

**Efford Cemetery,  
Plymouth, Devon  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3114 PRIVATE**

**F. F. BASSETT**

**50TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**10TH MARCH, 1917 Age 22**

*Thy Will Be Done*

## Fred Farmer BASSETT

Fred Farmer Bassett was born on 12th April, 1894 at Willunga, South Australia in to parents Frederick Farmer Bassett & Alice Mary Bassett (nee Pettinger).

Frederick Farmer Bassett, father of Fred Farmer Bassett, died in 1897 at Coolgardie, Wester Australia.

Fred Farmer Bassett attended State School at St. Peters, South Australia.

Fred Farmer Bassett was a 22 year old, single, Warehouseman from 10 Walkerville Road, St. Peters, South Australia when he enlisted on 24th October, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3114 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Alice Bassett, of 10 Walkerville Road, St. Peters, South Australia. Fred Bassett stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served with Citizen Forces.

Private Fred Farmer Bassett was posted to "A" Company, 2nd Depot Battalion on 25th October, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to Reinforcements at Mitcham (no date recorded) then on 14th November, 1916 he was transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 50th Battalion.

Private Fred Farmer Bassett embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Berrima* (A35) on 16th December, 1916 with the 8th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 16th February, 1917. Private Bassett had been admitted to the Ship's Hospital on 13th February, 1917 until 17th February, 1917 when he was transferred – originally listed as Influenza then crossed out & replaced with Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

### 50th Battalion

The 50th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 26 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits were veterans from the 10th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 10th, the 50th was predominantly composed of men from South Australia. The battalion became part of the 13th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division and was dubbed "Hurcombe's Hungry Half Hundred", after its first CO, Lieutenant Colonel Frederick Hurcombe.

*(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 Fred Farmer Bassett was admitted to Devonport Military Hospital on 18th February, 1917 C.S.M. Fever & was listed as dangerously ill.

Mrs Bassett, of care of J. B. Bassett, of care of Wittenoon Street, Collie, Western Australia, was advised on 2nd March, 1917 that Private Fred Bassett had been admitted to Hospital dangerously ill with Cerebro Spinal Fever on 18th February. The Hospital Admissions form has the following recorded: "*An Acute case. Lumbar punctures & serum gave little relief.*"

Private Fred Farmer Bassett died at 1.25 pm on 10th March, 1917 at Military Hospital, Devonport, England from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

A death for Frederick Bassett, aged 22, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Devonport, Devon, England.

Private Fred Farmer Bassett was buried on 15th March, 1917 in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England – Plot number Church. C. 4937 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Fred Farmer Bassett contains a request from the Red Cross stating they had "*received an anxious cable of inquiry from Australia for 3114 Pte F. F. Bassett, 50th Battn. A.I.F.*"

saying the last news they had was that he was taken off the Army transport dangerously ill & admitted to hospital 18.2.17." Details of his illness death & burial were being requested for his relatives in Australia. The Matron of the Military Hospital, Devonport replied "I wrote three times to his people, the last letter was dated 16.3.17, just the day after the funeral, so I told them all I possibly could, but there was so little to tell, for he was extremely ill on admission and only conscious for brief intervals. He did not suffer much pain of any kind and had even to be roused to take nourishment. It is all so sad, and one wished there were some messages to send, but he was not conscious enough to even know here he was. He was buried at Efford Cemetery - Church Ground C Section Grave No. 4937."

A War Pension was granted to Alice Mary Bassett, mother of the late Private Fred Farmer Bassett in the sum of 40/- per fortnight from 15th May, 1917.

Base Records contacted Private Fred Farmer Bassett Mrs A. Bassett, c/- Mr J. B. Bassett, Busselton, Western Australia, in May, 1921 stating that she was noted on the records as the next-of-kin of the late Private F. F. Bassett May, 1921 & were asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically if his father was still alive due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. A reply was sent by J. B. Bassett, who was replying on behalf of the mother of the late Private F. F. Bassett, & advised that their father was deceased & the mother was living at No. 10 Walkerville Road, St. Peters, South Australia.

Private Fred Farmer Bassett was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also to be sent to Pte Bassett's widowed mother - Mrs A. Bassett, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque ready for issue in July, 1922 then dispatched to Mr H. P. Bassett in March, 1923 on advice that Mrs Bassett was deceased.) The Memorial Plaque for Private Bassett is held at the Willunga Branch of the National Trust in the Courthouse Museum.



**Memorial Plaque for Fred Farmer Bassett**

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Fred Farmer Bassett – service number 3114, aged 22, of 50th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Frederick Farmer Bassett & Alice Mary Bassett. Native of South Australia.

Private F. F. Bassett is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 150.



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

Private F. F. Bassett is remembered on the All Souls Anglican Church Honour Board, located in the Church at corner of Stephen Terrace & Third Avenue, St. Peters, South Australia.



**All Souls Anglican Church Honour Board** (Photo from Virtual War Memorial Australia)

Pte Fred Farmer Bassett is remembered on a Stained glass window in All Souls Anglican Church, corner of Stephen Terrace & Third Avenue, St. Peters, South Australia.



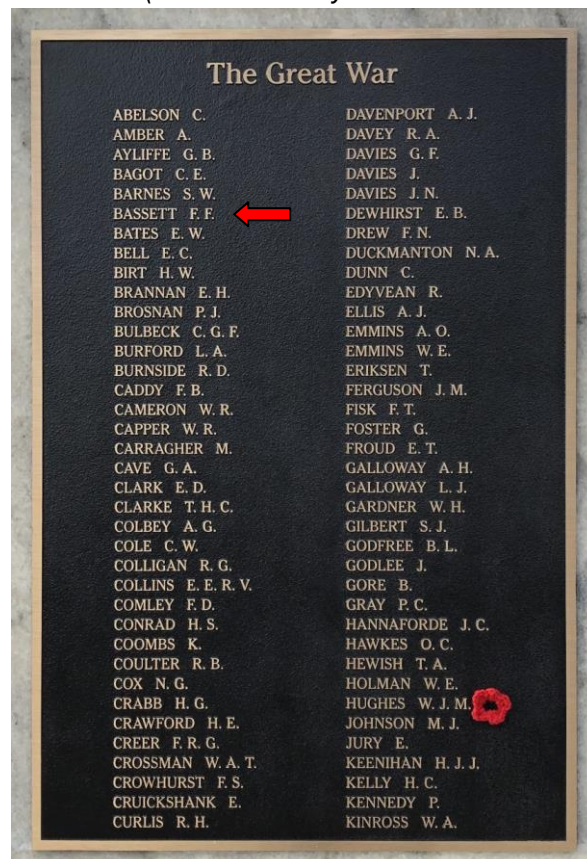
**Stained glass window in All Souls Anglican Church** (Photos from *Virtual War Memorial Australia*)



F. F. Bassett is remembered on the St. Peter's Heroes Memorial, located in St. Peters Street, St. Peters, South Australia. The memorial which was erected in 1922 was one of the Great War Memorials that did not feature the names of the fallen. A grant was awarded along with other funding & on 24th April, 2019 the memorial was re-dedicated with the names of 145 men from the suburbs of Hackney, College Park, East Adelaide, St. Peters, Stepney, Evandale and Maylands.



St. Peters Heroes Memorial (Photos courtesy of St Peters Residents Association Inc.)

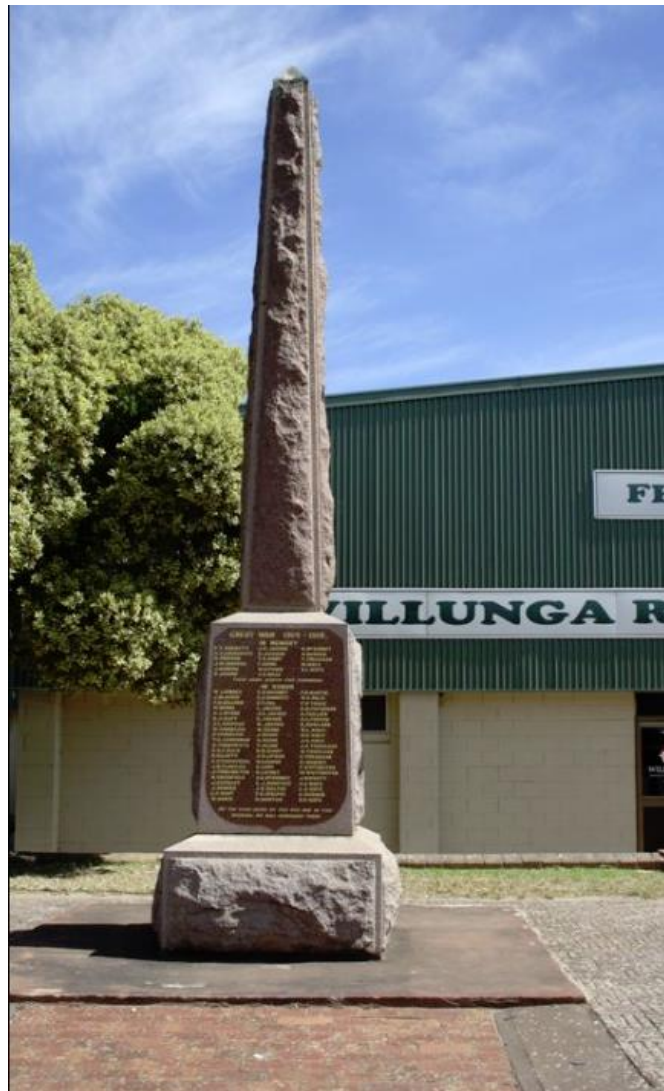


F. F. Bassett is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



**National War Memorial – Adelaide** (Photos by Bilby)

F. F. Bassett is remembered on the Willunga War Memorial located at Festival Hall, Main Road, Willunga, South Australia.



**Willunga War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia – Bryan Cole)



**Willunga War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia – Bryan Cole)

F. F. Bassett is remembered on the Willunga Cheer Up Society Pictorial Honour Board, located in Willunga Hall, Main Road, Willunga, South Australia.



**Willunga Cheer Up Society Pictorial Honour Board** (Photo from Virtual War Memorial Australia)



Private F. F. Bassett is remembered with a tree on the Willunga Avenue of Honour. 100 trees were planted to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli Landing. The trees can be found on Victor Harbour Road & Aldinga Road, Willunga, South Australia. Pte Bassett is remembered with a cypress tree between Hill Street & Main Road, Willunga, near the Alma Hotel.



**Willunga Avenue of Honour** (Photo from Monument Australia – Bryan Cole)

(76 pages of Private Fred Farmer Bassett'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **279th CASUALTY LIST**

#### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

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3114- Pte F. F. BASSETT, Collie, W.A. (dang.)

(*Observer*, Adelaide, South Australia – 17 March, 1917)

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### **DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE**

BASSETT – On the 10th March, of meningitis, at military hospital, Devonport, England, Private Frederick F. Bassett, 50th Battalion, youngest son of Mrs F. F. Bassett, Walkerville-road, East Adelaide.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 20 March, 1917) & (*Observer*, Adelaide, South Australia – 24 March, 1917)

## 282nd CASUALTY LIST

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

#### DIED OF ILLNESS

3114 – Pte F. F. BASSETT, Collie (March 10)

(*Observer*, Adelaide, South Australia – 31 March, 1917)

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#### LATE PTE. F. F. BASSETT.

The late Pte. F. F. Bassett was the youngest son of Mrs. Bassett, of Walkerville road, St. Peters. He was employed in the warehouse of Messrs. Matthew Goode & Co. from the time he left school until he enlisted. He was closely associated for several years with All Souls' Church, St. Peters, and was a member of the choir, as well as a teacher in the Sunday school. The quiet strength of his personality was felt wherever he went, and he was beloved by a large circle of friends. He enlisted in October last, and left for England in December, 1916. He died of meningitis in Devonport Hospital, England, on March 10. He was 23 years of age.

(*The Journal*, Adelaide, South Australia – 10 April, 1917)

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(*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 11 April, 1917) & (*The Journal*, Adelaide, South Australia – 10 April, 1917)

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 21 April, 1917) & (*Observer*, Adelaide, South Australia – 21 April, 1917)

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P09291.317

**Private Fred Farmer Bassett**



### 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 F. F. Bassett does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Thy Will Be Done*

### **Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England**

During the First World War, Plymouth, Devonport and Stonehouse contained between them the Royal Dockyard, Royal Naval Barracks (known as H.M.S. Vivid), the Royal Marine Barracks of the Plymouth Division, and naval and military hospitals. For the duration of the war, Devonport was made headquarters of the Auxiliary Patrol Area. Plymouth was a naval station second only to Portsmouth during the Second World War. Devonport was also an important military station and there was a R.A.F station at Mount Batten, opposite Plymouth. PLYMOUTH (EFFORD) CEMETERY contains 338 scattered burials of the First World War. The 109 Second World War burials, including 5 unidentified, are also scattered apart from a small group in Section C, in a plot set aside for service burials that was actually little used. The Commission also maintains five non-war burials within the cemetery and 12 war graves of other nationalities, most of them Greek merchant seamen. PLYMOUTH CITY CREMATORIUM is situated in Plymouth (Efford) Cemetery and 61 servicemen and women of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there are commemorated on a screen wall set into a recess in the hedge behind the Cross of Sacrifice.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*



**Cross of Sacrifice in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth** *(Photo from CWGC)*



**War Graves in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth** *(Photo from CWGC)*



*(Photo courtesy of Rebecca Smith)*



**War Graves in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth** *(Photos courtesy of Rebecca Smith)*



Photo of Private F. F. Bassett's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England.





*(Photo by Woose – Find A Grave)*