

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

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1117 PRIVATE

W. O. BAYLIS

38TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

11TH AUGUST, 1916

Greater Love Hath

No Man Than This

William Ormond (Ormie) BAYLIS

William Ormond Baylis was born at Ensay, Gippsland, Victoria on 7th September, 1897 to parents William & Mary Baylis (nee Angus).

William Baylis, father of William Ormond Baylis, died on 8th September, 1901 at Ensay, Victoria.

William Ormond Baylis was an 18 year old, single, Farm Hand from c/o Mr J. Angus (Orme's grandfather), Ensay, Gippsland, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 17th March, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Presbyterian & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary Baylis, c/o Mrs Parker, "Ensay" Rankin's Road, Kensington, Victoria.

Private William Ormond Baylis was posted to "D" Company, 38th Battalion on 17th March, 1916 for recruit training.

Private William Ormond Bayliss, (Surname as per Embarkation Roll) Service number 1117, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Runic (A54)* on 20th June, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Brigade, 38th Infantry Battalion, "D" Company. He was admitted to Ship's Hospital with a Chill while at Sea on 25th July, 1916. Private Baylis disembarked at Plymouth, England on 10th August, 1916.

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.

38th Battalion

The 38th Battalion was formed on 1 March 1916 at a camp established on the Epsom Racecourse at Bendigo in Victoria. Early training was disrupted by a severe outbreak of cerebro-spinal meningitis in the camp, as a result of which the healthy members were transferred to a camp at Campbellfield, where the Battalion had to be rebuilt from fresh reinforcements.

After training in both Australia and Britain, the 38th Battalion crossed to France in late November 1916.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private William Ormond Baylis was admitted to Military Hospital Devonport on 10th August, 1916 & was reported to be dangerously ill. The Hospital Admission form recorded "*Admitted with Double Pneumonia, cyanised, collapsed. Died at 11 am.*"

Private William Ormond Baylis died at 11 am on 11th August, 1916 at Military Hospital, Devonport, England from Pneumonia. Two temperature charts for Private Baylis are located in his Service Record file – one recorded his disease as "*Bronchal Pneumonia*" & the other chart recorded his disease as "*Measles*".

A death for William O. Baylis, aged 19, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Devonport, Devon, England.

Private William Ormond Baylis was buried on 15th August, 1916 in General Ground, Eggbuckland Cemetery – Grave No. 3950.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England – Grave Number - General C. 3950 and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A War Pension was granted to Mary Baylis, c/o Mrs W. Barker, Rankins Road, Kensington, mother of the late Private William Ormond Baylis, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 18th October, 1916.

An enquiry was made to Base Records Office on 25th January, 1917 by Mrs Mary Baylis, C/o Mrs W. Parker, Rankins Road, Flemington, Victoria, who requested a Certificate of Death for Private W. O. Baylis, No. 1117, 38th Battalion.

Base Records replied to Mrs Baylis on 30th January, 1917 enclosing a certificate of report of death of the late No. 1117, Private W. O. Baylis, 38th Battalion.

Mrs Mary Baylis, mother of the late Private William Ormond Baylis, wrote to Base Records on 1st March, 1919 with the following: *"I desire to notify my change of address from c/o Mrs W. J. Parker "Ensay" Rankins Road, Kensington to 11 Western Street, Geelong West, in connection with the records of No. 1117 Private William Ormond Baylis (deceased) 38th Battalion, 10th Brigade, who was my son."*

Private William Ormond Baylis 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 Baylis' mother – Mrs M. Baylis, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent April, 1922 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Ormond Baylis – service number 1117, of 38th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William & Mary Baylis, of 11 Western St., Geelong West, Victoria, Australia.

Private W. O. Baylis is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 129.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. O. Baylis & his brother V. N. Baylis are both remembered on the Ensay War Memorial, located on Great Alpine Road, near Memorial Hall, Ensay, Victoria.



Ensay War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



W. O. Baylis & his brother V. N. Baylis are both remembered on the Reedy Flat War Memorial, located on Hammonds Road, Reedy Flat, Victoria.



Reedy Flat War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Chris McLaughlin)



W. O. Baylis & his brother V. Baylis are both remembered on the Shire of Omeo District Honour Roll, located in Omeo Memorial Hall, 179 Day Avenue (Great Alpine Road), Omeo, Victoria.



Shire of Omeo District Honour Roll (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



Private William Ormond Baylis is remembered on the "Their Duty Done" page.

THEIR DUTY DONE
A TRIBUTE TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE EAST GIPPSLAND REGION WHO DIED
AS A RESULT OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN WORLD WAR ONE : 1914 - 1919



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Their bodies are buried in peace; but their names live for evermore.



William Ormond Baylis

1117 Private William Ormond Baylis – Ormeo / Ensay
Died of illness 11 August 1916

..... fuelled to enlist from his brother's enlistment

William Baylis, known as Orme to his family, was Ensay born and bred. The son of William and Mary Baylis he was born 7 September 1897 at Ormeo. He had two older sisters, a brother, Vere, and a little brother two years younger. When Orme was four years old his father died unexpectedly leaving his mother with five children under ten years old to raise. Orme ended up being raised by their grandfather James Angus and he attended school at Reedy Flat and Ensay.

Orme's brother Vere had enlisted on 1 September 1915 and Orme, no doubt fuelled with the adventure that his brother was having, enlisted in February 1916 with the 28th Battalion. He had only just turned 18 years old. One can only imagine the excitement that he must have felt starting out on his own adventure when he sailed from Melbourne on the *Runic* four months later.

But Orme would not end up serving his country the way he imagined. On 25 July, while still at sea he was admitted to sick bay *with a chill* and by the time the *Runic* had put in at Plymouth he was *dangerously ill*. He was taken to the military hospital at Davenport and died there the next day from the pneumonia he had contracted while on board. He was buried at the Efford cemetery at Plymouth and was 19 years old. Orme's brother, Vere, also died of wounds two years later. Orme Baylis is remembered on honour rolls and memorials at Ormeo, Ensay and Reedy Flat.



(45 pages of Private William Ormond Baylis' 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 William Ormond Baylis



Connected to Private William Ormond Baylis:

Older brother Vere Neville Baylis – Enlisted on 5th August, 1915 as a 20 year old Labourer from Johnsville, East Gippsland, Victoria. Embarked on 20th May, 1916 from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT Medic (A7) as Driver 22304 with 23rd Howitzer Brigade, 109th Battery.

Bombardier Vere Neville Baylis, 22304, died on 22nd October, 1918 from wounds. He was buried in St. Benin Communal Cemetery, France.



Newspaper Notices

DIED ON SERVICE

BAYLIS – On the 11th August, Military Hospital, Kingsley, England, of pneumonia, Pte W. O. Baylis (Ormie), second son of Mrs M. and the late W. Baylis, Ensay, Rankin's road, Kensington, late of Ensay and Cunninghame, grandson of Mr and Mrs Jas. Angus, Gippsland, brother of Driver Vere Baylis, on active service, aged 19 years.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 24 August, 1916) & (*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 24 August, 1916)

ENSAY

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT)

WAR CASUALTY LIST

News has been received that Pte W. O. Baylis has died of pneumonia at sea on the journey for England. He was the second son of Mrs W. and the late Mr W. Baylis, formerly of Ensay. Pte Baylis was a native of Ensay and had lived here all his life with his grandfather, Mr Jas. Angus, and had only just turned 18 prior to enlisting in February.

(*Omeo Standard and Mining Gazette*, Victoria – 29 August, 1916)

ON THE FIELD OF HONOR

202ND & 203RD OFFICIAL LISTS

DIED OF ILLNESS

VICTORIA

Pte Bayliss, W. O., Barwon Heads

(*The Ballarat Courier*, Victoria – 1 September, 1916)

OMEO'S VOLUNTEERS

The Roll of Honor!

Private W. O. Baylis, Ensay – Died at Sea.

(*Omeo Standard and Mining Gazette*, Victoria – 27 October, 1916)

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 W. O. Baylis does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Greater Love Hath No Man Than This

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)



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

Photo of Private W. O. Baylis' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave - Woose)