

**St. Peter's Churchyard,
Earley, Berkshire
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2663 PRIVATE

P. F. HOOD

65TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

25TH SEPTEMBER, 1917 Age 26

Beloved Husband Of Ethel

Loving Father Of

Clara & Alice

Percival Fredrick HOOD

Percival Fredrick Hood was born at Geelong, Victoria in 1891 to parents John Fredrick and Fanny Hood (nee Burr).

Percival Fredrick Hood married Ethel May Lucas in Victoria in 1912.

A birth was registered in Victoria in 1912 for Clara Cresswell Hood to parents Percival Fredrick & Ethel May Hood.

The 1914 Australia Electoral Roll for the division of Corio, subdivision of Geelong West listed Percival Frederick Hood, Iron moulder of 19 Vallamanta Street, Geelong. Ethel May Hood, Home duties, was listed at the same address.

A birth was registered in Victoria in 1915 for Alice Cresswell Hood to parents Percival Fredrick & Ethel May Hood.

The 1915 Australia Electoral Roll for the division of Corio, subdivision of Geelong West listed Percival Frederick Hood, Iron moulder of 18 Waratah Street, Geelong. Ethel May Hood, Home duties, was listed at the same address.

The 1916 Australia Electoral Roll for the division of Corio, subdivision of Barwon listed Percival Frederick Hood, Iron moulder of 17 McKillop Street, Geelong. Ethel May Hood, Home duties, was listed at the same address & also at 16 Verner Street, Geelong.

Percival Fredrick Hood was a 25 year old, married, Iron Moulder when he enlisted on 23rd December, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 29th Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2663 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Ethel May Hood, of 77 McKillop Street, Geelong, Victoria.

Pte Percival Fredrick Hood was admitted to the Clearing Hospital at Broadmeadows while in Camp from 28th January, 1916 to 4th February, 1916.

Private Percival Fredrick Hood embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Anchises* (A68) on 14th March, 1916 & disembarked at Suez on 15th April, 1916.

Pte Percival Hood was admitted to 2nd Australian Stationary Hospital at Tel-el-Kebir on 28th April, 1916 with rheumatism (mild) of knee He was transferred to Base on 19th May, 1916 & discharged to duty from 3rd Auxiliary Hospital on 29th May, 1916.

Pte Percival Hood embarked from Alexandria on 21st June, 1916 for B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) on *Ivernia*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 29th June, 1916.

Pte Percival Hood was appointed Acting Sergeant (with Pay) on 1st July, 1916.

Acting Sergeant Percival Hood was sent to Training School on 3rd July, 1916.

Acting Sergeant Percival Hood was sent to 26th General Hospital at Etaples on 6th August, 1916 with a hand injury & was discharged to Base Details on 11th August, 1916.

Acting Sergeant Percival Hood was admitted to 18th General Hospital at Camiers on 6th September, 1916 with V.D. & he reverted back to the rank of Private on 6th September, 1916. He was discharged on 28th October, 1916 & marched in to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples.

Pte Percival Hood was marched out to active service on 30th October, 1916 & taken on strength with 29th Battalion on 3rd November, 1916.

Pte Percival Hood was sent to Hospital sick while in the field on 22nd November, 1916. He embarked for England from Rouen on 25th November, 1916 on Hospital Ship "*St. George*" with I.C.T. Heel and injury to right knee.

Pte Percival Hood was admitted to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, England on 29th December, 1916 with I.C.T. Heels & Synovitis right knee.

Pte Percival Hood was on furl from Hospital from 2nd January, 1917 & was to report to Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 17th January, 1917.

Pte Percival Hood was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 18th January, 1917. He was medically classified as B1 A – (Fit for light duty 4 weeks).

Pte Percival Hood was medically classified on 16th March, 1917 as B1 A – (Fit for light duty 4 weeks).

Pte Percival Hood was transferred from 29th Battalion to 65th Battalion at Wareham on 23rd March, 1917. Pte Percival Hood was taken on strength with 65th Battalion on 25th March, 1917.

Pte Percival Hood was written up for an Offence at Windmill Hill Camp, Ludgershall on 19th July, 1917 – “Absent from 8 pm Parade.” This was admonished by Lt. Col. D. S. Manliss on 20th July, 1917.

Pte Percival Hood was written up for an Offence on 10th September, 1917 – “Failing to comply with an order of a Superior Officer.” He forfeited 21 days’ pay.

Pte Percival Hood was admitted to 17th Field Ambulance at Windmill Hill Camp on 13th September, 1917 with Scabies. He was discharged to Training Depot on 17th September, 1917.

Private Percival Fredrick Hood was found drowned in the Thames River at Earley, Berkshire on 25th September, 1917.

A death for P. Y. Hood, aged 35, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Wokingham, Berkshire. (The parish of Earley was in the district of Wokingham.)

Private Percival Fredrick Hood was buried on 28th September, 1917 in St. Peter’s Churchyard, Earley, Berkshire, England – in north east part and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Hood - *The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The following is an extract from the Police Report :- (dated 28/9/17)*

“The body was buried to-day at Earley Church. As the body was three miles from the Church I obtained a bearer party from the Officer Commanding troops, Reading of the Middlesex Regt. It may be of some satisfaction to the soldier’s relatives to know that he received a decent burial, and that the body was borne to the grave from where it was found, in the police motor, covered with the Union Jack, and also carried by a party of eight and a Sergeant, and the last post was sounded at the end of the service.”

An oak cross will be erected on the grave by Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London. Buried in Grave No. 21 Row 6.

An Inquest was held on 27th September, 1917 and a verdict returned that deceased was “Found drowned in the River Thames at Earley.”

Police Report:

Berkshire Constabulary

Superintendent’s Office

County Police Station

Wokingham

28th Sept. 1917

Sir

I beg to Inform you that at 5 p.m. on the 25th September, 1917, P.C. Dutton stationed at Earley in this Division, from what he heard went to the River Thames Side, Earley, just outside the town of Reading, Berkshire, and there saw Lieut. Adrian De Sandoval and two other officers whose names were not ascertained. Mr Adrian De Sandoval pointed to the body of a dead soldier, lying on the bed of the river in the shallow water, near the bank, and said “We found the floating down the stream, and brought it to the side”. The P.C. then with assistance covered the body from the river and replaced it in a boat house at the Dreadnought Public House, Earley. The Coroner was informed as well

as the Adjutant of the Anzac Provost Corps, Tidworth. On the 27th an inquest was held on the body and a verdict returned that deceased was "found drowned in the River Thames at Earley" and that his name was P. F. Hood, age apparently 35 years. Upon the body was found an identity disc P.F Hood, 29th Battalion, A.I.F. C.E. also a green disc P. F. Hood, 2663, 65th A.I.F. C.E. also a red with the same name as the Green one. An envelope with name Pte. P. F. Hood, "C" Coy, 65th Battalion, Windmill Hill Camp, Ludgershall, also a Railway Pass dated 14th August, 1917, signed by Adjut. 65th Battalion. Sergt. Maynard from Hurdcott attended the inquest and identified the body by the discs. The body was buried to-day at Earley Church. I obtained the bearer party from the Officer Commanding Troops, Reading of the Middlesex Regt. I attach bill which I paid, and shall be glad if you will remit the amount at your early convenience. There is a further sum of 3/6d. due to the Landlord of the Dreadnought, for care of the body and cleaning up, as the body could not be moved for a day after the Inquest. It may be of some satisfaction to the soldier's relatives to know that he received a decent burial, and that the body was borne to the grave from where it was found in the Police Motor covered with the Union Jack, and also carried by a party of eight and a Sergeant, and the last post was sounded at the end of the service.

Should a certificate of death be required I will obtain it for whoever requests it, but the Registrar will require a fee of 3/7d.

Found on the body was £6. 14. 10 ³/₄ d. The Church Authorities claim £1. fees.

I am, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

(Sgd) Chas. Goddard

Superintendent

To The Adjutant

Anzac Provost Corps,

Tidworth

Pte Percival Fredrick Hood requested in his Will, dated 14th July, 1917, that all his real estate & personal estate be bequeathed to his wife – Ethel May Hood, of Malop St., Geelong, Victoria.

A War Pension was granted to Ethel May Hood, widow of late Pte Percival Fredrick Hood, 2663, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 11th January, 1918. A War Pension was also granted to Clara Cresswell Hood, daughter of late Pte Percival Fredrick Hood, in the sum of 20/- per fortnight from 11th January, 1918. A War Pension was also granted to Alice Cresswell Hood, daughter of late Pte Percival Fredrick Hood, in the sum of 15/- per fortnight from 11th January, 1918.

Private Percival Fredrick Hood was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Hood's widow, as the closest next-of-kin – Mrs E. M. Hood (Scroll sent October, 1922 & Plaque sent March, 1923). Enquiries were made in 1924 by Base Records to Repatriation Commission trying to locate the latest address of the widow of the late No. 2663 Private Percival Fredrick Hood, 65th Battalion so that his War Medals could be issued to her. The Repatriation Commission advised that the recent address they had was Isabella Street, Geelong West & that she had remarried and was now Mrs Reiffel. Ethel May Hood, widow of late Pte Percival Hood, had remarried in Victoria in 1921 to Cedric Tasman Reiffall. Mrs Reiffel wrote to Base Records in 1924 in reply to their letter confirming her address.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Percival Fredrick Hood – service number 2663, aged 26, of 65th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of John Fredrick and Fanny Hood; husband of Ethel May Hood, of 128 Yarra St., Geelong, Victoria. Born at Geelong, Victoria.

Private P. F. Hood is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 115.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(84 pages of Pte Percival Fredrick Hood'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) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

FOUND DROWNED

The body of a soldier was recovered from the Thames at Earley on Tuesday evening. The identification disc bore the name and number, P. F. Hood, 2663, and inquiries showed that a man of that name had belonged to the 29th Battalion, A.I.F., and that after enlisting in Australia he served in Egypt and France, and came to England on sick leave in November, 1916, since when nothing appeared to be known of his movements. Notes and money to the value of nearly £7 were found on the body, and an envelope addressed to P. F. Hood, 2663, Windmill Camp, Ludgershall, but no letters throwing any light on the tragedy. At the inquest on Thursday a verdict of "Found drowned" was returned.

(Reading Mercury, Berkshire, England – 29 September, 1917)

DEATHS

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

HOOD – Officially reported drowned, 25/10/17, 2663, Pte P. F. Hood dearly loved husband of Ethel May Hood and loving father of little Clara and Alice, beloved son of John and Fanny Hood, and loving brother of Alice Kiddle and Pte A. G. Kiddle, on active service.

"Deeply mourned."

(Geelong Advertiser, Victoria – 15 November, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

MATTHEWS – In loving memory of my dear son and brother, Alick, who died on 25th November, 1911. Mate of the late Pte P. F. Hood.

One of the best, a loving son,
A brother true and kind.
So dearly loved, so sadly missed.

- Inserted by his loving mother, stepfather, sisters and brother-in-law, A.I.F. abroad.

HOOD – In loving memory of Pte P. F. Hood, officially reported drowned in the Thames, 25/10/17, mate of the late Alick Matthews.

We remember the day you left us,
We remember the ___ good ___;
Little we thought when you left us
You were going away to die.

-Inserted by his loving friends, M. and A. Clements and family, also Pte Smith (abroad).

(*Geelong Advertiser*, Victoria – 26 November, 1917)

THE 365th AND 366th CASUALTY LISTS

DROWNED

Private P. F. Hood, Geelong

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 12 December, 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. 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 P. F. Hood does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Beloved Husband Of Ethel

Loving Father Of

Clara & Alice

Photo of Pte P. F. Hood's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Peter's Churchyard, Earley, Berkshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld)

St. Peter's Churchyard, Earley, Berkshire

St. Peter's Churchyard, Earley, Berkshire contains 11 War Graves, 8 of those from World War 1. There is only 1 Australian from World War 1 buried in this churchyard.



St. Peter's Churchyard, Earley *(Photo by Michael Ford)*