



## **325 Company Quarter Master Sergeant Alan Malcolm (Monty) Andrews**

Alan Malcolm Andrews Dickson was born at Wingham, Manning River, N.S.W. in 1895 to parents Joseph & Matilda E. Andrews (nee Brown). Alan's parents had married in 1887. He was a 19 year old Clerk from "Ercildoune" Deakin Avenue, Haberfield, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted on 17th August, 1914 with the 1st Infantry Battalion "C" Company of the Australian Army (A.I.F.).

His service number was 325 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Joseph Andrews of "Ercildoune" Deakin Avenue, Haberfield, Sydney, NSW. Alan's attestation Papers show that he had served in Senior Cadets for 4 years and with the 31st Infantry for 3 years. He embarked from Sydney on HMAT Africa (A19) on 18th October, 1914.

Andrews was admitted to No. 1 Australian Field Ambulance, Mena, Egypt with pleurisy from 5th – 10th February, 1915 then transferred to No. 2 General Hospital, Mena House, Cairo for 7 days with pleurisy from 10th - 16th February, 1915. On 5th April, 1915, Andrews proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli & on 25th April, 1915 Andrews was promoted to Sergeant at Gallipoli as the previous Sergeant had been killed. Sgt Andrews was admitted to hospital from Battalion with diarrhoea on 4th September, 1915 & discharged back to duty on 7th September, 1915 at Mudros.

In a letter dated 9th November, 1915, from Mr Joseph Andrews to Base Records, Melbourne, regarding the whereabouts & condition of his son – Sergt. A. M. Andrews, 325 "He joined the original 1st Expeditionary Force. Landed on Gallipoli on 25th April and communicated with us regularly until 12th August which was his last ! Since then I have seen a letter from a comrade of his dated 21st August stating that – "Andrews had a miraculous escape. A shell having burst a yard from his head but never struck him, he was sent to rest Camp Anzac" – and again last week a returned soldier has told me that Andrews was wounded in the foot by shrapnel on 28th August and was sent to Malta Hospital, he saw him after being wounded and said he was suffering from septic poison. From these reports and he being always prompt in writing, and not having any information from him since the 12th August or any from the Defence Department. We are anxious to know if he has been killed, wounded, or being returned to Australia.....

Base Records replied in a letter dated 15th November, 1915 stating that "no official report that he is wounded, or to any other effect, has been received here concerning No. 325 Corporal A. M. Andrews, 1st Battalion." The reference to "Corporal" then triggered further communications from the family as to his rank being "acting Sergeant Major, Q.M. Sergeant and platoon Commander." On 28th December, 1915 Sgt Andrews disembarked at Alexandria. On 13th February, 1916, he was transferred to 53rd Battalion from 1st Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir. On 16th March, 1916, Sgt Andrews was promoted to Acting Company Quartermaster Sergeant. On 12th May, 1916 he was transferred to 14th Brigade Training Battalion & on 17th May, 1916 he was promoted to Company Quartermaster Sergeant at Tel-el-Kebir. On 29th July, 1916 C.Q.M.S. Andrews embarked from Alexandria & disembarked at Southampton, via Marseilles on 9th August, 1916.

C.Q.M.S. Andrews was attached to 14th (NSW) Training Battalion at Larkhill, Wiltshire. 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, Larkhill being one of them.

On 11th September, 1916 C.Q.M.S. Andrews was admitted to Bulford Hospital, Wiltshire, England & on 6th October, 1916 he was admitted to Fovant Hospital, Wiltshire. He was discharged on 29th December, 1916. A note in C.Q.M.S. Andrews' Service Record file, dated 8th December, 1917 reads:- "This soldier's promotion had formed subject of investigation & ruling has been made as follows:- Cpl. & L/Sgt 18th October 1914. Promotion Reconciliation Prior to 10th May 1916. Prom Sgt. 25th April 1915 Prom C.Q.M.S. 10th August 1916.

Entries referring to soldier's movements from embarkation are amended to read in accordance with above ruling, the following PT II Orders which affect rank are cancelled:- 6A1578/16 & 7/688E/17"

Company Quartermaster Sergeant Alan Malcolm Andrews died on 17th March, 1917 at Salisbury Infirmary from a fracture of base of skull. A death for Alan M Andrews, aged 21, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Salisbury, Wiltshire. He was buried in the churchyard of St. Edith's at Baverstock, Wiltshire on 21st March, 1917. From the burial report of Q.M.S. Alan Malcolm Andrews - Coffin was new varnished oak with Brass Mountings

– The deceased was accorded a Military Funeral. It is the intention of the Sergeants Mess 14th Training Battalion to erect a headstone and coping round the grave. Two artificial wreaths provided by the Sergeants Mess and the band will be placed in position.

An Inquest was held into the death of Company Quartermaster-Sergeant Allen Malcolm Andrews: A motor-car trip, planned by a party of four Australian soldiers, stationed at Hurdcott Camp, came to an unhappy end on Whiteparish Hill, was told at an inquest held at Salisbury Infirmary on Tuesday morning, one member of the party, Company Quartermaster-Sergeant Alan Malcolm Andrews, aged 21, having died as a result of his injuries. Mr S. Buchanan Smith, City Coroner, presided, Mr. F. H. Trethowan represented the driver and the owner of the car, and Mr. W. J. Saunders was chosen foreman of the jury.

Sergt.-Major Allenshaw, AIF, gave evidence of identification, and said that Andrews was Australian born. He last saw him at 1.30 on Saturday, March 17th, when he handed him a pass to go to Southampton. Sgt. William Lawrence Tromp stated that he and three friends hired a car to go to Southampton on Saturday afternoon. They left camp at about 2.30, passed through Salisbury, and everything went all right till they were about four miles away from the city. They were going down a rather long hill at a fairly good pace – though not a reckless pace – when he noticed a car coming towards them. Their driver steered into the near side of the road to make room for it to pass, and, so far as he could remember, their car got into a rut at the side of the road. When the driver turned it on to the road again it swerved to the opposite side, struck the bank and the front of wheel splintered. As it was being steered back to its proper side it turned over and they were all thrown into the road. All got up except Andrews, who was unconscious, and Smith, whose foot was under the back wheel. Another car which was following them, as well as the car which was coming towards them, assisted in bringing them into Salisbury Infirmary.

**The Coroner:** The driver had the car under control?

**Answer** - I think so.

As far as you could see it was a pure accident?

**Answer** - A pure accident.

Private George Francis Ball, another member of the party, corroborated his friend's evidence. He said he thought the car got into a rut and a couple of pot holes. The accident was probably caused by the wheel splintering when it struck the bank. Had it remained intact the driver would probably have recovered control, or they would merely have gone into the ditch and stopped.

**The Foreman:** You are satisfied that it was the buckling of the wheel and not the pace you were going?

**Answer** - We were going at a fair pace, but nothing very extraordinary. The driver did all he could to keep the car on the straight.

It did not appear to you to be a reckless pace?

**Answer** - No.

And he would have righted the car if the wheel had not buckled?

**Answer** - think so.

**Another Juryman :** What is your idea of a fair pace?

**Answer** - It depends on circumstances.

Mr Arthur Hugh Clough, of Burley, Ringwood, said he was in the motor-car following the one in which the soldiers were riding. He saw another car coming towards them when they were descending Whiteparish Hill, and noticed that the car containing the soldiers got into the side of the road to let the other one pass. Then it swerved right across the road, touched the other side, swerved back again and turned over. One reason of the accident, he thought, was that the car passed over a little gully by the side of the road which caused it to oscillate, and that might have jerked the steering wheel right out of the driver's hands. He thought the car was going faster than was prudent.

**Replying to Mr. Trethowan,** the witness said he thought that if there had not been the gully by the side of the road the accident would not have happened. He did not think he would have noticed the gully had he been driving the car. With regard to pace, he thought his car was going about 24 miles an hour, and the other about 27.

In answer to the Foreman, he said it was an open, straight road.

James Brown, 29 St. John's Terrace, West Street, Wilton, appeared with his head swathed in bandages and several fingers bandaged also. He was cautioned by the Coroner, but expressed his willingness to give evidence. He said he was employed by Mr. H. H. Coombs and had been a licensed driver since November 1st, 1916. On Saturday he was ordered to pick up six soldiers at Hurdcott Camp and bring them into Salisbury. They wanted to go to Southampton, and as they could not go by train he was asked to drop two at Salisbury and take the others to Southampton. Andrews was sitting by his side and the others rode in the back of the car. When they were going down the Southampton side of Whiteparish Hill there was a car coming towards them and a car following them. He drew into the near side of the road to allow the approaching car to pass, when the near wheel struck a gutter which he had not seen. He pulled the car sharp round to the right to regain the road, and the car swerved across the road. Then it swayed to the left, then to the right, and turned over, throwing all of them into the road. He was bruised about the face and hands and was brought to the Infirmary with the others. The brakes were in very good order. He applied the foot-brake, but could not

release his hands from the steering wheel. There was no speedometer on the car, but he thought they were going about 20 miles an hour, as it was downhill and they could see a long way ahead. He thought it was the swaying of the back of the car which prevented him having full control. As often as he put the front part right the weight at the back of the car pulled it round again. He did his very utmost to prevent an accident. No man in the world could have done more than he did to keep the car in the middle of the road.

**The Foreman:** Do you think you could have righted the car if you had not damaged the front wheel?

**Answer** - I don't know when the wheel was damaged, whether it was before the car had turned over or afterwards. Miss Daphne Gertrude D'Abreu, one of the house surgeons at the Infirmary, said that Andrews was admitted at about 4pm on Saturday in an unconscious condition. He rapidly became worse, oxygen was administered and he died at 7.30 the same evening from a fracture of the base of the skull.

The Coroner stated that that was all the evidence, and, as far as he could see, the driver did all he could. Inquest details from [Salisbury Inquests](#)

A reply to a letter to Mrs Andrews, included in C.Q.M.S. Andrews' Service Record File – dated 15th June, 1917 acknowledging communication as to the whereabouts of the personal effects of C.Q.M.S. Andrews also includes a reply regarding the condition of her younger son & reads "With regard to your younger son, No. 5028A Private G. J. K. Andrews, 20th Battalion, I have to inform you that he was admitted on 22nd May, 1917 to the 3rd London General Hospital, suffering from a gunshot wound to left knee. In the absence of information to the contrary it may be assumed that he is progressing favourably." (Pte G. J. K. Andrews survived the War & returned to Australia on 24th March, 1919.)

Company Quartermaster Sergeant Alan Malcolm Andrews is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 156.



Hall of Memory WW2 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Company Quartermaster Sergeant Alan Malcolm Andrews is also commemorated on the WW1 Roll of Honour, along with his brother Keith (who survived the War), located in St. David's (now Uniting Church) at 51 Dalhousie St, Haberfield, Sydney, NSW.

#### **St. David's Church, Haberfield & WWI Roll of Honour**

(Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW)

Andrews was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to C.Q.M.S. Andrews' father – Mr Joseph Andrews (July, 1921 & July, 1922). The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Company Quartermaster Sergeant Alan Malcolm Andrews – service number 325, as being 22 years old & served with 53rd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Joseph and Matilda Ellen Andrews, of "Ercildoune" Deakin Avenue, Haberfield, Sydney. Born at Wingham, New South Wales. (62 pages of C.Q.M.S. Alan Malcolm Andrews' Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).



## Company Quartermaster Sergeant Alan Malcolm Andrews

### Newspaper Reports

### Roll of Honour

ANDREWS – Died on active service, March 12, C.Q.M.S. Alan Malcolm Dickson (Montie), dearly loved elder son of J. Andrews, L.S., and M.E. Andrews. Ercildoune, Deakin Avenue, Haberfield, and brother of Private Keith, Lorna, Gladys and Marjorie, aged 22 years.

Soldier, rest, thy warfare o'er;  
Sleep the sleep that knows not breaking.  
Dream of battled fields no more,  
Day of danger, night of waking.

ANDREWS – Died on active service, March 12, C.Q.M.S. Alan Malcolm Dickson (Montie), dearly loved nephew of M.E. and L.G., and cousin of Lyle and Esme Andrews, Ellerslie, Deakin Avenue, Haberfield, aged 22 years.

A noble life ended  
He died that we might live.

ANDREWS – Died on active service, March 12, C.Q.M.S. Alan Malcolm Dickson (Montie), dearly loved nephew of C. H. Brown, Ercildoune, Deakin Avenue, Haberfield, aged 22 years.  
Till the resurrection morn.

### The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Saturday, 16 March 1918

#### Roll of Heroes

CASUALTY LIST NO. 284  
New South Wales – Dead  
C.Q.M.S. A.M. Andrews.

### Daily Herald, Adelaide, South Australia, Saturday, 31 March 1917

#### In Memoriam

On Active Service

ANDREWS – In loving memory of C.Q.M.S. Alan M.D. (Monty) Andrews, killed March 17, 1917, aged 22 years. An Anzac. Inserted by his loving parents, brother (on Active service), and sisters.

ANDREWS – In memory of our dear nephew and cousin, C.Q.M.S. Alan M. D. Andrews, killed March 17, 1917, aged 22 years. Inserted by Mr and Mrs H. R. Pollard and family.

ANDREWS – In loving memory of C.Q.M.S. Alan M. D. Andrews, killed March 17, 1917, aged 22 years. Inserted by his loving aunt, C. H. Brown.

ANDREWS – In loving memory of C.Q.M.S. Alan M. (Monty) Andrews, killed March 17, 1917, aged 22 years. Inserted by his loving uncle and aunt, L. G. and M. Andrews, and cousins Lyle and Esme.

### The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Saturday, 16 March, 1918

Company Quartermaster Sergeant A. M. (Monty) Andrew does not have a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone. His headstone was erected by the Sergeants of the 14th N.S.W. Training Battalion.

Photo of Company Quartermaster Sergeant A. M. (Monty) Andrew's Headstone at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire.



St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire  
(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)