

Epsom Cemetery, Surrey

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5986 PRIVATE

H. BEBBINGTON

14TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

16TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 33

Harry BEBBINGTON

Harry Bebbington was born in Nantwich, Cheshire, England in 1882 to parents Thomas & Annie Bebbington. He was baptised on 5th November, 1882 at St. Cross Church, Clayton, Lancashire, England.

The 1891 England Census recorded Harry Bebbington as an 8 year old scholar living with his family at Broad Lane, Stapeley, Cheshire. His parents were listed as Thomas Bebbington (Agent, aged 35, born Hassall Green, Cheshire) & Anne Bebbington (aged 37, born Lancashire). Harry was one of six children listed on this Census (all born at Cheshire) – Nellie Bebbington (Scholar, aged 10) then Harry, Lucy Bebbington (Scholar, aged 6), John Bebbington (Scholar, aged 5), Herbert (aged 4) & Joseph (aged 1).

The 1901 England Census recorded Harry Bebbington as an 18 year old Cabinet Maker, living with his family at Acton Village, Cheshire. His parents were listed as Thomas Bebbington (Gardener – not domestic, aged 48, born Acton, Cheshire) & Ann Bebbington (aged 49, born West Leigh, Lancashire). Harry was one of ten children listed on this Census – Nell R. (Dressmaker, aged 20, born Dukinfield, Cheshire), then Harry (born Dukinfield, Cheshire). Lucy (aged 16, born Marple, Cheshire), John (aged 15, born Marple, Cheshire), Herbert (aged 13, born Audlern, Cheshire), Joseph (aged 11, born Audlern, Cheshire), Sydney (aged 9, born Wybunbury, Cheshire), Alice (Aged 8, born Nantwich, Cheshire), William (aged 7, born Nantwich, Cheshire) & Charles C. (aged 3, born Acton, Cheshire).

Harry Bebbington had been an apprentice Cabinet maker with Price and Wildington of Nantwich, Cheshire, England for 5 years.

Harry Bebbington married Mary Ellen Bower in 1908. Their marriage was registered in the September quarter, 1908 in the district of Bucklow, Cheshire.

The 1911 England Census recorded Harry Bebbington as a 28 year old Cabinet Maker living with his wife Nellie Bebbington (aged 28, born Wilmslow, Cheshire) at Laburnum Cottage, Nursery Lane, Wilmslow, which had 5 rooms. Harry & Nellie had been married for 2 years & had no children.

Mr Henry Bebbington, Cabinet Maker, aged 29 & Mrs Mary Bebbington, aged 28, were passengers on board Gothic which departed from the port of London on 20th July, 1912 bound for Melbourne, Australia.

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Corio, subdivision of Barwon listed Harry Bebbington, Cabinetmaker & his wife Mary Ellen Bebbington, Home Duties, living at 38 Bourke Crescent, Geelong.

Harry Bebbington was a 33 year old, married, Cabinet Maker from Geelong, Victoria when he enlisted on 7th February, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5986 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs M. E. Bebbington of 38 Bourke Crescent, East Geelong, Victoria. Harry Bebbington stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service due to his teeth.

Pte Harry Bebbington was in Camp at Geelong from 23rd March, 1916 to 23rd May, 1916. He had been admitted to the Clearing Hospital at Geelong from 14th to 20th April, 1916 with a septic toe. Pte Bebbington was transferred to Camp at Broadmeadows on 24th May, 1916.

Private Harry Bebbington embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Miltiades* (A28) on 1st August, 1916 with the 14th Infantry Battalion 19th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 25th September, 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.

Private Harry Bebbington proceeded overseas from 4th Training Battalion via Folkestone on *Princess Victoria* on 4th December, 1916.

Private Harry Bebbington was marched in from England to 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 5th December, 1916.

Private Harry Bebbington joined 14th Battalion in the field on 26th December, 1916.

Private Harry Bebbington was wounded in action on 5th February, 1917 in France. He was taken to 12th Australian Field Ambulance with a compound fracture of the skull & then transferred to Casualty Clearing Station. Private Bebbington was admitted to 13th Stationary Hospital at Boulogne, France on 7th February, 1917 & his condition as reported as severe. On 14th February, 1917 Private Bebbington was to proceed to England & departed on Hospital Ship *St Denis* on 15th February, 1917 for England with shrapnel wounds to head & neck.

Private Harry Bebbington was admitted to County of London War Hospital, Epsom, England on 16th February, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to head & compound fracture of skull.

Private Harry Bebbington died at 3.20 pm on 16th February, 1917 at County of London War Hospital, Epsom, England from wounds received in action in France – gunshot wound to head & Hernia Cerebri. He died 12 hours after being admitted to the hospital.

A death for Harry Bebbington, aged 34, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Epsom, Surrey.

Private Harry Bebbington was buried on 22nd February, 1917 in Epsom Cemetery, Surrey – Screen Wall K. 736. There are no headstones for this section of the Cemetery, however those buried have their names on a bronze plaque located on the Screen Wall which is directly in front of the lawned area of burials. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

From the burial report of Private Bebbington - *Coffin was in good order, polished English Elm with black fittings. The deceased was accorded a Military Funeral which was carried out in a most satisfactory manner.*

A War Pension was granted to Mary Ellen Bebbington, widow of the late Private Harry Bebbington in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 19th April, 1917.

Mary Ellen Bebbington wrote to Base Records on 21st March, 1918 thanking them for the two photographs of her husband's grave.

Private Harry Bebbington was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Bebbington's widow – Mrs M. E. Bebbington, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent March, 1922).

Mrs Bebbington received a letter from Base Records, dated 7th May, 1925, advising her that the Chairman of the Epsom Urban District Council had advised that on the 17th May "*there will be unveiled and dedicated the Great War Cross erected by the Imperial War Graves Commission to the soldiers, sailors and airmen, who died in the service of their King and Country and who are buried in the Epsom Cemetery..... A similar notification is being forwarded to next-of-kin of all members of the Australian Imperial Force whose remains are interred in the abovenamed cemetery, as it is felt that the proposed ceremony will be of special interest to the relatives concerned, and an assurance that the work of perpetuating the memory of our fallen is being carried out with the reverent care and attention.*"

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Harry Bebbington – service number 5986, aged 33, of 14th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Thomas and Annie Bebbington; husband of Mary Ellen Bebbington, of 16 Blair St., Coburg, Victoria, Australia. Born at Nantwich, England.

Private H. Bebbington is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 71.



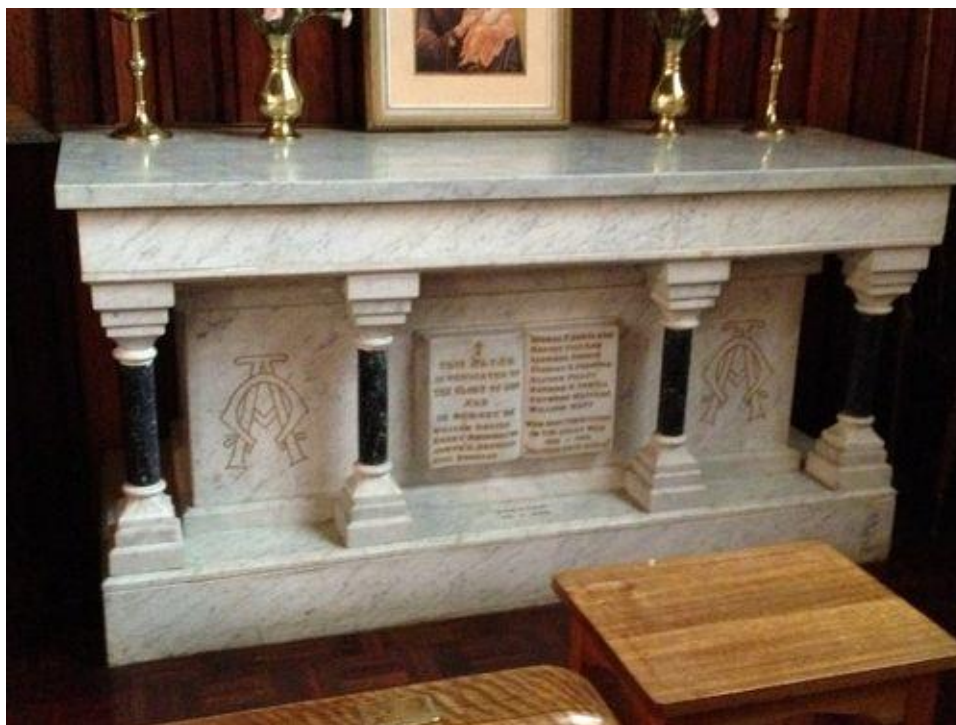
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Harry & his brother Herbert are named on the Willaston War Memorial located in the grounds of Christ Church Willaston, near Nantwich, Cheshire.



Willaston War Memorial, near Nantwich (Photo from Carl's Cam)

Harry Bebbington is remembered on the Roll of Honour plaque on the Altar at Christ Anglican Church, Moorabool & McKillip Streets, Geelong, Victoria.



Altar at Christ Anglican Church, Geelong (Photos from Monument Australia – Nancy Alford)



(60 pages of Private Harry Bebbington'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 Harry Bebbington:](#)

Younger Brother - Serjeant Herbert Bebbington, 11461, King's Shropshire Light Infantry. Died 25th September, 1915. Remembered on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial – Panel 47/49.



Newspaper Notices

THESE HAVE TAKEN PAPERS

Enlistments recorded, in addition to this morning's list, since the 29th are:-

.....

Harry Bebbington, 38 Bourke Crescent

.....

(*Geelong Advertiser*, Victoria, Australia – 12 July, 1915)

NEWS OF GEELONG AND DISTRICT SOLDIERS

DEATH OF PTE BEBBINGTON

News was received yesterday that Private H. Bebbington succumbed in a London hospital to gunshot wounds in the head received in the 8th inst. Mr Bebbington was a vestryman of Christ Church, Geelong. He enlisted a little over a year ago, and sailed from Australia on August 1st of last year. Early this year he left Salisbury Plain for the trenches in France, where he made the supreme sacrifice. Mr Bebbington leaves a wife residing at Bourke Crescent, Geelong. He was a great worker for Christ Church, and several pieces of furniture designed and made by him will be lasting memorials of his labors of love for the church. When the Soldiers' Institute in Christ Church Parish Hall was opened, all his spare time was given to that work right up to the time of his leaving for the Front. Mr Bebbington had a brother killed in the early part of the war.

(*Geelong Advertiser*, Victoria, Australia – 21 February, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

DIED OF WOUNDS

PRIVATE HARRY BEBBINGTON

Private Harry Bebbington, of the Australian Infantry, son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Bebbington, Laburnum-avenue, Nantwich, died from wounds on February 16th.

A fortnight ago Private Bebbington's parents received a communication from the chaplain of the Forces that their son Harry had been admitted to Hospital suffering from wounds in the head and at the back of the neck. He was operated upon, and from the chaplain's own observation he appeared to be going on well. Mr and Mrs Bebbington received no further news from the military authorities, but later a cablegram from Private Bebbington's wife in Australia stating that her husband was killed on February 16th reached them. Knowing that he had been admitted to hospital for wounds, Private Bebbington's friends in Nantwich hoped that this information was not correct. They got into communication with the military authorities, and this week-end the news of his death was confirmed. He died in a military hospital in London and this was the first intimation his parents received that he was in England.

Private Bebbington, who was 35 years of age, was well known in Nantwich. He served his apprenticeship as a cabinet maker with Messrs Price and Wilding. Emigrating to Australia some five years ago, he occupied a good position. Feeling, as he said, that it was his duty to fight for his country he joined the Army on March 3rd last year, and in less than six months' time he was at the front. He leaves a widow, who is now living in Australia. This is the second son Mr and Mrs Bebbington have lost in the war. Sergeant Herbert Bebbington was killed in September, 1915. Two other sons are serving, one in the Navy & the other with the Canadians.



(*Nantwich Guardian*, Nantwich, Cheshire, England – 6 March, 1917 & 9 March, 1917)

PRESENTATIONS TO CHRIST CHURCH

Next Sunday the Rev. H. Stanley Hollow hopes to dedicate a Litany Desk and Litany Book at Christ Church. The former has been presented by Mrs Bebbington, whose husband, prior to enlisting, was a vestryman at the church. A brass plate on the desk bears the following inscription:- "In loving memory of my husband, Private H. Bebbington, who gave his life for me and his country in the great European war on February 16th, 1917, this desk is presented to Christ Church, Geelong, by Nellie Bebbington, May, 1917." The Litany Book bears the inscription:- "Out of thankfulness to Almighty God for a safe return from the great European war, 1914-1917, this Litany Book is presented to Christ Church, Geelong, by Private W. J. Walton, May, 1917." Pte Walton is one of the parishioners, who has lately returned to Australia, having lost a leg. On Sunday last the Grammar School boys attended service at Christ Church, and there was also a Scout parade. Canon Wheeler is to give an address on Thursday evening in connection with the organ recital.

(*Geelong Advertiser*, Victoria, Australia – 15 May, 1917)

Epsom Cemetery, Surrey, England

Epsom Cemetery, Surrey contains 231 War Burials. There are 182 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 49 of the 1939-1945 war here. 149 of the 1914-18 war burials are located in Plot K. These are commemorated at the North end of the plot on a Screen Wall, upon which are bronze panels bearing the names of those buried in the plot. The bronze panels were provided from a fund held by the Horton (County of London) War Hospital, the Horton Hospital, the Manor (County of London) War Hospital and the Woodcote Park Military Convalescent Hospital.

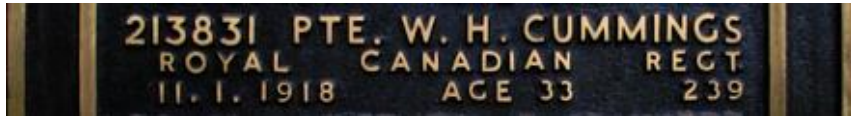
(Information from CWGC)

There are six soldiers buried in Epsom Cemetery, Surrey who served with the Australian Imperial Force in World War 1. These six soldiers are named on bronze panels on the Screen Wall, within Plot K of the Cemetery. The bronze panels on the Screen Wall have the name, service number, rank, date of death, age & plot number. The plot numbers on the bronze plaques correspond to plaques located in the lawn immediately in front of the Screen Wall. There are 110 plaques on the lawn which do not have individual headstones, unlike most other Commonwealth War Graves Cemeteries.



Screen Wall with named bronze panels within Plot K of Epsom Cemetery, Surrey

(Photos courtesy of Kevin Loughnane - Great War Forum)



Example showing Private Cummings in Plot 239 & the Numbered Lawn Plaques in front of Screen Wall

Private Harry Bebbington – Plot 736



Screen Wall



Cross of Sacrifice

665	690	737	225	90	91	236	746	701	654
664	691	736	226	89	92	237	745	702	653
663	692	735	227	88	93	238	744	703	652
662	693	734	228	87	94	239	743	704	651
661	694	733	229	86	95	240	742	705	690
660	695	732	230	85	96	241	741	706	649
659	696	731	231	84	97	242	740	707	648
658	697	730	232	83	98	243	739	708	647
657	698	729	233	82 *	99	244	738	709	646
656	699	728	234	82 *	100	245	737	710	645
655	700	727	235	82 *	101	246	736	711	644

Lawned plots

Not to scale



Aerial view of the Screen Wall burials

Photo of Private H. Bebbington's name on the bronze panels on the Screen Wall in Epsom Cemetery, Surrey, England.

5986 PRIVATE H. BEBBINGTON
14 TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF
16. 2. 1917 AGE 33 736

143 PRIVATE S. BEATTIE
P'CESS PATRICIA'S C. L. I
5. 2. 1919 AGE 42 225
5986 PRIVATE H. BEBBINGTON
14 TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF
16. 2. 1917 AGE 33 736
3473 LANCE CPL. W. H. BISHOP
54 TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF
28. 7. 1916 AGE 24 83
3589 LANCE CPL. W. H. BLEW
QUEEN VICTORIA'S RIFLES
12. 9. 1916 AGE 35 646
15231 PTE. J. MC W. BLYTHE
LORD STRATHCONA'S HORSE
27. 9. 1917 AGE 22 741
202682 PRIVATE W. BODEN
LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS
13. 8. 1917 AGE 36 647
660433 PRIVATE E. BOLDUC
CAN. FORESTRY CORPS
25. 4. 1918 703
110044 PRIVATE L. BONNELL
5 TH CAN. MOUNTED RIFLES
11. 5. 1916 AGE 19 232
1057426 PRIVATE A. BOURGET
22 ND BN. CANADIAN INF
5. 11. 1918 AGE 21 95
229519 PRIVATE A. T. BOWELS
1ST BN. LONDON REGT. R. FUS.
14. 7. 1918 650
2125 PRIVATE L. BRITTEN
28 TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF
13. 6. 1916 AGE 22 82

