

ANDERSON, L. W.

Leonard William Anderson was born in 1893, the second son of James Anderson and Annie Sullivan. He was part of a large family and had at least six siblings.

In 1915, just before he enlisted, he married Ada Hobden. The new couple moved in with Ada's parents and siblings who lived in Elgin Street, Carlton, and Ada farewelled Leonard from there.

Leonard was sent to France and was killed in action in July 1916. He has no known grave.

One of Ada's brothers, Reginald William Hobden, also enlisted. Both men are listed in the St Jude's Honour Roll.

Leonard's six surviving siblings were named in the Grant of Administration papers, after his mother's death in 1923.

AIF Project Entry

Leonard William ANDERSON

Regimental number	570
Place of birth	Melbourne, Victoria
Religion	Protestant
Occupation	Picture framer
Address	84 Elgin Street, Carlton, Melbourne, Victoria
Marital status	Married
Age at embarkation	22
Height	5' 6"
Weight	133 lbs
Next of kin	Wife, Mrs. Ada Anderson, 84 Elgin Street, Carlton, Melbourne, Victoria.
Previous military service	Served for 2 years in the Junior Cadets.
Enlistment date	14 July 1915
Date of enlistment from Nominal Roll	7 July 1915
Place of enlistment	Melbourne, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	31st Battalion, C Company
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/48/1
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board HMAT A62 <i>Wandilla</i> on 9 November 1915 31st Battalion Headquarters and Companies A, B, C and D sailed on two ships, HMAT A62 <i>Wandilla</i> , 9 November 1915 from Melbourne, and HMAT A41 <i>Bakara</i> , 5 November 1915, from Melbourne.

Rank from Nominal Roll
Unit from Nominal Roll
Fate

It is not possible to tell from the Embarkation Roll on which ship an individual embarked.
Private
31st Battalion
Killed in Action 21 July 1916

Place of burial

No known grave

Commemoration details

Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France
Villers-Bretonneux is a village about 15 km east of Amiens. The Memorial stands on the high ground ('Hill 104') behind the Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, Fouilloy, which is about 2 km north of Villers-Bretonneux on the east side of the road to Fouilloy.

The Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux is approached through the Military Cemetery, at the end of which is an open grass lawn which leads into a three-sided court. The two pavilions on the left and right are linked by the north and south walls to the back (east) wall, from which rises the focal point of the Memorial, a 105 foot tall tower, of fine ashlar. A staircase leads to an observation platform, 64 feet above the ground, from which further staircases lead to an observation room. This room contains a circular stone tablet with bronze pointers indicating the Somme villages whose names have become synonymous with battles of the Great War; other battle fields in France and Belgium in which Australians fought; and far beyond, Gallipoli and Canberra.

On the three walls, which are faced with Portland stone, are the names of 10,885 Australians who were killed in France and who have no known grave. The 'blocking course' above them bears the names of the Australian Battle Honours.

After the war an appeal in Australia raised £22,700, of which £12,500 came from Victorian school children, with the request that the majority of the funds be used to build a new school in Villers-Bretonneux.

The boys' school opened in May 1927 and contains an inscription stating that the school was the gift of Victorian schoolchildren, twelve hundred of whose fathers are buried in the Villers-Bretonneux cemetery, with the names of many more recorded on the Memorial. Villers-Bretonneux is now twinned with Robinvale, Victoria, which has in its main square a memorial to the links between the two towns.

Panel number, Roll of Honour,
Australian War Memorial

118

Other details

War service: Egypt, Western Front
Disembarked Suez, ex-HMT 'Wandilla',
7 December 1915; transferred to hospital,
same day (nephritis); to No 2 Australian
General Hospital, Ghezereh, 14 December
1915; to Helouan Convalescent Depot,
11 January 1916; discharged, 27 January
1916 (Class B); marched in 8th Training Bn,
Tel el Kebir, 3 May 1916.

Proceeded to and rejoined 31st Bn, Ferry
Post, 25 May 1916.

Embarked Alexandria to join the British
Expeditionary Force, 17 June 1916;
disembarked Marseilles, France, 25 June
1916. Wounded in action, 21 July 1916.
Now, 22 August 1916, reported wounded and
missing, 21 July 1916.

Court of Enquiry, held in the field, 1 August
1917, pronounced fate as 'Killed in Action,
21 July 1916'.

Statement, Red Cross File No 90706,
581 Pte H.W. BLACKMAN, D Company,
31st Bn, 31 October 1917: 'We were in the
trenches at 6 p.m. about on 19.7.16. at
Fleurbaix when a portion of the trench we
were in was blown in[,] the section being
scattered. I never saw him after this and
cannot say whether he charged over with the
rest of us or not, the signal being given very
shortly after the trench being blown in.

In company with other members of the Batn I worked on this trench later for some weeks and several bodies were recovered all being recognised. Anderson's body was as far as I know not recovered there.'

Miscellaneous details

Medals: 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal
Father, James Anderson, 95 Brunswick Road, East Brunswick, Victoria.

Sources

NAA: B2455, ANDERSON Leonard William
Red Cross file 90706

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NAA: B2455, ANDERSON L W, SERN 570.

PROV: Probate and Administration Files