Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5044 PRIVATE

H. G. ADAMS

11TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

27TH SEPTEMBER, 1917 Age 21

True & Faithful

To Those He Loved

Our Darling Son

Herbert Gerald ADAMS

Herbert Gerald Adams was born at Quindalup near Busselton, Western Australia in 1896 to parents Henry Arthur and Frances Ellen Adams (nee Harwood).

Herbert Gerald Adams attended Government State School in Western Australia.

Herbert Gerald Adams was a 20 year old, single, Farmer, from Yallingup, Western Australia when he enlisted at Blackboy Hill, Western Australia on 4th February, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr H. Adams, of Yallingup, Western Australia. As Herbert Adams was under the age of 21, his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) for active service abroad. Both parents signed their consent.

Private Herbert Gerald Adams was posted to 2nd Area on 4th February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 16th Reinforcements of 11th Battalion on 14th February, 1916.

Private Herbert Gerald Adams, Service number 5044, embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Shropshire (A9)* on 31st March, 1916 with the 11th Infantry Battalion, 16th Reinforcements. Private Adams had been admitted to Ship's Hospital on 23rd April, 1916 with Influenza. He disembarked at Suez on 24th April, 1916.

Private Herbert Gerald Adams was admitted to Government Hospital at Suez on 24th April, 1916 with Influenza. He was transferred to 1st Auxiliary Hospital at Heliopolis on 26th April, 1916 then transferred to No. 1 Auxiliary Hospital at Alexandria on 1st May, 1916 with Influenza. Private Adams was transferred on 1st May, 1916 & admitted to Ras el Tin Convalescent Hospital. He was transferred & admitted to 3rd Australian General Hospital at Abbassia on 1st June, 1916 & discharged to duty on 13th June, 1916.

Private Herbert Gerald Adams was admitted to 2nd Australian Stationary Hospital at Tel el Kebir on 15th June, 1916 with Gastritis then transferred to No. 3 Australian General Hospital at Abbassia on 16th June, 1916 with Gastritis. He was transferred to Hospital Ship *Makeno* at Alexandria on 24th June, 1916 & sailed for UK – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined).

Private Herbert Gerald Adams was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, England on 3rd July, 1916 with gastritis. He was transferred to Dysentery Depot at Barton on Sea on 25th July, 1916. Private Adams was discharged from Dysentery Depot on 15th August, 1916 & was to report to Australian Records Office.

Private Herbert Gerald Adams was taken on strength of No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 16th August, 1916.

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

Private Herbert Gerald Adams was sent sick to Delhi Hospital (Military Hospital at Tidworth) from No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 10th November, 1916 with orchitis. He was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire from Hospital on 18th November, 1916.

Private Herbert Gerald Adams was marched out to 3rd Training Battalion at Larkhill, near Durrington, Wiltshire on 11th January, 1917 from No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire.

Private Herbert Gerald Adams proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 25th April, 1917 from 3rd Training Battalion, Durrington. He joined 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 26th April, 1917 & was marched out to join his Unit on 30th April, 1917.

Private Herbert Gerald Adams was taken on strength of 11th Battalion "C" Company from 16th Reinforcements in the field on 1st May, 1917.

Private Herbert Gerald Adams was wounded in action on 20th (22nd) September, 1917. He was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance on 22nd September, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to right side. Private Adams was transferred & admitted to 10th Casualty Clearing Station (originally states 21st September, 1917 & changed to 22nd

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September, 1917) then transferred to Ambulance Train 33. He was admitted to 2nd Australian General Hospital at Wimereux, France on 23rd September, 1917 then transferred to Hospital Ship St. Denis for England the same day.

War Diary -11th Battalion

Clapham Junction - 20th September, 1917:

The day of days – Our boys got out on to the forming up position like the disciplined soldiers they are & formed up without hitch. At a few minutes before Zero FRITZ noticed them & put down a barrage but out barrage came right on the tick & our boys did their job.

Polygon Wood - 20th September, 1917:

Considering the operation our losses were remarkably light. Casualties Killed Wounded

Trofies – 1 Field Gun 3 M Guns 150 prisoners. About dusk enemy massed for a counter attack but this was dispersed by artillery before it could develop.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Herbert Gerald Adams was admitted to Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich, England on 24th September, 1917 with gunshot wounds to chest (as per Hospital Admissions form, however the Casualty Form – Active Service recorded that Private Adams was admitted to Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich on 23rd September, 1917 with gunshot wounds to right side - slight.)



Private Herbert Gerald Adams died at 9.20 pm on 27th September, 1917 at Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich, England from wounds received in action in France – gunshot wounds to right side & acute Endocarditis. (Note: the Burial Report on Private Herbert Gerald Adams records that he died on 28th September, 1917, however other forms in his Service Record file state that date of death as 27th September, 1917, including the Hospital Admissions form.)

A death for Herbert Adams, aged 21, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Norwich, Norfolk, England.

Private Herbert Gerald Adams was buried at 3.30 pm on 2nd October, 1917 in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England – Grave No. 218, Section 25. From the burial report of Private Herbert Gerald Adams - Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral, Gun Carriage and Bearers being supplied by Norfolk Depot. A service was conducted at the graveside by the Rev. Huxley C. of E. Chaplain to Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. The "Last Post" was sounded by a bugler of Norfolk Depot. Eight patients of the Hospital attended the funeral, but there were no relatives. An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F.

A letter was sent on 20th April, 1920 from Base Records to Mr H. Adams, Yallingup, father of the late Private H. G. Adams, advising that "now in receipt of further advice which shows that his remains have been exhumed from the former site, and re-interred in Grave No. 699, Section 54, Norwich Cemetery, Norwich. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain."

Private Herbert Gerald Adams has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone (CWGC were advised of the incorrect date of death on his headstone & on CWGC website at the time of researching this soldier & have amended the date of death on their website. They have also advised that an amendment request for the headstone has been made to amend the date on the headstone in situ or else a replacement stone will be ordered.)

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Herbert Gerald Adams contains a letter to the Red Cross from Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich, dated 27th September, 1917, which reads: "I regret to have to inform you of the death of 5044 Pte Adams, Herbert, C Coy 11 Australians, who was admitted to this Hospital with a convoy from France on the 23rd inst.

He was suffering from a gunshot wound of the right side, and until yesterday his condition did not give rise to any undue anxiety, but in the afternoon of that day he became worse, and died at 9.20 pm, his death being certified as due to (1) Gunshot wound of right thigh and (2) Endocarditis.

He was conscious until about a quarter of an hour before he died, but the Sister of the Ward informed me that he made no mention of his people to her, and did not leave any messages.

We have here some of his money, letters and personal effects, and I shall be much obliged if you will please inform me whether we shall forward them to you, as we have done in similar cases, as Pte Adam's relatives are all in Australia, his parents; address being:- Glendale, Yallingup, via Busselton, W. Australia."

The following information on Private Herbert Gerald Adams was provided by his father for the Roll of Honour - "I was informed that he was a capitol shot, taking first in pistol shooting."

Mrs Frances Ellen Adams, of Yallingup, mother of the late Private Herbert Gerald Adams, applied for a War Pension. Her request for a pension was rejected – "Not dependent on the earnings of deceased during 12 months prior to his enlistment."

Private Herbert Gerald Adams was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Adams' father – Mr H. Adams, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent September, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Herbert Gerald Adams – service number 5044, aged 21, of 11th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Henry Arthur and Frances Ellen Adams, of Yallingup, Western Australia.

Private H. G. Adams is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 61.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

H. G. Adams is remembered on the Busselton War Memorial located at Queen & Albert Streets, Busselton, Western Australia.

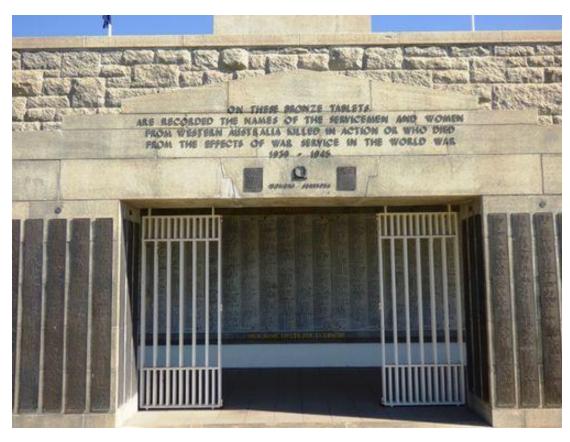


Busselton War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia)

H. G. Adams is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.





Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (previous page)

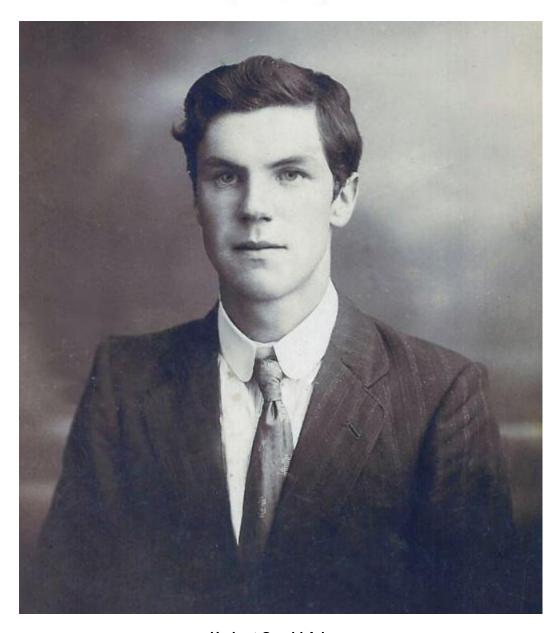
& The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)



(65 pages of Private Herbert Gerald Adams' 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



Herbert Gerald Adams

Newspaper Notices

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

169th Official List

ILL

......Private H. G. Adams (Yallingup);......

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – 15 May, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

247th Official List

RETURNED TO DUTY

......Private H. G. Adams, Yallingup, previously reported ill;......

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – 9 December, 1916)

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

W.A. ROLL OF HONOUR

WEST AUSTRALIA

DIED OF WOUNDS

Herbert Gerald Adams, Yallingup

(Kalgoorlie Miner, Western Australia – 30 October, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

ANZAC HERO

ADAMS – In sad and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Herbert G. Adams, Lewis Gun Section 11th Battalion, who died in the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, England, on 27th September, 1917, from wounds received in action at Ypres. Aged 21 years and 7 months.

If we could have raised his dying head,

Or heard his last farewell,

The wound would not have been hard

To the ones who loved him so well.

But God was good, and gave us strength,

To bear our heavy cross;

He is the only one who knows

How bitter is our loss.

-Inserted by his loving Mother, Father and Brother.

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ADAMS – In sad and loving memory of our my dear Brother, Private Herbert G. Adams, Lewis Gun Section, 11th Battalion, who died in the Norwich and Norfolk Hospital, England, on 27th September, 1917, from wounds received in action at Ypres.

He is gone, but not forgotten,

And his duty nobly done;

He died a dear brave hero,

Dearly loved by every one.

-Inserted by his loving brother Alfred.

(The South-Western News, Busselton, Western Australia – 27 September, 1918)

PERSONAL

Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Adams have received, from the Military Authorities, particulars of the death of Pte. Herbert G. Adams, who died on September 28 of last year. The young soldier, who passed away at the Norfolk Hospital, Norwich, was accorded a military funeral, the gun carriages, bearers and buglers being supplied from the Norfolk Depot, who were also responsible for a handsome oak casket. A photograph of the grave accompanied the thoughtful and kindly letter.

(The South-Western News, Busselton, Western Australia – 18 October, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

ANZAC HERO

ADAMS – In sad but loving memory of our dear son and brother, Pte H. G. Adams, 11th Batt., who was wounded at Ypres, on September 21,1917, and died in Norfolk and Norwich Hospital on the 28th September, 1917.

I think I see you smile, dear Bert,

Through the mist of falling tears;

But a Mother's part is a broken heart,

And a burden of lonely years.

The war is really over.

To some the words sound nice;

But, oh, the sad, sad hearts of those

Whose loved ones paid the price.

-Inserted by his loving parents and brother Alfred.

ADAMS – In loving memory of my dear brother, Pte Herbert G. Adams, 11th Batt., who died in Norfolk and Norwich Hospital (from wounds received in action at Ypres, on 21st September, 1917), on September 28, 1917.

With the famous 11th

And their banners brown and blue,

He fought and died as he had lived

Kind-hearted, brave and true.

Australia is proud of her heroes,

She honors them, one and all,

But dearest above all to memory

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Are those who in battle fall.

True and faithful to those he loved, my brother.

-Inserted by his loving brother, Alf.

(The South-Western News, Busselton, Western Australia – 3 October, 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. 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)

Private H. G. Adams does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

True & Faithful To Those He Loved
Our Darling Son

Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich contains 533 Commonwealth War Graves.

The cemetery was laid out in 1856 and casualties of the South African War were buried in the oldest part. Nearly half of the 1914-1918 burials are to be found in two military plots; one in the North-Eastern part and the other in the Western part of the burial ground. Ground immediately adjoining the latter was reserved for service burials of the 1939-1945 War and is now combined with it to form the 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 War Graves Plot. The Cross of Sacrifice, which honours the servicemen of both Wars who are buried in the cemetery, stands in the plot, and carved upon two of the panels of its base are the dates 1914-1918 and 1939-1945. There are now nearly 350, 1914-1918 and nearly 200, 1939-1945 war casualties commemorated in this site. In addition, a special memorial is erected to one soldier buried among civilian air raid victims in a grave on which it was not possible to erect a headstone.

(Information & photo from CWGC)



Photo of Private H. G. Adams' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England.

(NOTE: - the date of death engraved on the headstone is incorrect – it should be 27th September, 1917).

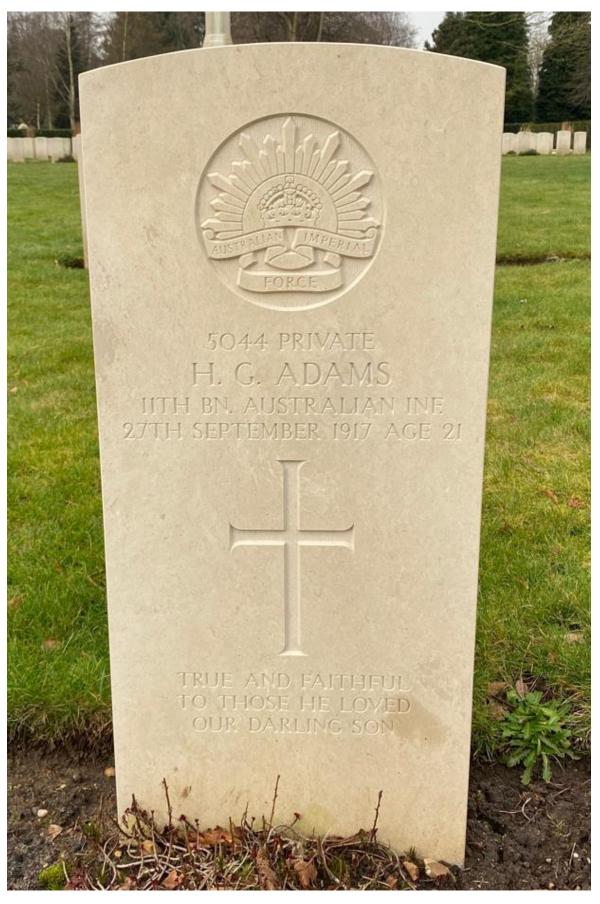
(CWGC were contacted at the time of researching this soldier & advised of the error. CWGC have advised an amendment request for the headstone has been made to amend the date on the headstone in situ or else a replacement stone will be ordered.)

**See corrected Headstone next page



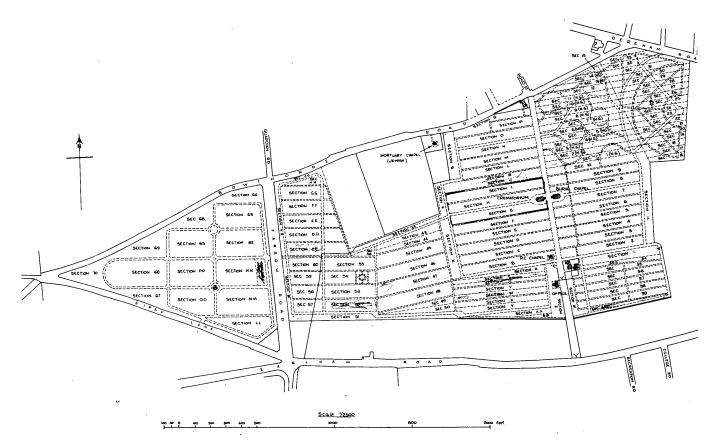
(Photo by Jennifer Hart – Find a Grave)

** Private H. G. Adams' New Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone with correct date of death of 27th September, 1917.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Jackie – 2021)





Map of Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

