Bruford, Alex Teulon Beamish.

ASC 1899

2453 Private 26th Battalion

Date of death: 26 March 1917

Memorial details: Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France

Both Alex and his brother Harry (see his dossier) were both killed. They are both commemorated, as below, in Hobart. It was quite a research job to discover how these Tasmanians found themselves in Bathurst? (Answer: see copy of articles at foot of this dossier.)

Photo: Tony Cable Soldier's Walk Queen's Domain, Hobart, 2/1/2015

Each tree in this avenue was planted as a living tribute to a Tasmanian serviceman who sacrificed his life during the First World War. 1914-18

After nearly 100 years, the markers for the Bruford brothers are well tended and in fine condition.
Family group next to tree #184 for Cpl Alex Teulon Beamish Bruford, the next tree in this row was planted for his brother Lt Harry Beamish Bruford. Both served in the 26th
Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

I, Alex Louden, of the Parish of Bingley, in the County of York, in or near the Town of Bradford, do hereby declare that I have been convicted of the above offense and have served in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth.

Do you now belong or have you ever served in His Majesty’s Army, Navy, or Air Force? Yes.

Do you now belong or have you ever served in His Majesty’s Army, Air Force, or Royal Navy? Yes.

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? Yes.

In or near what Parish or Town were you born? Bradford.

Who is your next of kin? (Address to be used)...
Particulars required for the Roll of Honour of Australia in the Memorial War Museum.

1. Name (in full) of Fallen Soldier: Alex Tenison Beamish Broadd.

2. Unit and Number (if known): 26th Battalion, A.I.F.

3. With what Town or District in Australia was he chiefly connected (under which his name ought to come on the Memorial)—
   Town (if any): Melbourne
   District: /
   State: Victoria

4. What was his Birthplace: Hobart, Tasmania

5. Date of Death: Died of Wounds 26th March 1917

6. Place where Killed or Wounded: Near Babanle

Particulars Required for the Nation's Histories.

1. What was his Calling: Bank Official

2. Age at time of Death: 29

3. What was his School: Carlisle Grammar School, Melbourne

4. What was his other Training: 

5. If born in Britain or Abroad, at what age did he come to Australia: 

6. Had he ever served in any Military or Naval Force before Enlisting in the A.I.F. (Please state particulars): No

7. Any other biographical details likely to be of interest to the Historian of the A.I.F. or of his Regiment:
   See particulars attached to separate sheet, in regard to his home.

8. Was he connected with any other Member of the A.I.F. who died or who distinguished himself (Please state Relationship): His 1st Cousin, Maj. F. T. Beamish, D.S.O., A.I.F., 3rd Battalion, A.I.F. His 2nd brother, Capt. H. A. B. Beamish, A.I.F. 7th Div. 7th Div. 28th Bn. 2nd mo 1917.

9. Name and Address of the Parent or other person giving this information:
   Name: (Mrs) Nellie A. Beamish
   Relationship to Soldier: Son

Age: 29 years 1 months
Height: 5 feet 3 inches
Weight: 160 lbs.
Chest Measurement: 44 1/4 inches
Complexion: Dark
Eyes: Black & Blue
Hair: Light & Brown
Religious Denomination: C.E.
Record below indicates he received a gun shot wound to the neck 15/8/16 and had hospital admissions for Rheumatism and Myosotis.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.9.16</td>
<td>3 C. Clg Stn Adm &amp; tld to Amb train</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>5.9.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.8.16</td>
<td>11 Gen Hpl G.S.W. Chest. Admitted</td>
<td>Camiers</td>
<td>5.8.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.8.16</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>do</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.8.16</td>
<td>BS &quot;Dieppe&quot; Embarked for England</td>
<td>Calais</td>
<td>13.8.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.8.16</td>
<td>1/5 Northern Gen Hpl GSW NECK. Admitted</td>
<td>England</td>
<td>13.8.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.10.16</td>
<td>7th Trg Bn Proceeded O/seas France</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>14.10.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.10.16</td>
<td>2nd Div Base Admitted from England</td>
<td>Etaples</td>
<td>16.10.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.10.16</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>19.10.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.10.16</td>
<td>do To be ACTG CORPORAL E.D.P.</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>27.10.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.10.16</td>
<td>do Tfd to 26th Gen Hpl Reverts to PRIVATE evactg</td>
<td>do</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.10.16</td>
<td>do Myositis. Admitted</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>27.10.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.11.16</td>
<td>do to 5 Conv Dep</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>7.11.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.11.16</td>
<td>No 8th Conv Dep do Admitted</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>7.11.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.11.16</td>
<td>do to 5 Conv Dep</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>14.11.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.11.16</td>
<td>No 5 Conv Dep do Admitted</td>
<td>Cayeux</td>
<td>14.11.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.11.16</td>
<td>do Dischgd to Base Detls</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>23.11.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.11.16</td>
<td>2nd Div Base Admitted from England</td>
<td>Etaples</td>
<td>29.11.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.12.17</td>
<td>do To be ACTG CORPORAL E.D.P.</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>16.12.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.2.17</td>
<td>do Tfd to 26th Gen Hpl Reverts to PRIVATE evactg</td>
<td>do</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.2.17</td>
<td>do Chr Myositis. Admitted</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>10.2.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.2.17</td>
<td>do to 6 Conv Dep</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>20.2.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

He gauged the standard of his usefulness

The Mercury, Hobart 23/11/18 P.7

AUSTRALIANS ON SERVICE.

BRUFORD, Lieut. H. Russell, M. M. News has just been received of the death in action of Lieutenant Russell Bruford. Last year his brother was also killed in action on the West front. Russell and Beamish Bruford were sons of Mr. H. B. Bruford, retired inspector of the bank of Australasia, and nephews of Mr. F. H. Bruford auditor general of Victoria, grandsons of the late Archdeacon beamish, and grand nephews of the late Field Marshal Earl Roberts.

The friends of Lance Corporal A. T. B Bruford who enlisted in Hobart in 1915 under war leave from the Bank of Australasia as well as many old residents who may still remember his parents when his father was, manager of the same bank at its old offices in Macquarie St, will be sorry to notice in the casualty lists an announcement of his death on 26th March from wounds received in France. He had just returned after recovery from severe wounds sustained in a previous engagement and subsequent temporary employment (between continuing attacks of rheumatism) on special work at the local base. The bank a flag at tho superintendents office in Melbourne is half-masted on receipt of the news as a mark of respect for the memory of one of its patriotic and courteous young officers. Almost simultaneously with the official notification of the death of his younger son Mr H B Bruford received from his eldest son Sergeant Russell Bruford, also a native of Hobart and who enlisted at the same time as his late brother, a clipping from the ribbon of a
military medal awarded him for special valour connected with the rescue in November last of wounded from an advanced trench under intense artillery fire.

How did the Brufords arrive in Bathurst? Answer, Dad Was a Banker.

Furniture Sale. Messrs. E. H. Taylor & Co. will offer for sale to-morrow, furniture on account of Mr. Bruford, Kepple Street. The sale commences at 2.00 o'clock and as the furniture is good and well preserved, intending purchasers will have an opportunity of securing bargains. Mr. H. B. Bruford, manager of the Bank of Australasia, is about to sever his connection, with the Bathurst Branch on account of ill health. He has been appointed to the position of Inspector of Branches in Victoria and his home will be in Melbourne. During Mr. Bruford's residence in Bathurst he has made many friends, but has never identified himself prominently with public affairs. He was foremost in the Golf Club and for two or three seasons was one of the most prominent Bowlers. His successor is expected in town to-morrow and Mr. Bruford will probably leave Bathurst during next week.

With the original “mysteries” in researching this project, on how the Bruford brothers; born in Tasmania, had some of their schooling in Bathurst? One found a listing of the children in the family with Joyce
(1894) and Francis (1897) both being born in Bathurst. This covers the relevant A.S.C. years of 1987/8.

Children:

Mary Elsie Beamish Bruford was born 6 MAY 1881 in King St, Newtown, NSW, and died 15 DEC 1881 in The Parsonage, Koroit St, Warrnambool, Vic.

Nellie Blake Bruford was born 6 MAY 1882 in Newtown (Petersham), NSW. She married James3 in Dulwich, London.

Harry Russell Beamish BRUFORD was born 11 AUG 1884 in Hobart, Tas, and died 3 OCT 1918 in France (KIA).

Iris Isabel Bruford was born 23 DEC 1885 in Hobart, TAS, and died 7 AUG 1911 in River Yarra, Kew, Vic.

Alexander Teulon Beamish Bruford was born 14 May 1887 in Hobart, Tas. Baptised 11/7/1887, by Charles Leslie Dundas, Dean of Hobart and Incumbent of St David’s and died 26 MAR 1917 in France.

Joyce Marie Bruford was born 2 Oct 1894 in Bathurst and died 1955 in Ross Jun 87.

Francis Robert Beamish Bruford was born 3 Dec 1897 in Bathurst and died 1918 in Kew, Vic.

**Death of Bruford’s Father**

"Advice was received by the last English mail of the death in London [Somerset], in his 80th year, of Henry Buncombe Bruford, a retired officer of the Bank of Australasia, in whose service in Australia he occupied important managerial positions during a period of thirty-eight years. He retired on pension in 1904, and since 1919 has resided in London. Mr Bruford, whose brother was well known in the Victorian public service, was much respected, both in his official and private life, and the news of his death was received with much regret by his many friends in Australia."

His last residence was The Lawn, Shurdington, and Gloucestershire.

Letter below, dated 4/2/31:
Mrs Harris (mentioned above) was the sister of Alex and Harry.

Next, are the last two pages from a 5-page letter on the life and background of the brothers. The previous pages are copied to Harry's dossier.
Mr. Alex. Teulon Bruford.

Alex. T.B. Bruford was the second son of Mr. H.B. Bruford, of Melbourne, and received his education at the Caulfield Grammar School. In due course he entered the service of the Bank of Australasia, with which his father had been connected, and it was while a member of the staff of this institution that he enlisted with his brother in the A.I.F. at Hobart, Tasmania.

Mr. Bruford served continuously with his unit until his death as the result of wounds received in the battle of Bapaume on the 26th March, 1917. At that date the Battalion was somewhere between Noreuil, Vaulx-Vraucourt and Lagnicourt, engaged in harrassing the German retirement from Bapaume.

Owing to the fact that the area was much fought over it has not been found possible to locate his grave, and it is understood that his name is being engraved on the Memorial erected by the Australian Government to the memory of those soldiers who gave their lives but whose graves it has not been possible to identify.

At the time of his death information was received from a friend in the 26th Battalion that Mr. Bruford had actually died in the streets of Bapaume from wounds, and that he had been buried in the same grave with Captain Cherry, V.C. of his battalion.

Particulars of the early associations of Mr. Bruford's family with Victoria have already been given.

Like his elder brother Mr. Alex. Bruford was small in stature, of a charming sunny disposition, and very good at games. Like his brother he was a good "mixer".
In early 1917, the 26th Battalion joined the follow-up of the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line and attacked at Warlencourt (1–2 March) and Lagincourt (26 March). For his valorous actions at Lagincourt, Captain Percy Cherry was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

Digger History
IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION.

3, Sanctuary Buildings,
20, Great Smith Street,
London, S.W.1.
8th August, 1930.

Sir,

with reference to your letter dated 5th instant, I am to express regret that it has not been possible to locate the graves of Lieutenant H.R.B. Bruford, and Private A.T.B. Bruford.

The battle areas have been searched, and the remains of all those soldiers who were buried in isolated and scattered graves have been removed and reburied, but the names of these soldiers do not appear on the reports of this work.

In the circumstances their names will be engraved on the Memorial which is being erected by the Australian Authorities at Villers Bretonneux, to the memory of Australian soldiers who gave their lives in the late war and whose graves it has not been possible to identify.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) A. Hunt

for Principal Assistant Secretary.
IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION.

3, Sanctuary Buildings,
20, Great Smith Street,
London, S.W.1.

2nd February, 1931.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ultimo and to return the enclosure.

In reply to your enquiries:

(1) Lieutenant K.R.B. Bruford was reported killed in action on the 3rd October, 1918 at Belle Vue Farm, Montbrehain. The exact position of that farm is not known in this office, but it appears from the War Diary of the 7th Brigade that the 26th Battalion was, from the 2nd-5th October, 1918, fighting between Le Cateau and Mauroy. The operations in which the Australian Corps took part on the 3rd-5th October are called "The Battle of the Mauldevoir Line" and the 2nd Division took Montbrehain on the 5th October.

(2) Private A.T.B. Bruford is recorded as having died of wounds on the 26th March, 1917. At that time the Battalion was somewhere between Noreuil, Vaulx-Vraucourt and Lagnicourt, engaged in harassing the German retirement from Bapaume.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
The CGS Enrolment Register (1881-1919) indicates Alec Breamish Bruford (1901- ? [1902]) entered CGS on 1.1.1901 in the 4th Quarter of 1901.

No date entered for when he left, but he is listed in the 1901 Sports Programme; the 1902 Speech Day Programme with Prizes for VA Form (Matric): 2nd place in French.
Appears to have left at end of 1902, as he is not listed in 1903 Mark Books. Sadly I don’t have a photograph.

Regards

Judith Gibson

Archivist, Caulfield Grammar School.