



CARTER FAMILY

Family History

Robert Carter, born in 1820, arrived in the Swan River Colony aboard the *Ramillies* on the 7th August 1854. Thirty-four years old, he was a semi-literate gardener who had been sentenced, in Norfolk, to transportation for life. Robert was married with four children, and his wife, Phoebe Oxbury, followed him into exile, arriving in the Colony aboard the *Hamilla Mitchell* in 1859 with five children in tow, the last born in 1854, after her husband's sentencing.

Robert was given his Ticket of Leave on the 16th August 1856 and received a Conditional Pardon on the 12th August 1861.

By the 1860s, Robert was farming in the Northam area, and he appears to have become a successful and respected member of the community. The first Wesleyan church services were held in his home, and he owned three town lots by Carters Pool on the Avon River. Robert also leased one hundred acres for tillage and employed fourteen Ticket of Leave men between 1861 and 1876. In addition, he held the position of town Pound Keeper between 1869 and 1872.

Robert Carter died at Malabaine, near Northam, in June 1898.

His son, Robert Junior, was born in England in 1846 and arrived with his mother, Phoebe, aboard the *Hamilla Mitchell* in 1859. He married Elizabeth Penn at Northam in 1868 and the couple had a large family, two of whom enlisted in the First World War. Initially working alongside his father, Robert later established himself at Meckering, where he died in 1929.

John Clamen/Clame Carter was the third son of Robert Junior. He was born at Northam in 1872 and married Esther Cox in 1893. The couple had eleven children. John farmed at Quellington, near York, but later retired to Mandurah. The farm was then leased to his sons.

John died in York in 1958.



CARTER

Lewis Basil

Service No: 2548

Basic Summary

Name: Lewis Basil Carter

Service number: 2548

Date of enlistment: 25/7/1916

Age at Enlistment: 33 years 3 months

Civil Occupation: Contractor

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

Height: 5 ft. 11 inches

Weight: 174 lbs.

Chest measurement: 37 inches

Complexion: Fresh

Eye Colour: Blue

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: Robert Carter Junior

Mother: Elizabeth Penn/Payne

Married: Mary Jane

Children: Harold Roy Lewis (1906), Mavis Elizabeth (1908), Pearl Evelyn (1910), Vera Madge (1913), Agnes Ann (1915), Alfred Henry (1920) and Cecilia (1924)



Life Story

Lewis Basil Carter, known as Basil, was born at Northam in 1883 to Robert and Elizabeth Penn/Payne.

He married Mary Jane Mead in Northam in 1905, and the couple had nine children, two of whom died at birth.

Basil enlisted on the 25th July 1917 and departed from Fremantle with the 44th Battalion aboard the *Argyllshire* on the 9th November. He arrived in the United Kingdom on the 10th January 1917 and, after basic training, departed for France on the 10th April.

On the 13th April, Basil was Taken on Strength with the 44th Battalion in the Field.

Three months' later, he was sent to hospital suffering from conjunctivitis and a corneal ulcer. Basil was returned to England and admitted to the 4th London General Hospital, where he was diagnosed with trachoma.

On the 21st August, Basil transferred to the 1st Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield and, on the 1st November, he embarked A68 *Anchises* for his return to Australia. Basil was discharged from the armed forces on the 21st February 1918.

After the War, his name appears in the Post Office Directory for Northam between 1918 and 1933, but the family were living in the Quairading area by 1925, when their youngest daughter, not yet two years of age, drowned in a post hole.

By 1934, Basil was listed as a farmer at Dangin, near Quairading, where he remained until, at least, 1949.

In 1940, Basil's son, Alfred Henry (known as Harry) enlisted in World War Two. He joined the 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion.

In January 1942, Harry disembarked in Singapore but, just one month later, he was reported as Missing. It was not until May, 1943, that Basil and his family received word that Harry was a Prisoner of War.

Transferred through several camps in Singapore and Thailand, Harry was selected as being fit to work in Japan and, in 1944, sailed from Singapore with the *Rakuyo Maru*. The ship was torpedoed and sunk by American submarines in the South China Sea on the 12th September, and Harry was among those who perished. He was twenty-two years of age.

The anguish felt by Basil and his family can only be imagined.

Mary Jane Carter died in 1961. Basil Lewis Carter died three years' later, in 1964.



Alfred Henry Carter
Courtesy 2/4th Machine Gun
Battalion

CARTER

Alfred James

Service No: 6003



Basic Information

Name: Alfred James Carter

Service number: 6003

Date of enlistment: 22/3/1916

Age at Enlistment: 22 years 3 months

Civil Occupation: Farmer

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

Height: 5 ft. 7 inches

Weight: 145 lbs.

Chest measurement: 34 inches

Complexion: Fair

Eye Colour: Light Blue

Hair Colour: Light Brown

Father: Robert Carter

Mother: Elizabeth Penn/Payne

Married: Cecelia Dobinson

Children: Vera Cecelia

Life Story

Alfred James was the youngest son of Robert Carter and Elizabeth Penn/Payne and a brother of Lewis Basil. He was born in Northam in 1893.

Alfred enlisted on the 22nd March 1916, listing his father as Next of Kin, and was assigned to the 19th Reinforcements of the 16th Battalion. On the 9th August 1916, he departed Fremantle aboard *Miltiades* and arrived in the U.K. on the 26th September.

Alfred proceeded overseas to France aboard SS *Arundel* and was Taken on Strength with the 16th Battalion in the Field on the 19th December. On the 8th February 1917, he was sent to hospital suffering from trench feet and did not return to his unit until the 28th February.

On the 11th April 1917, Alfred was reported Missing in Action. This date marked the first day of the Battle of Bullecourt and resulted in a disaster for the Allied troops who were cut off from reinforcements. After eight hours, the Australians were forced to withdraw. Casualties were high and around 1 170 Australians were taken prisoner. This was the largest number of men captured in a single engagement during the War.

It was soon discovered that Alfred had been captured at Reincourt and taken to Dulmen Prisoner of War Camp in Germany. He was unhurt but remained interned in Germany until he arrived back in the United Kingdom on the 29th November 1918.

Alfred returned to Australia on the 18th January 1919 aboard HMS *Ulysses*.

In 1922, Alfred married Cecelia Dobinson, from Kalgoorlie, at Northam. The couple took up farming at Konnongorring, near Goomalling, where his Uncle Herbert already had a property.

Their first child, Vera Cecelia, was born later that same year.



Alfred and Cecilia made a life for themselves in the Konnongorring community, and their social activities were often mentioned in the local newspapers.

In 1964, the couple retired to Perth, where Cecelia died, in Fremantle, in 1968. Alfred died in 1972, probably at Hollywood Repatriation Hospital.

CARTER

Albert Frederick

Service No: 3136



Basic Information

Name: Albert Frederick Carter (known as Sonny)

Service number: 3136

Date of enlistment: 31/10/1916

Age at Enlistment: 20 years 4 months

Civil Occupation: Farm Hand

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

Height: 5 ft. 6 inches

Weight: 123 lbs.

Complexion: Fair

Eye Colour: Blue

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: John Carter

Mother: Esther Carter (nee Cox)

Siblings: Elsie May (born 1893), Bertha Amelia Grace (born 1894), Maud Morella (born 1898), John Hudson (born 1899), Arthur Lewis (born 1901), Lily Agnes (born 1903) and Eva Elizabeth (born 1905)

Married: Elsie Randell at York in 1920



Sonny with his parents John and Esther
Circa 1916

Courtesy of Shirley and Steven Kilpatrick

Life Story

Albert Frederick (Sonny) Carter, born in 1896 at Northam, was the third child and eldest son of John and Esther Carter. He was the nephew of Lewis Basil and Alfred James Carter. The Carter family lived at Quellington near York. When Sonny enlisted in October 1916, he would have done so knowing that many of the boys with whom he had grown up were already away fighting.

Sonny embarked on HMAT *Berrima* from Fremantle on the 23rd of December. He would have spent Christmas getting to know the men with whom he would be serving in the 48th Battalion Reinforcements.

After almost two months at sea, Sonny and his comrades disembarked at Devonport, England.

Sonny was reported missing somewhere in France on the 12th of October 1917 – can you imagine his family's horror when this news came through? However, four days later, he turned up in a field hospital suffering from trench foot.

Military records indicate that Sonny was in and out of various hospitals for about a month before marching out to base camp at Bayeux. He re-joined his unit in the Field at Harve on the 25th November 1917.

The following year, in early September 1918, while Sonny was still serving with the 48th Battalion, he was sent on leave to the U.K., before returning to his unit in France on the 25th September.



HMAT A35 *Berrima*
Courtesy Australian Light Horse Studies
Centre

By February of 1919, Sonny was with the Australian Corps School. Unfortunately, he was diagnosed with defective vision in April and transferred back to England in May.

After the War ended, it took some time for Sonny to return home. He finally embarked for Australia aboard the *Main* on the 23rd August 1919 and was discharged from the military on the 5th November 1919.

Sonny returned to York and married Elsie Randell. Interestingly, Sonny's younger sister, Maud, married Elsie's brother in that same year.

Sonny and Elsie had four children. Beryl, born 1920, Cedric Crawford, born 1921, Betty, born 1923 and Shirley Joyce born in the late 1920s.

The engagement is announced between Albert Frederick Carter (late of the 48th Batt.), eldest son of Mr. J. C. Carter, of Quellington, and Elsie Randell, youngest daughter of Mr., and the late Mrs. J. H. Randell, of Malebelling.

Eastern District Chronicle
Friday 31st October 1919

The couple continued to farm at Quellington until 1951, when they sold their property and retired to Mandurah.

Their son, Cedric, served in World War Two.

Sonny died in 1968. Elsie lived on until 1990.

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