

**Melcombe Regis Cemetery,
Weymouth, Dorset, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4787 PRIVATE

R. T. DELANEY

51ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

15TH MARCH, 1918 Age 24

Sweet Jesus

Rest His Soul In Peace

Ralph Taylor DELANEY

Ralph Taylor Delaney was born at Leichhardt, Victoria in 1894 to parents William Thomas and Catherine Delaney (nee Taylor). His birth was registered in the district of Marong, Victoria.

Ralph Taylor Delaney attended St. Joseph's Convent School, Bunbury, Western Australia.

Ralph Taylor Delaney was a 22 year old, single, Postal Official from 120 Palmerstone Street, Perth, Western Australia when he enlisted on 7th February, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4787 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr W. T. Delaney, Sterling Street, Bunbury, Western Australia.

Private Ralph Taylor Delaney was posted to Area No. 1 on 7th February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to Signal School on 8th February, 1916 then transferred to 15th Reinforcements of 11th Battalion on 29th May, 1916.

Private Ralph Taylor Delaney embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Ulysses* (A38) on 1st April, 1916 with the 11th Infantry Battalion, 15th Reinforcements.

11th Battalion

The 11th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. It was the first battalion recruited in Western Australia, and with the 9th, 10th and 12th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Ralph Taylor Delaney was transferred to 51st Battalion on 20th May, 1916. He was reallocated from 3rd Training Battalion (Reinforcements to 11th Battalion) to the 13th Training Battalion (as Reinforcements to 51st Battalion) (Note: Just above this entry (which was written in red) on Casualty Form – Active Service is the date of "7-3-16" which is also written in red for date embarked.)

51st Battalion

The 51st Battalion was raised in Egypt in the first week of March 1916, as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 11th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 11th, the 51st was predominantly composed of men from Western Australia. The battalion became part of the 13th Brigade of the newly-formed 4th Australian Division....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Ralph Taylor Delaney embarked on *Megantic* from Alexandria for Overseas on 6th August, 1916.

Private Ralph Taylor Delaney was written up for an Offence while posted with 13th Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire, England – Overstaying Leave from 1 am till 2 pm on 5th September, 1916 & disobedience of orders. This was admonished by Major J. M. Dougall & he forfeited 1 days' pay.

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 Ralph Taylor Delaney proceeded Overseas to France on 22nd September, 1916 to reinforce 4th Division from 13th Training Battalion. He was marched into Base at Etaples, France on 24th September, 1916 to reinforce 51st Battalion. Private Delaney joined 51st Battalion in the Field on 7th October, 1916 from Reinforcements from 4th Divisional Base Details at Etaples.

Private Ralph Taylor Delaney was admitted to 1st New Zealand Stationary Hospital at Amiens on 5th November, 1916 with ICT (inflammation of connective tissues) of Feet.

Private Ralph Taylor Delaney was admitted to 12th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 16th November, 1916 with Blistered Feet. He was transferred & admitted to New Zealand Stationary Hospital at Amiens on 17th November, 1916 with ICT Feet. Private Delaney was transferred to No. 7 Ambulance Train on 17th November, 1916. He was

admitted to 12th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 20th November, 1916 then transferred to Ambulance Train the same day. Private Delaney embarked for England from Havre on 21st November, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Formosa* with Blistered Feet & Myalgia.

Private Ralph Taylor Delaney was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital, England on 21st November, 1916 with Myalgia. He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, Kent, England on 11th January, 1917 with Rheumatism. Private Delaney was discharged to Furlo from 26th January, 1917 to 10th February, 1917 & was then to report to Perham Downs.

Private Ralph Taylor Delaney was written up for an Offence while posted at Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England – Absent without Leave from 3.30 pm on 10th February, 1917 until 8pm on 15th February, 1917. He was awarded 6 days confined to Camp & forfeited 6 days' pay.

Private Ralph Taylor Delaney was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs from Furlo on 17th February, 1917.

Private Ralph Taylor Delaney was sent sick to Hospital at Parkhouse on 20th February, 1917 with V.D. He was transferred to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 9th April, 1917 with Syphilis & Gonorrhoea (contracted from a Prostitute in London 8 weeks prior) then transferred to Parkhouse on 16th April, 1917 with Mumps. Private Delaney was discharged on 19th May, 1917. Total V.D. period – 90 days.

C. Delaney, "Lilydale", Stirling Street, Bunbury, Western Australia, mother of Private Ralph Taylor Delaney, wrote to Base Records on 11th April, 1917 with the following letter: "*Would you kindly find out the whereabouts (& all particulars) of "my son" 4787 Private Ralph T. Delaney A.I.F. 51st Battalion (late 11th) B Coy. The last letter I received from him was written in Jan last & he was then in the Kent Hospital in Dartford suffering with Rheumatics & trench-feet which he contracted in France last Nov, & as he is keen most punctual in writing home regular "every mail" I am very much worried at not hearing from him...*"

Base Records replied to Mrs C. Delaney on 27th April, 1917 advising "*....I have to inform you that no report has been received here of your son, No. 4787 Private R. T. Delaney, 51st Battalion, having been admitted to hospital. It is pointed out however, that the Overseas Authorities do not make a practice of reporting to this office by cable, cases of indisposition which are not likely to develop serious – they are promulgated in Hospital Lists which arrive at a later date by mail...*"

Private Ralph Taylor Delaney was marched in to No. 1 V.D. Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 19th May, 1917 from No. 1 Camp, Convalescent Training Company. Private Delaney was marched out from Bulford on 30th May, 1917 & marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 31st May, 1917. He was medically classified as B1 A (Fit for Overseas Training Camp in a few weeks).

Private Ralph Taylor Delaney was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Perham Downs on 18th August, 1917 from No. 1 Command Depot having been classed as Fit for Active Service.

Private Ralph Taylor Delaney was sent sick to Brigade Hospital, Perham Downs on 31st August, 1917 with Haemittitis Eyes. He was transferred & admitted to Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, on 1st September, 1917 – seriously ill with Nephritis (Purport form recorded he was admitted to Tidworth Military Hospital on 31st August, 1917 with "*Ocdenia Penia.*"). Private Delaney was discharged to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 17th January, 1918. (Purport card recorded for 17th January, 1918 – "*disch from Hosp to Sutton Veny Mumps.*")

Base Records advised Mr W. Delaney, Stirling Street, Bunbury, Western Australia on 10th September, 1917 that Private Ralph Delaney was ill. A further communication the same day reported that Private Ralph Bumbury had been admitted to Tidworth Military Hospital, England on 1st September with Nephritis severe. A follow-up communication on 18th September, 1917 advised that Private Ralph Delaney's condition was stationary.

A Telegram was sent from "*Delaney, Bunbury*" to Base Records on 19th September, 1917 with message "*Wire condition Private Ralph Delaney anxious previous wire mutilated in transit.*"

Base Records advised Mr W. Delaney, Stirling Street, Bunbury, Western Australia on 20th September, 1917 & again on 26th September, 1917 that Private Ralph Delaney's condition was reported stationary. A communication on 28th September, 1917 advised that Private Ralph Delaney was now reported dangerously ill with Acute Nephritis Pneumonia. A follow-up report on 11th October, 1917 advised that Private Ralph Delaney was pronounced out of

danger. On 16th November, 1917 Mr Delaney was advised that Private Ralph Delaney's condition was slightly improved

C. Delaney, "Lilydale", Stirling Street, Bunbury, Western Australia, mother of Private Ralph Taylor Delaney, wrote to Base Records on 12th November, 1917 with the following letter: "*I am writing to ask if you would cable for further information of my son's "present condition" as it is nearly five weeks since I last heard of he was then in a serious condition, he is in the "Tidworth Military Hospital" England & was admitted on Sep 1st with severe Nephritis since when he has had "pneumonia" & was reported dangerously ill for some & naturally I am still very anxious on his account. His No is 4787 Private Ralph Taylor Delaney 51st Battalion B Coy A.I.F. trusting to have a reply from you shortly..*"

Base Records replied to Mrs C. Delaney on 22nd November, 1917 with the following:

Dear Madam,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 12th instant, concerning your son, No. 4787 Private R.T. Delaney, 51st Battalion, and in reply to state the following reports have been received :-

Admitted 1/9/17, Tidworth Military Hospital, Nephritis, severe.

Condition Stationary Cable dated London 13/9/17.

" " Cable dated London 22/9/17

Reported acute nephritis, pneumonia, dangerously ill 21/9/17

Pronounced out of danger.... Cable dated London 5/10/17

Slightly improved Cable dated London 23/10/17.

The above reports were duly transmitted to the soldier's father, to whom any further cabled advices received will also be conveyed.

Base Records advised Mr W. Delaney, Stirling Street, Bunbury, Western Australia on 1st December, 1917 that Private Ralph Delaney was progressing favourably. He was advised on 8th January, 1918 that Private Ralph Delaney was still progressing favourably.

Private Ralph Taylor Delaney was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset, England on 17th January, 1918.

Base Records advised Mr W. Delaney, Stirling Street, Bunbury, Western Australia on 11th March, 1918 that Private Ralph Delaney was again dangerously ill.

Private Ralph Taylor Delaney died at 9.25 am on 15th March, 1918 at Burdon Military Hospital, Weymouth, Dorset, England from Nephritis Pyaemia & Cardiac Failure.

A death for "*Delaney R. Taylor*", aged 23, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Weymouth, Dorset, England.

Private Ralph Taylor Delaney was buried on 18th March, 1918 in Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England – Plot number II. C. 3095 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Delaney - *Coffin was Elm and brass fittings. Chaplain S. Power, Monte Video Camp, Weymouth reported "I attended the above two days before his death and administered to him the Last Rites of the R.C. Church."*

Mrs C. Delaney, "Lilydale", Stirling Street, Bunbury, Western Australia, mother of the late Private Ralph Taylor Delaney, wrote to Base Records on 1st July, 1918 stating *"I have been instructed by the "Military Paymaster" in Perth that I must obtain a "certificate of death" for y late son (Private Ralph Taylor Delaney No. 4787, 51st Battalion B. Coy, A.I.F.) before I can claim his deferred pay. He died in the Burdon Military hospital, Weymouth, England on 15th Mar last. Please forward it to me at your "earliest convenience"..."*

Base Records forwarded the certificate of report of death of the late No. 4787 Private R. T. Delaney, 51st Battalion to Mrs Delaney on 9th July, 1918.

C. Delaney, "Lilydale", Stirling Street, Bunbury, Western Australia, mother of the late Private Ralph Taylor Delaney, wrote to Base Records on 17th March, 1919 with the following: *"Would you kindly inform me why I have not received any "personal effects" of my late son Private Ralph T. Delaney No. 4787 51st Battalion who died in Burdon Military Hospital, Weymouth, England on Mar 15th, 1918. I have been expecting news of them for some time past, would you kindly make all enquiries for me...."*

Base Records replied to Mrs C Delaney on 29th March, 1919 with the following *"...regret to inform you that a package of personal effects of your son, the late No. 4787 Private R. T. Delaney, 51st Battalion, was included in a consignment shipped from England per S.S. "Barunga". Which vessel was lost at sea with all cargo on its way to Australia, as the result of enemy action. No particulars are yet available as to the contents of the packages lost, but A.I.F. Headquarters, London, have been requested to furnish this Office with inventories etc., and on receipt of same those concerned will be advised...."*

Private Ralph Taylor Delaney was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Delaney's father – Mr W. T. Delaney, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Ralph Taylor Delaney – service number 4787, aged 24, of 51st Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William Thomas and Catherine Delaney, of "Lilydale", Bunbury, Western Australia.

Private R. T. Delaney is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 152.

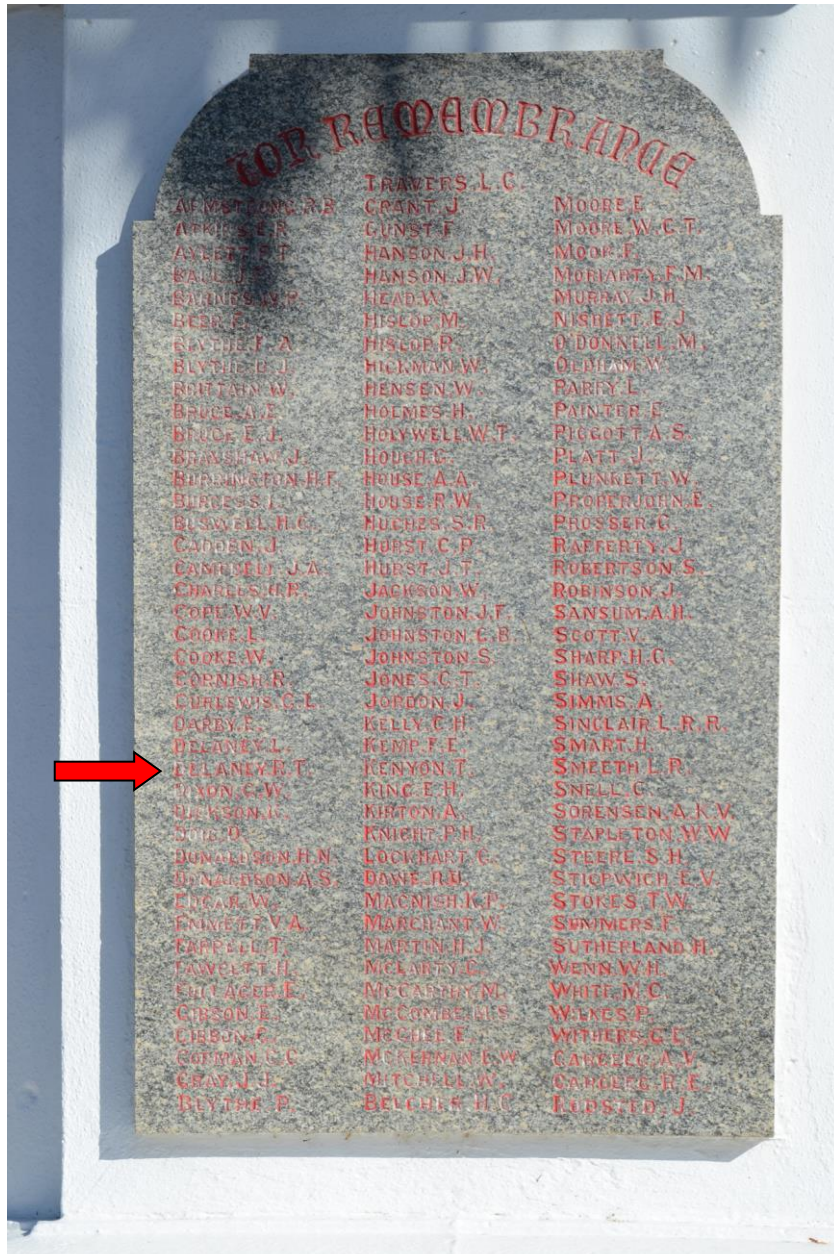


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

R. T. Delaney is remembered on the Bunbury War Memorial, located on Victoria Street, Bunbury, Western Australia.



Bunbury War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride)



R. T. Delaney is remembered on the Postmaster General's Department Honour Roll, located in former G.P.O. Building, Murray Street, Perth, Western Australia.



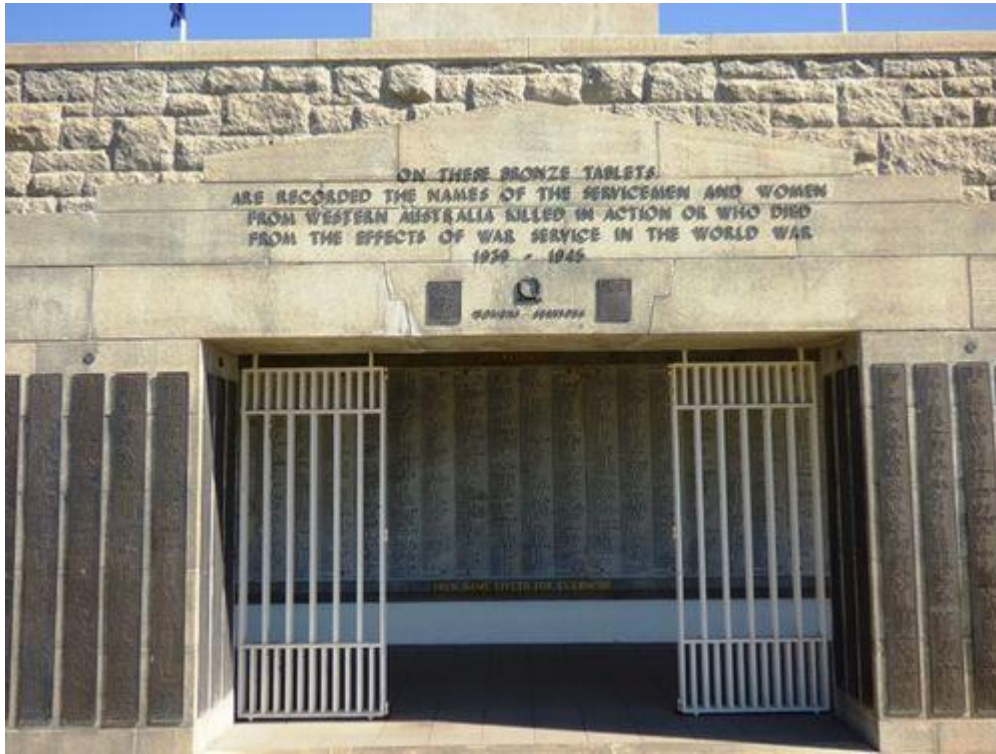
Postmaster General's Department Honour Roll, Perth (Photo from Monument Australia – Bryan Hardy)

R. T. Delaney is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park



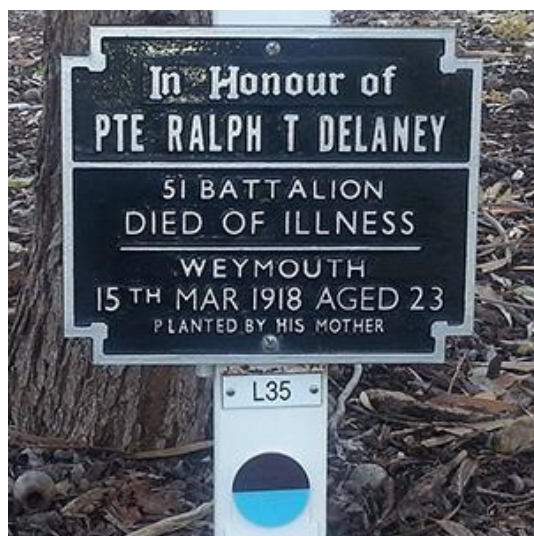
The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)



51st Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

Ralph Delaney is remembered with a Memorial Plaque (L35) (dedicated by his mother in 1930's) on the Kings Park Honour Avenues. At the base of each commemorative tree is a plaque inscribed with details of the deceased: name, age, unit in which they served, nature of death, place of death, and who dedicated the plaque. Honour Avenue memorials commemorate service personnel who are listed at the State War Memorial, Kings Park. These soldiers enlisted in Western Australia, died overseas on active service, and were either buried overseas or have no known graves.



(Photos from Kings Park Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority)

(95 pages of Private Ralph Taylor Delaney'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 Ralph Taylor Delaney:

Older brother Thomas Walter Delaney: Enlisted 7th January, 1916 as a 23 year old Railway Employee from Stirling Street, Bunbury, Western Australia. Embarked 31st March, 1916 from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Shropshire* with 16th Infantry Battalion, 16th Reinforcements as Private 5082.

Transferred to 48th Battalion on 20th Amy, 1916. Wounded in Action on 6th August, 1916 - severely wounded at Pozieres with extensive wound of right side of face from a shell. Invalided to England then returned to Australia for discharged on 13th February, 1917 – dislocation of nose & defective vision.

Medically discharged on 31st August, 1917. Entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.



Newspaper Notices

Personal

In the Federal "Gazette" appear the following:- Ralph Taylor Delaney, Albert Alison Lockhart, both of Bunbury, both passed an examination qualifying them for higher positions in the general division of the Post Office staff.

(*Southern Times*, Bunbury, Western Australia – 14 March, 1911)

GIST OF THE "GAZETTE"

P. and T. Department

Melbourne, Saturday.

The following notices in connection with the P. and T. Department are published in this week's "Gazette":-

Postal Changes – Ralph Taylor Delaney, telegraph messenger, Bunbury, to be telephonist, Katanning;

(*Sunday Times*, Perth, Western Australia – 2 March, 1913)

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

W.A. ROLL OF HONOUR

The 339th list of casualties among West Australians serving with the A.I.F. in the various theatres of war (in which men whose rank is not mentioned are private soldiers) is as follows:-

WEST AUSTRALIA

ILL

Ralph Taylor Delaney, Bunbury, seriously;

(*Western Argus*, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia – 25 September, 1917)

DEATH

On March 15, in the Military Hospital, Weymouth, England, Ralph Taylor Delaney, second dearly beloved son of Mr and Mrs Wm. T. Delaney, and brother of Tom (returned), of "Lilydale", Bunbury, aged 23 years.

"From Cross to Crown."

(*South Western Times*, Bunbury, Western Australia – 23 March, 1918)

DIED SERVING

On March 15th, in the Military Hospital, Weymouth, England, RALPH TAYLOR DELANEY, aged 23 years, second dearly beloved son of Mr and Mrs Wm. T. Delaney, "Lilydale", Bunbury, brother of Tom (returned)..

From Cross to Crown.

(Bunbury Herald, Western Australia – 23 March, 1918)

KILLED IN ACTION

DELANEY – On March 15, in Weymouth Military Hospital, England, Private Ralph Taylor Delaney, second beloved son of Wm. T. and Katie Delaney, and brother of Tom (returned), of Lilydale, Bunbury, aged 23 years.

From Cross to Crown.

(Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 29 March, 1918)

W. A. Casualties

At the Fighting Fronts

387th OFFICIAL LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Ralph Taylor Delaney, Bunbury

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – 30 March, 1918)

BEREAVEMENT NOTICES

Mr and Mrs Wm. T. Delaney and Family, of Lilydale, Bunbury, wish to THANK their many friends for telegrams, letters, cards, and expressions of sympathy in their recent sad loss of the death (in a military hospital in England) of their dearly beloved son Private Ralph Taylor Delaney, late of the Cottesloe Post Office).

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 13 April, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

DELANEY – In sad and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Ralph Taylor Delaney, 51st Battalion, who died in Burdon Military Hospital, Weymouth, on March 15, 1918, second beloved son of Wm. P. K. Delaney. Lilydale, Bunbury.

Oh, for the touch of a vanished hand

And the sound of a voice that is still.

DELANEY – In sad and loving memory of our dear brother, Ralph Taylor Delaney, died of wounds on March 15, 1918.

Sweet is the memory left behind
Of a life that was manly, true, and kind.
dearly loved, so sadly missed.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Tom and Amy Delaney, and little Irene.

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Western Australia – 15 March, 1919)

**Notices were also placed in the newspapers in 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935 and 1936

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. Delaney does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Sweet Jesus
Rest His Soul In Peace

Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England

Weymouth became a depot for Australian forces in 1916 and 83 of the 147 First World War burials in Melcombe Regis Cemetery are of Australian servicemen; most of these graves are scattered in the old part. The 36 Second World War burials are in the extension. The cemetery also contains seven war graves of other nationalities and one non-war burial.

(Information from CWGC)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00333

Australian graves in the cemetery at Melcombe Regis. March 1919

Identified, front row, left to right: unidentified; Butler; 5917 Private Edgar Allan Thornell, 22nd Battalion (Bn), died 9 August 1918; 1207 Corporal Jesse Adams Davis, 12th Bn, died 15 November 1918.

Back row: 5329 Private Frederick Albert Archer, Anzac Provost Company, died 6 November 1918; 5990 Private Albert Robert Blackmore, 12th Bn, died 2 November 1918; 11099 Driver Matthew Charles Percival Nettle, 6th Australian Field Artillery Brigade, died 22 October 1918; 3942 Private Walter Alick Weckman, 51st Bn, died 9 November 1918.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00332

Some of the Australian graves in the cemetery at Melcombe Regis. March 1919

Identified, left to right: Captain Francis Arthur Deravin, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 8 July 1917 aged 41 years (large headstone); 138 Private Louis Nelson Matthews, 27th Battalion, 4 July 1917; 5082 Private Victor George Smith, 21st Battalion, died 13 November 1918.



(Photo courtesy of Steve Stewart)



(Photos courtesy of Steve Stewart)





(Photos courtesy of Steve Stewart)

Australians in Weymouth

What was life like for the Australians?

The Camp

Within the camp, there were educational facilities as well as medical rooms which helped to recover and re-educate the soldiers. There was help provided for soldiers suffering with physical or emotional impairments, such as massage rooms, psychotherapy training rooms and a remedial gymnasium. This strengthened the men to help them recover from their injuries. The educational aspects were diverse, allowing soldiers to pick a completely different profession for when they went back home. This included architecture, motor engineering, electrical and carpentry classes. Another option allowed the soldiers to be retrained in their previous professions which may have become more difficult, due to loss of limbs or new techniques that may have been created whilst they were at war.

The Town

Weymouth benefited hugely from the influx of Australian and New Zealand soldiers. One shop that still exists today is the Acutt's clothing store, which used to sell everything a soldier could possibly need for his uniform, from the whole jacket to just the buttons and epaulettes. As well as Acutt's, the Commonwealth Bank of Australia also opened up their own branch in Weymouth, for the soldiers to use during their time over here, which highlighted the permanence of their stay. There was also a monthly newsletter that circulated amongst the men, which was produced by local company Sherrens, which still operates on the Granby Industrial estate.

Special Events

The Australian recovery camps took special occasions very seriously, such as Christmas and Easter, to try and reduce the ache of home sickness and being away from their family and friends. Most camps tried to make their soldiers feel at home, with large celebrations with Christmas dinners and special guest performances at Easter. However, there were also other special events that gained press attention, such as the opening of the YMCA building, which used to be on Abbotshay Road. This provided help and welfare to the Australian soldiers, such as free food and blankets. There were fundraising days for the prisoner-of-war soldiers that had been captured during the fall of the Kut, who were mainly Dorset soldiers. From these fundraising days in Weymouth, Dorchester and Bridport, the towns managed to raise £3,600 to help comfort the prisoners.

Entertainment

Entertainment was a highly important aspect of the soldiers' lives whilst they were in Weymouth. It kept the soldiers motivated and in high spirits whilst they were ill or injured, in hopes of helping to speed up their recovery. Throughout the camps in Weymouth, there was always something to watch or listen to, whether it was singing and acting companies who toured round the camps or at the Pavilion Theatre on the Esplanade. Sometimes, the soldiers even made their own entertainment, with marching bands and choirs being set up by the YMCA building in Westham. There were also balls and dances at the camps themselves and even a small trip to the Alexandra Garden along the Esplanade. Dating also became a significant part of the soldiers' lives, with many Weymouth women losing husbands and boyfriends at war, finding comfort with the new soldiers at the camp. This led to many marriages between the two groups, and some migrating back to Australia with their new families, or staying here and leaving their families.

3

THESE BOYS BEARING ACUTT BROTHERS

AMERICAN OFFICERS UNIFORMS.

ROYAL JUBILEE HALL

PALLADIUM THEATRE

ARCADIA

#weyforward

The National Lottery

Images courtesy of Australian War Memorial, Newsletter originals published by Sherrens, Ltd. Weymouth



(Photos courtesy of Steve Stewart)

Australians in Weymouth

From Weymouth to Auswey - A Soldier's Récovery



During the First World War between 1914 and 1918, many injured soldiers who were mostly from Australia and New Zealand, were brought to Weymouth. They were known as ANZACS (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps). They were placed in Repatriation and Rehabilitation camps in Westham, Littlehampton, Chichester and Portland. This was in the hope of sending them back to the line of action in France or back home to Australia due to lack of fitness. Weymouth was picked as the place to set up camp, as it was seen as a relaxing seaside location. This would help to heal the sick and injured Australians who had been fighting in major battles of the war or on the Western Front between France and Belgium.



Although thousands of ANZACS passed through Weymouth during the First World War, there are some soldiers who unfortunately did not make it home. These soldiers are proudly buried in the Melcombe Regis cemetery. This is only 100 metres away from one of the major camps in Westham, with 142 soldiers buried in the cemetery, 83 from Australia and 59 from New Zealand. These graves are similar to some of the war memorials and graves placed around Europe, much like the Somme in France. Unfortunately, there are too many grave names to be displayed on this board, but they can be found on the website link at the bottom of this board.



Past and Present Westham

As you can see on the map of the Westham camp, many of the street names have an Australian connection, highlighting the history of the area. Residents of the housing estates, which are now built where the camp once stood, are still digging up remains of the camp, such as bullets or cooking equipment.



Modern Day Street Names	Westham Camp - December 1916
Cheset Close	Soldiers Huts
Swine Road	Company Officers
Queensland Road	Regimental Institute
Kitchener Road	Minutemen Rifle Range
Corporation Road	Officers' Mess
Shark Road	Shower Block
Longcroft Road	Vehicle Shed, Mob Store
Wessex Road	Home Shelter
Parth Street	Cool Yard
Melbourne Street	Cook House
Adelaide Crescent	YMCA
Abbotsbury Road	Dung Pit
Sydney Street	Fire Hydrant
Shirecroft Road	





www.westhamcommunitygroup.co.uk

Images courtesy of Australian War Memorial

Photo of Private R. T. Delaney's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England.



(Photo courtesy of Allan Wood)