

**Compton Chamberlayne  
War Graves Cemetery,  
Wiltshire, England**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3764 PRIVATE**

**W. J. ARNOLD**

**31ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**2ND JULY, 1918**

## William Joseph ARNOLD

William Joseph Arnold was born in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Herbert, subdivision of Townsville, Queensland listed William Joseph Morgan Arnold, Draper, from Flinders Street.

The 1916 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Capricornia, subdivision of Gladstone, Queensland listed William Joseph Morgan Arnold, Draper, from Queen's Hotel, Gladstone.

William Joseph Arnold was a 31 year old, single, Draper from Bundaberg, Queensland when he enlisted on 2nd May, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His Service Number was 3764 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his sister - Evelyn Arnold, Fulham, London, England.

Private William Joseph Arnold was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 4th May, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 9th Reinforcements of 31st Battalion on 17th July, 1916.

Private William Joseph Arnold embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Seang Choon (A49)* on 19th September, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 31st Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th December, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain area, in the county of Wiltshire.

Private William Joseph Arnold was marched in to 8th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire, England on 12th December, 1916.

Private William Joseph Arnold was admitted to Bulford Hospital on 14th December, 1916 from 8th Training Battalion Hurdcott, Wiltshire then transferred to Parkhouse Hospital on 6th January, 1917. He was discharged on 19th February, 1917.

Private William Joseph Arnold was A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from 12 midnight on 1st March, 1917 until 10 p.m. on 2nd March, 1917. He was awarded 28 days Field Punishment No. 2 which was reduced to 14 days & forfeited pay.

Private William Joseph Arnold proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 5th April, 1917 from 8th Training Battalion. He was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 7th April, 1917. He was marched out to his Unit on 8th April, 1917 & was taken on strength of 31st Battalion in the Field on 12th April, 1917.

Private William Joseph Arnold was sent sick to Hospital on 13th December, 1917. He was admitted to 8th Australian Field Ambulance on 14th December, 1917 with Epididymitis then transferred to 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Private Arnold was transferred to Ambulance Train 28 on 15th December, 1917 & admitted to 2nd Australian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 15th December, 1917. He was transferred to England on 19th December, 1917 on Hospital Ship *St David* with Hydrocele.

### 31st Battalion

The 31st Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Enoggera, on the outskirts of Brisbane, in August 1915. Some of the battalion's companies, however, were also raised at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria. In early October, these two elements were united at Broadmeadows, and the battalion sailed from Melbourne the following month.

..... In early 1917, the German Army withdrew to the Hindenburg Line allowing the British front to be advanced and the 31st Battalion participated in the follow-up operations. The battalion subsequently missed the heavy fighting to breach the Hindenburg Line during the second battle of Bullecourt as the 8th Brigade was deployed to protect the division's flank. The only large battle in 1917 in which the 31st Battalion played a major role was Polygon Wood, fought in the Ypres sector in Belgium on 26 September.

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

Private William Joseph Arnold was admitted to the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, England on 19th December, 1917. He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, England on 9th January, 1918 & discharged to furlo on 28th January, 1918 to 11th February, 1918. He was then to report to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott.

Private William Joseph Arnold was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 11th February, 1918.

Private William Joseph Arnold was sent sick to Fovant Hospital on 28th June, 1918. He was admitted to the Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire on 29th June, 1918 with Pneumonia - Seriously ill.

Private William Joseph Arnold died at 9.20 a.m. on 2nd July, 1918 of pneumonia at the Military Hospital, Fovant, aged 33 years.

A death for William J. Arnold, aged 34, was registered in the September quarter of 1918, in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England. (Fovant was a parish in the district of Wilton).

Private William Joseph Arnold was buried in Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England on 5th July, 1918 - Back Row, Grave Plot # 7.

*From the burial report of Private William Joseph Arnold – Coffin was good, Polished Elm with Brass Mountings – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the body being conveyed to the graveside on a gun carriage, preceded by the band and a firing party.*

*Deceased's late Company and the members of the "Kangaroo" Concert Party attended as mourners.*

*Wreaths from H'Qrs Officers Mess, No 4. Command Depot, Old Comrades of the "Kangaroo" Concert Party, Staff of No 5. Canteen and L/Cpl Smith & Ptes Picot & Beale were placed on the grave after the "Last Post" had been sounded.*

*The late Pte Arnold was very popular with Officers, N.C.O.'s and Men of the Depot and his loss as a soldier and Comrade is very keenly felt.*

Private William Joseph Arnold requested in his Will that all monies due to him from the Military plus his bank account be paid to Miss Molly Moran of Bundaberg (previously from Queen's Hotel at Gladstone) "with my love".

Private William Joseph Arnold was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were sent to Private Arnold's mother – Mrs E. Arnold, England (November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private W. J. Arnold – service number 3764, of 31st Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private W. J. Arnold is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 118.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



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

(63 pages of Private William Joseph Arnold's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives.*



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **FOR KING AND COUNTRY**

Yesterday three applicants presented themselves for enlistment, and William Joseph Arnold was accepted, and another recruit will also shortly complete his application.....

*(The Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser, Queensland – 2 May, 1916)*

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### **THE ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **Casualty List No 417 – 127 Queenslanders Included**

#### **Died, Other Causes**

Wm Joseph Arnold, England 2/7/18

*(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – Tuesday 16th July, 1918)*

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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 at Compton Chamberlayne 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)*

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

### **Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England**

Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery contains 34 Commonwealth War Graves all from World War 1. Of these 28 are of Australian Soldiers.



*(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)*



**Left & right of Cemetery with central Plinth** (Photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)



**Photo taken from back of Cemetery looking towards the Entrance** (Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)

Photo of Private W. J. Arnold's Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone in Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)*



*(Photo taken c March, 1919)*

Graves of Australian soldiers in the cemetery at Compton-Chamberlyne, each marked by a cross.

*Back row, left to right:* 55821 Private (Pte) Alfred Alwin Dreckow, 32nd Battalion (Bn), died 19 October 1918; 3712 Pte Thomas Cass, 10th Bn, died 17 August 1918; **3764 Pte William Joseph Arnold, 31st Bn, died 2 July 1918**; Captain Roy Allan Sillar, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 30 June 1918; 1993A Pte Sydney Ross, 18th Bn, died 31 May 1918.

*Front row:* 1666 Sergeant Percy Robert Knowles, 9th Australian Light TM Battery, died 30 January 1918; 1995 Pte Thomas James Skipper, 51st Bn, died Fovant Military Hospital 7 January 1918; 687 Pte John Thomas Wehrmann, 32nd Bn, died 3 November 1917; 3462 Pte William Joseph Park, 60th Bn, died 23rd September 1917; 1725 Pte William Ernest Riley, 60th Bn, died 22 May 1917.





Compton Chamberlayne War Graves (Photo from CWGC)

### Compton Chamberlayne War Grave Locations







































British Soldier



Irish Soldier



Australian Soldier

Front Row	Grave	Middle Row	Grave	Back Row	Grave
<i>Public</i>	1	 Oliver	1		1
<i>Public</i>	2	 Knowles	2	<i>Public</i>	2
 Haywood	3	 Skipper	3	 Turner	3
 Gilbert	4	 Wehrmann	4	 Evans	4
 Le Tisser	5	 Park	5	 Dreckow	5
 Jones	6	 Riley	6	 Cass	6
 Cook	7	 Turnbull	7	 Arnold	7
 Pairman	8	 White	8	 Sillar	8
	9	 Howard	9	 Ross	9
 Norris	10	 Tull	10	 Finn	10
 Lintott	11	 Snell	11	 McCarthy	11
 Redman	12	 Ferrow	12	 Trengove	12
<i>Public</i>		 <i>Public</i>			13
<i>Public</i>		<i>Public</i>			14
<i>Public</i>				 Walsh	15
					16
				 Hooper	17
					18
				 Larkin	19