

# **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 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 1915 with the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 16<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5057 & 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 14<sup>th</sup> Depot Battalion from 27<sup>th</sup> January, 1916 to 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 1916. He was transferred to 16<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion at Broadmeadows from 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 1916. May, 1916.

Private Robert Arthur Elliot Carter embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Suffolk* (A23) on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1916 & disembarked at Suez on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 1916.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Private Robert Arthur Elliot Carter, 5057, 59<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion, was awarded the Military Medal on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 1918 *"for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at Ville-sur-Ancre, south-west of Albert on 4<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> October, 1918. Listed in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, No. 23, dated 12<sup>th</sup> February, 1919.



**The Military Medal**

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

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

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

Private Robert Arthur Elliot Carter died at 7 am on 10<sup>th</sup> 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, 59<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> September. The body was buried on Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 Pte 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.*

Pte Robert Carter signed a statement that “I have no desire to make a Will” dated 5<sup>th</sup> January, 1918.

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

"5057 Pte R.A.E. Carter, MM 59<sup>th</sup> Bn. A.I.F.

*With reference to your letter of the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> October, 1922 which reads: *"With further reference to your letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> 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.*

Pte Robert Arthur Elliot Carter was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte 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.

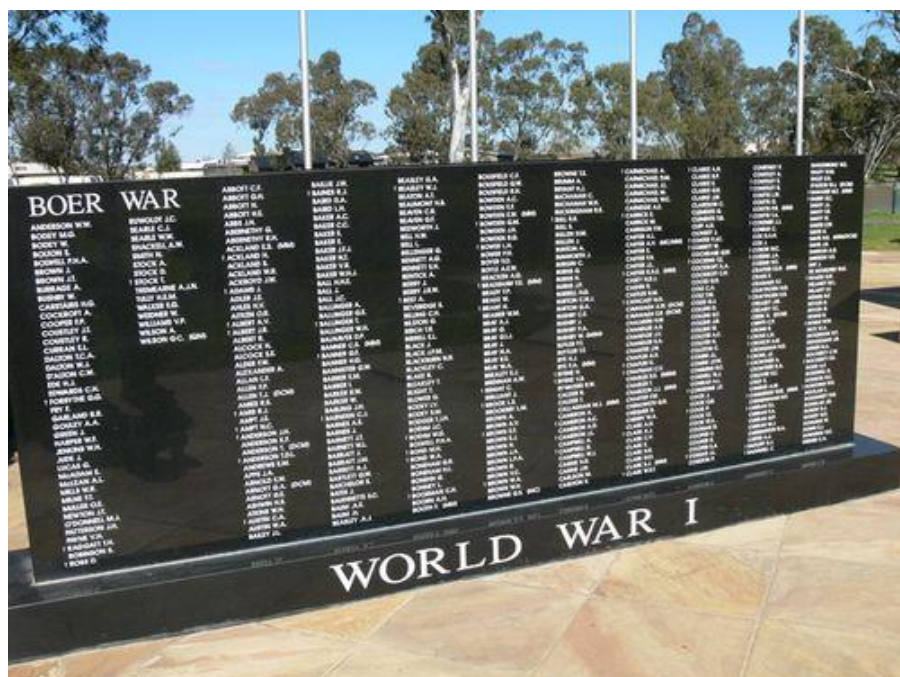
Private R.A.E. Carter is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 167.



*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 Pte 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:**

Pte Thomas Leslie Carter, 5058, aged 20, embarked with his brother from Melbourne on HMAT *Suffolk* (A23) on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1916. Taken on strength with 59<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 1916. Returned to Australia from Devonport, England on 4<sup>th</sup> May, 1917. Medically discharged on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 1917. He was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal.



## **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)*

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### **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)*

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

#### **An Active Service**

CARTER – Robert A. E. Carter, M.M., private, B Company, 59<sup>th</sup> 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)*

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### **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).*

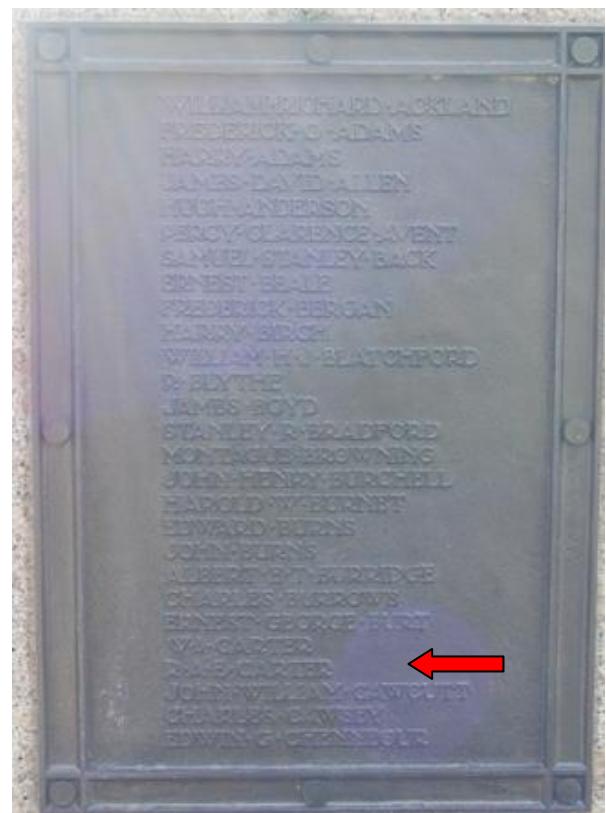
There are 9 War Graves which belong to the Australian Forces – Army, Air & Navy. Six are from World War 1 & three are from World War 2, from Royal Australian Air Force.

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 Toltecica)*







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

*(Photos with permission from Norman Cummings)*







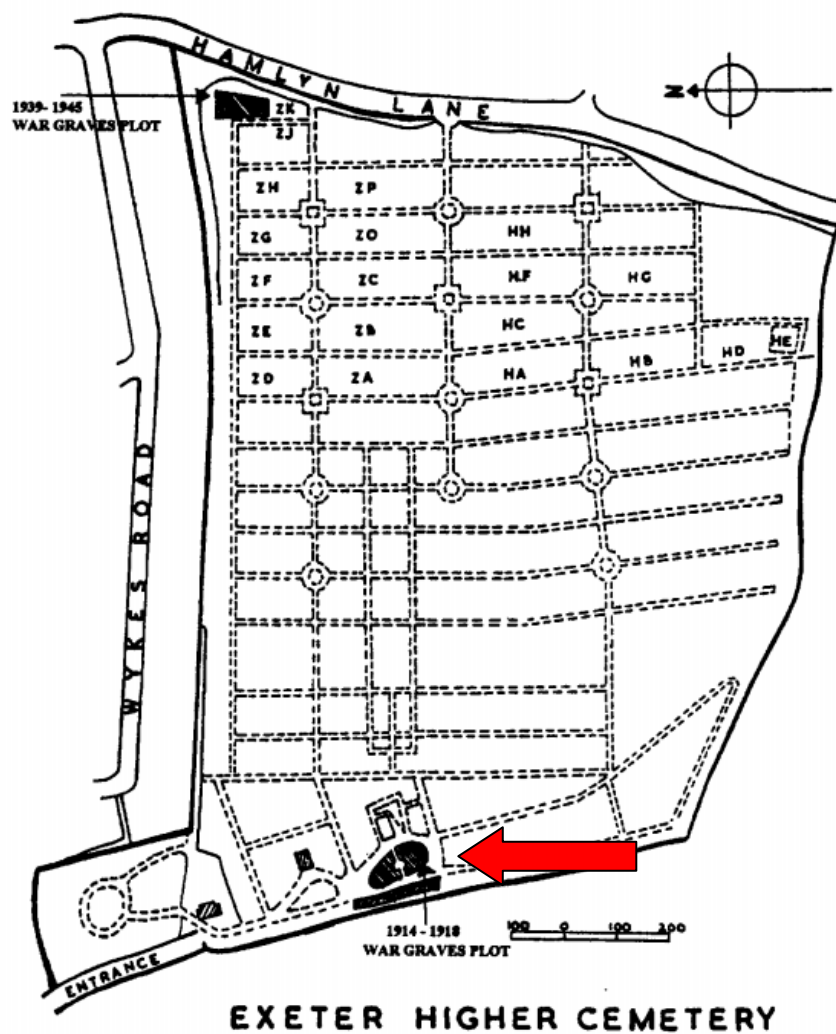
**Exeter Higher Cemetery showing Cross of Sacrifice & World War 2 War Graves**

*(Photo courtesy of julia&keld)*

Photo of Pte 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.

