

**Wareham Cemetery,  
Wareham, Dorset  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**778 PRIVATE**

**H. E. DAVIES**

**AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN CORPS**

**20TH JANUARY, 1917 Age 25**

*Accidentally Killed at Bournemouth*

*Saw Service Gallipoli And France*

## Henry Edward (Harry) DAVIES

Henry Edward Davies was born at Port Pirie, South Australia on 29th September, 1891 to parents Henry John and Edith Harvey Davies (nee Newton).

Henry Edward Davies attended Goolwa Public School, South Australia.

Henry Edward Davies was a 23 year old, single, Fisherman from Goolwa, South Australia when he enlisted at Keswick, South Australia on 19th February, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 778 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Henry John Davies, of Goolwa, South Australia.

Private Henry Edward Davies was posted to Base Depot (Infantry) on 19th February, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 27th Battalion on 6th April, 1915.

Private Henry Edward Davies embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Geelong* (A2) on 31st May, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 27th Infantry Battalion, "D" Company.

Private Henry Edward Davies disembarked at Alexandria from Mudros on 10th January, 1916.

Private Henry Edward Davies was absent without leave from 06.00 to 17.00 hrs on 6th February, 1916 while posted as Ismailia. He forfeited 1 days' pay & was awarded 7 days confined to camp.

Private Henry Edward Davies was sent sick to 7th Field Ambulance on 16th February, 1916 & then admitted with Bronchitis. He was transferred to No. 2 Casualty Clearing Station on 23rd February, 1916. Pte Davies rejoined his Battalion at Ismailia on 6th March, 1916.

Private Henry Edward Davies proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 16th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 21st March, 1916.

Private Henry Edward Davies was transferred to 7th Brigade Machine Gun Company at Rue Maile on 13th April, 1916 & taken on strength the same day.

Private Henry Edward Davies was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance in Belgium on 8th September, 1916 with Pleurdynia. He was transferred to 13th Australian Field Ambulance on 9th September, 1916 then transferred to Ambulance Train 31 on 18th September, 1916 & admitted to No. 2 Australian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 18th September, 1916. Pte Davies was transferred to Hospital Ship Jan Breydel on 19th September, 1916 for England.

Private Henry Edward Davies was admitted to 2nd Western General Hospital in England on 20th September, 1916. He was transferred & admitted to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital on 11th October, 1916. Pte Davies was discharged from 3rd Auxiliary Hospital (no date).

Private Henry Edward Davies was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth from Dartford on 12th November, 1916.

Private Henry Edward Davies was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Wareham, Dorset, England on 18th January, 1917.

Private Henry Edward Davies was accidentally killed by a motor car accident (Taxi-cab) on 20th January, 1917 on Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, England due to a fractured skull. An Inquest was held at Bournemouth on the 23rd January, 1917 which recorded "no blame attachable to anyone."

Newspaper Report – *The Bournemouth Daily Echo* – 24 January, 1917:

### ***Australian Soldier's Death***

#### ***Evidence at Bournemouth Inquest***

*At the Bournemouth Coroner's Court yesterday afternoon Mr P.G. Lefroy (borough Coroner held an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of an Australian Private soldier named Henry E. Davies (30), who met with a fatal accident in Old Christchurch-road Bournemouth, on Saturday evening last.*

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*Mr A. Wentworth Malim watched the proceedings on behalf of the driver of the taxi-cab which was in collision with the deceased,*

*Mr Bruce Maclean, a medical student acting as house surgeon at the Boscombe branch of the Royal Victoria and West Hants. Hospital, said the deceased was admitted to the hospital on Saturday evening at 10.30. He was then dead. Witness examined the body and found a lacerated wound at the back of the head and incised wounds over the right eyebrow and right frontal region, also other lacerations. Death was due to a fracture of the base of the skull. Witness was afterwards informed that the deceased had been knocked down by a taxi-cab; the wounds were consistent with such an accident,*

*Private Frank Cashion, of the Australia Forces, said he was with the deceased on Saturday evening. About 10.20 witness saw a taxi-cab coming from Bournemouth in the direction of Christchurch, along Old Christchurch-road, and called to the deceased; "Look out, or the car will be on you." At that moment the taxi struck the deceased. The driver pulled up ten paces from the deceased. Witness and Davies were immediately taken in the taxi to the hospital. There were two lights on the front of the taxi, there might have been others witness could not say for certain. There were three soldiers in the taxi. It was a fairly dark night. Witness did not notice any traffic about at the time the accident happened.*

*The Coroner: In your opinion, was this an accident?— Witness: Yes, sir; it was a pure accident. I do not think the driver was going too fast.*

*A juryman asked if the car was on its proper side of the road. Witness replied in the affirmative. In reply to a further question by a/said he juryman, witness said he did not hear a horn sounded.*

*Reginald Louis Cooper, taxi-driver, 27, Nortoft-road, Bournemouth, stated that on Saturday he was driving his taxi down Christchurch road in the direction of Boscombe. When between Midwood and East Cliff Towers witness saw the deceased about three yards in front of the taxi coming towards it. Witness sounded the horn and at once applied the brakes, but the taxi struck the deceased and knocked him away. The wheels did not pass over him. It was a dark night. Witness had two oil lamps on the front of the taxi. He had as passengers at the time two Australian soldiers and two young ladies, and was travelling at from 8 to 10 miles an hour. Witness at once took the deceased to the hospital at Boscombe. He stopped the car within two yards of striking the deceased. There was no traffic about at the time.*

*The Coroner pointed out that this was the second fatal accident that had occurred locally quite recently. In each case the car had not carried a centre search-light. "Had you carried one" he added "you might possibly have seen the deceased before you did. I mention this because these accidents are very distressing and very wrong."*

*Witness stated that since the accident he had fixed a centre searchlight to the front of the taxi. He had held a drivers licence for weight years, and had had no endorsement on it.*

*Corporal Walter James Barnett (Military Mounted Police) who witnessed the accident said he saw two Australian soldiers start to run to catch a tram-car. Just then he heard the hoot of a motor-horn and turning round he saw the taxi strike one of the Australians. The taxi was travelling about 6 miles an hour. In witness' opinion, no blame attached to the driver of the taxi.*

*The Coroner pointed out that the lighting restrictions necessitated care on the part of pedestrians. Central searchlights were much better than ordinary headlights on taxi-cabs. He left it to the Jury to add a rider to that effect to their verdict, if they thought fit.*

*The Coroner's officer pointed out that it was a breach of the Defence of the Realm Act for a motor to carry a searchlight.*

*The Jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death" and completely exonerated the driver from any blame whatever. Through their foreman they expressed the opinion that if more powerful headlights were carried on motors the danger of the darkened streets would be lessened.*

The Assistant Provost Marshall made the following report to The Commandant, No. 4 Command Depot on 23rd January, 1917:

*I beg to report for your information; I attended the inquest of the above named soldier held at the Coroner's Court Bournemouth. I carefully watched the proceedings in the interest of the deceased relations, and the Australian Commonwealth. I consider the whole of the evidence pointed to an unavoidable accident. The Doctor's evidence stated he died from a fractured skull. The deceased soldier's comrade Pte Frank Cashion who was with him at the time stated, owing to the darkened streets and small lights of the taxi, they did not see the car until it was right on top of them. He shouted to his friend, the deceased, to look out it was too late. The car was proceeding at about six or eight miles an hour.*

*The Deceased and Pte. Cashion were at the time of the accident proceeding from Christchurch to Bournemouth, crossing the road to catch a tram, at about 10.30.p.m. on the 20th Inst.*

*The driver of the car did all that was possible to get the deceased to hospital by turning out his passengers but unfortunately the deceased died within ten minutes of the accident, five minutes before reaching the hospital.*

*The Coroner's verdict was Accidentally killed and that no blame was put upon the driver of the Car."*

A death for Henry E. Davies, aged 30, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Christchurch, Hampshire, England.

Private Henry Edward Davies was buried on 25th January, 1917 in Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset, England – Plot number B. C. 18. and has a Private Headstone which was organised by his 3 brothers. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Private Henry Edward Davies was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Davies' father – Mr H. J. Davies, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Henry Edward Davies – service number 778, aged 25, of 7th Bde, Machine Gun Coy, Australian Machine Gun Corps. He was the son of Henry John and Edith Harvey Davies. Born at Port Pirie, South Australia.

Private H. E. Davies is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 177.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

H. E. Davies is remembered on the Goolwa Honour Roll for the Fallen, which is located in Soldiers' Memorial Gardens, Cadwell Street, Goolwa, South Australia.



**Soldiers Memorial Gardens (above) & Goolwa Honour Roll for the Fallen (below)**

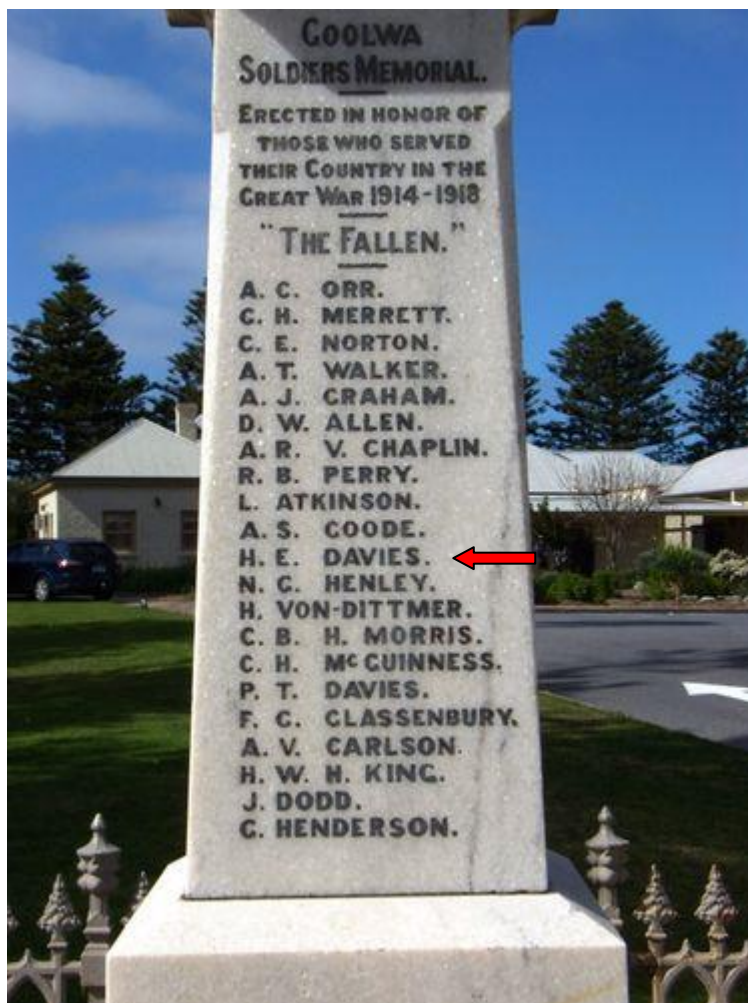
*(Photos from Monument Australia - Bryan Cole)*



H. E. Davies is remembered on the Goolwa Soldiers Memorial, located at Hays Street & Cutting Road, Goolwa, South Australia.



**Goolwa Soldiers Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia - Bryan Cole)



H. E. Davies is remembered on the World War One Honour Roll, located at Goolwa RSL, Cutting Road, Goolwa, South Australia.



Goolwa RSL World War One Honour Roll (Photos from Monument Australia - Bryan Cole)



H. E. Davies 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)

(56 pages of Pte Henry Edward Davies' 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**

### **THE AUSTRALIANS**

#### **236TH CASUALTY LIST**

#### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

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Pte H. E. Davies, Goolwa

(*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 19 October, 1916)

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Great sympathy is felt at Goolwa for Mr J. H. Davies, and family, who have received news of the death of the eldest son (Harry) by motor accident in England. Private Davies enlisted in the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion, and was attached to the machine gun section. He had been on continual active service on the Gallipoli Peninsula and in France, and was killed while on leave. He was well known at Port Pirie and Broken Hill, He was an active member of the Goolwa Football club and popular with everyone. He has three brothers on active service (Privates Sid, Hector, and Vin. Davies).

(*Daily Herald*, Adelaide, South Australia – 1 February, 1917)

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### **BIOGRAPHICAL**

#### **LATE PTE H. E. DAVIES**

General sympathy is felt for Mr and Mrs H. J. Davies, of Goolwa, in the death of their eldest son, Gnr. Harry E. Davies, who died at the Wareham Command Depot as the result of a motor accident on January 20. Gnr Davies left Australia for Egypt on May 31, 1915. He remained in Egypt until September 6, 1915, and then went to Gallipoli, and participated in the evacuation. He went to France in March. On October 9 he was sent to England suffering from pneumonia. The deceased was 25 years of age. He was born at Goolwa and spent the greater part of his life in this locality. He took an active interest in all sport, and was an enthusiastic footballer and tennis player. He was also a prominent member of the Goolwa branch Foresters' Lodge. There are three brothers of the deceased on active service – Ptes Hector, Cyril and Vincent Davies.

(*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 30 January, 1917) & (*Southern Argus*, Port Elliot, South Australia – 1 February, 1917)

& (*The Victor Harbour Times and Encounter Bay and Lower Murray Pilot*, South Australia – 2 February, 1917)

& (*Observer*, Adelaide, South Australia – 3 February, 1917)

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#### **THE LATE GUNNER H. DAVIES**

Gunner Harry Davies, of Goolwa, with one of his brothers, Private Hector Davies, was among the first to enlist from Goolwa. He left Australia on May 31, 1915, and went to Egypt, and then to Gallipoli, remaining there until the evacuation. He left in March for France. On October 8 he was sent to England with pneumonia, and was there until his death. He was killed at Bowine as the result of a motor accident. Gunner Davies was much respected in Goolwa. He was 25 years of age, and spent most of his life in and about Goolwa, where his parents reside. Three of his brothers are on active service, Cyril, Hector, and Vincent. The whole of the sons of the family of Mr and Mrs Davies have answered the call.

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 3 February, 1917)

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## CASUALTY LISTS

### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LOSSES

#### 270th LIST

##### KILLED IN ACTION

778 Pte H. E. DAVIES, Goolwa (Jan. 20, result of motor accident).

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 10 February, 1917)

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#### HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

DAVIES – In loving memory of Gunner Harry Davies (Fan), of Goolwa, killed at Bournemouth, England, result of a motor accident, while on leave, January 20, 1917, after two years' active service in Gallipoli and France.

DAVIES – In loving memory of our dear brother, Gnr. Harry E. Davies, who was accidentally killed at Bournemouth, England, on January 20, 1917.

He died as he lived,  
Manly, unselfish, and brave.

-Ever remembered by his loving sister-in-law, Alma, and brother, Syd (on active service).

DAVIES – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Gnr. Harry Davies who was accidentally killed at Bournemouth, England, on January 20, 1917.

His cheery, sunny countenance  
Will not from memory fade;  
Nor yet will we ever forget  
The noble sacrifice he made.

-Every remembered by his loving parents, sister (Goolwa), and three brother (on active service).

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 26 January, 1918)

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#### HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

DAVIES – In loving memory of Gunner Harry Davies, accidentally killed at Bournemouth, England, on January 20, 1917.

Far off our thoughts do wander,  
To a grave so far away;  
Where they laid our dear son and brother,  
Just two years ago to-day.

-Inserted by his loving father, mother, and brothers, Goolwa.

DAVIES – In loving memory of Gunner Harry Davies, accidentally killed at Bournemouth, England, on January 20, 1917.

His cheerful face and kindly ways  
Are pleasant to recall;  
He had a friendly word for each,  
And died beloved by all.

- Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Vida and Ross, Goolwa.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 20 January, 1919)

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## HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

DAVIES – In loving memory of our son and brother, Gunner Harry Davies, accidentally killed at Bournemouth, England, on January 20, 1917.

No space of time, no lapse of years

Can dim the life that's past;

A loving memory holds it dear,

And will while life shall last.

-Inserted by his loving parents, sister, brothers, sister-in-law, and brother-in-law, Goolwa.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 20 January, 1920)

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## Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset, England

Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset contains 71 Commonwealth War Graves. Wareham Military Hospital, with 185 beds, was at Worgret Camp during the First World War and the regimental depot of the Royal Armoured Corps was at nearby Bovington during the Second World War. Wareham Cemetery contains 49 First World War burials and 15 from the Second World War, 5 being unidentified. The cemetery also contains 12 German burials, 1 being an unidentified airman. (*Information from CWGC*)



Wareham Cemetery, Wareham (Photo courtesy of Tracy Dunne)

Photo of Private H. E. Davies' Private Headstone in Wareham Cemetery, Wareham, Dorset, England.



(Photos courtesy of Tracy Dunne)



*In Loving Memory Of*

*No 778 Private H. E. DAVIES*

*7<sup>TH</sup> Australian M. G. Co.,*

*Accidentally Killed at Bournemouth*

*January 20<sup>TH</sup>, 1917. Aged 25.*

*Saw Service Gallipoli And France*



**Wareham Cemetery, Wareham** (Photo courtesy of Tracy Dunne)



(Photo from ["Following the Twenty-Second"](#))