

Inverurie, Aberdeenshire, Scotland

War Memorial



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1233 SERGEANT

J. A. MAITLAND

38TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

28TH AUGUST, 1918

James Alexander MAITLAND

James Alexander Maitland was born at Alford, Aberdeenshire, Scotland around 1885 to parents Alexander and Jessie Maitland (nee Coutts).

The 1891 Scotland Census recorded James A. Maitland as a 6 year old Scholar, living with his family at Aberdeen Turnpike Road, Kintore, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. His parents were listed as Alexander Maitland (Brewery Carter, aged 32, born Tullynessle, Aberdeenshire) & Jessie Maitland (aged 33, born Lumphanan, Aberdeenshire). James was the eldest of three children listed on this Census – James then Charles A. Maitland (aged 4, born Kintore, Aberdeenshire) & George A. Maitland (aged 2, born Kintore, Aberdeenshire).

The 1901 Scotland Census recorded James A. Maitland as a 16 year old Grocer's Apprentice living with his family at Turnpike Brewery Cottage, Kintore, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. His parents were listed as Alexander Maitland (Brewery Carter, aged 41) & Jessie Maitland (aged 43). James was the eldest of five children listed on this Census – James then Charles A. Maitland (Baker's Apprentice, aged 14), George A. Maitland (Scholar, aged 12), William L. Maitland (Scholar, aged 10, born Kintore, Aberdeenshire) & Jeannie M. Maitland (Scholar, aged 7, born Kintore, Aberdeenshire).

Jessie Maitland, mother of James Alexander Maitland, died on 24th January, 1909, aged 51 years.

A "James Maitland", Warehouseman, aged 27, was a passenger on *Marathon* which departed from the port of London on 19th October, 1912 bound for Australia – destination port of Melbourne, Victoria.

James Alexander Maitland was a 31 year old, single, Motor Bus Conductor from 66 Lang Street, South Yarra, Victoria when he enlisted on 18th February, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Brigade, 38th Infantry Battalion "D" Company of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1233 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Alexander Maitland, of 101 High Street, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

Private James Alexander Maitland was posted to "D" Company, 38th Battalion on 18th February, 1916.

Private James Alexander Maitland embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Runic (A54)* on 20th June, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 10th 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 James Alexander Maitland was charged 1/- for shortage of clothing while posted in England on 4th November, 1916.

Private James Alexander Maitland was written up for an Offence at Larkhill, Wiltshire, England – AWL (Absent without Leave) from midnight on 14th November, 1916 to 10 pm on 15th November, 1916. He was awarded 4 days Confined to Barracks & forfeited 1 days' pay.

Private James Alexander Maitland proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 22nd November, 1916.

Private James Alexander Maitland was appointed Lance Corporal in the field on 15th January, 1917.

Lance Corporal James Alexander Maitland was detached to 3rd Divisional School on 18th March, 1917. He was marched out to his Unit from 3rd Divisional School at Etaples on 25th March, 1917.

Lance Corporal James Alexander Maitland was promoted to Corporal (Temp) in the Field on 30th April, 1917 vice Smith promoted.

Corporal (Temp) James Alexander Maitland was promoted to Corporal on 29th July, 1917 vice Cpl. Roberts promoted.

Corporal James Alexander Maitland was sent to 11th Australian Field Ambulance on 8th August, 1917 with a Hernia. He was discharged to duty the same day & rejoined his Unit on 8th August, 1917.

Corporal James Alexander Maitland was transferred to 10th Training Battalion on 31st August, 1917. Corporal Maitland was marched in to 10th Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire, England on 4th September, 1917 from France.

Corporal James Alexander Maitland was attached to Permanent Cadre of 10th Training Battalion at by Headquarters, A.I.F. Dept. in UK at Tidworth, Wiltshire on 4th September, 1917.

Corporal James Alexander Maitland attended a course of instruction at No. 1 Area Gas School, Chiseldon on 15th September, 1917 & returned to 10th Training Battalion on 22nd September, 1917. He qualified as Assistant Instructor.

Corporal James Alexander Maitland proceeded overseas to France from Sutton Mandeville, Wiltshire, via Southampton on 1st March, 1918.

Corporal James Alexander Maitland was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) from England on 2nd March, 1918. He was marched out to his Unit on 17th March, 1918 & rejoined his Unit in the field on 19th March, 1918 from Supernumerary List.

Corporal James Alexander Maitland was sent to Hospital sick on 20th March, 1918. He was admitted to 11th Australian Field Ambulance on 21st March, 1918 then transferred & admitted to New Zealand Station Hospital on 22nd March, 1918 with Scabies. Corporal Maitland was discharged to duty on 30th March, 1918 & rejoined 38th Battalion in the field on 3rd April, 1918.

Corporal James Alexander Maitland was promoted to Sergeant on 6th August, 1918 vice Sgt. Duffey reverted to Pte on 5th August, 1915 at his own request.

38th Battalion

The 38th Battalion was formed on 1 March 1916 at a camp established on the Epsom Racecourse at Bendigo in Victoria. Early training was disrupted by a severe outbreak of cerebro-spinal meningitis in the camp, as a result of which the healthy members were transferred to a camp at Campbellfield, where the Battalion had to be rebuilt from fresh reinforcements.

After training in both Australia and Britain, the 38th Battalion crossed to France in late November 1916 and moved into the trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 1 December. During the harsh winter of 1916-17 the 3rd Division was heavily involved in raiding the German trenches. In February 1917 the 38th Battalion provided 400 troops, with a similar party from the 37th Battalion, to form a special raiding "battalion". After several weeks of training this force staged a single 35-minute raid on the night of 27 February and was then disbanded.

The 38th fought in its first major battle at Messines, in Belgium, between 7-9 June 1917.

38th Battalion was rushed from Belgium to France in late March 1918 to meet the German Army's Spring Offensive. The Allies launched their own offensive on 8 August 1918, but the 38th was in reserve on this day and did not play an active role. It was involved, however, in an ill-conceived attack that failed to capture the village of Proyart on 10 August. Undaunted, the battalion continued to play an active role throughout August and early September in the 3rd Division's advance along the Somme Valley.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Sergeant James Alexander Maitland was killed in action in France on 28th August, 1918.

A memo from Lt. Com. Officer, 38th Bn., A.I.F. regarding the death of Sergeant James Alexander Maitland reads: *"Sgt Maitland J. A. was killed by machine gun fire on the 28th August last during the taking of the village of CURLU by this Battalion, on that date. He died instantly and was later buried where he fell – approx.. G.6.b.45.25 (Sheet 62c) near CURLU. A Battalion Cross has been erected over his grave. (buried near Old Quarry, Curlu, France)."*

Sergeant James Alexander Maitland was originally buried at Map Ref. 62° NW G6 B2.7 along with Pte J. H. Treloar, No 3127, 38th Battalion, A.I.F. They had both been killed on the same date.

Thirteen Soldiers, including two unknown British Soldiers were later exhumed from their original burial location and reburied in Suzanne Military Cemetery No. 3, Somme, France – Plot number I. E. 2. Sergeant Maitland's grave was identified by a Cross & his clothing. The concentration of cemeteries allowed otherwise unmaintainable graves to be moved into established war grave cemeteries where the Commission could ensure proper commemoration. Sergeant James Alexander Maitland's grave is marked by a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Base Records wrote to Mr A. Maitland, 101 High Street, Iverurie, Aberdeenshire, Scotland on 20th May, 1920 to inform him that *"...further advice which shows that his remains have been exhumed and re-interred in Suzanne French Military Cemetery, No. 2 about 7 miles north west of Peronne. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain."* (Note- Sergeant Maitland was re-interred in Suzanne Military Cemetery No. 3).

Sergeant James Alexander Maitland was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sergeant Maitland's father in Scotland - Mr A. Maitland, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant J. A. Maitland – service number, of 38th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Alexander and Jessie Maitland, of Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

Sergeant J. A. Maitland is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel130.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Sergeant J. A. Maitland is remembered on the Inverurie War Memorial, Scotland located at Inverurie Square, Market Place, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.



Inverurie War Memorial, Scotland (Photos by Bob Embleton)



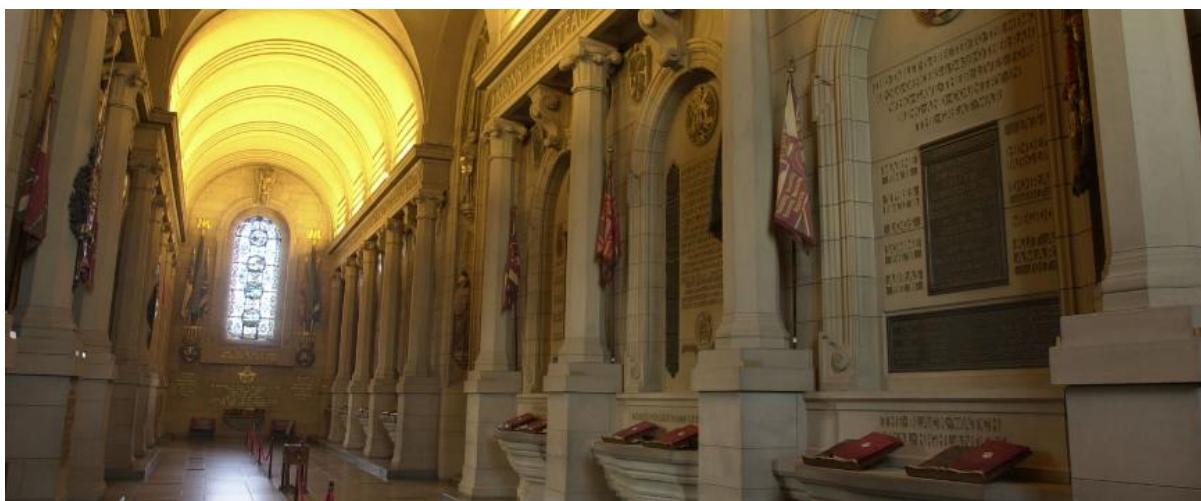
Inverurie War Memorial – west face

Sergeant James Alexander Maitland is remembered in the Roll of Honour Books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad shelf in front of each of the bays, the names of the dead are listed in leather-bound books.



The Scottish National War Memorial & the Hall of Honour & the Roll of Honour Books.

(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)



(47 pages of Sergeant James Alexander Maitland'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

ROLL OF HONOUR

MAITLAND – Killed in action on 28th August, 1918, Sergt. James A. Maitland, Australian Imperial Force, aged 33 years, eldest son of Alexander Maitland, 101 High Street, Inverurie.

(*Aberdeen Weekly Journal*, Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Scotland – 20 September, 1918)

VICTORIA'S ROLL OF HONOUR

435th CASUALTY LIST

KILLED IN ACTION

Maitland, Sergt. J. A., Scotland

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia – 21 October, 1918)

Alexander Maitland is remembered on the Family Headstone located in Inverurie Bass Cemetery, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.



Maitland Family Headstone (Photo by GariochGraver)

In

Loving

Memory Of

JESSIE COUTS

Wife Of

ALEXANDER MAITLAND

Who Died at Brewery

Cottage 24th Jany. 1909

Aged 51 Years

Also Their Sons

Pte GEORGE A. MAITLAND, Sfth Hds

Who Fell In Action In France

21st March 1918 Aged 28 Years.

Sgt. JAMES A. MAITLAND, A.I.F.

Who Fell In Action In France

28th Aug. 1918 Aged 33 Years

The Above

ALEXANDR MAITLAND

Who Died At 101 High Street,

5th May 1929 Aged 69 Years

And Their Only Daughter

JEANNIE MORTIMER

Who Died 5th Dec. 1971

Aged 77 Years

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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)

Sergeant J. A. Maitland does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Suzanne Military Cemetery No. 3, Somme, France

Suzanne is a village in the Department of the Somme on the right bank of the Somme River, about 13 kilometres south-east of Albert. Suzanne Military Cemetery No. 3 is north of the village near the east of the road to Maricourt.

The village of Suzanne was taken over by British troops in the summer of 1915, lost in March, 1918, and recaptured by the 3rd Australian Division on the following 26th August.

Suzanne Military Cemetery No. 3 was originally a French Cemetery (Cimetiere Mixte No. 3 de Suzanne); but after the Armistice the British graves were concentrated into it from the battlefields North of the Somme, and the French graves were removed.

There are now 139 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war here. Of these, 42 are unidentified. There is also 1 German burial here. The cemetery covers area of 925 square metres and is enclosed by a low rubble wall.

(Information & Photos from CWGC)





Pte J. H. Treloar & Sergeant J. A. Maitland, both of 38th Battalion *(left & middle).*

They were both killed in action on 28th August, 1918 & originally buried together then exhumed & reburied next to each other Suzanne Military Cemetery No. 3.

Photo of Sergeant J. A. Maitland's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Suzanne Military Cemetery No. 3, Somme, France.



