

Private Alfred Edward Addiss Doney[©]

Regimental number: 3084

60th Battalion, Australian Infantry

born: 1883–died: 1916

Alfred Edward Addiss Doney was the oldest child of Alfred Francis Louis Doney and Emily Sarah, née Hopton. His date of birth, in Victoria, Australia, is listed on his memorial as 27 March 1884,ⁱ but birth indices in both Australiaⁱⁱ and Victoriaⁱⁱⁱ give the year of registration as 1883, so it seems likely that he was born on 27 March 1883. The discrepancy may be because his parents were only married on 27 February 1883.^{iv}

Alfred Francis was born in Prahan, Victoria, on 30 January 1861,^v the son of Edward and Frederica Doney. In 1872 Edward was a market gardener,^{vi} and at the time of his marriage in 1883 Alfred Francis is listed as a fruiterer. At some point, Alfred Francis went into business with his brother Carl Septimus and others as a photographer and portrait enlarger, but in 1892 only Alfred Francis and Carl Septimus remained as owners.^{vii} In 1894 their company, The Globe Portrait Company of Australia, declared bankruptcy,^{viii} and Alfred Francis was confined in the Darlinghurst gaol for debt.^{ix} The bankruptcy proceedings dragged on until 1897, when the Registrar concluded that Alfred Francis intended to defraud his creditors, and refused the certificate of discharge, which would have effectively released him from bankruptcy.^x

That same year (1897), Alfred Francis petitioned for, and received, a divorce from his wife Emily Sarah on the grounds of adultery and desertion.^{xi} In addition to their firstborn, Alfred Edward, they had a daughter, Emily Wilhelmina, born in 1885.^{xii}

Both Alfred Francis and Emily Sarah remarried, the former to Marion F. S. Bate in 1897,^{xiii} and the latter to Thomas Edward Kelson in 1900.^{xiv} Emily and Thomas had no more known children, whereas Alfred Francis and Marion had two more: Faith, born in 1910,^{xv} and Harold Edward, born in 1911.^{xvi} Marion also had a daughter named Pauline, born in 1890.^{xvii}

Little is known of Alfred Edward's early life. His attestation papers state that his profession was plasterer, and that he served as an apprentice in Melbourne for five years.^{xviii} There is also a handwritten annotation stating "Father dead," though that is incorrect, as his father did not die until 1938.^{xix}

During WW I, Alfred Edward enlisted in Melbourne on 11 August 1915 and was assigned to the 22nd Battalion, 7th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force. The 7th Reinforcements left Melbourne on the HMAT *Commonwealth* on 20 November 1915, and joined the 22nd Battalion in Egypt, where it had retreated after being evacuated from Gallipoli at the end of 1915.^{xx} Private Doney was subsequently transferred in Egypt, first to the 57th Battalion on 22 February 1916, and then into the 60th Battalion on 15 March 1916. On 18 June 1916 Alfred Edward and the 60th Battalion embarked on HMS *Kinfauns Castle* in Alexandria, Egypt, to join the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) in France.

They disembarked in Marseilles on 29 June 1916 and were sent immediately to the Western Front. Just three weeks later, on 19 July 1916, they were involved in the disastrous Battle of Fromelles, in which the battalion suffered 757 casualties in a single day, virtually wiping it out.^{xxi} One of these casualties was Private Alfred Doney, who was transferred to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing

Station at Bailleul. After lingering for two days, Private Doney died of his wounds on 21 July 1916. He was buried in the Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, Reference II. F. 16.^{xxii} The inscription on his headstone reads:

“In Memory of the Beloved Only Son of Mrs and Stepson of T. E. Kelson”

The cemetery lies in the east end of the town of Bailleul, in the Nord department of the Hauts-de-France region; it contains the remains of 4344 soldiers from the two world wars.

Private Alfred Doney received the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) for his service. He also received the 1914–15 Star, for service in any theatre of the war in 1914–15.

Alfred Edward’s sister **Emily Wilhelmina** married Reginald Theophilus Lloyd in 1912^{xxiii} and had two children, Reginald Alfred in 1914,^{xxiv} and Nancye Emily in 1920.^{xxv} Emily Wilhelmina died in 1968.^{xxvi}

Alfred Edward’s half-sister **Faith Lois Joy** married Stanley Robert Hays in 1937^{xxvii} and had three children: Peter in 1935,^{xxviii} Paul in 1938,^{xxix} and Patricia in 1946.^{xxx} Faith died in 2003.^{xxxi}

Alfred Edward’s half-brother **Harold Edward Louis** married Ivy Veronica Taylor in 1940^{xxxii} and had no known children. He served in the Australian Infantry in WW II^{xxxiii} and died in 2000.^{xxxiv}

Alfred Edward’s father died in 1938, as noted earlier, and his mother in 1930.^{xxxv}

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ⁱ “Global, Find a Grave Index for Burials at Sea and Other Select Burial Locations, 1300s to Current,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 26 October 2021), entry for Pvt Alfred Edward Addiss Doney

ⁱⁱ “Australia, Birth Index, 1788–1922,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 26 October 2021), entry for Alfred Edwd Addiss Doney

ⁱⁱⁱ “Victoria, Australia, Birth Index, 1837–1917,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 26 October 2021), entry for Alfred Edwd Addiss Doney

^{iv} “Australia, Marriage Index, 1788–1950,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 26 October 2021), entry for Emily Sarah Hopton

^v “Australia and New Zealand, Find a Grave Index, 1800s to Current,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 26 October 2021), entry for Alfred Francis Louis Doney

^{vi} “Camberwell and Waverley, Australia, Rate Books, 1857–1927,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 26 October 2021), entry for Edward Doney

^{vii} “New South Wales, Australia, Government Gazettes, 1853–1899,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 3 November 2021), entry for Alfred Francis Louis Doney

^{viii} “New South Wales, Australia, Government Gazettes, 1853–1899,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 3 November 2021), entry for Alfred Francis Louis Doney

^{ix} “The Globe Portrait Co.,” *The Australian Star*, 2 April 1894, *Trove* (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/227223834?searchTerm=%22A.%20F.%20L.%20Doney%22>: accessed 3 November 2021)

^x “Bankruptcy Court,” *The Daily Telegraph* (Sydney, NSW : 1883 - 1930), 18 May 1897, *Trove* (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/238400697?searchTerm=%22A.%20F.%20L.%20Doney%22>: accessed 3 November 2021)

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- xi "Divorce Court, Doney v Doney," *The Daily Telegraph* (Sydney, NSW : 1883 - 1930), 31 August 1897, *Trove* (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/238400697?searchTerm=%22A.%20F.%20L.%20Doney%22>: accessed 3 November 2021)
- xii "Victoria, Australia, Birth Index, 1837–1917," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 26 October 2021), entry for Emily Wilhelmina Doney
- xiii "Australia, Marriage Index, 1788–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 26 October 2021), entry for Marion F S Bate
- xiv "Australia, Marriage Index, 1788–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 26 October 2021), entry for Emily Sarah Hopton
- xv "Australia, Birth Index, 1788–1922," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 3 November 2021), entry for Faith L Doney
- xvi "Australia and New Zealand, Find a Grave Index, 1800s to Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 3 November 2021), entry for Harold Edward Louis Doney
- xvii "Australia, Birth Index, 1788–1922," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 3 November 2021), entry for Pauline A Bate
- xviii "Australia, WW1 Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 5 November 2021), entry for Alfred Doney. Unless otherwise specified, all information about his military service comes from this source.
- xix "Australia and New Zealand, Find a Grave Index, 1800s to Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 26 October 2021), entry for Alfred Francis Louis Doney
- xx "Following the Twenty-Second," (<https://anzac-22nd-battalion.com/22nd-battalion-2/>: accessed 27 November 2021)
- xxi "60th Australian Infantry Battalion," *The Australian War Memorial* (<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/U51500>: accessed 19 November 2021)
- xxii *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 19 November 2021), entry for Doney, Alfred, Service No: 3084
- xxiii "Victoria, Australia, St Peter's Eastern Hill, Marriages, 1848–1955," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 19 November 2021), entry for Emily Wilhelmina Doney
- xxiv "Victoria, Australia, St Peter's Eastern Hill, Baptisms, 1848–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 19 November 2021), entry for Reginald Lloyd
- xxv "Australia and New Zealand, Find a Grave Index, 1800s to Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 19 November 2021), entry for Nancye Emily Lloyd
- xxvi "Australia and New Zealand, Find a Grave Index, 1800s to Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 19 November 2021), entry for Emily Wilhelmine [sic] Lloyd
- xxvii "Australia, Marriage Index, 1788–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 20 November 2021), entry for Faith Lois Joy Doney
- xxviii "Australia and New Zealand, Find a Grave Index, 1800s to Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 21 November 2021), entry for Peter Robert Hays
- xxix "Australia and New Zealand, Find a Grave Index, 1800s to Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 21 November 2021), entry for Paul Murdock Hays
- xxx "Australia and New Zealand, Find a Grave Index, 1800s to Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 21 November 2021), entry for Patricia Cecilia Carr-Hayne [sic]
- xxxi "Australia and New Zealand, Find a Grave Index, 1800s to Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 21 November 2021), entry for Faith Lois Joy Hays
- xxxii "Victoria, Australia, Marriage Index, 1837–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 21 November 2021), entry for Harold Edward Doney

xxxiii "Australia, World War II Military Service Records, 1939–1945," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 21 November 2021), entry for Harold Edward Louis Doney

xxxiv "Australia and New Zealand, Find a Grave Index, 1800s to Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 3 November 2021), entry for Harold Edward Louis Doney

xxxv "Australia and New Zealand, Find a Grave Index, 1800s to Current," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.ca: accessed 26 October 2021), entry for Emily Sarah Kelson-Doney