

**Tidworth Military Cemetery,  
Tidworth, Wiltshire, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**4114 PRIVATE**

**C. W. DELLEY**

**25TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**28TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 19**

## Charles William DELLEY

Charles William Delley was born at Bundaberg, Queensland on 2nd January, 1898 to parents Louis & Mary Ann Delley (nee Absalom).

Charles William Delley attended schools at Bundaberg S.E. & Mount Perry.

Charles William Delley stated he was a 19 year old, single, Farmer from Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted on 20th September, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Presbyterian & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Louis Delley. “Tower” via Maryborough, Queensland. Charles Delley stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty’s Service due to “*weakness in groin.*”

Private Charles William Delley was posted to “B” Company, 5th Depot Battalion on 21st September, 1915. He was transferred to 10th Reinforcements of 25th Battalion on 17th December, 1915.

Private Charles William Delley, Service number 4114, embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Commonwealth (A73)* on 28th March, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 25th Infantry Battalion, 10th Reinforcements.

Private Charles William Delley was admitted to Hospital at Suez on 6th May, 1916 with Mumps.

Private Charles William Delley embarked for overseas from Alexandria on *Tunisian* on 30th May, 1916. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 5th June, 1916.

Private Charles William Delley was sent to Hospital from Divisional Base in France on 1st July, 1916. He was admitted to 26th General Hospital on 1st July, 1916 with swollen Testicles then transferred to Hospital Ship *Brighton* for England on 2nd July, 1916 with “*Tumour Testicles*”.

### 25th Battalion

The 25th Battalion was raised at Enoggera in Queensland in March 1915 as part of the 7th Brigade. Although predominantly composed of men recruited in Queensland, the battalion also included a small contingent of men from Darwin. The battalion left Australia in early July, trained in Egypt during August, and by early September was manning trenches at Gallipoli.

..... After further training in Egypt, the 25th Battalion proceeded to France. Landing on 19 March 1916, it was the first AIF battalion to arrive there. Now fighting as part of the 2nd Division, it took part in its first major battle at Pozieres between 25 July and 7 August in the course of which it suffered 785 casualties.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Charles William Delley was admitted to Quarry Hill V.A.D. Hospital, Tunbridge, England on 2nd July, 1916.

Private Charles William Delley was transferred from Fort Pitt Hospital Chatham, England to No. 1 Auxiliary Hospital on 11th July, 1916. He was transferred to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England on 25th July, 1916 & medically classified A – fit for active service. Private Delley was transferred to 7th Training Battalion, Rolleston, Wiltshire on 15th August, 1916 from No. 1 Command Depot.

Private Charles William Delley was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England on 16th August, 1916 with Hydrocele.

Private Charles William Delley was A.W.L. (Absent without Leave), while posted at 7th Training Battalion, Rollestone, Wiltshire, England - from 24.00 hrs on 6th December, 1916 till reporting at 18.00 hrs on 19th December, 1916. He was awarded 13 day confined to Camp & a total forfeiture of 33 days’ pay.

Private Charles William Delley was written up for an Offence at Shrewton, Wiltshire – on 8th February, 1917 “1. *Neglecting to obey a lawful command given by his superior Officer* 2. *Resisting an escort whose duty it was to*

*apprehend him 3. Making an improper remark to his superior officer.” Private Delley was awarded 7 days confine t Camp & forfeited 10 days’ pay.*

Private Charles William Delley was sent sick then admitted to Fargo Hospital, Wiltshire, England on 15th February, 1917 – cause N.Y.D. (Not yet determined) (Note: one entry on the Casualty Form – Active Service recorded he was sent “sick to Fargo Hosp: (Orchitis & Double Hernia)” while the next line recorded admitted “Mil Hosp: Fargo Acute Rheumatism. Ser. III.”). He was transferred to Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England on 25th February, 1917 with a case of suspected C.S.M. (Cerebro Spinal Meningitis). (Note: Date of 25th February, 1917 as per Casualty Form – Active Service, however the Hospital Admissions form recorded he was admitted on 27th February, 1917)

Base Records advised Mr L. Delley, Tower, via Maryborough, Queensland, father of Private Delley, that Private Charles Delley had been admitted to Hospital on 18th February with Acute Rheumatism – severe.

Private Charles William Delley died on 28th February, 1917 at Lucknow Isolation Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis. (Morning State of Sick form recorded cause of death as Cerebro Spinal Fever).

A death for Charles W. Delley, aged 19, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Pewsey, Wiltshire, England.

Private Charles William Delley was buried on 3rd March, 1917 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 303 and now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Charles William Delley was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Delley’s father – Mr L. Delley, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent June, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Charles William Delley – service number 4114, aged 19, of 25th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Louis & Mary Ann Delley, of Dallamill, Queensland.

Private C. W. Delley is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 104.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

C. Delley & his brother J. Delley, are both remembered on the Dallarnil District Roll of Honour, located in Dallarnil Sports Hall, Isis Highway, Dallarnil, Queensland.



**Dallarnil District Roll of Honour** (Photo from Queensland War Memorials Register)

C. W. Delly & his brother J. L. Delly, are both remembered on the Bundaberg War Memorial, located at Bourbong & Barolin Streets, Bundaberg, Queensland.



**Bundaberg War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia)





C. Delley & his brother J.L. Delley, are both remembered on the Biggenden War Memorial, located at Victoria & Frederick Streets, Biggenden, Queensland.



Biggenden War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)

C. Delley & his brother J. Delley, are both remembered on the Biggenden Honour Board, located in Biggenden Memorial Hall, Victoria Street, Biggenden, Queensland.



**Biggenden Honour Board** (Photo from Queensland War Memorials Register)

(48 pages of Private Charles William Delley'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 Charles William Delley:](#)

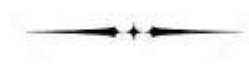
Older brother – Joseph Louis Delley – Private 5575, 26th Battalion. Enlisted 16th March, 1916. Embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on 7th September, 1916.

Died 11th November, 1918 from Influenza & Septicaemia. Buried in Bournemouth East Cemetery, Bournemouth, Dorset, England.

Entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal.



**Private Charles William Delley**



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **CASUALTIES**

#### **277th LIST**

ILL

Pte C. W. Delley, Tower (ser.)

*(The Daily Standard, Brisbane, Queensland – 8 March, 1917)*

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### **THE ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **CASUALTY LIST NO. 279**

QUEENSLAND

DIED OF ILLNESS

C. W. Delley. Tower, 28/2/17 (prev. rep. ser. III)

*(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 16 March, 1917)*

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## ROLL OF HONOR

An esteemed Tawah (Dallarnil district) correspondent ) writes "All friends will grieve to learn of the death of Private Charlie Delley from meningitis at Teddington Military Hospital, England. The deceased was the second surviving, son of Mr and Mrs. Louis Delley, Tawah, formerly of Bundaberg and was brother to Pte. J. W. Delley who is on active service. While under 18 years of age he enlisted and his stirring recruiting speech in Dallarnil, upon the occasion of a send-off he received will be long remembered. A brave lad, whom to know was to like did example a shining contrast to others who fear to enlist. He saw active service in France before his call came. The deepest sympathy of the community is tendered to his parents."

*(The Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser, Queensland – 15 March, 1917) & (Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser, Queensland – 16 March, 1917)*

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### 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)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 8<sup>th</sup> July, 1921, to Mr L. Delley, Robert Street, Bund Aberg, Queensland, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late No. 4114, Private C. W. Delley, 25th Battalion, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private C. W. Delley 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.*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00481

**Tidworth Military Cemetery – 12 June, 1919**



**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 C. W. Delley's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Selena Hardie)*



