

Abbotsbury War Memorial, Dorset, England



Lest We Forget

World War 1



737 PRIVATE

A. DAEMEN

15TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

9TH MAY, 1915 Age 31

Alfred DAEMEN

Alfred Deamen was born at Abbotsbury, Dorset, England to parents Charles and Eliza Deamen. His birth was registered in March quarter, 1884 in the district of Weymouth, Dorset, England. Alfred Deamen was baptised on 16th March, 1884.

Alfred Deamen attended Elementary School at Abbotsbury, Dorset, England.

The 1891 England Census recorded Alfred Deamen as a 7 year old Scholar living with his family at Western Town, Abbotsbury, Dorset, England in a 4 roomed dwelling. His widowed mother was listed as Elisa Deamen (Needlewoman, aged 44, born Abbotsbury, Dorset). Alfred was the youngest of seven children listed on this Census (all born at Abbotsbury, Dorset) – Harriet (aged 19), John H. (Carter, aged 17), William T. (Agricultural Labourer, aged 15), George (Scholar, aged 12), Charles (Scholar, aged 10), Frank (Scholar, aged 8) then Alfred.

The 1901 England Census recorded Alfred Deamen as a 17 year old Ordinary Agricultural Labourer living with his family at Western Town, Abbotsbury, Dorset, England in a 4 roomed dwelling. His widowed mother was listed as Eliza Deamen (aged 54). Alfred was the youngest of five children listed on this Census – William T. (Game Keeper, aged 25), George (Ordinary Agricultural Labourer, aged 22), Charles (Groom (not Domestic), aged 21), Frank (Ordinary Agricultural Labourer, aged 19) then Alfred.

According to information supplied by his sister – Harriett Gill, for the Roll of Honour, Alfred Deamen was employed in England as a Footman & Butler.

Alfred Deamen, Farm Labourer, aged 25 was a passenger on *Miltiades* which had departed from London & arrived at the port of Sydney on 1st February, 1909.

According to information supplied by his sister – Harriett Gill, for the Roll of Honour, Alfred Deamen's first job in Australia was clearing "Bush" and afterwards an assistant to a Land Surveyor. Later, he was employed at a Gasworks in Brisbane, Queensland.

Alfred Daemen was a 29 year old, single, Labourer when he enlisted at Toowoomba, Queensland on 19th October, 1914 with the 15th Infantry Battalion "E" Company of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 737 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. Daemen, of West Street, Abbotsbury, Dorset, England. Alfred Daemen signed his Attestation Papers as Alfred "Daemen".

Private Alfred Daemen, of "E" Coy, 15th Battalion, was written up for an Offence while posted at Military Camp, Broadmeadows on 28th November, 1914 – "1. Breaking Camp 2. Absent without Leave from Tattoo 28/11/14 till Reveille 29.11.14." His punishment was admonished but he forfeited 1 days' pay.

Private Alfred Daemen embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 22nd December, 1914.

Private Alfred Daemen proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli on 12th April, 1915.

Private Alfred Daemen was killed in action on 9th May, 1915 at Gallipoli Peninsula after a Court of Inquiry was held at Serapeum in April, 1916 by 4th Australian Infantry Brigade Headquarters. (His Casualty Form – Active Service record originally recorded Private Alfred Daemen as "Missing Gallipoli 9.5.15" then amended to "Killed in action".)

15th Battalion

The 15th Battalion AIF was raised from late September 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. Three-quarters of the battalion were recruited as volunteers from Queensland, and the rest from Tasmania. With the 13th, 14th and 16th Battalions it formed the 4th Brigade, commanded by Colonel John Monash. The Queensland and Tasmanian recruits were united when the battalion trained together in Victoria. They embarked

for overseas just before Christmas. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving in early February 1915. Australia already had an AIF division there, the 1st. When the 4th Brigade arrived in Egypt, it became part of the New Zealand and Australian Division. The 4th Brigade landed at ANZAC late in the afternoon of 25 April 1915.

From May to August, the battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the front line of the ANZAC beachhead.

(Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 15th Australian Infantry Battalion:

May 6 – Relieved Col. Pope on Quinns Hill at 5 pm with half the Bn.

May 7– Position unchanged, enemy’s snipers cause several casualties

May 8 – Left half Bn relived Rt half on Quinn’s Post, which was placed in charge of Major Carter by C/O.

May 9 – C/O decided to attack enemys trenches in front of Quinn’s Hill & dispositions were made accordingly for attack at 9pm this was however postponed until 10.30 pm. When the assault was made and enemys trenches were occupied by our troops owing to a portion of the trenches being held by the enemy who could not be dislodged, it was necessary to withdraw our troops to our original position which was again occupied at 6 am the next day.

May 10 – At 7 am the enemy made a determined counter attack but were repulsed. Heavy casualties to the number of 160 killed & wounded were suffered by our Bn during the withdrawal of our troops to the original position.

(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Alfred Daemen is remembered on the Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli Peninsula, Canakkale Province, Turkey – Panel 45 as he has no known grave. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Alfred Daemen contains statements from 2 witnesses regarding Pte Daemen’s death:

- *“Was in C Co. Witness knew him personally. They were in same half company but Deaman was in 10 platoon. Witness saw him fo into action on May 9 at Quinn’s post near Anzac. He was carrying ammunition after the taking of the trenches. The attack started at 9 pm. He and witness were carrying ammunition to the trench which was captured about 10pm. Never saw him again.”* Cpl H. G. Hughes, 749, C. Co. 15 A.I.F.
- *“Witness states that there is no doubt Daeman was killed on May 15th, He states that 772 Pte R. T. Owens saw him killed and could give all details. He is now in hospital in England; 3rd London General Hospital.”*
Ref: - Sgt/Maj Merrell, 15 A.I.F. Orderly Room, Mudros.

Private Alfred Daemen was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Daeman’s mother - Mrs E. Daemen, in England, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent March, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Alfred Daemen – service number 737, aged 31, of 15th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Charles and Eliza Daemen, of “Brooklyn” River Side, Abingdon, Berks, England. Native of Abbotsbury, Dorset.

Private A. Daemen is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 75.

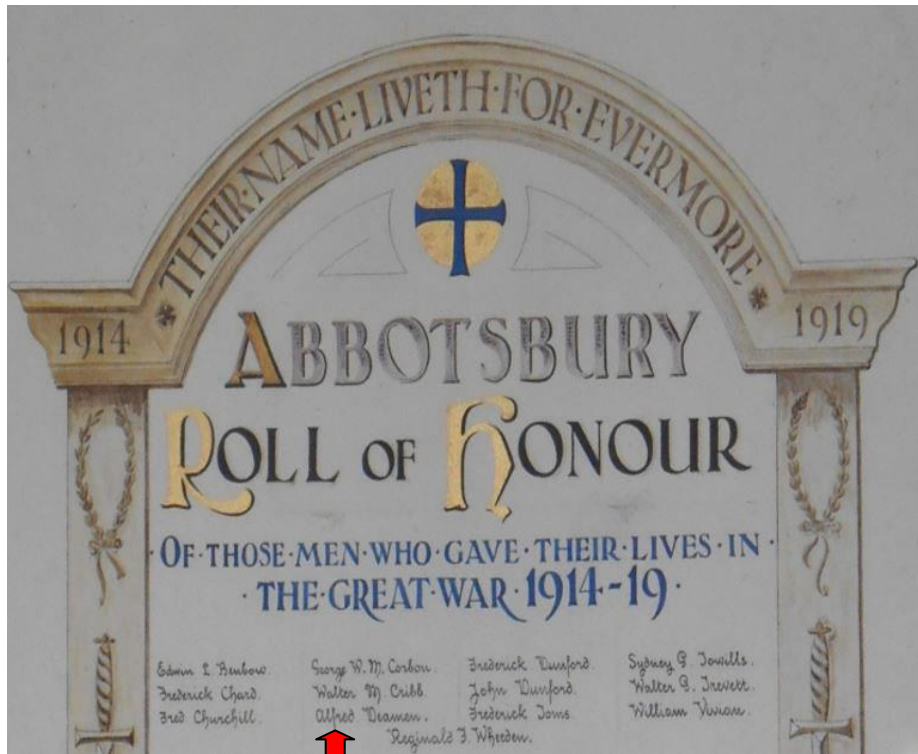


Roll of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

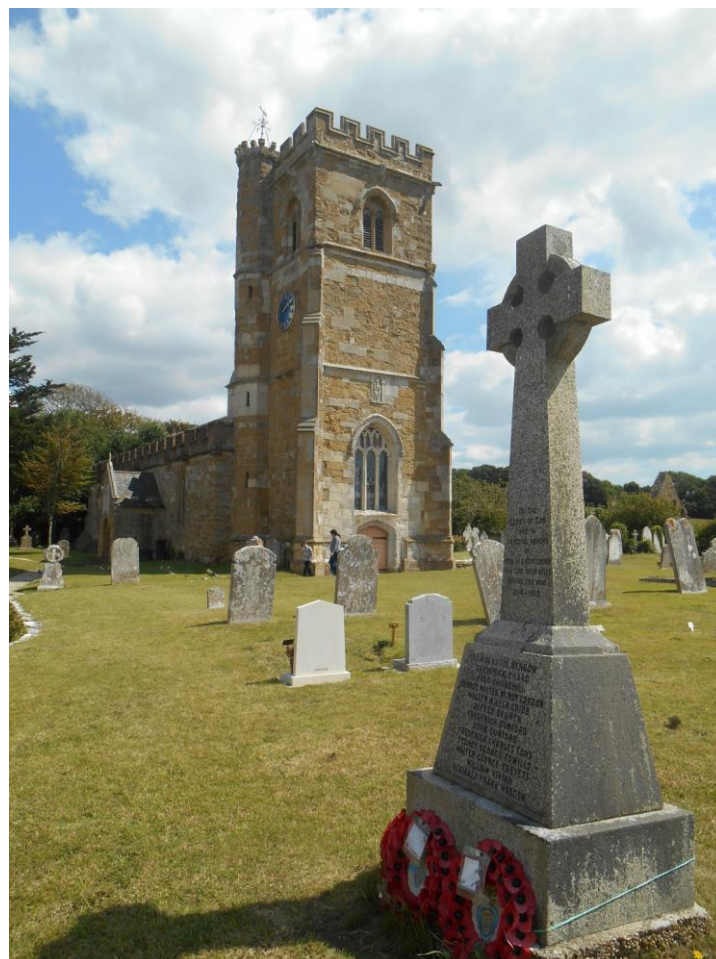
Alfred Deamen is remembered on the Abbotsbury WW1 Roll of Honour which is located inside the Church of St. Nicholas, Church Street, Abbotsbury, Dorset, England.



Abbotsbury WW1 Roll of Honour (Photos from War Memorials Online – Mr C. E. Moreton)



Alfred Deamen is remembered on the Abbotsbury War Memorial located in the churchyard of St. Nicholas, Church Street, Abbotsbury, Dorset, England.



Abbotsbury War Memorial (Photos from War Memorials Online – Mr C. E. Moreton)



(29 pages of Private Alfred Daemen'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



Newspaper Notices

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

Australian Casualties

QUEENSLAND

MISSING

Pte A. Daemen, 15th Btn., England

(*The Queenslander*, Brisbane, Queensland – 3 July, 1915)

Lone Pine Memorial, Turkey

The Lone Pine Memorial is at the east end of Lone Pine Cemetery.

The eight month campaign in Gallipoli was fought by Commonwealth and French forces in an attempt to force Turkey out of the war, to relieve the deadlock of the Western Front in France and Belgium, and to open a supply route to Russia through the Dardanelles and the Black Sea.

The Allies landed on the peninsula on 25-26 April 1915; the 29th Division at Cape Helles in the south and the Australian and New Zealand Corps north of Gaba Tepe on the west coast, an area soon known as Anzac. On 6 August, further landings were made at Suvla, just north of Anzac, and the climax of the campaign came in early August when simultaneous assaults were launched on all three fronts.

Lone Pine was a strategically important plateau in the southern part of Anzac which was briefly in the hands of Australian forces following the landings on 25 April. It became a Turkish strong point from May to July, when it was known by them as 'Kanli Sirt' (Bloody Ridge).

The Australians pushed mines towards the plateau from the end of May to the beginning of August and on the afternoon of 6 August, after mine explosions and bombardment from land and sea, the position was stormed by the 1st Australian Brigade. By 10 August, the Turkish counter-attacks had failed and the position was consolidated. It was held by the 1st Australian Division until 12 September, and then by the 2nd, until the evacuation of the peninsula in December.

The LONE PINE MEMORIAL stands on the site of the fiercest fighting at Lone Pine and overlooks the whole front line of May 1915. It commemorates more than 4,900 Australian and New Zealand servicemen who died in the Anzac area - the New Zealanders prior to the fighting in August 1915 - whose graves are not known. Others named on the memorial died at sea and were buried in Gallipoli waters.

The memorial stands in LONE PINE CEMETERY. The original small battle cemetery was enlarged after the Armistice when scattered graves were brought in from the neighbourhood, and from Brown's Dip North and South Cemeteries, which were behind the Australian trenches of April-August 1915.

There are now 1,167 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 504 of the burials are unidentified. Special memorials commemorate 183 soldiers (all but one of them Australian, most of whom died in August), who were known or believed to have been buried in Lone Pine Cemetery, or in the cemeteries at Brown's Dip. *(Information & photo from CWGC)*



Lone Pine Memorial, Turkey

Photo of Pte Private Alfred Daemen's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Lone Pine Memorial, Turkey.

