

FRASER, Alexander Ferguson



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Alexander Ferguson Fraser was born in Lismore, NSW in 1895. Alexander was the oldest of five children born to Alexander Herbert A. and Mary MacLean Fraser between 1895 and 1902 (1895 Alexander Fergusson, 1896 Edith, 1898 Stuart, 1900 Herbert Hugh, and 1902 Mary F).

Alexander was 17 years old when he entered HAC for the Dairy Special Course in 1912. His family was then living at Murwillumbah (they later moved to Brisbane, Qld).

Alexander played Rugby Union for the "Specials" (students in courses other than the full diploma) against the "Lectures" in 1913. At the 1914 College Sport Day, Alexander (with a 5 yard handicap), finished 3rd in the 120 yards race (today's equivalent is the 100 metre race). He was also a member of the Dairy relay team which finished 1st. Alexander also ran in the 120 yard hurdles and 220 yard races.

Alexander was a member of the HAC Literary and Debating Society in 1914, which also participated in evening entertainments such as mock trials. Completing the full Diploma in Dairying, Alexander left HAC at the end of 1914.

In March 1915 Alexander wrote to the College saying he was working in the British Solomon Islands on a plantation. He also spoke of planning to introduce bacon-curing because so many pigs were available.

Alexander was recorded as an Overseer when he enlisted on 9 November 1915 in the 52nd Battalion, 2nd Reinforcement. He embarked from Sydney, NSW, on board SS *Hawkes Bay* on 20 April 1916.

Alexander contracted Malaria in April 1917 and was sent to England to recover. Re-joining his battalion in September 1917, Alexander served on the Western Front in France.

Alexander's Red Cross Wounded and Missing File contains a number of conflicting versions of his death, he was later declared as having been Killed in Action 24 April 1918 in the attack on Villers-Bretonneux. He was 23 years old.

With no known grave, he is commemorated at Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Somme, France.

Herbert Hugh Fraser joined the AIF in August 1915, stating he had his parent's consent and was aged 18. Herbert was discharged that November when the Unit was disbanded. Herbert enlisted, this time as Bert Fraser, on 3 March 1916 in the 3rd Divisional Cyclist Company, claiming now to be 21 years old. Serving on the Western Front in France, Bert was wounded in action on three separate occasions. He survived the war, went on to work and live in New Guinea until he abandoned his home in March 1942 when the Japanese invaded during World War II. Herbert/Bert Fraser died in Newtown, NSW in 1972.