



REYNOLDS FAMILY

REYNOLDS

Bert

Service No: 2481



Bert Reynolds
Courtesy Heather Mclean

Basic Information

Name: Bert Reynolds

Service Number: 2481

Date of Enlistment: 2/3/1916

Age at Enlistment: 21 years 3 months

Civil Occupation: Labourer

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

Height: 5ft 5 in (165.1 cm)

Weight: 125 lbs (56.7 kg)

Chest Measurement: 32- 36½

Complexion: Brown

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: George Reynolds

Mother: Emily Ann Baily

Siblings: Frank, George Edward, Alick Francis, Herbert Job, Horace Esmond.



Bert Reynolds
Courtesy Heather Mclean

Life Story

Bert Reynolds, known as Bertie, was born in York on the 6th November 1894, the youngest son of George and Emily Reynolds. The Reynolds boys attended York State School, and both Bertie and his elder brother Alicks' names appear on the School's Honour Roll.

Bertie enlisted as a Private in the 10th Light Horse Regiment, 17th Reinforcements, on the 21st March 1916. At the time of enlistment, it was noted that he had served five years with the 88th Australian Infantry Regiment at home in Australia.

On the 16th May, Bertie embarked aboard HMAT A52 *Surada* at Fremantle. On the 5th August, he was Taken on Strength, not by the Light Horse, but by the Imperial Camel



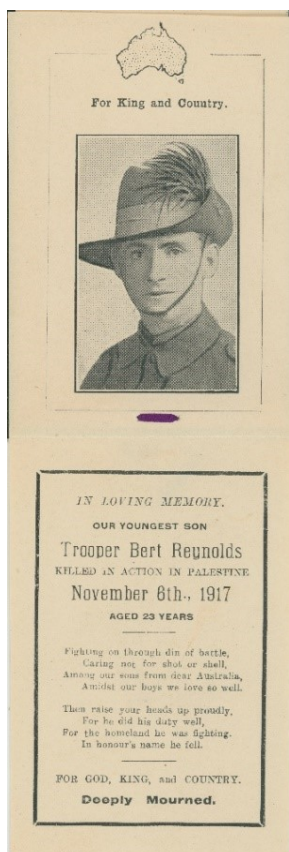
The 3rd Battalion 11th Company Camel Corps
Bertie is likely in this photograph.
Courtesy National Archives of Australia

Corps. Bertie joined the 3rd Battalion, 11th Company.

On the 6th November 1917, his twenty-third birthday, Bertie was Killed in Action in Palestine. He was hit by a bullet to the head and died in the Field.

The following day, his body was buried in the small Camel Corps Cemetery, near Tel Khuweilfe. He was later reinterred at Beersheba War Cemetery in Palestine.

Bertie's elder brother, Alick, was Killed in Action almost a month later to the day, on the 11th December 1917, in France. Can you imagine how their mother must have felt losing two sons in such a small amount of time?





A memorial card for Bertie Reynolds. Cards like these had the details of the serviceman's death printed in the inside and a poem about remembrance.

Courtesy Helen Mclean

Acknowledgements

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Watkins, Margaret

References

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REYNOLDS

Alick Francis

Service No: 6395



Name: Alick Francis Reynolds

Service Number: 6395

Date of Enlistment: 06/9/1916

Age at Enlistment: 28 years 11 Months

Civil Occupation: Butcher

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War

Medal, Victory Medal

Height: 5ft 3¾ in

Weight: 108 lbs.

Chest Measurement: 30 - 33½

Complexion: Fresh

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Dark Brown

Father: George Reynolds

Mother: Emily Ann Bailey

Siblings: Frank, George Edward, Herbert Job, Horace Esmond, Bertie

Married: Vera May McPherson

Children: Eric Bernard Esmond, Ronald Francis



Bert Reynolds
Courtesy Heather McLean

Life Story

Alick Francis Reynolds, nicknamed Tommy, was born on the 8th September 1887 in York, Western Australia. The third son of Emily and George Reynolds, Alick was baptised at the York Wesleyan Church on the 18th October 1887. As a child, he attended York State School with his younger brother Bertie. Both boys' names appear on the School Honour Roll, which is now housed at York District High School. Alick, like many other boys, participated in the local football competitions, playing for York Juniors.

His father, George, died in 1902, and the family had to live with their uncle in Pool Street, York. As a young man, Alick moved away from York, seeking employment as an apprentice butcher.

While working as an apprentice in Perth, Alick met Vera May McPherson and married her on the 29th April 1911. Vera was originally from Victoria but stayed in Western Australia after she met Alick. The couple had two children together before Alick went to war. Eric Bernard Esmond Reynolds was born in Perth in 1912, followed, three years later, by his younger brother, Ronald Francis Reynolds, born on the 10th February 1915.

On the 6th September 1916, Alick enlisted as a Private in the 28th Battalion, 18th Reinforcement. On the 29th December 1916, his unit sailed from Fremantle aboard HMAT A34 *Persic*, arriving in Devonport, England on the 2nd February 1917. After training in Devonport, Alick's unit received orders to proceed to France on the 14th June 1917. By October, he was recorded as being in Belgium.



Alick Reynolds with his wife Vera and two sons shortly before leaving for war.

Courtesy Heather McLean

Alick was Killed in Action on the 2nd of October 1917 but was initially listed as Wounded and Missing. There is no known grave, but he is remembered at the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial.

On the 11th December 1917, Lieutenant A.J. Bussell wrote the following letter to Alick's wife Vera:

During the advance at the end of September in the Ypres District, I was moving my guns to a forward position and on the place I had selected for the battery position I found and buried the body of your poor husband who had evidently fallen in the advance about 3 days previously, of course it is impossible in an advance like this one was, to collect all the fallen right away and it is often days or even weeks before the last one got in. I looked on his body for any little things of sentimental value, but evidently his pay book and other belongings had been collected by his comrades or the A.M.C. people, and all that was left was the identity disc and the coin enclosed, I buried him as well as possible under the circumstances and put a cross up over the grave.

Can you imagine Vera's heart-ache when she received this letter? Knowing that her husband's body had lain in the mud for three days before being buried?

After the War, Vera married Alexander Bowden in 1928. When World War Two broke out, both of her sons enlisted in the R.A.A.F. Both returned at the end of the War, sparing Vera the heartache of losing yet another loved one.



Memorial card for Alick Reynolds
Courtesy Heather McLean

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Watkins, Margret

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