing or taking prisoner the crew. His prompt actions and disregard of danger undoubtedly relieved a situation which was becoming serious.*" Listed in the Fourth Supplement, No. 309620 to the London Gazette dated 21st October, 1918. Listed in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, No. 23, dated 12th February, 1919.



The Military Medal

Private Robert Arthur Elliot Carter was wounded in action on 31st August, 1918. He was admitted to 6th Field Ambulance with gunshot wounds to right thigh.

Private Robert Arthur Elliot Carter was admitted to 10th General Hospital, Rouen, France on 1st September, 1918 & operated on the same day. He was invalided to England from Rouen on 3rd September, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Panama*.

Private Robert Arthur Elliot Carter was admitted to War Hospital, Exeter, Devon, England on 4th September, 1918 with gunshot wounds to right buttock – severe then transferred within the hospital on 8th September, 1918 suffering from Tetanus.

Private Robert Arthur Elliot Carter died at 7 am on 10th September, 1918 in Section 5 War Hospital, Exeter, Devon from wounds received in France – gunshot wound to buttock & Tetanus. He was last attached to “B” Company, 59th Battalion, A.I.F.

A death for R. A. E. Carter, aged 30, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Exeter, Devon, England.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private R. A. Carter contains a letter from O.C., No. 5 Section, Exeter which reads: *“The late Pte R. A. Carter, 5057, was admitted to this Section on the 4th September 1918, suffering from an extensive and very septic wound of the right buttock. His general condition was poor. Though he received the usual inoculation of Anti-tetanic serum on the day after his admission, he developed symptoms and signs of Tetanus on the 8th September. He was immediately placed in a special Ward, where he received special nursing and special treatment. Notwithstanding, the Tetanus increased, and he died on the morning of the 10th September. The body was buried on Saturday September 14th 1918, in the Pinhole Higher Cemetery, Exeter. A military Funeral was given, which was attended by some 50 Australian soldiers, and others of the Staff. The Rev. G. M. Chester, Pilton House, Richmond Road, Exeter, officiated. A service was held first in the Cemetery Chapel, and later at the Graveside, where the last Post was sounded.”*

Private Robert Arthur Elliot Carter was buried on 14th September, 1918 in Exeter Higher Cemetery, Devon, England – Plot number 75 and has a simple granite marker headstone. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

From the burial report of Private Carter - *Coffin was elm and Brass Plates. The deceased soldier was accorded a Full Military funeral, Pallbearers and Bugler were in attendance. Some beautiful wreaths were sent by Comrades of Exeter War Hospital, also Mr and Mrs Snowball, friends of deceased. The Grave will be turfed shortly, and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. A.I.F. Headquarters were represented at the funeral.*

Private Robert Carter signed a statement that *“I have no desire to make a Will”* dated 5th January, 1918.

A letter dated 25th August, 1922 to Base Records from Official Secretary reads:

"5057 Pte R.A.E. Carter, MM 59th Bn. A.I.F.

With reference to your letter of the 23rd May last regarding the headstone which is erected over the grave of the above mentioned soldier in Exeter Higher Cemetery, I have to inform you that the Imperial War Graves Commission have now notified me that there will be no objection to the private memorial being permitted to stand.

When an Inspector of the Commission visits Exeter district, he will then make an examination of the said memorial and as soon as his report is received I will notify you.

A letter was sent to Mrs Carter, "Rosebrook" Wartook P.O. Horsham, Victoria , dated 11th October, 1922 which reads: *"With further reference to your letter of the 7th June, enquiry has been made with regard to the grave of Private R.A.E. Carter in Exeter Higher Cemetery with the result that it has been discovered that all the private memorials erected over the graves of soldiers, in the War Plot have been removed by the Exeter City Council, and that a granite block has been placed over each grave and the turf levelled. On these blocks have been engraved the particulars of the deceased, painted black. The private memorials themselves have been placed in the mortuary.*

This treatment has been carried out entirely by the City Council with a view to uniformity so that now all the graves in the War Plot in Exeter High Cemetery are exactly alike, but the burial place of each soldier is carefully distinguished by the granite blocks which have been placed level with the turf.

Private Robert Arthur Elliot Carter was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Carter's father – Mr G. Carter, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1922 & Plaque sent December, 1921 with a further notification stating "desp both 10-1-22").

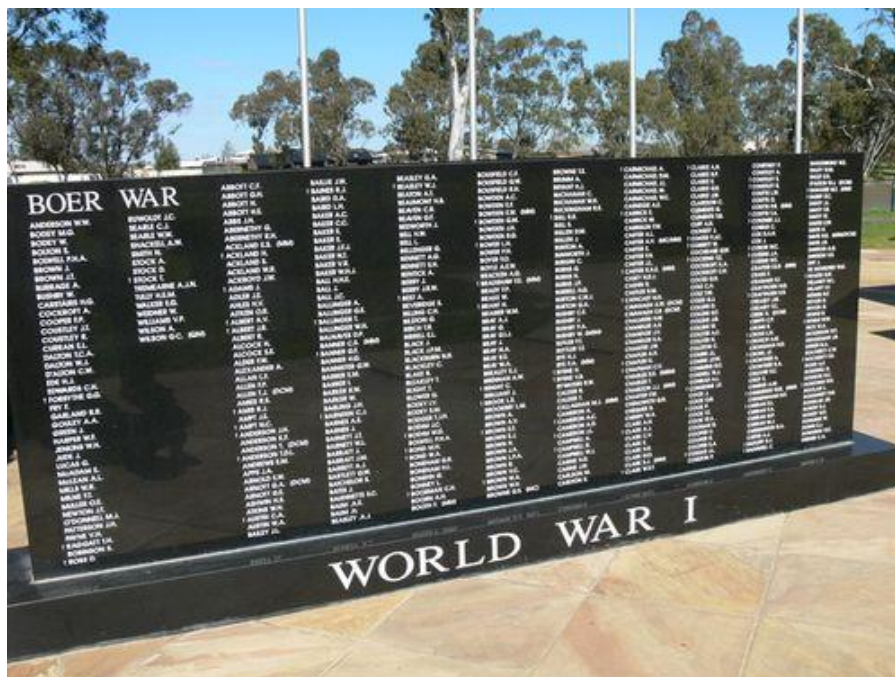
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Robert Arthur Elliot Carter – service number 5057, aged 28, of 59th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of George James and Mary Carter of "Rosebrook", Horsham, Victoria, Australia. Born at Horsham, Victoria.

Private R.A.E. Carter is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 167.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

R. A. E. Carter is remembered on the Horsham & District War Memorial & Cenotaph located in Sawyer Park, Memorial Drive, Horsham, Victoria.



Horsham & District War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)



R. A. E. Carter & his brother T. L. Carter are both remembered on the Horsham Presbyterian Church Roll of Honour, located at Horsham Historical Society, 33 Pynsent Street, Horsham, Victoria.



Horsham Presbyterian Church Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)

(58 pages of Private Robert Arthur Elliot Carter'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 Robert Arthur Elliot Carter:](#)

Private Thomas Leslie Carter, 5058, aged 20, embarked with his brother from Melbourne on HMAT *Suffolk* (A23) on 1st April, 1916. Taken on strength with 59th Battalion on 23rd July, 1916.

Returned to Australia from Devonport, England on 4th May, 1917.

Medically discharged on 6th August, 1917.

He was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal.





Private Robert Arthur Elliot Carter (*Photo from VWMA – Pte RAE Carter MM Facebook site*)



Newspaper Notices

DIED ON SERVICE

The latest name to be added to the list of those who have died for us is that of Private Robert Arthur Elliot Carter, son of Mr. George Carter, of Rosebrook. The gallant young soldier, who enlisted in December, 1915, saw service in Egypt and France, and was rewarded with the Military Medal for bravery and devotion to duty. He left his native shores in company with his brother Tom, in April, 1916, and was with him until the latter was invalided home about twelve months ago. The deceased was 28 years of age at the time of his death, which occurred on September 10th in the Exeter War Hospital as the result of gunshot wounds received during the recent severe fighting on the west front. He had been offered stripes, but preferred to remain with his old mates as a private in the ranks. He was a sterling lad, loved as well as honored by those who knew him, and was always a favorite with his school-mates, both locally and at Hamilton College, where he completed his education. Up to the time of enlistment he assisted on his father's estate, where his loss will be greatly felt. To add to the sadness, on the day prior to that of the notification of his death in England a cablegram had been received by his parents leading them to suppose that no serious results need be dreaded.

(*The Horsham Times*, Victoria – 20 September, 1918)

DIED ON SERVICE

CARTER - Died of wounds on September 10, 1918, at Exeter War Hospital, England, Private Robert A. E. Carter, M.M., second son of George and Mary Carter, Rosebrook, Horsham, aged 28 years and 11 months. After 2 years and 8 months' service.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 5 October, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

An Active Service

CARTER – Robert A. E. Carter, M.M., private, B Company, 59th Battalion, dearly loved son of George and May Carter, Rosebrook, Horsham, died of wounds at Exeter War Hospital, England, September 10, 1918. (Inserted by his sorrowing father, mother and brothers).

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 10 September, 1919)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Exeter Higher Cemetery, Devon

Exeter Higher Cemetery, Devon contains 340 War Graves. Of the 219 First World War burials in Exeter Higher Cemetery, more than 180 form two war graves plots near the entrance. The Second World War plot contains most of the 121 Second World War burials. The rest of the graves are scattered throughout the cemetery. The Second World War plot also contains 62 war graves of other nationalities, most of them Polish and German.

(Information from CWGC).

There are 9 War Graves which belong to the Australian Forces – Army, Air & Navy. Six are from World War 1 & three are from World War 2, from Royal Australian Air Force.

A Memorial, which is located near the two chapels, contains the names of those buried in the circular plot surrounding the Memorial. The plot of land in front of the chapel was set aside by the Council as a commemorative plot early in World War 1. The burials are marked by simple granite slabs listing only the soldier's name.



The Memorial (above) & (below) an example of the plaques with the names of the soldiers buried in the World Ward 1 plot.
(Photos by Toltecia)





The World War 1 plots near the Memorial with plants & flowers between the named granite grave markers

(Photos with permission from Norman Cummings)





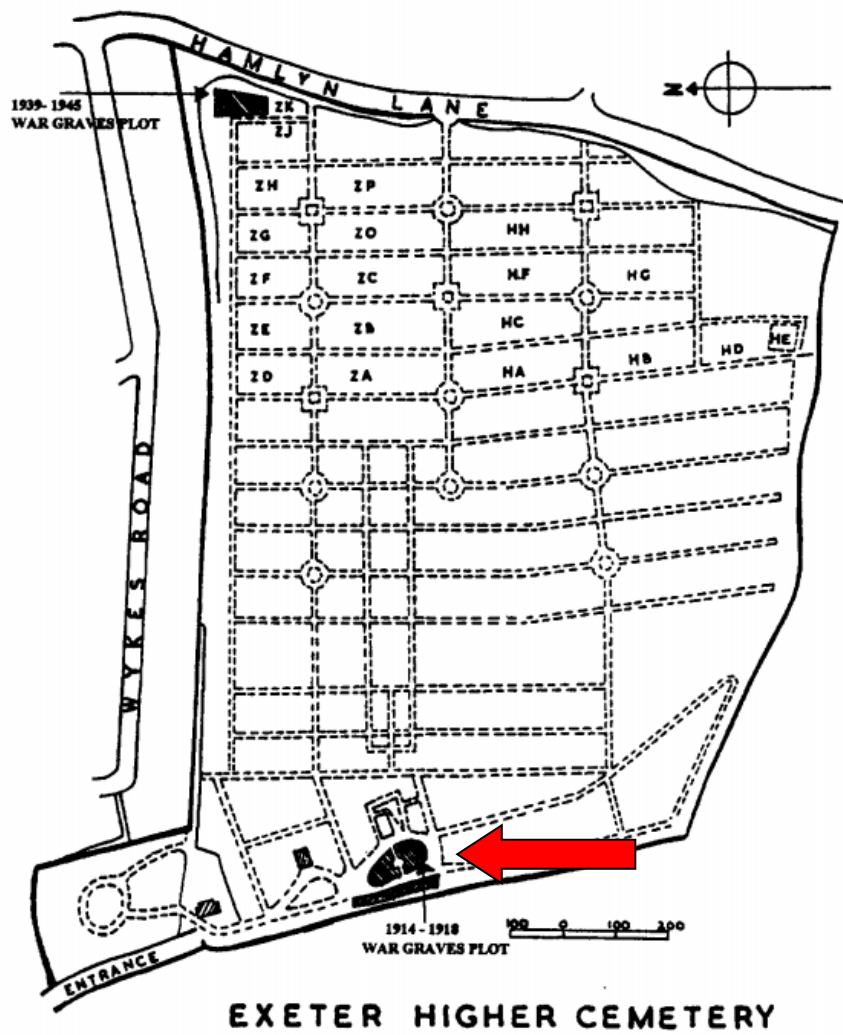
Exeter Higher Cemetery showing Cross of Sacrifice & World War 2 War Graves

(Photo courtesy of julia&keld)

Photo of Private R. A. E. Carter's granite Grave marker in Exeter Higher Cemetery, Devon, England.



(Photo courtesy of Toltecia)



Section showing World War 1 War Graves Plot.

