



ASHWORTH FAMILY

Family History

Edmund Ashworth was born in Lancashire in 1818. He joined the 96th Regiment of Foot at the age of eighteen and arrived in the Swan River Colony in 1847. Edmund paid seven pounds for a conditional discharge in May 1849, after which he found employment as storekeeper and tailor before becoming a police constable.

Edmund married Charlotte Pollard in the Perth district in 1850, and the couple went on to have a total of eleven children. They lived in the Guildford area before moving to the Avon Valley, where Edmund worked for James Nairn at "Spring Dale" near York.

By 1859, Edmund was working as a shoemaker in York. Business must have been good as, by 1862, he had purchased ten acres of land and built a cottage. Edmund then turned his hand to farming and, over the next twenty-five years, he acquired hundreds more acres of farmland in the district and became a successful farmer.

Edmund Ashworth died in York in 1888.

Ralph Ashworth, the eldest son of Edmund and Charlotte, was born in Guildford on the 17th January 1851. He came to live in York at the age of five.

Ralph married Elizabeth Young in 1874, and they had twelve children, two of whom served in the First World War.

Ralph worked as a teamster and farmed at "Cork Hill." The couple became prominent within the York community and were honoured with leading the parade at the York Centenary in 1931.



Ralph and Elizabeth Ashworth
Courtesy York Residency
Museum

Ashworth

Charles Alexander

Service No: 5047



Alec in Camel Corps Uniform
Courtesy Kathy Emin

Basic Information

Name: Charles Alexander Ashworth

Service Number: 5047

Date of Enlistment: 10/1/1916

Age at Enlistment: 28 years

Civil Occupation: Farmer

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal,
Victory Medal

Height: 5 ft 5 ½ inches

Weight: 126 lbs

Chest Measurement: 34 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Grey

Hair Colour: Light Brown

Father: Ralph Ashworth

Mother: Elizabeth Young

Married: Gladys Rose Peach.



Courtesy Kathy Emin

Life Story

Charles Alexander Ashworth, the seventh child of Ralph and Elizabeth Ashworth, was born at "Redhill," York, on the 8th December 1888. While he was named Charles, he was always known as Alick or Alec.

Alec enlisted in York in January 1916, giving his occupation as farmer and, by March 1916, he had embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Shropshire*, bound for Egypt.

Alec transferred to the Imperial Camel Corps in May 1916 but was admitted to the Australian General Hospital at Abbassia in June, suffering from influenza.

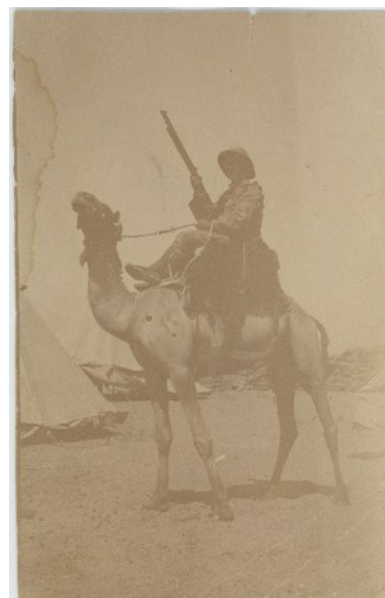
He returned to active duty a month later.

During the second Battle of Gaza on the 19th April 1917, Alec suffered a gunshot wound to his right elbow. It was two months before he was fit enough to return to duty, whereupon he was posted to No.1 Battalion on the 14th July before being transferred to No.3 Company of the Imperial Camel Corps on the 29th July.

Alec also had to forfeit two days' pay for being Absent Without Leave from the 22nd to the 23rd of July.

In early 1918, Alec contracted malaria. He was transferred between the Stationary Hospital and General Hospital in Gaza and Port Said several times during May 1918.

Three months later, in August, he went to Cairo for ten days' sick leave. When deemed fit to return to duty, Alec transferred back to the 10th Light Horse Regiment, as the Camel Corps was being wound down.



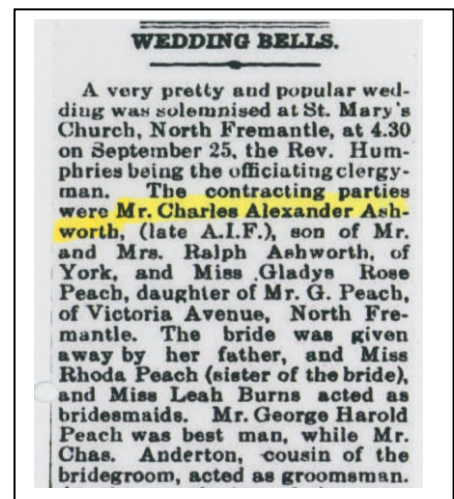
Courtesy Kathy Emin

Alec continued to serve in Egypt, until he was repatriated to Australia in July 1919, sailing on His Majesty's Hospital Ship *Oxfordshire*. Alec was admitted to Fremantle Hospital and, whilst there, met Gladys Rose Peach, a young nurse at the hospital, whom he later married.

The wedding took place at St Mary's Church, Fremantle on the 25th September 1920 and, after a brief honeymoon, the couple moved to "Redhill Farm", York, where Alec resumed farming on his father's property. Alec and Gladys had four children: Ruth, Ronald Charles, Thelma and Norman Thomas.

Alec was a member of the York Agricultural Society and an active exhibitor. He later became Head Pavilion Steward, a position he held for many years.

Alec died at York in May 1955, aged sixty-seven.



ASHWORTH

William Nathan

Service No: 2529



Courtesy Kathy Emin

Basic Information

Name: William Nathan Ashworth

Service Number: 2529

Date of Enlistment: 22/06/1916

Age at Enlistment: 22 years

Civil Occupation: farm labourer

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal, 1914/15 Star

Height: 5 ft 7 ½ inches

Weight: 132 lbs

Chest Measurement: 35 inches

Complexion: Dusky

Eye Colour: Grey

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: Ralph Ashworth

Mother: Elizabeth Young

Siblings: Elizabeth Charlotte, Sarah Matilda, Ralph Edmund, Thomas Henry, Albert, Margaret Louisa, Charles Alexander, Janet Esther, Leslie Roy, Pearl, Leslie Michael.



Courtesy Kathy Emin

Life Story

William Nathan Ashworth was the younger brother of Charles Ashworth and the ninth child of Ralph and Elizabeth Ashworth. Born at "Redhill" in York in 1893, he was usually known as Nathan, or Nat.

Nathan enlisted in York on the 22nd June 1916, giving his occupation as farm labourer, and was assigned to 44th Battalion.

After several months training, he sailed from Fremantle on the 9th November 1916 aboard HMAT *Argyllshire*, disembarking in England in January 1917. On arrival, William spent three months training with the 11th Training Battalion at Durrington.

In April 1917, the Battalion was sent overseas to France. Nathan was Taken on Strength in the field with the 44th Battalion 5th Reinforcements. Ralph and Elizabeth Ashworth now had two sons fighting in France.



Courtesy Australian War Memorial DA16962

In the trenches, Nathan became a Lewis Gunner. Lewis guns were lightweight machine guns in common use throughout World War One. Nathan was apparently praised by his Commanding Officer as a valued Lewis Gun team member.

William Nathan Ashworth was killed in action on the 14th April 1918. A letter to his parents describes the circumstances:

...he was with a party returning to the trenches to resume duty thereafter having been out for a short rest. The enemy commenced shelling the road, and before shelter could be reached your son was killed. A shell struck the road close to him and he was killed by concussion.

Nathan's body was buried in a military cemetery in Bonnay, France, behind the lines.

Soon after Ralph and Elizabeth were notified of their son's death, they received more distressing news: Nathan's personal effects had been lost at sea. An extract taken from the letter sent by the Base Records Department describes the circumstances of the loss:

...regret to inform you that two packages of personal effects were included in a consignment of 5,500 packages comprising the personal effects of over 5,000 soldiers, shipped per H.M.A.T. Barurga, which vessel was lost by enemy action at sea. This is all the more regrettable as the loss by the Barurga was the only instance in which any personal effects of deceased members of the A.I.F. were lost in transit to Australia.

ASHWORTH

Walter

Service No: 1689



Courtesy Virtual War Memorial Australia

Family History

Charles Ashworth, the fourth son of Edmund Ashworth and Charlotte Pollard, was born at York in 1867. He earned his living as a labourer and worked on the construction of the Mundaring Weir. Charles later became a farmer at "Broadlands" in the York district before retiring to Northam.

Charles married Sarah Ann Smith in 1889, and the couple raised a family of twelve children. Walter Ashworth was their third child, and he was the first cousin of William Nathan and Charles Alexander Ashworth.

Charles senior died in the Northam hospital in 1940.

Basic Information

Name: Walter Ashworth

Service Number: 1689

Date of Enlistment: 19/8/1915

Age at Enlistment: 21 years 10 months

Civil Occupation: Farmer

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal,
Victory Medal, 1914/15 Star

Height: 5 feet 2 inches

Weight: 125 lbs

Chest Measurement: 34 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Hazel

Hair Colour: Dark Brown

Father: Charles Ashworth

Mother: Sarah Ann Smith

Siblings: Frederick, Edith Maud, Alice Selina, Gladys May, Mena, Amy Ruth,
Ivy, George Charles, Leslie James, Lillian Freda

Married: Beatrice Maud Don

Life Story

Walter Ashworth was born at York in 1893. It is likely that he attended York State School and was working on the family farm by the time of his enlistment in 1915.

Walter enlisted as a Private in the 11th Reinforcements of the 10th Light Horse, citing eighteen months' previous service with the York Light Horse. He embarked from Fremantle on board HMAT A32 *Themistocles* on the 13th October 1915 and disembarked in Egypt.

After a bout of mumps, Walter was Taken on Strength with the Third Reserve Regiment in Heliopolis. At the beginning of April, he transferred to the 4th Divisional Artillery, where he mustered as a gunner.

In May 1916, Walter was given fourteen days' detention for leaving the parade ground without permission. That same month, he was appointed a Temporary Driver before leaving Egypt to join the British Expeditionary Force, in France, in early June.

Walter was appointed a Driver in the field on the 1st May 1916.

On the 9th January 1917, Walter was admitted to the No. 1 Field Ambulance suffering from pleurisy. He was transferred through several clearing stations before being admitted to the 1st Australian General Hospital at Rouen on the 22nd January. From there, Walter returned to the United Kingdom, where he was admitted to Bethnal Green Hospital in London.

In early March, Walter transferred to the 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, before being discharged on furlough on the 16th. After a short period of leave, he reported to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs on the 31st March 1917.

However, two weeks' later, Walter was found guilty of being Absent Without Leave from Perham Downs between the afternoon of the 31st March and 8.30pm the following day. He received fourteen days' Field Punishment No. 2 which meant being placed in fetters and handcuffs, hard labour and loss of thirteen days' pay.

On the 11th April, Walter was admitted to the 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital in Bulford, where he spent seventy-three days being treated for venereal disease, a common affliction for soldiers at the time. Walter was discharged in late June and marched into the Reserve Brigade of the Australian Artillery at Larkhill.

He re-joined his unit in France on the 22nd August and remained in the field until the 17th August 1918, when he transferred to the 10th Field Artillery Brigade.

Walter returned to Australia aboard HT *China* on the 1st June 1919 and was discharged from the armed forces on the 24th July.

Little is known of Walter's life after the War. He married Beatrice Maud Don in Victoria Park in 1922, and their first living child, a daughter, was born in 1923. The couple made their home in Duke Street, Northam, but later moved to Charles Street.

In 1964, Walter is known to have held a marine collector's licence and badge. This means he was licensed to buy and sell second-hand metal goods and other scrap materials.

Walter died in Northam in 1975.



Ashworth

Arthur Devereux

Service No: 62764

Family Story

Arthur Devereux Ashworth was the son of Edward Ashworth and Emily Devereux. His father Edward, born at Guildford in 1856, was the second son of Edmund Ashworth and Charlotte Pollard.

As a young man, Edward worked as a shepherd then a teamster, carting goods to and from Perth. On the death of his father, he inherited a property known as "The Brook" and later farmed at "6 Mile Gully" and "17 Mile Gully" west of York.

In 1882, Edward married his first cousin, Emily Devereux, and they went on to have a large family. According to his obituary, Edward took an interest in horse racing and was an active member of the York Agricultural Society, eventually becoming a life member.

Edward died in York in 1943 at his residence in Carter Road. His wife, Emily, passed away in 1947.

Basic Information

Name: Arthur Devereux Ashworth

Service Number: 62764

Date of Enlistment: 30/7/1918

Age at Enlistment: 19 years

Civil Occupation: Labourer

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal

Height: 5 feet 10 inches

Weight: 153 lbs

Chest Measurement: 34 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Dark Brown

Father: Edward Ashworth

Mother: Emily Devereux

Siblings: Edmund John, William Edward, Matilda Anne, Herbert, Ada Maria, Emily Charlotte, Ruby, Phillip Rueben, Percy Albert Reginald, Ivan James

Married: Myrtle Hazel Esther Smith

Life Story

Arthur Devereux Ashworth needed the permission of his parents, Edward and Emily, to enlist in the A.I.F., as he was underage. He was first cousin to Walter Devereux and the brothers, Charles Alexander and William Nathan Ashworth.

Arthur's time in the armed forces was short. He enlisted as a Private on the 30th July 1918 and was appointed to the 3rd General Service Reinforcements before embarking HMAT *Boonah* at Fremantle in readiness for overseas service on the 24th October 1918.

However, the end of the War was in sight and, on the 11th November, the Armistice was signed and fighting on the Western Front came to an end. Arthur disembarked at Woodman Point on the 12th December, and he was discharged from the army on the 17th January 1919.

Arthur married Myrtle Hazel Esther Smith in 1921. It is not clear where the newlyweds made their home, but there are several references to social activities in the newspapers that suggest they were living in the York area.

During the 1930s, Arthur listed his address in the Post Office Directory as Balladong and, in 1936, advertised timber for sale in the York Chronicle.



Courtesy National Archives
of Australia

In 1940, Arthur dropped a year from his age to enlist in the Second World War. He stated he had been working as a contractor and gave his wife's address as North Perth, later changing it to Maylands.

Private Arthur Ashworth departed for the Middle East, where he was hospitalised with several bouts of malaria and a tumour on his thigh. Arthur returned to Australia to recover and was placed on light duties until, in August 1942, he was posted to New Guinea.

Unfortunately, Arthur was again plagued by ill-health and, on the 9th January 1943, he embarked at Port Moresby for Australia, where he was admitted to hospital in Queensland.

Arthur was assessed by a medical board and classified as unfit for active service outside Australia. He in the army until his discharge in January 1944.

Arthur died in the Bedford area in 1980.

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