

**Tidworth Military Cemetery,
Tidworth, Wiltshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



50849 PRIVATE

W. H. CONNELL

35TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

6TH JUNE, 1919

William Henry CONNELL

William Henry Connell was born at Forbes, New South Wales, Australia on 9th November, 1887 to father Henry Connell.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Ashburnham, subdivision of Forbes, NSW recorded William Henry Connell, Groom, of Dowling Street.

William Henry Connell married Mabel Rose Stone (nee Hogan) in 1918 in the district of Burwood, Sydney, NSW.

William Henry Connell was a 30 year old, married, Labourer from Forbes, NSW when he enlisted in Sydney, NSW on 14th February, 1918 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 50849 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs M. R. Connell, Parramatta Road, Burwood, Sydney, NSW. (Note: Originally the next-of-kin was listed as his father – Henry Connell, "Wisbeach Villa", Parkes Rd, Forbes, NSW.)

Private William Henry Connell was posted to Show Ground Camp, Sydney, NSW on 18th February, 1918 for recruit training. He was transferred to Recruit M. & D. Depot at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 22nd February, 1918. Private Connell was transferred to "D" Company, 1st Depot Battalion on 13th March, 1918 then transferred to 1st General Service Reinforcements (NSW) on 14th March, 1918.

Private William Henry Connell embarked from Sydney, NSW on RMS *Osterley* on 8th May, 1918 with the 1st New South Wales Reinforcements. He was admitted to Ship's Isolation Hospital in 12th May, 1918 while at Sea as a V.D patient & discharged from Ship's Isolation Hospital on 10th June, 1918. Private Connell forfeited 30 day's Pay - £7-10-0 for a total V.D. period of 30 days. Private Connell disembarked at Liverpool, England on 10th July, 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 William Henry Connell was marched in to 5th Training Battalion from Australia on 11th July, 1918. He was allotted to 20th Battalion Reinforcements from 11th July, 1918 whilst at 5th Training Battalion.

Private William Henry Connell was transferred to Reinforcements of 35th Battalion – 9th Training Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire on 26th July, 1918. He was taken on strength 35th Battalion from 20th Battalion Details ex 5th Training Battalion on 26th July, 1918.

Private William Henry Connell proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 24th October, 1918 from 9th Training Battalion, Fovant, Wiltshire. He was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Rouelles on 26th October, 1918 & marched to the Front on 28th October, 1918. Private Connell was taken on strength of 35th Battalion in France on 29th October, 1918.

Private William Henry Connell was sent sick to Hospital on 23rd April, 1919. He was admitted to 11th Field Ambulance on 23rd April, 1919 then transferred & admitted to 3rd Australian General Hospital in France the same day with V.D. Private Connell was transferred on 23rd April, 1919 & admitted to 39th General Hospital at Havre, France on 24th April, 1919. He was transferred to England on 25th April, 1919 on Hospital Ship *Panama*.

35th Battalion

The 35th Battalion was formed in December 1915 in Newcastle, New South Wales. The bulk of the battalion's recruits were drawn from the Newcastle region and thus it was dubbed "Newcastle's Own". Reflecting the demographics of the area, there were a high proportion of miners among the battalion's original members.....

Later in 1918, the 35th also played a role in the Allies' own offensive. It took part in the battle of Amiens on 8 August; fought several small battles during the rapid advance that followed; and at the end of September provided reserves for the joint Australian-American operation that breached the Hindenburg Line, thus sealing Germany's defeat. The 35th Battalion disbanded in March 1919.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private William Henry Connell was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire, England on 28th April, 1919 with Gonorrhoea.

Private William Henry Connell was transferred to Military Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 2nd June, 1919 with Pneumonia & was reported as dangerously & seriously ill.

Private William Henry Connell died at 05.10 hrs on 6th June, 1919 at 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire, England from Pneumonia.

A death for William H. Connell, aged 31, was registered in the June quarter, 1919 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire, England.

Private William Henry Connell was buried on 10th June, 1919 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 377 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Connell - *Coffin was Elm with brass mounts. Deceased was buried with full honors the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside preceded by a Firing Party from Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom. Six of deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall. The "Last Post" was sounded and volleys fired over the grave. A number of Australians followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters, A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Private William Henry Connell requested in his Will, dated 12th April, 1918, that in the event of his death the whole of his Estate (both real and personal) be bequeathed to his wife Mrs Mabel Rose Connell, Parramatta Rd, Burwood, Sydney, NSW. Mrs Connell was also appointed Executor of his Will.

Private William Henry Connell was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Connell's widow – Mrs M. R. Connell, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1922 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private W. H. Connell – service number 50849, of 35th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private W. H. Connell is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 125.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. H. Connell is remembered on the Forbes Cenotaph for World War 1, located at Victoria Park, Newell Highway and Court Street, Forbes, NSW.



Forbes Cenotaph

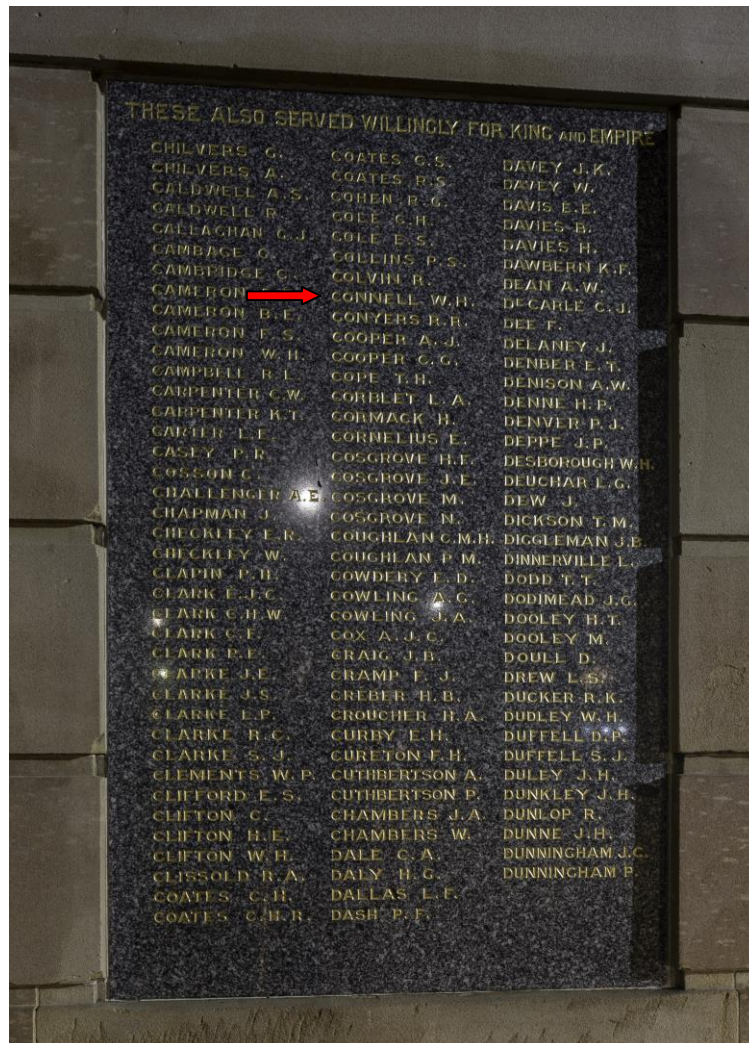
(Photos from AWM – Places of Pride - above by Brian Rowe; below by Henry Moulds)

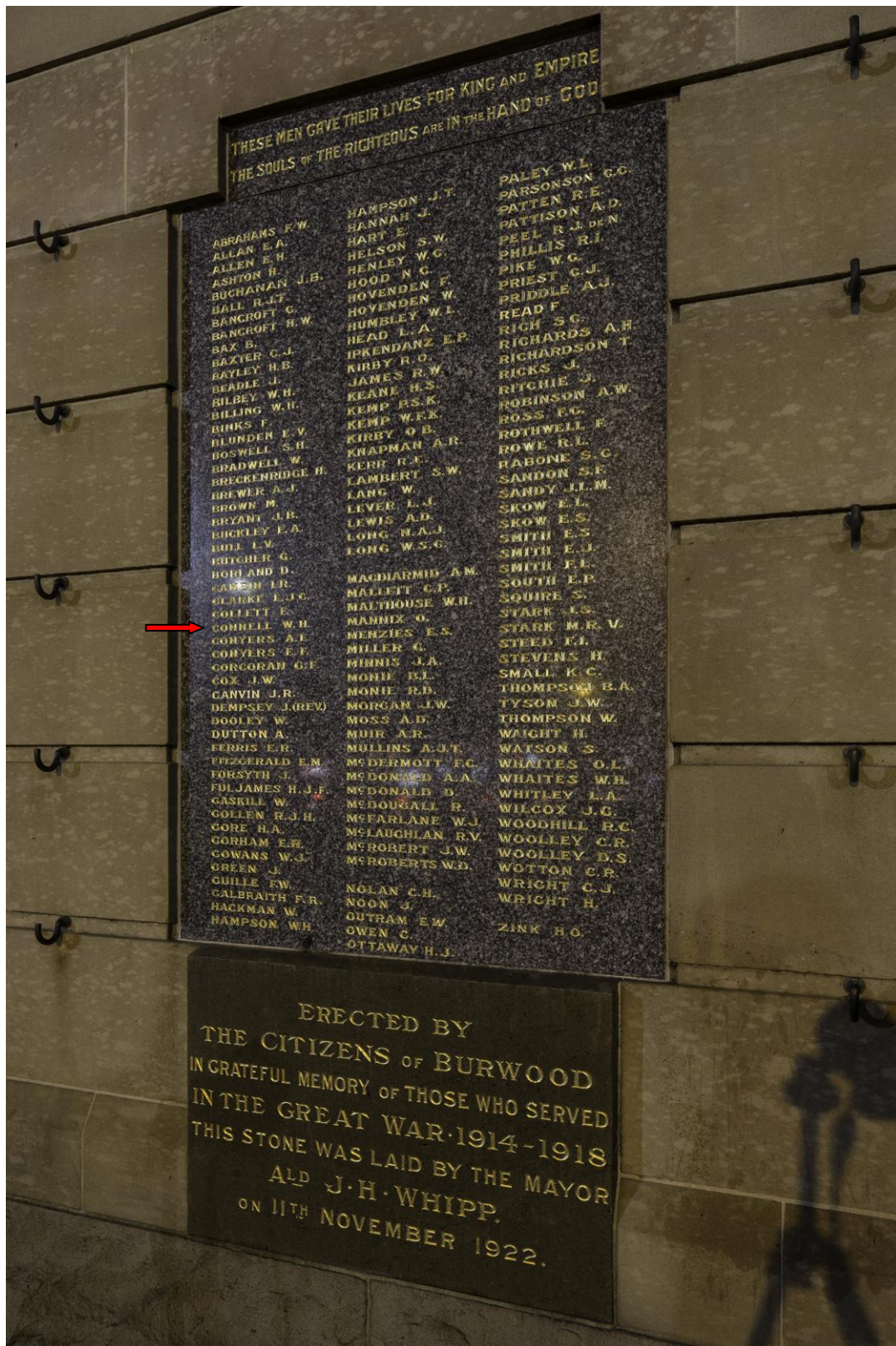


W. H. Connell is remembered on the Burwood War Memorial Arch, located in Burwood Park, Burwood Road, Burwood, Sydney, NSW.



Burwood War Memorial Arch (Photos courtesy of Peter Miller)





Burwood War Memorial Arch (Photos courtesy of Peter Miller)

(49 pages of Private William Henry Connell'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

ANOTHER CASUALTY LIST

The 467th official casualty list, issued this morning, gives the following particulars:-

SECOND MILITARY DISTRICT

No. 50849 Pte W. H. CONNELL, Burwood, (6.6.19, illness)

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 27 June, 1919)

PERSONAL

Word has just been received by his relatives of the death of Private W. H. Connell, son of Mrs H. Connell, Parkes Road. Private Connell enlisted from Forbes about 18 months ago, and saw active service in France. He died in England from sickness contracted while awaiting his departure for Australia.

(The Forbes Advocate, NSW – 1 July, 1919)

HONOR ROLL

The following names have been added to the Forbes Honor Roll at the town hall: F. Banner, T. C. Bernard, S. O. Black, W. H. Connell, C. F. Foster, Wm. Gill, J. B. Garnsey, V. O'Brien, R. Pritchard, E. Ruge, W. H. Stokes, J. J. Woodgate.

(The Forbes Advocate, NSW – 14 November, 1919)

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. H. Connell does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Tidworth Military Cemetery, which contains burials of both wars, was directly connected with training grounds on, or near, Salisbury Plain.

During the First World War, the cemetery was used for burials from Tidworth and Fargo Military Hospitals and the 417 graves, many of them of Australian or New Zealand servicemen, are scattered throughout the cemetery.

There are 106 Second World War graves in the cemetery, two substantial groups of which can be found in sections F and D. The rest are scattered.

The cemetery also contains 40 war graves of other nationalities, many of them Polish.

(Information from CWGC)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00327

The AIF Tidworth cemetery under snow. – March 1919.

Identified graves marked by a cross and headstone in the foreground

Front row: 50727 Private Rowland James Dickson, Australian Machine Gun Corps, died 14 October 1918.

Second row, left to right: 18282 Driver John Thalma Jackson, Details Australian Engineers, died 30 October 1917; 17445 Pte Roland Travers Woodville, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 13 September 1917; 31712 Gunner John Alexander McDonald, 15th Field Artillery Brigade, Australian Field Artillery, died 30 July 1917, aged 37, at Tidworth Military Hospital; 3062 Pte Even Thomas Kennedy, 3rd Australian Pioneers, died 7 August 1917.

Note Gunner McDonald has a large headstone which reads in part 'erected by his sorrowing comrades of the Australian Field Artillery. His duty done.'



Tidworth Military Cemetery (Photo by *julia&keld* – *Find a Grave*)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo courtesy of *John Prestidge*)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire *(Photo by Chris Talbot 2009)*



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers – Kevin)

Photo of Private W. H. Connell's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Selena Hardie)

