

**St. George's Churchyard,
Fovant, Wiltshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



62066 PRIVATE

N. BATTEN

43RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

10TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 19

*All That It Meant
To Lose Him
Only Our Sad Hearts Know
Mother*

Norman BATTEN

Norman Thomas Batten was born on 20th July, 1899 at Bowden, South Australia in to parents John and Annie Batten (nee McRae).

Norman Thomas Batten attended North Adelaide Private School, South Australia.

Norman Batten was an 18 year old, single, Factory Hand from Croydon, South Australia when he enlisted at Adelaide on 4th January, 1918 with the 4th (South Australian) Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 62066 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs A. Batten, of Robert Street, Croydon, South Australia. Norman Batten stated on his Attestation Papers that he had completed 2 years with Senior Cadets. As Norman Batten was under the age of 21 years, both his parents needed to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service abroad. John & Annie Batten both signed their consent.

Private Norman Batten was posted to Camp with “B” Company at Mitcham on 7th January, 1918. Private Norman Batten was transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 43rd Battalion on 16th January, 1918. He was transferred again to 11th Reinforcements of 48th Battalion on 4th March, 1918. Pte Batten was transferred to “A” Company, No. 1 Platoon on 13th March, 1918 then transferred to 4th Reinforcements “S” to UK on 3rd July, 1918.

Private Norman Batten embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on SS *Gaika* on 6th August, 1918. Private Norman Batten was admitted to Ship’s Hospital with Influenza from 14th September, 1918 till 18th September, 1918. He disembarked at London, England on 13th October, 1918.

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 Norman Batten was allotted to Reinforcements 43rd Battalion & was marched in to 9th Training Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire, England on 13th October, 1918.

Private Norman Batten was sent sick to Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire on 26th October & admitted on 27th October, 1918 with Influenza.

Private Norman Batten died on 10th November, 1918 (the eve of the Armistice) at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire, England from Influenza & Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Norman Batten, aged 19, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

Private Norman Batten was buried at 11.20 am on 15th November, 1918 in St George’s Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England – Plot number I. F. 3. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Batten - *Coffin was polished Elm with brass furnishings. Deceased was buried with full Military honors, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun-carriage. The cortege was preceded by a Firing Party and Band from the 9th Australian Training Battalion. Six of the deceased Unit’s comrades supported the Pall. 3 Officers and 100 N.C.O.’s and Men from deceased’s late Unit followed the remains to the graveside, Wreaths from the Officers, N.C.O.’s and Men of the Unit were placed on the grave after the “Last Post” had been sounded. Headquarters, A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Private Norman Batten requested in his Will dated 7th January, 1918 that all his property he gives to his mother – Annie Batten & whom he also appointed as sole Executrix.

Private Norman Batten 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 Pte Batten’s father – Mr J. Batten, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Norman Batten – service number 62066, aged 19, of 43rd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Annie Batten, of Burke St., West Croydon, South Australia. Born at Adelaide.

Private N. Batten is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 136.



(Photos Cathy Sedgwick)



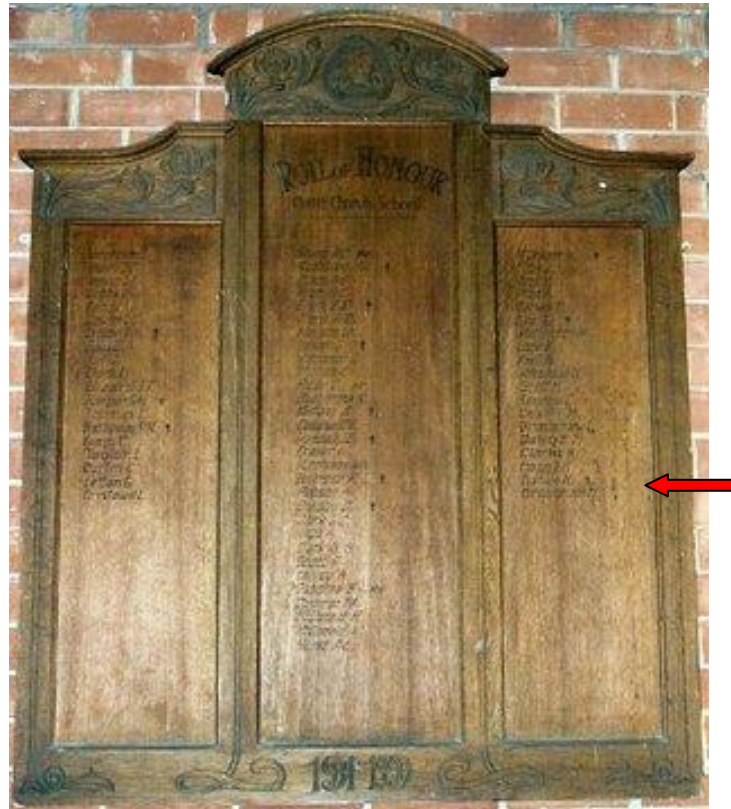
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

N. Batten 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)*

N. Batten is remembered on the Christ Church School Roll of Honour, located in Christ Church Hall, Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide, South Australia. (3rd column, 2nd last name)



Christ Church School Roll of Honour (Photo from RSL Virtual War Memorial)



Annie Batten (mother of Norman Batten) & her son Lesley Graham Batten outside their house named "Fovant" at Burke Street, West Croydon, South Australia. The photo was taken in mid-1920 around 4 months after the house was completed.

(50 pages of Pte Norman Batten'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



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS

DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY

Private NORMAN BATTEN, son of Mrs Batten, Robert-street, North Croydon, died on November 10 in the Fovantry Military Hospital, London.

(The Express and Telegraph, Adelaide, South Australia – 27 November, 1918)

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

BATTEN – In loving memory of Private Norman Batten, No. 62066, 43rd Battalion, who died of pneumonia, on November 10 in Fovantry Military Hospital, London, aged 19 years and 4 months. Loved by all.

Could I have been there in that hour of death
To catch the last sound of his parting breath,
The last faint murmur I might have heard,
And breathed in his ear a parting word.

The trial is hard,

The shock severe,

To part with one

We loved so dear.

He knew not the way that's before him.

The joy or grief it may bring,

What clouds are o'er hanging the future,

What flowers by the wayside may spring.

But there's One who will journey beside him

Not in weal nor in woe will forsake,

And this is my solace and comfort,

He knoweth the way that he take,

And He left, all rose up and followed Him – Luke v., 28.

- Ever remembered by his loving mother, brother and sisters.

(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 30 November, 1918)

FINAL CASUALTY LIST

No. 450

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Died Other Causes

62066, Pte N. BATTEN, Croydon, 10/11/18, illness

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 14 December, 1918)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

BATTEN – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Norman, who died of illness, 10th November, 1918, at Fovant, England.

No space of time, no lapse of years,
Can dim the life that's past
A loving memory holds it dear,
Affection holds it fast.

- Inserted by loving father, brother, sister-in-law, Jack and Ethel, and Mrs Evans.

BATTEN – In loving memory of Private Norman Batten, No. 62066, 43rd Battalion, who died November 10, 1918, at Fovant Military Hospital. Loved by all.

Could we have pressed your dying hand,
Or heard your last farewell;
The blow could not have been so hard,
To those you loved so well.
No mother was there to soothe your brow,
No brother to say good-bye;
No sister was there to take your hand
When death was nigh.
Though wilt keep him in perfect peace,
Whose mind is stayed on Thee,
Because he trusted in Thee.

- Ever remembered by his loving mother, brothers and sister.

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 15 November, 1919)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

BATTEN – In loving memory of our dear brother, Private Norman Thomas Batten, 43rd Battalion, who died at Fovant Military Hospital, England, November 10, 1918.

Always so loving, generous, and kind,
None in this world your equal to find;
Your name was good, your friendship sound,
Loved and respected by all around.
Two years have passed and none can tell

The loss of our dear brother we loved so well.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Alf and Gladys.

BATTEN - In loving memory of dear Norman, No. 62066, 43rd Battalion, who died on November 10, 1918, at Fovant Military Hospital, London.

It is only a grave, but it wants care;
Your, our darling boy, lie sleeping there
A sweet young life which promised well,
Perhaps 'tis best, ah, who can tell.
Behold, how calm, how sweet, how fair,
The broken bud that slumbereth there.

The silent grief that's in the soul no human ere can trace,
For many a broken heart lies hidden behind a smiling face.

I can never forget him as years linger on,
The dear sweet memory of dear Norman that's gone.

- Ever remembered by his loving mother, brothers and sisters.

BATTEN – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, No. 62066, Private Norman, who died of sickness at Fovant, England, November 10, 1918.

Little we thought when we bade your good-bye
We parted for ever and you were to die;
The grief that we feel words cannot tell,
That we were not with you to bid you farewell.

Loved by all.

- Inserted by his loving father, brother, sister-in-law, Jack and Ethel, and Mrs Evans.

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 15 November, 1919)

Notices were also placed in 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928 & 1929

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).

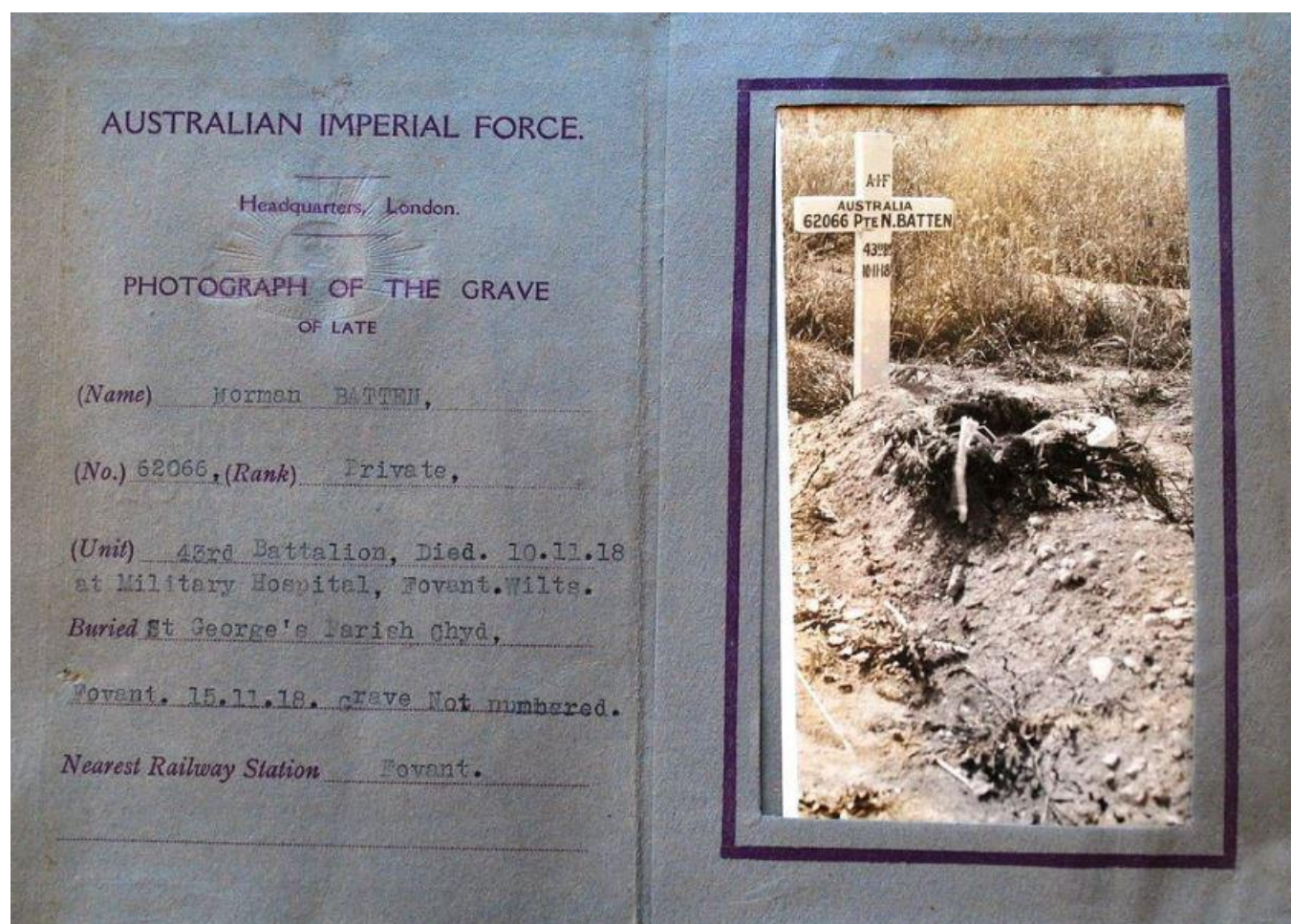
The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

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

A letter from Base Records, dated 19th September, 1921, to Mrs A. Batten, Burke Street, West Croydon, South Australia advised that the personal inscription chosen for insertion on the permanent memorial on the headstone of the late Pte N. Batten was too long and Mrs Batten was advised to limit the inscription to 66 letters only.

Private N. Batten does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

All That It Meant To Lose Him Only Our Sad Hearts Know Mother



Original Cross Marker for Private Norman Batten

St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England

There was a 600 bed hutted military hospital at Fovant during the First World War, and the concentration of Australian depots and training camps in the area is reflected in the 63 First World War burials in this churchyard. The war graves form two groups, one west of the church and the other at the east end. There is also one burial of the Second World War. There are 44 War Graves belonging to those who served with the Australian Imperial Force in World War 1.

(Information from CWGC)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00299

(Photo c 1919)



St George's Churchyard, Fovant *(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)*



St George's Churchyard, Fovant – War Graves at front & rear (*Churchyard photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey*)



Photo of Private N Batten's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England.





Cross of Sacrifice (Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)