

Durrington, Wiltshire, England

War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



5895 PRIVATE

J. W. MATHEWS

28TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

23RD DECEMBER, 1916 Age 26

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte J. W. Mathews is located in Grave Plot # 133
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

John William MATHEWS

John William Mathews was born near Port Augusta West, South Australia on 25th October, 1887 to parents James Thomas Mathews & Mary Ann Mathews (nee Pickford). His birth was registered in 1887 in the district of Frome, South Australia.

John W. Mathews married Louisa Lillian Stevens in 1916 in the district of Dundas, Western Australia.

John Mathews stated he was a 26 year old, married, Grocer from Norseman, Western Australia when he enlisted on 22nd June, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5895 & his religion was Wesleyan. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Louisa Lillian Mathews of Norseman, Western Australia.

Private John William Mathews embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Suffolk (A23)* on 13th October, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 28th Infantry Battalion, 16th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 2nd December, 1916.

28th Battalion

The 28th Battalion was raised at Blackboy Camp in Western Australia on 16 April 1915 from recruits previously earmarked for the 24th Battalion, which was instead being raised in Victoria.....

(Extract of Battalion information from The Australian War Memorial)

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private John William Mathews was marched in to 7th Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire on 16th December, 1916.

Private John William Mathews was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 19th December, 1916.

Private John William Mathews died at 1 a.m. on 23rd December, 1916 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Broncho Pneumonia.

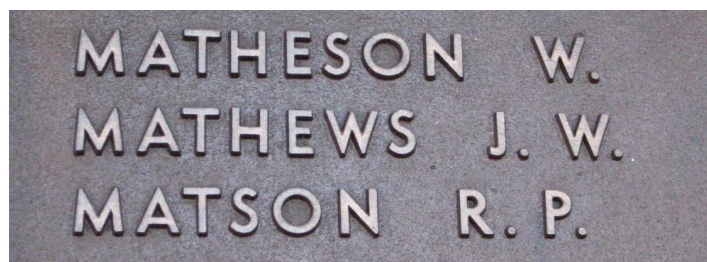
A death for John W. Matthews, aged 27, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private John William Mathews was buried on 27th December, 1916 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 133 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private John William Mathews was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Mathews' widow – Mrs L. L. Mathews (sent December, 1921 & July, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John William Mathews – service number 5895 as being 26 years old & served with 28th Battalion Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private J. W. Mathews is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 114.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

The Norseman War Memorial, located in Rotunda Park, Prinsep Street, Norseman, Western Australia does not list individual names.



Norseman War Memorial *(Photo from Monument Australia – Henry Moulds)*

J. W. Mathews is remembered on the Norseman Roll of Honour, located in Norseman Town Hall, Prinsep Street, Norseman, Western Australia.



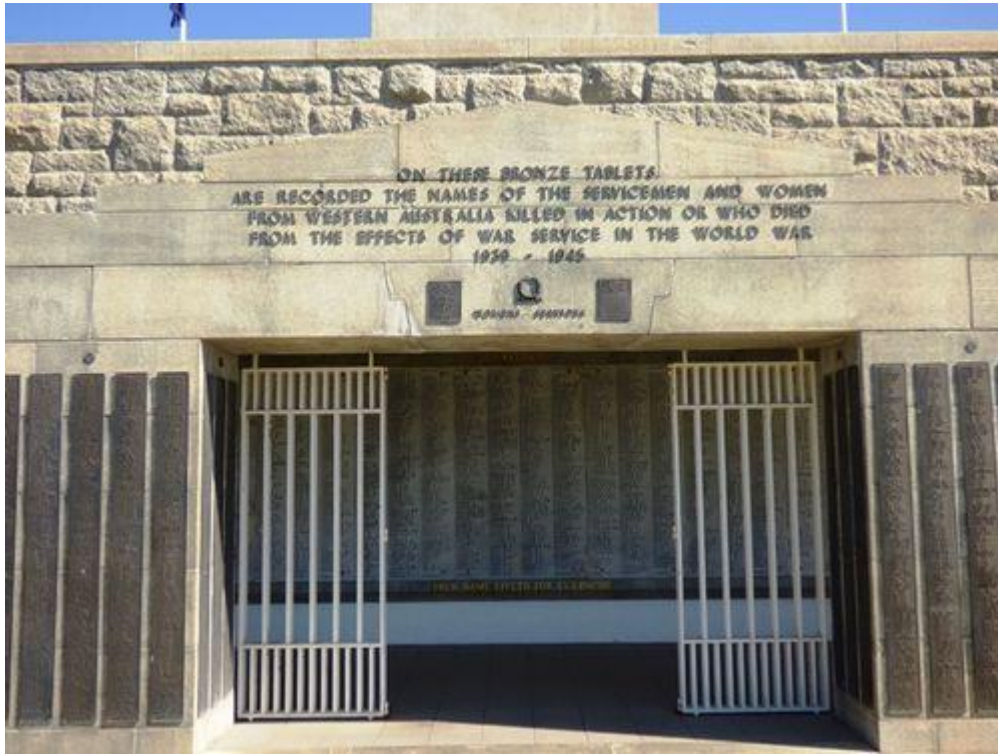
Norseman Roll of Honour (Photo Kevin Cameron)

J. W. Mathews is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park



The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)



28th Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

(39 pages of Private John William Mathews' Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Private John William Mathews

Newspaper Reports

IN MEMORIAM

MATHEWS - In loving memory of our dear brother, Private Jack Mathews, who died in England December 23, 1916, whilst on his way to the front. Manly, unselfish, and brave.

-Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Jim and Ida Mathews, 13 James-street, Fremantle.

(The West Australian, Perth – Monday 24 December, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR – CASUALTY LIST NO. 262

WESTERN AUSTRALIA – DIED OF ILLNESS

J. W. Mathews, Norseman, 23/12/16

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – Friday 12 January, 1917)

DEATHS

MATHEWS – On December 23, 1916, at Military Hospital Fargo, Salisbury Plains, Private John William, of broncho-pneumonia; aged 27 years, dearly loved husband of Louise Lilian Mathews, Ramsey-street, Norseman.

At his country's call
Loved by all who knew him.

*(Kalgoorlie Miner, Western Australia – Friday 16 March, 1917) &
(Western Argus, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia – Tuesday 20 March, 1917)*

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

A letter from Base Records, dated 22nd July, 1921, to Mrs L. L. Mathews, Norseman, W.A. advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of the late Pte J. W. Mathews had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private J. W. Mathews does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Durrington Cemetery contains burials of both wars. The 204 First World War burials were mostly from nearby Larkhill Camp. Many of the graves are of Australian servicemen and there is a separate Australian memorial in the cemetery. The Second World War burials number 22. In addition to the war graves, there are a number of post-war service graves in the cemetery, mostly of the Royal Air Force.

(Information from CWGC)



Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo above by Dave Healing 2013; below CWGC)



Photo of Private J. W. Mathews' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)