

**Netley Military Cemetery,  
Hampshire, England  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**484 PRIVATE**

**R. ARMSTRONG**

**2ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**27TH JULY, 1915 Age 32**

*In Memory  
Of The Dearly Loved Son  
Of Mrs Armstrong  
Bewcastle*

## Richard ARMSTRONG

Richard Armstrong was born at Bewcastle, Cumberland, England in 1883 to parents James and Elizabeth Jane Armstrong (nee Telford). He was baptised on 20th August, 1883 in St. Cuthbert's Church, Newcastle, Cumberland, England.

The 1891 England Census recorded Richard Armstrong as an 8 year old Scholar, living with his family in a 2 roomed dwelling at Sunnyside, Nichol Forest, Cumberland, England. His parents were listed as James Armstrong (Agricultural Labourer, aged 46, born Bewcastle, Cumberland) & Elizabeth Armstrong (aged 37, born Bewcastle, Cumberland). Richard was one of nine children listed on this Census (all born at Bewcastle, Cumberland) – Alice (Scholar, aged 10), Rebekah (Scholar, aged 9) then Richard, Margaret A. (aged 7), Jacob (aged 6), Janet (aged 5), George & Walter (aged 2) & Elizabeth (aged 2 months).

James Armstrong, father of Richard Armstrong, died on 26th September, 1891 at Sunnyside, Nichol Forest, Cumberland, England.

Richard Armstrong attended Boarding School in England.

The 1901 England Census recorded Richard Armstrong as a 17 year old Joiner's Apprentice, living with Joseph Telford (Joiner, aged 48) & Ann Telford (aged 34) & their 3 children – Isabella (aged 15), Eliza (aged 10) & Joseph J. (aged 6). The Telford family lived in a 2 roomed dwelling – Rough Syke, Bewcastle, Cumberland which had 2 other families listed as separate households. Also listed in the Telford household was William Robson (Journeyman Joiner, aged 27).

Richard Armstrong stated on his Attestation Papers for the Australian Imperial Force that he had been an Apprentice for 5 years in Carlisle, England.

According to information supplied for the Roll of Honour by his mother - Richard Armstrong came to Australia when he was 26 years old.

Richard Armstrong was a 31 year old, single, Carpenter when he enlisted in Sydney, NSW on 24th August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 484 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. Armstrong, "The Crossing", Penton, Carlisle, England.

Private Richard Armstrong was posted to "B" Company, 2nd Battalion on 24th August, 1914 for recruit training.

Private Richard Armstrong embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Suffolk* (A23) on 18th October, 1914 with the 2nd Infantry Battalion, "E" Company.

Private Richard Armstrong was transferred from "B" Company, 2nd Battalion to Headquarters Staff Pioneer on 13st January, 1915.

Private Richard Armstrong was wounded in action at the Dardanelles between 25th & 30th April, 1915. He was transferred to Hospital Ship *Galeka* with gunshot wounds to head. Pte Armstrong was admitted to No. 17 General Hospital, Alexandria, Egypt on 2nd May, 1915 from Hospital Ship *Galeka* with gunshot wounds to head –severe. Pte Armstrong was reported as dangerously ill on 3rd May, 1915. He was transferred to England from Alexandria on 3rd July, 1915 on Hospital Ship *Letitia* from 17th General Hospital.

### 2nd Battalion

The 2nd Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 3rd and 4th Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these battalions, formed the 1st Brigade.

The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. The

battalion took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves, and was led by Lieutenant Colonel G. F. Braund, who was killed in action nine days later.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Richard Armstrong was admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England on 14th July, 1915 from Hospital Ship *Letitia*.



**Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley**

Private Richard Armstrong died at 9 am on 27th July, 1915 at Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England from wounds received in action at Dardanelles - gunshot wounds to head.

A death for Richard Armstrong, aged 32, was registered in the September quarter, 1915 in the district of South Stoneham, Hampshire, England.

Private Richard Armstrong was buried in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England – Plot number C. E. 1712 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Richard Armstrong – service number 484, aged 32, of 2nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of James and Elizabeth Armstrong, of The Crossings, Penton near Carlisle, Cumberland, England.

Private Richard Armstrong was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Armstrong's mother - Mrs E. Armstrong, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll issued in England in July, 1922 & Plaque issued in England in October, 1922).

Pte Richard Armstrong & his brother George Armstrong are both remembered on the Bewcastle War Memorial, located in St. Cuthbert's Churchyard, High Grains, Bewcastle, Carlisle, Cumbria, England.



**Bewcastle War Memorial** (Photo by Alan Williams – War Memorials Online)



Private R. Armstrong is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 31.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

(34 pages of Private Richard Armstrong's 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*

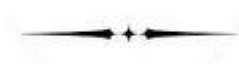


### [Connected to Private Richard Armstrong:](#)

Younger twin brothers -

Driver George Armstrong, 15630, 16th Field Artillery Battery, Australian Field Artillery. Embarked 14th April, 1916, aged 26 years with his twin brother Walter. Died 30th October, 1918 of Influenza & Broncho Pneumonia. Buried Etretat Churchyard Extension, France. Entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.

Driver Walter Armstrong, 15631, 6th Field Artillery Battery, Australian Field Artillery. Embarked 14th April, 1916, aged 26 years with his twin brother George. Discharged in England from A.I.F. on 18 October, 1919. Entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.



\*\*The War Medals awarded to the three Armstrong brothers, who served in the Australian Imperial Force, were sold at Auction on 8th September, 2015 in England.

- Private Richard Armstrong, 484, 2nd battalion, A.I.F.; Memorial Plaque (Death Penny), 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal.
- Driver George Armstrong, 15630, Memorial Plaque (Death Penny), British War Medal & the Victory Medal.
- Driver Walter Armstrong, 15631, British War Medal & the Victory Medal.



**War Medals of the 3 Armstrong brothers** (Photo from Dix Noonan Webb Auctioneers)

**Richard Armstrong's medal (left); George Armstrong medals (centre) & Walter Armstrong's medals (right)**



**Private Richard Armstrong's War Medals**



## Newspaper Notices

### DARDANELLES

#### AUSTRALASIAN CASUALTIES

NEW SOUTH WALES

WOUNDED

Private R. Armstrong, 2nd Battalion

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 7 May, 1915)*

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#### AUSTRALASIA's ROLL OF HONOR

Including the names in the list last issued - the sixtieth – the Australian casualties total 13,402....

NEW SOUTH WALES

KILLED OR DIED OF WOUNDS

Pioneer R. Armstrong, 2nd Btn. (England), previously reported wounded.

*(The Farmer and Settler, Sydney, NSW – 6 August, 1915)*

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### 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. 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)*

Private R. Armstrong does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Memory Of The Dearly Loved Son Of Mrs Armstrong*

*Bewcastle*



## Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England

Netley Military Cemetery is a permanent military cemetery, the property of the Ministry of Defence. The cemetery was at the back of the Royal Victoria Military Hospital and was used during both wars for burials from the hospital. The cemetery contains 637 First World War burials but only 35 from the Second World War. In addition to the Commonwealth graves, there are a number of war graves of other nationalities including 69 German graves dating from the First World War.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*



Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire





**Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire** (Photo above - Andrea Charlesworth; below - darealjolo)



Photo of Private R. Armstrong's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England



*(Photo by Andrea Charlesworth)*



**Original Cross markers – Netley Military Cemetery**