

THE TIGER - EXTRA



THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND BRANCH
OF THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

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SPECIAL EDITION**

BY LYNN ROFFEE

WORLD WAR I WAR MEMORIAL, WATERVALE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA



A recent trip to visit family in Adelaide, South Australia (SA) provided a surprise visit to Watervale, a small township in the bush, with a backdrop of stunning hills. It lies in Clare Valley which is over one hundred kilometres north of Adelaide and home to over 50 cellar doors and wineries, boasting some of the best Riesling in Australia. Despite the long drive, a surprise wine-tasting followed by lunch at the Watervale Hotel, was certainly worth it. Built in 1845, it was originally called the Stanley Arms Hotel, being renamed the Watervale Hotel in 1866. It was burnt down in 1912 and rebuilt. The Watervale War Memorial lies directly across the road from the hotel, which had to be visited and photographed – research was sure to follow.

The 1921 SA Directory records Watervale as having 282 residents and the 2021 Census records 338 people living there. The 2021 Census records almost twenty-six million people living in Australia, and it is highly probable that most Australians would not know much about Watervale

let alone the men recorded on the memorial, but may know of the Clare Valley. Whilst it is over one hundred years since they lost their lives, we owe them, as well as all the others who lost their lives in the conflict, an immeasurable debt of gratitude; that is surely reason enough to ensure they are not forgotten.

The names of the 13 Watervale men, who lost their lives whilst serving in the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) during the Great War, are carved on the obelisk. There were many small townships across the whole of Australia – and the loss of these men would have been felt in such small rural communities. Some of the family names of these men are still residing in Watervale today. The amount of information on each man varies, but it is hoped that the details shown below, provide not only a face to a name, but a glimpse into their short lives.

So, who were these men and what do records from Australian War Memorial, National Archives of Australia Virtual War Memorial, CWGC, Australian Red Cross (ARC) and Trove tell us about them?

Lynn Roffee

April 2024



Horace Anthony Beck - Civilian Occupation- Storekeeper

Bombardier 1091, 'A' Heavy & Medium Trench Mortar Battery, 4th Field Division.

Killed in Action, at Bullecourt 3rd May 1917 aged twenty-eight.

Remembered on Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France.



Horace was born 20th February 1889 in Watervale, S.A. to Henry and Catherine Beck (nee Ryan). He attended Stanley Grammar School in Watervale and was a proficient hockey player and was connected to the Clare Hockey Club. Horace was said to have had a cheerful disposition and interested in literary work.

Horace enlisted on 8 January 1915 at Oaklands and allocated to Base Light Horse, 7th Reinforcements, 3rd Light Horse Regiment. He embarked at Adelaide on 24 June 1915 aboard the *HMAT Kanowna* whilst serving with the 7th Reinforcements, 3rd Light Horse Regiment. On 3rd November 1915 whilst serving at Gallipoli, he was promoted to Corporal. He embarked from Gallipoli on 20th December 1915 and joined the Western Front Force in Egypt on 29th of that month. On 23rd February 1916 he was admitted to hospital in El Gaar, Egypt with pyrexia returning to duty with 1st Light Horse Regiment on 10th March. On 21st April he was transferred on strength to 4th Division Artillery Column, No.2 section at Serapeum as a Gunner. On 6th June 1916 he left Alexandria to join the British Expeditionary Force disembarking at Marseilles on the 13th June 1916. On the 25th of June he was transferred and taken on strength with the 4th Heavy Medium Trench Mortar Battery.

Extract from a letter, dated 30th October 1915, Horace wrote to his Auntie:

"I suppose you have thought long before you receive this not that I have forgotten all about you, but I would never forget how good you were to me all the time I was under your roof. You will see by the heading that I have left that miserable place of Egypt and I was real glad to get away from it as I can't imagine anyone ever liking it although I have heard that for a civilian with plenty of spare cash it is a bonza place but we being just a common soldier only come into contact with the lower class people. The real Egyptian people are a fine race and are very little darker in colour than we are, but they have nothing to do with soldiers and after the way some of our fellows carry on it can't be wondered at that they may give us all a wide berth. We were having a fairly easy time of it before we left Egypt as regards drill, we used to have plenty of riding and the horses were very fresh and we could have a bonza gallop across the desert with no fences to stop us as the natives don't believe in having a fence around their little block of land. There was a lot of locust came around our camp and when they would fly up we couldn't see the sun for them. I had no idea they were anything like they are.

Well Auntie I have had a better trip from Egypt to here than I had in the old "Kanowna" but then this is a far different boat. This one is one of the P & O new boats and has just been fitted up for troops and we have 2500 soldiers on board so you can tell that it is a good big ship. They can't want us very urgently on the Peninsular as they have kept us in here for 5 days, but I don't mind this much as we are getting well fed and have enough room, to sleep so I suppose we should consider ourselves lucky."

Cecil Ernest Bartlett – Civilian Occupation – Labourer

Private 2761, 32nd Infantry Battalion
Killed in Action 30th September 1917 aged twenty-five.
Remembered on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Panel 23.



Cecil was born on 26th February 1882 at Leasingham S.A. to Alfred James and Susanah (nee Spackman). He was aged twenty-two when he enlisted on 4th January 1916. He embarked on 25th March 1916 aboard *HMAT Shropshire* with the 5th Reinforcements bound for Suez. By Late June, the Battalion was on the Western Front. And in July Cecil was suffering with influenza. Cecil sustained a gunshot wound to his left leg on 21st February 1917, near Trones Wood, and rejoined his unit five weeks later. Sadly, he was killed in action on 30th September 1917 near Polygon Wood. The following items were returned to his family: *Wallet, notebook, diary, belt, knife, comb, mirror, matchbox cover*. Cecil was married to Mary Ellen Jemima (nee Dunning) and had an infant son.



The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing, Ypres

Charles Robert Blucher – Civilian Occupation – Labourer

(Surname is misspelt on the Watervale Memorial – it should read Blucher, not Blutcher)

**Corporal 631 43rd Infantry Battalion A.I.F.
Died of Wounds, 4th July 1918 aged twenty-four.
Buried at Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery XI.C.7 France**



Charles was born 19th March 1894 at Rochester, S.A. and was the second son of William Henry (Harry) Blucher and Margaret Anna Blucher (nee Pritchard). He was educated at Watervale Public School. Charles is reported to have had a cheerful disposition and was a member of the Church of England Men's Society. Charles was almost twenty-two when he enlisted on 21st February 1916 in Adelaide. He embarked at Adelaide on 9th June 1916 aboard *HMAT Afric* and disembarked at Marseilles, France. Later that year he was hospitalised with mumps at St Omer.

Charles was wounded in action on 20th October 1917 but remained on duty. He was promoted to Lance Corporal in May 1918 and later that month was wounded in action and again remained on duty. On 8th June, he was promoted to Temporary Corporal. Sadly, he was wounded for a third time on 4th July and died later that day at the Collecting Post of the 13th Australian Field Ambulance. Charles was buried at Hamelet Communal Cemetery Extension $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile East Southeast of Corbie and later re-buried at Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery.

Charles drew a sketch of part of the village of Selles, where the Battalion was billeted, immediately prior to transferring to the Somme in March 1918. On 4th July 1917 carried his sketch book with him into battle at Hamel; a piece of shell passed through his sketch book and the wound he sustained proved to be fatal. A copy of the sketch, held at the AWM, and the hole is shown below:

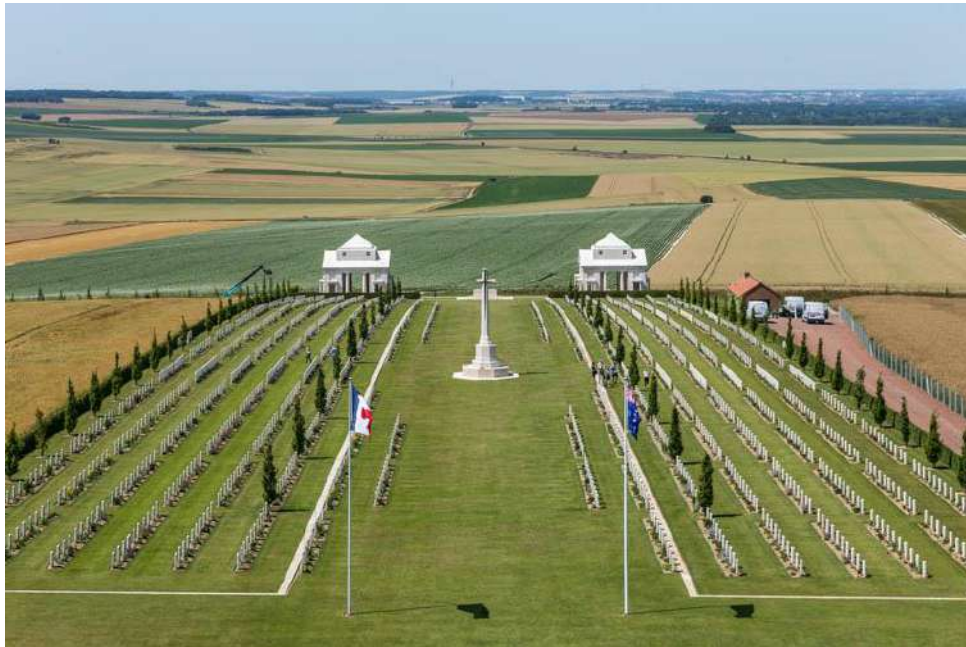


AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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His mother, Margaret, received a sealed parcel containing Charles's effects "*received from the field*" which included: *disc, letters, cards, photos, religious book, 1 pencil 1 thimble. Safety razor, blades & strap in case, purse 2 pocketbooks, 2 metal cigarette cases, money belt, 2 keys, various papers, sketch book, Badge, letter from Commonwealth Bank of Australia (Strand Branch London)*".

Charles's brother Henry Perrie Blucher also served during the war returning to Australia in February 1919. His eldest brother was rejected from serving.



Villers-Bretonneaux Military Cemetery

Oliver Perrie Dunstan – Civilian Occupation – Gardener

Private 3422B, 48th Infantry Battalion A.I.F.

Killed in Action 29th September 1917 aged twenty-eight.

Buried II.H.15 Menin Road South Military Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium.



Oliver was born 28th December 1888 at Leasingham S.A. and was the third son to Richard Dunstan and Eliza (nee Dunning). The family lived in Watervale. Oliver was an active sportsman in the district and considered to be a most promising member of the local Agricultural Bureau. He was also an Associate Member of the St Mary's Church of England Men's Society.

He enlisted on 9th November 1916 in Adelaide and embarked aboard the *HMAT Seang Bee* leaving on the 10th of February 1917. Whilst aboard the ship, Oliver was admitted to hospital. After disembarking at Devonport on 2nd May 1917, he was admitted to the Salisbury Isolation Hospital on 25th May and discharged in early June. On 23rd June he proceeded to France. ARC records tell us a little more about what happened to Oliver and there are

several statements made concerning his death.

Statement made by Pte Bowman 566 48th Battn. D Co., A.I.F. Westminster Hospital: *"I knew Dunstan of D Co., slightly. He was killed on Sep. 29 in front of a Dressing Station near Ypres, by a shell which killed a good many as they were going up to the line. I was told by Pte. "Paddy" Tully of 'D' Co., who saw it. He would be buried in one of the cemeteries nearby."*

Corporal James Way 376. 7th Pltn. B. Coy. 48th A.I.F. wrote a statement concerning what he had seen happen to Oliver: *"I saw Pte. Dunstan (48 D XIV) killed instantaneously by a shell on Sept. 29th on the Menin Road. While we were going up to the line, a shell fell and killed twelve. I was in charge of the next party and saw it happen. I remember handing in his disc and Pay book to Headquarters. He was carried off to the Dressing Station (I think the 4th Aus. Field Ambulance) and he was buried near there. I have not seen his grave, but two men out of our company buried him. I think that Pte. McNerrey, Stretcher-bearer (48.B) was one. I know he was gone digging at the time."*

Pte. J P McNerrey, 2681 B. Coy 48th Battn. also provided a Statement which read *"I am able to give you the full details as I buried him myself and he lies in the Cemetery of Menin Road about half a mile from Ypres. I could not swear to it but I think he died of wounds soon after getting hit, anyhow, I knew I buried him with some others as I was told off to work in the cemetery"*.

Statement made by Pte. 3446, Edward Hards, 48th A.I.F., C.Coy. X.1. Pltn. A.I.F. : *"I was not far from Pte. O.P. Dunstan (48 D.) when he was killed instantaneously by a shell about Sept. 29th. We were going up to hold the line, after Polygon attack, when a shell landed on the road. He was among those killed. We were all moving up and had to go straight on and leave him."*

The final statement comes from Pte. H Tucker 3493 C. Coy. 48th Battn A.I.F.: *"He was killed in Ypres stunt on Sept 28th and is buried in the British Cemetery Menin Road, Ypres. I knew where he was buried, but I wanted to make sure of the date. I had written to his people the 26th but*

from diaries I am wrong, it is 28th Sept 1917. And was the night the 48th Battalion went into supports in Polygon Wood Sept 1917 There is no doubt of his identity as some of our lads saw it, and No. 3458 Pte. W. Lumner "B" Coy. 48th Battalion was one to help bury him. While I am writing I would like to know if you could get me a few photos of the grave or tell me how I could them and what they would cost."

The local newspaper described Oliver having an active nature and enjoyed participating in sports. He was looked upon as a promising member of the local Agricultural Bureau and was a member of St Mary's Church of England Men's Social.

Oliver's brother, Richard Perrie Dunstan, inherited 13 ¼ acres of land in Leasingham, in the Upper District of Wakefield of the hamlet as specified in his Will.

Three separate packages of Oliver's belongings were returned to his family and included: *Jackknife, steel mirror, shaving brush, pipe, notebook religious book, Testament, metal medallions, tobacco pouch, wallet, photos cards and his ID card.*



Menin Road South Military Cemetery



William Edwin Elliott – Civilian Occupation – Labourer

(Surname is misspelt on the Watervale Memorial – it should read Elliott, not Eliott)

Private 2917, 32nd Infantry Battalion. William died of Bronchitis at 21st Casualty Clearing Station, France, on 8th December 1916 at 7.10pm of “*Bronchitis contracted on active service*”.

Buried at La Neuville Communal Cemetery, Picardie, France.



William was born 3rd March 1897 at Leasingham S.A. to Thomas Edward Elliott and Emily Jane (nee Morgan). The family lived at Hughes Park where they worked. Hughes Park which was owned by the Duncan family now in its 6th generation as a sheep farming property. The Elliott's moved to Watervale where William was educated at the local Public School. He entered the employment of the late Sir John Duncan, a pastoralist, and Member of Parliament, and was highly esteemed by all who knew him. He enlisted in Adelaide on 16th February 1916 aged eighteen and spent eight weeks in Mitcham camp before he embarked on 11th April 1916 aboard *HMAT Aeneas* and sailed to Egypt. On 20th June he embarked *HMAT Huntsend* from Alexandria to join the BEF disembarking at Marseilles. He went into the firing line until stricken by illness and

on 1st December 1916 he was evacuated, and the next day admitted to hospital with Gastritis. His effects were returned to his parents and included *3 coins, purse, Fountain pen, mirror (damaged) 2 note wallets, post cards, letter, 2 knives, cigarette holder.*

William's father, Thomas, wrote to Base Records about the missing watch and periscope saying “*He was our only son. he never made any complaints in any of his letters, he loved his work and loved being a soldier and was treated well by his Officers*”.



La Neuville Communal Cemetery

John Holden – Civilian Occupation – Farm Hand

**Private 978, 10th 'C' Coy, Infantry Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade, 1st Australian Division
Killed in Action between 25th & 29th April 1915 at Gallipoli Peninsular aged nineteen.
Remembered on Lone Pine Memorial Panel 32, Gallipoli.**



John was born in Nunhead, Southwark London, England on 23rd June 1895 to William and Mary Ann Holden, of Brockley, London, England. He was a twin, his twin was a girl, had 3 other siblings and was the third son. He was baptised at St Anthony's Church in Southwark. In the 1911 Census he was living in Lewisham with his parents and four siblings working as a butcher. He lived in Watervale S.A. prior to enlisting.

John enlisted on 2nd September 1914 in Adelaide embarking aboard the *HMAT Ascanius* on 20th October 1914. Whilst at Mena Camp in Egypt John was found to be drunk on the 2nd February and fined 2 schilling 6d and confined to barracks for seven days.

John is known to have died on the Gallipoli Peninsular between 25-29th April 1915 whilst serving with the 'B' Coy, 10th Infantry Battalion. John was reported missing on 2nd May and by the 30th May reported Killed in Action. The Adelaide Chronicle of 28th August 1915 reported his death "... was confirmed on the 65th Casualty List. ...He was a young Englishman, who resided in Watervale for two years prior to enlisting with the 1st Expeditionary Force, and greatly endeared himself to all by his genial disposition. He was a popular member of St Mary's Men's Club, and the Literary Society. At a meeting held on Tuesday night, a motion was carried expressing sympathy with the deceased soldier's parents who reside in England".

The following items belonging to John were returned home: *field glasses, cards, harmonium in case, letters handkerchief.*



Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli

Arthur Oscar Norris – Civilian Occupation – Labourer

Private 1395, 50th Infantry Battalion A.I.F.

Killed in Action 16th August 1916 Mouquet Farm, France aged twenty-seven.

Remembered on Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France



Arthur was born in Lower Skilly on 13th April 1889 living at Penwortham and then Watervale. He was the fourth son of Mary Elizabeth Norris.

He enlisted at Oakland on 28th November 1914 joining the 2nd Reinforcements, 10th Infantry Battalion. He embarked *HMAT Clan McGillivray* on 2nd February 1915. Arthur was admitted to No. 1 Australian Stationary Hospital on Mudros on 21st May 1915 with Bronchial problems. In early September he was admitted to hospital in Ras-el-Tin, Alexandria with Enteric though records also show Malaria. In March 1916 he was taken on strength with the 50th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir. A month later he was taken ill again with Malaria. On 5th June he left Alexandria and proceeded to join the British Expeditionary Force and landed in Marseilles on 12th June.

The Adelaide Chronicle on 30th September 1916 reported that “*Mrs M E Norris of Saddleworth, has received word that her fourth son was Killed in Action on 16 August. He was 27 years of age and was well loved by all who knew him. He had a cheerful disposition and a first-class footballer. He enlisted at Leasingham and left for Egypt with the 10th Battalion. After serving in Egypt for some time he went to France*”.

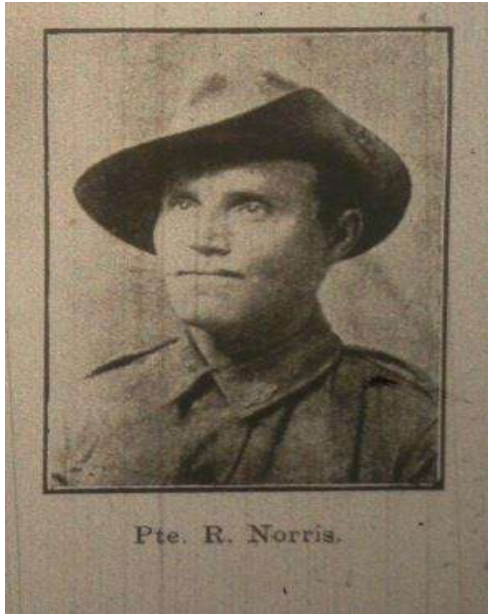
His mother Mary, a widow, wrote several letters seeking the whereabouts of Arthur's kitbag and belongings. This is an extract of the letter Mary wrote on 6th February 1916, to Base Records about Arthur's belongings: “*I received my late sons kit bag, and it didn't arrive to my liking, as I'm sure the poor boy had a few things more valuable than was sent. He ought to have had a good watch it must be somewhere or has been taken out and there is a razor and a small mirror. The military has taken my son and I expect to get the poor boys belongings, so if there is anything else belonging to him, please forward them on to me...*”. The following items belonging to Arthur were returned to his mother: *sovereign case, metal watch (damaged) 2 brushes, razor, strap, stone.*



Villers-Bretonneux Memorial

Reginald Norris – Civilian Occupation – Labourer

**Private 3449 50th Infantry Battalion A.I.F.
Killed in Action 14 October 1917 age twenty-four.
Remembered on Ypres (Menin Gate) Panel 29**



Reginald was born in Port Adelaide S.A., lived in Watervale. He was the only child of widow Emily Amelia Norris.

Reginald enlisted on 3rd January 1917 aged twenty-three. He embarked on 10th February 1917 from Adelaide aboard *HMAT Seang Bee* to Devonport 11th May 1917. *(the same sailing as Oliver P. Dunstan)*

He was admitted to hospital with mumps on 28th August 1917 and moved to the 7th General Hospital at St Omer. He returned to his unit on 1st October 1917. He took part in the 3rd Battle of Ypres. Emily died a short time after her son.

The following items belonging to Reginald were returned: *2 discs, bible and testament, photos, and*

notebook.



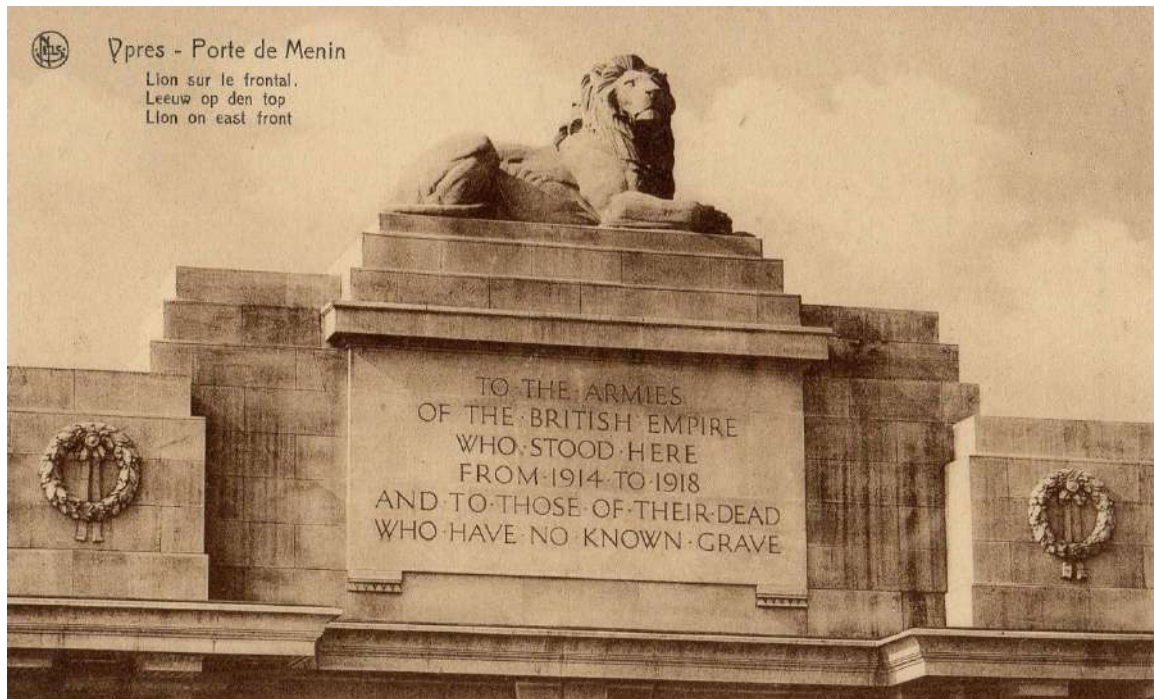
The Menin Gate Memorial

William Edwin Arthur Smith – Civilian Occupation – Labourer

Private 3315, 32nd Battalion A.I.F.
Killed in Action aged twenty-one on 1st October 1917.
Remembered on Ypres (Menin Gate) Panel 29



William was born Watervale, S.A. to Amos and Susan Edith Smith. He was educated at Watervale Public School. He enlisted on 18th April 1916 aged nineteen and embarked from Adelaide with the 7th Reinforcements aboard *HMAT Malakuta*, on 27th June 1916, bound for Devonport, England. Following training he joined his battalion near Albert, France on 9th February 1917. He was killed at Polygon Wood. His service records note that his mother was unmarried. His service disc was returned. Military records show that Susan was unable to sign her named and on documents requiring a signature she made her mark with an 'X'. A letter written by W. Tavender, on behalf of William's mother Susan, informed Base Records he was requesting the Public Trustee to administer Williams's official documentation. It is probable that W. Tavender, is William Tavender, father of Roy Norman Tavender (see below).



The Menin Gate Memorial Lion

Robert Stanley Spackman – Civilian Occupation – Blacksmith

**Private 5399, 14th Reinforcements, 27th Infantry Battalion A.I.F.
Killed in Action Broodseinde, Belgium 7th October 1917 aged twenty-two.
Remembered on Ypres (Menin Gate) Panel 23.**



Robert was born in Gerang, Victoria, the son of George and the late Mary Jane. He moved to Watervale as a child and attended the local School.

Robert enlisted on 12th April 1916 embarking from Adelaide aboard *HMAT Ballarat* on 12th August 1916. His father, George, wrote a letter on 24th March 1916 giving his consent for Robert to enlist in the "*Expeditionary Force*". Robert disembarked at Plymouth on 30th September 1916. He was admitted to the Segregation Camp at Etaples with Mumps on 6th December 1916 and returned to his unit on 23rd January 1917. On 13 July 1917, Robert's military records show he "*hesitated to obey an order by a Superior Officer*" and awarded punishment of confined to camp for 3 days. The following items were returned to his family: *wallet, photos,*

letters notebook.



The unveiling of the Menin Gate Memorial, 24th July 1927

Hartley James Stewart – Civilian Occupation – Gardner

Driver 1288, 14th Field Artillery Brigade A.I.F.

Hartley was wounded in action, on 22nd August when a shell penetrated his chest. He died of wounds the following day – 23d August 1918. He was aged twenty-three.

He is buried at Daours Communal Cemetery Extension, VI.C.4. France.



Hartley was born in April 1895 at Watervale, SA to John and Edith Stewart of Athelstone S.A.

Hartley enlisted on 26th May 1915 at Keswick Barracks, S.A. and embarked with the 10th Reinforcements, 9th Light Horse on 14th September 1915 from Adelaide aboard *HMAT Ballarat*. Due to Hartley's age his father provided written consent on 26th May 1915 to join Expeditionary forces.

According to his Military records he was taken on strength at Mudros on 18th December 1915. He was admitted to hospital at Heliopolis in February 1916. He was mustered as a Gunner in Ismailia, then later in the month mustered as a Driver. He was again admitted to hospital where he spent several weeks returning to his unit on 18th September. He transferred to the 14th Brigade, Aus. Field Artillery on 1st April 1916 with the rank of Driver.

Hartley's Military Records contain a letter from 41st CCS dated 17th January 1919: - *The above named died at the 41st CCS on 23rd August 1918 from shell wound to the chest. Although everything possible was done for him he passed away peacefully on the above date. He is buried in the Military Cemetery at Daours where a cross has been erected to mark his resting place.*

The following items belonging to Hartley were returned to his father: *2 discs, wallet, photos, 1 letter, purse, 5 coins, 1 knife*. In March 1920, John Stewart wrote to 14th Artillery Brigade enquiring if the design of Regimental Badges has been approved as he was getting a monumental stone erected with his late son's name inscribed and wanted to get work on the badge undertaken at the same time.



Daours Communal Cemetery Extension

Roy Norman Tavender – Civilian Occupation – Storekeeper

Private 5403, 27th Infantry Battalion, A.I.F.

Died of illness - Meningitis, in England, 11th October 1916 aged twenty-eight.
He is buried in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, General Section, Grave G 3940



Roy was born 30th April 1888 Saddleworth, S.A. Roy was the eldest son of William and Emma Blanche Tavender and worked at his father's business as a storekeeper. He enlisted on 5th July 1916 and embarked for England on 12th August 1916 aboard *HMAT Ballarat*. (same sailing as *R S Spackman*).

He was said to be a popular man of with a “*genial and quiet disposition*”. In 1909 he was awarded 1st Prize for an essay on “*Truth of Aviation*” which was published in the Northern Argus. He was an enthusiastic cricketer and a keen debater in the Watervale Literary Society.

Roy was reported as semi-comatose when admitted to the Military Hospital at Devonport on 30th September 1916 with “Cerebro spinal meningitis” and considered to be “dangerously ill”. Sergeant Major Bills wrote a letter to Roy's

parents and the following is an extract “...*I thought you might be anxious to hear any details concerning your boy that I may know ...Roy was well until about four or five days after leaving Cape Town, when he became very ill suddenly, and was transferred to hospital.... Dr May who attended him, was very attentive and, I feel safe in saying did all he could for Roy. Sister's Burns and Marchant were constantly with him, so I am sure you will be glad to know he was not neglected at all. He had the fever in a very bad form. We had to leave him when we embarked, and I heard that he passed away on October 11, 1916. ...He did his duty to his God. His King and Country just as bravely as though he had fallen in the firing line*”.

The Matron, of Military Hospital Devonport wrote the following letter “*Pte. Tavender was admitted here on 30/9/16 and died on 11/10/16 at 10.20pm and was buried on 16/10/16, at Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, which is on the outskirts of this town. Pte Tavender although not conscious when he was admitted was never rational and the only one, he ever mentioned was “Madge” whom we discovered through a letter which he had in his possession was his fiancé and to whom we wrote. I feel extremely sorry for his relatives, the loss of a son so far away from home must be terrible.*”

The Matron received the following response to her letter from Roy's parents “... *the loss of our dear boy has caused deep sorrow in our home... he gave his life for king and country, at the same time the cross is a heavy one to bear, and the fact that our dear son going all those thousands of miles, away from his loved ones to just die makes the sting more severe*”.

The following items belonging to Roy were returned to his mother: *small bag, 2 writing pads, 1st Aid book, Testament book, paid scissors, shaving brush, wristlet watch and strap identity disc, key, bag handle, scarf, cam comforter, handkerchief, fly net.*

Probate was granted and the value of his estate was £660.



ABOVE: The grave of Roy Tavender at Efford Cemetery, Plymouth.

BELOW: Roy is also commemorated on his parent's grave at West Terrace Cemetery, Adelaide, Australia



Arthur Ward – Civilian Occupation – Labourer

Private 2453A, 48th Infantry Battalion A.I.F.

Killed in Action on 11th April 1917 at Bullecourt aged thirty-one. He had been previously reported as missing. Remembered on Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France.



Arthur was born 18th March 1886 at Boor Plains, near Kadina S.A. to William Ward and Elizabeth nee Dunlop.

Arthur lived in Watervale and attended the Public School there. Arthur had 10 siblings – eight brothers and two sisters. (One brother served and was wounded at Gallipoli on 30th April 1915 returning to Australia on 5th July 1915.)

Arthur enlisted on 16th December 1915 at Adelaide and embarked on 9th March 1916 aboard the *RMS Mongolia* with 4th Reinforcements, 32nd Infantry Battalion 8th Infantry Brigade. In April, Arthur was taken on strength to the 48th Battalion at Serapeum. On 2nd June he left Alexandria bound for Marseilles. His military records detail the A after his service number to show the number 2453 had been previously issued so the A was added to distinguish between the two men.

Arthur's parents had been told by someone that he was in the Military Hospital -Oxford Barracks in Warrington and had lost either one or both arms. The Australian Red Cross (ARC) wrote to the Oaklands Hospital in Warrington who responded saying Arthur was "*not known here*". The ARC had not been able to find a hospital named Oxford in Warrington but there was a Military Hospital at Orford Barracks, Nr Warrington. Arthur's mother wrote to the ARC at Mount Pleasant, London to seek their help. Correspondence from a secretary to the Lord Derby Hospital in Warrington shows that in August 1918 the ARC was still trying to find Arthur "*... I know the Lord Derby Hospital takes mental cases – but a man who had not communicated with his people for over a year might be a mental one. May I trouble you to find out if there is any truth in this assertion i.e. that he is in the Lord Derby Hospital? ... if we can convince the poor parents that their son is not alive, we will feel we have accomplished something*". Enquiries made by the ARC over a long period of time had not been able to find anyone of that name. A typed letter from the "*O.C., M.H. Orford Barracks, Warring-ton 13th Aug. 1918*" simply stated, "*Not Known*".

The ARC was still searching for Arthur as late as October 1919; a typed letter on file from the '*Orford Barracks*' states, "*No trace Germany*". On 19th December 1917, a Court of Enquiry, held in the field, concluded that Arthur was Killed in Action on 11th April 1917.

In fact, it would not be until the 14th January 1919 that the ARC were able to confirm that Arthur had been reported Killed in Action. It is unclear when Arthurs parents were informed of his death.

Arthur's Brother, Oliver Ward, was Private 977 (*the Reg. No. before John Holden and the same Battalion*) 'C' Coy, 10th Battalion. Born 3rd December 1888 in Upper Wakefield, near Auburn S.A. He was a member of the Watervale Rifle Club. He enlisted on 2nd September 1914 at Morphetville, S.A. and embarked from Adelaide on 20th October 1914 aboard *RMS Mongolia*. On 3rd March

1915 he embarked on the *Ionian* to join the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force to the Gallipoli. He sustained a gunshot wound to his left shoulder at Gallipoli and later admitted to the 15th General Hospital, Alexandria. On 13th May he was admitted to the convalescent Camp at Mustapha. He returned home to Australia on 5th July 1915 aboard *HMAT Ballarat*; he was later discharged due to being medically unfit for service. Oliver died in 1961 and is buried in Watervale Cemetery in the Ward Family grave.



Villers-Bretonneux Memorial





Leicestershire & Rutland