

**THE EMOTIVE 2<sup>ND</sup> AUSTRALIAN BATTALION AND 13<sup>TH</sup> (BANTAM) BATTALION, GREEN HOWARDS WW1 MEDALS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND INSIGNIA GROUPS TO BROTHERS, THE FORMER KILLED IN ACTION DURING THE ATTACK ON HERMIES, 9 APRIL 1917, THE LATTER REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION ON THE SAME DAY A YEAR LATER DURING THE BATTLE OF LYS, LATER CONFIRMED KILLED IN ACTION**



1914/15 STAR '1543 PTE W ELAM 2/BN.A.I.F.', BRITISH WAR AND VICTORY MEDALS '1543 L-CPL. W ELAM 2-BN.A.I.F.', WITH BOXES OF ISSUE, BRITISH WAR AND VICTORY MEDALS '25678 PTE. H. ELAM.YORK. R.' WITH BOXES OF ISSUE

1543 LANCE CORPORAL WILFRED ELAM, 2ND BATTALION AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

Wilfred Elam, aged 21, a farmer from Leeds, enlisted into the 2nd Australian Infantry Battalion at Liverpool, New South Wales, on 29 December 1914 and joined his battalion in Gallipoli on 1 May 1915. After 3 months service on the peninsular, Elam was sent to hospital with influenza on 4 August 1915, rejoining at Gallipoli on 4 November that year and was present until evacuated the following month; elements of the battalion being the last to be evacuated. Serving in Egypt from 28 December 1915, he landed in France with the 2<sup>nd</sup> on 28 March 1916 and proceeded to the Western Front, taking part in their first major battle at Pozieres July – September 1916

Appointed Lance Corporal on 15 August 1916, Elam was killed in action on 9 April 1917 during the attack on Hermies and is buried Hermies Hill British Cemetery. The attack on Hermies, which was fought on 9 April, was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion's first major engagement of 1917 and would come at a heavy

cost to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 181 all ranks killed and wounded. It would also be where Private Bede Kenny would be awarded the battalions only Victoria Cross of the Great War

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2nd\\_Battalion\\_\(Australia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2nd_Battalion_(Australia))



25678 PTE HORACE ELAM, 13TH BATTALION YORKSHIRE REGIMENT (THE GREEN HOWARDS),


Horace Elam, from Leeds, was the brother of Wilfred and served as a private in the 13th Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment, a Bantam battalion formed in July 1915. It is not clear when he enlisted, however the battalion did not land in France until June 1916, which matches Elam's Medal Index Card which shows entitlement to the British War and Victory Medals only.

Horace was killed in action on 13 April 1918 during the initial stages of the battle of Lys. On this day, the 13th Battalion was operating between Lens and Armentières. This sector was heavily attacked by the German Sixth Army, attempting to cut off British forces in the Lys valley

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_the\\_Lys\\_\(1918\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Lys_(1918))

Initially reported missing in Action on 9 April 1918, a year later to the day his brother Wilfred was killed, enquiries later in 1918 confirmed he was killed in action on 13 April 1918. He is remembered on the Ploegsteert Memorial





Record Office,  
York  
December 1920

Madam

I am directed to transmit to you the accompanying  
British War Medal  
which would have been conferred upon No. 95678  
Private Horace Elam, Yorkshire Regt.  
had he lived, in memory of his services with the  
British Forces during the Great War.


In forwarding the Decoration I am commanded  
by the King to assure you of His Majesty's high  
appreciation of the services rendered.

I am to request that you will be so good as to  
acknowledge the receipt of the Decoration on the  
attached form.

Mrs. L. Elam  
30 Raincliffe Rd  
York Rd  
Leeds

I am,  
Your obedient Servant,  
D. Bradley  
for Officer in Charge Records.



  
**COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA**  
COMMONWEALTH OFFICES.  
AUSTRALIA HOUSE,  
STRAND,  
LONDON. W.C.2.


Ref. No. 1 APR 1921  
A. I. F. R. 88. 1921

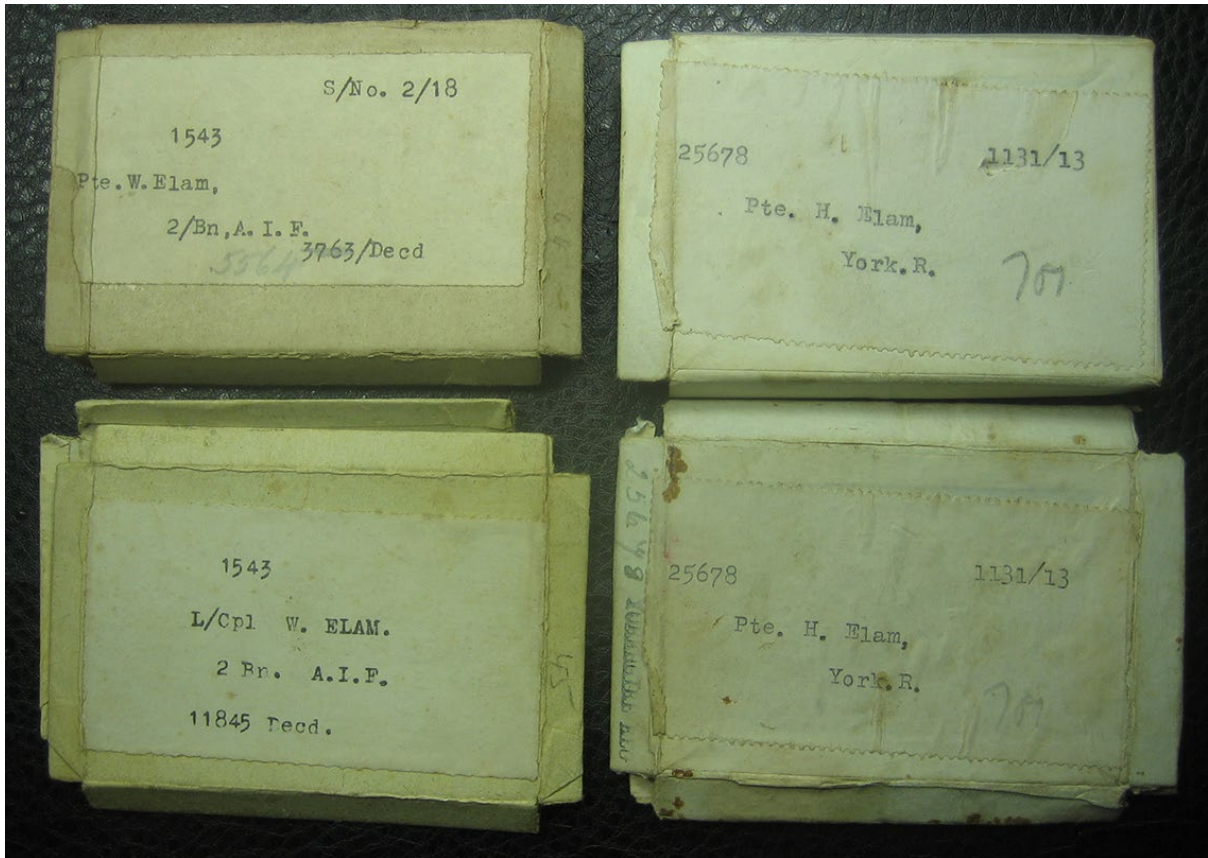
Dear Sir,

I am directed by the High Commissioner for Australia to state that he has received the 1914/15 Star for issue to you as next of kin of the late 1543 Hope W. E. Lam, Australian Imperial Force.

I am to request that you will kindly sign the enclosed receipt and return to the address shown hereon.

Yours faithfully,  
P. N. Buckley  
Col. R.A.E.  
Military Adviser





Group consists of:

- 1) Both Brothers sets of medals with named boxes of issue, Wilfred's with Commonwealth of Australia enclosure, Horace's with Records Office enclosure. Boxes mostly flattened but complete.
- 2) Cabinet card portrait photos of both brothers in uniform; 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF, and 13<sup>th</sup> Green Howards
- 3) AIF and Yorkshire Regiment cap badges

Condition GVF. Sold with copy AIF service papers.

A poignant group of medals to two brothers killed in action pretty much a year