

**Weymouth Cemetery,
Weymouth, Dorset
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



549 PRIVATE

R. T. H. DAVIES

AUST. MACHINE GUN CORPS

8TH OCTOBER, 1919 Age 27

Dearly Loved In Life

Not Forgotten In Death

Lord Have Mercy On Him

Reuben Thomas Henry DAVIES

Reuben Thomas Henry Davis was born on 29th May, 1892 at Latrobe, Tasmania to parents Thomas Henry & Agnes Davis (nee McFadden)

Agnes Maude Davis, mother of Reuben Thomas Henry Davis, died on 26th August, 1902 in the district of Mersey, Tasmania.

Reuben Thomas Henry Davies attended St. Patrick's Convent School, Latrobe, Tasmania.

Reuben Thomas Henry Davies was a 24 year old, single, Jockey from 22 South Street, Invermay, Tasmania when he enlisted at Claremont, Tasmania on 10th October, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 549 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Thomas Davies, Latrobe, Tasmania. Reuben Davies stated on his Attestation Papers that he had been apprenticed with Fred Smith at Launceston for 3 years. (One of the Attestation Papers has his name listed as Ruben Thomas Henerey Davies).

Private Reuben Thomas Henry Davies was posted to Machine Gun Depot, 17th Company at Seymour for recruit training. Private Davies was transferred to 9th Reinforcements of 15th Machine Gun Company on 9th December, 1916.

Private Reuben Thomas Henry Davies embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on RMS *Orontes* on 23rd December, 1916 with the 15th Machine Gun Company, 9th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 17th February, 1917.

Private Reuben Thomas Henry Davies was marched in to Australian Details, Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 18th February, 1917 from Australia.

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 Reuben Thomas Henry Davies was marched out to Machine Gun Training Depot at Grantham on 23rd February, 1917 from Perham Downs. He was marched in to Belton Park on 24th February, 1917.

Private Reuben Thomas Henry Davies was transferred to 5th Div. Machine Gun Company on 3rd May, 1917.

Private Reuben Thomas Henry Davies was appointed Driver on 15th July, 1917

Driver Reuben Thomas Henry Davies proceeded overseas to France via Southampton from No. 1 Camp at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 7th September, 1917. He disembarked at Havre, France the same day.

Driver Reuben Thomas Henry Davies reverted to rank of Private on 1st May, 1918 at his own request.

Private Reuben Thomas Henry Davies was marched out as part of Quota 47 from France on 3rd May, 1919 & marched out from A.B.D.1 at Havre for England on 12th May, 1919.

Private Reuben Thomas Henry Davies was marched in to Weymouth, Dorset, England on 13th May, 1919 ready for return to Australia.

Private Reuben Thomas Henry Davies was admitted to Military Hospital at Weymouth on 1st July, 1919 with Cerebro Spinal Fever. He was transferred to Borough Isolation Hospital on 22nd July, 1919.

Mr T. Davies, Latrobe, Tasmania, father of Private Reuben Thomas Henry Davies, was advised by Base Records on 31st July, 1919 that his son had been admitted to Sidney Hall Military Hospital, Weymouth, England on 22nd July, with Cerebro Spinal Meningitis. Mr Davies was advised on 31st July, 1919 that his son was seriously ill.

Mr T. Davies was advised by Base Records on 9th September, 1919 that his son was dangerously ill on 29th August. He was again advised on 19th September, 1919 that there was no improvement in his son's condition.

Mr T. Davies was advised by Base Records on 2nd October, 1919 in reference to his son that “*information has been received to the effect that there was no change in condition on 26/9/19, and that his case is considered hopeless.*”

Private Reuben Thomas Henry Davies died 04.30 hrs on 8th October, 1919 at Borough Isolation Hospital, Weymouth, Dorset, England from Cerebro Spinal Fever.

A death for Reuben T. H. Davis, aged 27, was registered in the December quarter, 1919 in the district of Weymouth, Dorset, England.

Private Reuben Thomas Henry Davies was buried on 10th October, 1919 in Weymouth Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England – Plot number B. “C.” 2023 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Reuben Thomas Henry Davies - *Coffin was Elm with brass mountings. The deceased was accorded a funeral with full military honours. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag. The firing party and pall bearers consisted of 33 men of the Royal Garrison Artillery, Weymouth, under Lieut. H. W. Playford, Royal Field Artillery. The Last Post was sounded by 2 buglers of the Royal Garrison Artillery. A representative of these Headquarters was present.*

Relatives or friends present at the Funeral – *Nurse Vooght, Nurse Carothers of Borough Isolation Hospital.*

Private Reuben Thomas Henry Davies was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Davies’ father - Mr T. H. Davies, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent March, 1923).

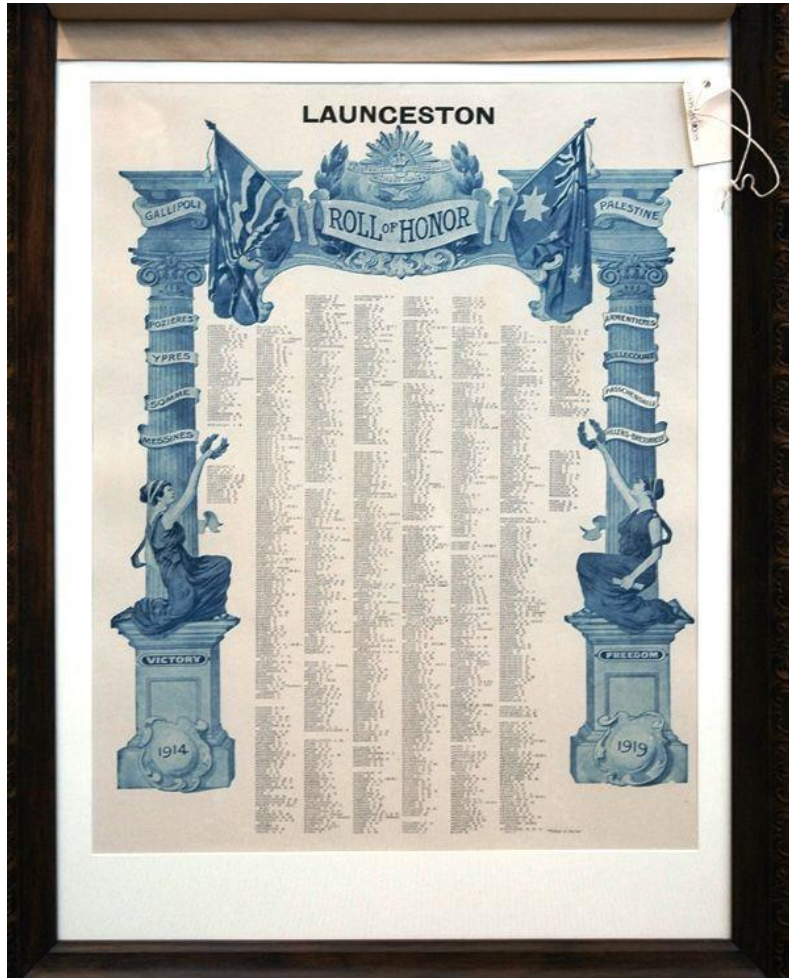
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Reuben Thomas Henry Davies – service number 549, aged 27, of 5th Australian Machine Gun Corps. He was the son of Thomas Henry Davies, of Gilbert St., Latrobe, Tasmania and the late Agnes Davies. Born at Kimberley, Tasmania.

Private R. T. H. 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 176.

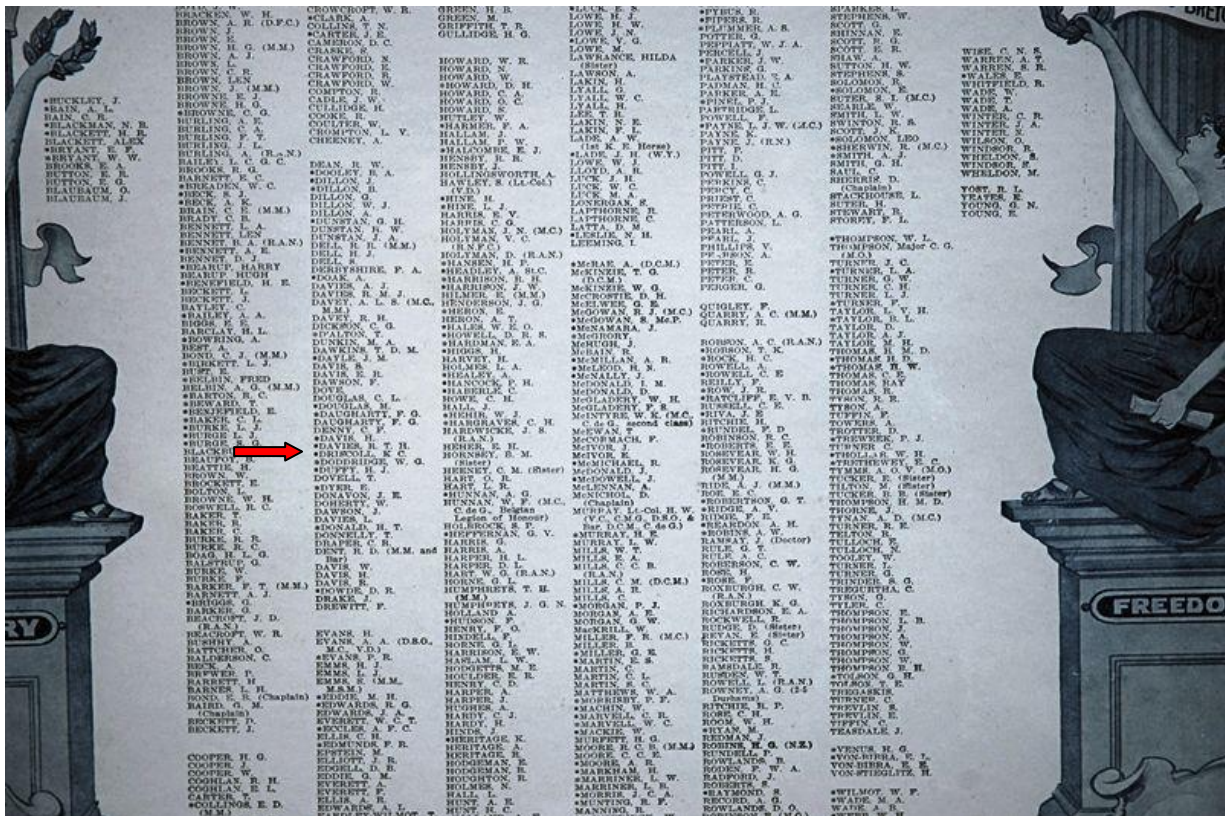


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

R.T.H. Davies is remembered on the Launceston Roll of Honour located in Queen Victoria Museum, History Department, 2 Invermay Road, Inveresk, Tasmania.



Launceston Roll of Honour (Photos from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)



R.T.H. Davies is remembered on the Launceston Cenotaph/War Memorial located at Paterson Street, near Bathurst Street Overpass, Launceston, Tasmania.



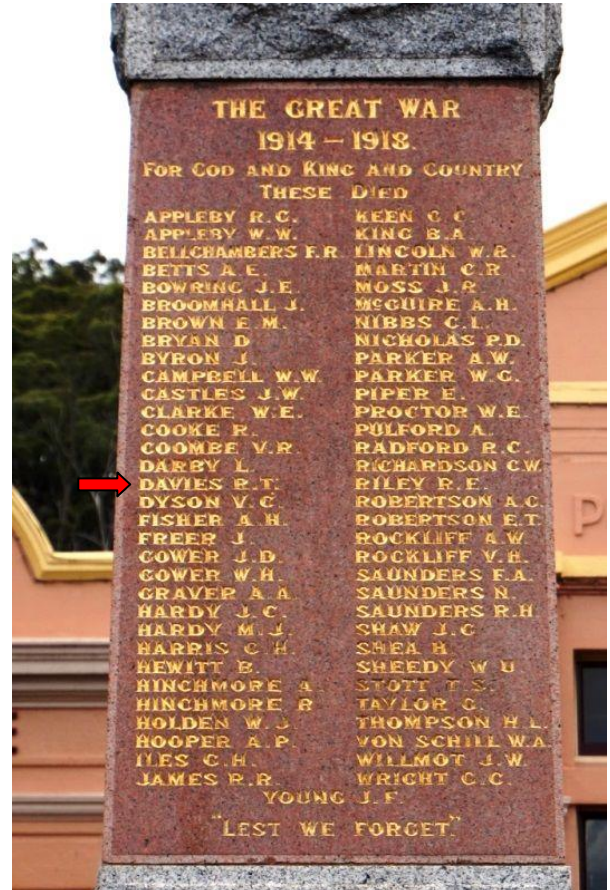
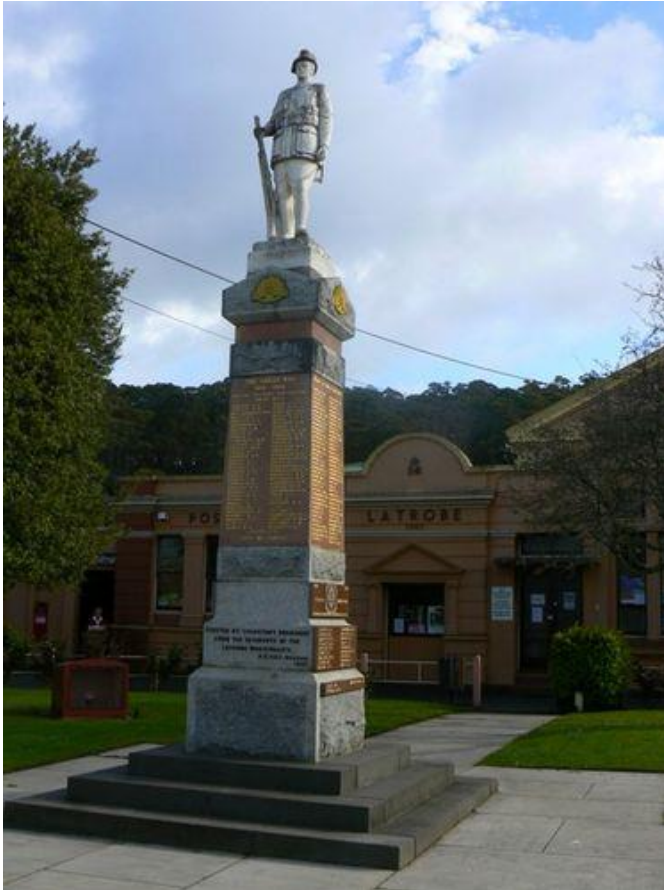
Launceston Cenotaph/War Memorial (Photo by Mattinbgn)

R.T. Davies is remembered on the Latrobe Roll of Honour located in Latrobe RSL Club, 160 Gilbert Street, Latrobe, Tasmania.



Latrobe Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

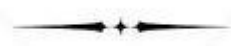
R.T. Davies is remembered on the Latrobe War Memorial located in Gilbert Street, Latrobe, Tasmania.



Latrobe War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)

(61 pages of Pte Rueben Thomas Henry 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

N.W. Coast News

LATROBE

Mr Thomas Davies, of Latrobe, has been advised that his son, Gunner Reuben Thomas Davies, 5th Machine Gun Battalion, died in the Borough Isolation Hospital, Weymouth, England, on October 8, 1919, of meningitis. The late Gunner Davies had three years of active service, during which time he was never sick or wounded. Unfortunately while waiting for a boat to return home, he contracted meningitis and died, after 11 weeks' sickness. The late Gunner Davies was for three or four years a jockey with W. F. Smith, of Launceston, before enlisting. He took part in several battles, among them Ypres, Messines, and Villers-Bretonneux. He followed racing while away, and won several races with his horse Lady Imperial. The greatest sympathy is felt for Mr T. Davies and family in their sad loss.

(*Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania – 15 October, 1919)

Similar story in *Advocate*, Burnie, Tasmania – 15 October, 1919

DEATHS

DAVIS – On October 8, 1919, at Bonough Isolation Hospital, Weymouth, England, Gunner Reuben Thomas Davis, 5th Machine Gun Battalion, dearly beloved and eldest son of Thomas Davis, Latrobe, aged 27 years and 5 months.

(*Advocate*, Burnie, Tasmania – 15 October, 1919)

LATROBE COUNCIL

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On the motion of the Warden. it was decided to send a letter of sympathy to Mr Thomas Davis, Latrobe, in the loss of his soldier son, Gunner Reuben Thos. Davis, who died of meningitis on October 8 at the Borough Isolation Hospital, Weymouth, England, while waiting for a transport to convey him home, and also that to the council clerk of Devonport on the death of his wife.

(*Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania – 7 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 R. T. H. Davies does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Dearly Loved in Life Not Forgotten In Death

Lord Have Mercy On Him

In a letter to Mr T. H. Davies, of Gilbert Street, Latrobe, Tasmania from Base Records in March, 1920 replied stating that “*it is understood that there have been several military interments in the Weymouth Cemetery, Chickrell Road, England.*”

Weymouth Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England

Weymouth Cemetery contains 78 Commonwealth War Graves – 63 from World War 1 & 15 from World War 2.



Weymouth Cemetery, Weymouth (Photos courtesy of Carol Pollard)



Photo of Private R. T. H. Davies' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Weymouth Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England.



(Photos courtesy of Carol Pollard)

