

**Lodge Hill Cemetery,
Birmingham, West Midlands**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1805 PRIVATE

H. W. DELORA

14TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

13TH JUNE, 1918 Age 22

Henry William DELORA

Henry William Delora was born at Staghorn Flat, Yackandandah, near Beechworth, Victoria to parents Henry & Harriet Sophia Delora (nee Bradley).

Henry William Delora attend State School & Healesville College, Victoria.

Henry William Delora was a 19 year old, single, Driver from 540 Malvern Road, Prahran, Victoria when he enlisted at Broadmeadows, Victoria on 15th July, 1915 (one Attestation Paper has date of 17th July, 1915) with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Methodist & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Harriet Delora, 540 Malvern Road, Prahran, Victoria.

As Henry William Delora was under the age of 21 his parents were required to sign their consent. Henry Delora & H. Delora, of 540 Malvern Road, East Prahran, signed the following letter on 13th July, 1915: “*We give our consent to our son Henry William in the Australian Imperial Forces for active service abroad.*”

Private Henry William Delora was posted to 57 Company Depot at Seymour, Victoria on 17th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to B Company, 29th Battalion from 12th August, 1915 then transferred to 2nd Reinforcements of 29th Battalion on 9/10th December, 1915 (one Statement of Service form has date as 11th December, 1915) & re-attested at Broadmeadows on 13th December, 1915.

Private Henry William Delora, Service number 1805, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Demosthenes* (A64) on 29th October, 1915 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 29th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Reinforcements. (The Purport card recorded Private Delora embarked from Fremantle on H.M.A.T. A60 Demosthenes on 29th December, 1915).

Private Henry William Delora was allotted to & proceeded to join 14th Battalion ex Zeitoun on 4th March, 1916 from 8th Training Battalion. He joined 14th Battalion at Tel el Kebir on 4th March, 1916.

Private Henry William Delora was transferred to 12th Field Artillery Brigade on 16th March, 1916 & mustered as Gunner. He was taken on strength of 12th Field Artillery Brigade the same day.

Private Henry William Delora was admitted to No. 2 Australian Stationary Hospital at Tel el Kebir on 22nd March, 1916 with Venereal. He was transferred to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Abbassia on 23rd March, 1916, Private Delora was discharged to duty on 3rd April, 1916. Total period – 11 days & forfeited 11 days pay at 5/- (£2. 15/-)

Private Henry William Delora was transferred to Artillery Details at Serapeum on 2nd June, 1916. He joined 4th A.D.B. (Australian Divisional Base) Depot in Egypt on 6th June, 1916.

Private Henry William Delora embarked for Overseas from Alexandria on 7th June, 1916 on H.T. *Ionian* with 4th Training Battalion (4th Divisional Base Depot). He was taken on strength of 14th Battalion on 20th July, 1916 & was posted to A Company.

Private Henry William Delora was wounded in action in France on 30th August, 1916. He rejoined his Unit in France on 4th September, 1916. (no other details recorded)

14th Battalion

The Headquarters of the 14th Battalion opened at an office at 178 Collins Street, Melbourne in the last week of September 1914. On 1 October it relocated to Broadmeadows Camp where the battalion's recruits, principally from Melbourne and its suburbs, were taken on strength and trained. With the 13th, 15th and 16th Battalions, the 14th formed the 4th Brigade commanded by Colonel John Monash. It embarked for overseas on 22 December and, after a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, arrived in Egypt on 31 January 1915. In Egypt, the 4th Brigade became part of the New Zealand and Australian Division with which it would serve at Gallipoli.....The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. While there, the AIF expanded and was

reorganised. The 14th Battalion was split and provided experienced soldiers for the 46th Battalion. The 4th Brigade was combined with the 12th and 13th Brigades to form the 4th Australian Division. In June 1916 they sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bloody trench warfare. Its first major action in France was at Pozieres in August 1916.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 14th Battalion

30/8/16 - LA BOISELLE – Strength 30 Officers 662 Other ranks

1 Officer & 60 other ranks carrying rations remainder of Bn less 2 Coys resting.

31/8/16 - LA BOISELLE – Strength 30 Officers 624 other ranks

A and B Coys attached 16 Bn rejoined carrying fatigues only.

Wounded

24 other ranks

To Hospital 14 “ “

(Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Mr H. Delord, 540 Malvern Rd, Prahran, Victoria, was advised by Base Records on 27th September, 1916 that No. 1805 Private H. W. Delora, 14th Battalion, had been reported wounded.

Private Henry William Delora reported sick on 2nd December, 1916. A query was sent on 11th January, 1917 re date of rejoining, prior to *“To Hospital sick 3/12/16”*. He rejoined his Unit from Hospital on 3rd December, 1916.

Private Henry William Delora was written up for an Offence – While on Active Service - Absent without Leave from 2 pm Parade on 23rd February, 1917. He was awarded a forfeiture of 2 days pay (as per Conduct Sheet form, however Casualty Form – Active Service recorded a forfeiture of 3 days pay) by Commanding Officer.

A Query was made on 10th March, 1917 for date of proceeding overseas to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) & date of marching in from England to 4th A.D.B.D. (4th Training Battalion).

Private Henry William Delora was written up for an Offence – While on Active Service - Absent without Leave from 9 am on 12th May, 1917 until arrested at 10 pm on 12th May, 1917. He was awarded a forfeiture of 14 days pay on 21st May, 1917 (as per Conduct Sheet form, however Casualty Form – Active Service recorded a forfeiture of 15 days pay).

Private Henry William Delora reported sick on 8th June, 1917 in Belgium. He was admitted to 15th Casualty Clearing Station on 8th June, 1917 with Scabies then transferred to 50th Casualty Clearing Station on 13th June, 1917. Private Delora was discharged to duty on 18th June, 1917 & rejoined his Unit on 20th June, 1917.

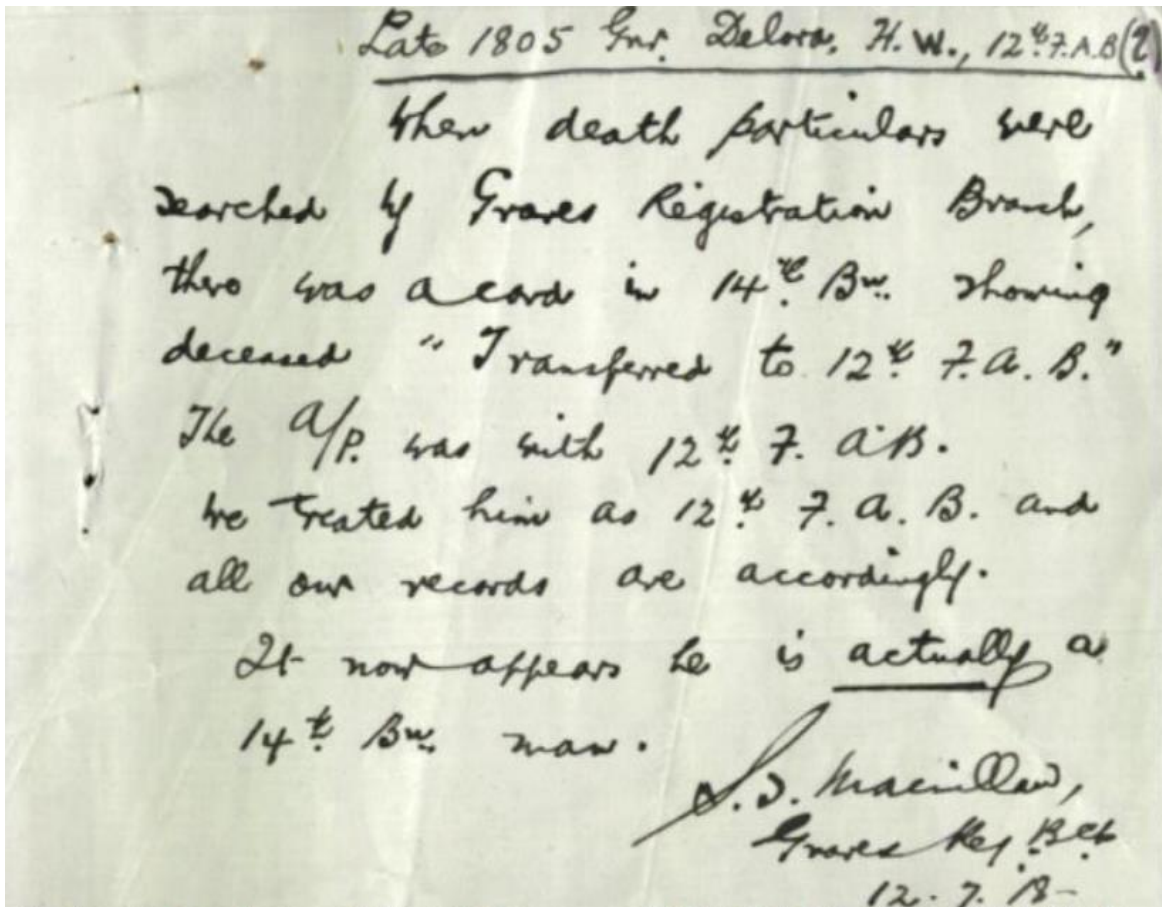
H. Delora, 540 Malvern Rd, E. Prahran, wrote to Base Records on 31st July, 1917 to advise *“... that we are removing from the above address where my son enlisted from Private H. Delora (Number 1805) 14th Battalion. Our new address is H. Delora, 109 Charles Street, Prahran.”*

Private Henry William Delora was reported to be with his Unit (14th Battalion) in the Field on 11th December, 1917. (This usually occurred when no movements has been noted for a period of time on the Casualty Form – Active Service).

Private Henry William Delora was wounded in action in France on 31st May, 1918. He was admitted to 4th Australian Field Ambulance on 31st May, 1918 then transferred the same day to 10th Australian Field Ambulance. Private Delora was transferred & admitted to 9th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 4th June, 1918. He was transferred to England on 5th June, 1918.

A handwritten note in the Service Record file for Private Henry William Delora reads:

"Late 1805 Gnr Delora, H.W., 12th F.A.B. (?) When death particulars were searched by Graves Registration Branch there was a card in 14th Bn., showing deceased "Transferred to 12th F.A.B." The A/P was with 12th F.A.B. We treated him as 12th F.A.B. and all our records are accordingly. It now appears he is actually a 14th Bn man."



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S.D. Macindoe,
Graves Reg. Bch
12. F. B.

14th Battalion

...In March and April 1918, the battalion helped stop the German spring offensive. It subsequently participated in the great allied offensive of 1918, fighting near Amiens on 8 August 1918...

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 14th Battalion

ALLONVILLE 31st May, 1918:

At about 1.15 am the enemy shelled ALLONVILLE and one shell landed right in the large barn occupied by "A" Company, cutting it in halves. 13 O/Ranks killed; 56 wounded. Another shell landed in barn occupied by "C" Company and Headquarters, causing 17 casualties. The behaviour of the men was magnificent, as men were buried in the debris and had to be dug out and some of the wounds (the majority) were awful. The Battalion should have moved off at 6 am but owing to this accident did not move till 10 am. Move order attached.

The Battalion relieved the 54th Battalion A.I.F. in the front line, relief being completed by midnight without a casualty.

Casualties (at ALLONVILLE) – Killed, 18 O/Ranks; wounded, 68 O/Ranks. Sick to hospital, 17 O/R.....

(Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Henry William Delora was admitted to 2/1st Southern General Hospital, Dudley Road, Birmingham on 6th June, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to right Femur. His condition was listed as dangerously ill.

Base Records wrote to Mr H. Delora, 109 Charles Street, Prahran, Victoria, on 13th June, 1918 to advise that Private H. W. Delora, 14th Battalion, had been wounded – 2nd occasion.

Private Henry William Delora died at 1.5 am on 13th June, 1918 at 2/1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham, England from wounds received in action – G.S.W. Thigh (right) & Septicaemia.

A death for Henry W. Delora, aged 22, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Birmingham, Warwickshire, England.

Private Henry William Delora was buried at 2 pm on 17th June, 1918 in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England – Grave No. 430. His name is now remembered on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall B10. 530 as those in this Plot do not have headstones.

From the burial report of Private Henry William Delora - Coffin was good polished Elm with brass mountings. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Gun Carriage, Bugler, Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by a beautiful wreath sent by the Hospital Staff. The service was conducted by Chaplain the Rev. W. W. Holdsworth, and the "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.

Harriet Delora, mother of the late Private Henry William Delora, wrote to Base Records on 25th July, 1918 to "...notify my change of address from 109 Charles Street, Prahran to 481 Malvern Road, Hawksburn in connecting with the records of No. 1805 Private Henry William Delora, 14th Battalion, 4th Brigade."

Private Henry William Delora was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Delora's father – Mr H, Delora, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll issued 17th November, 1921 & Plaque issued 6th November, 1922).

Mrs J. Bird, 15 Thurlso St, Chadstone, wrote the following letter (no date recorded; acknowledged 3rd July, 1967): *"I am writing for my Brother's Anzac Medal Pte Henry William Delora, 14th Battalion Infantry. I am the only relation living."*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Henry William Delora – service number 1805, aged 22, of 14th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Henry and Harriet Delora, of 474 Malvern Rd, East Prahran, Victoria, Australia.

Private H. W. Delora is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 72.

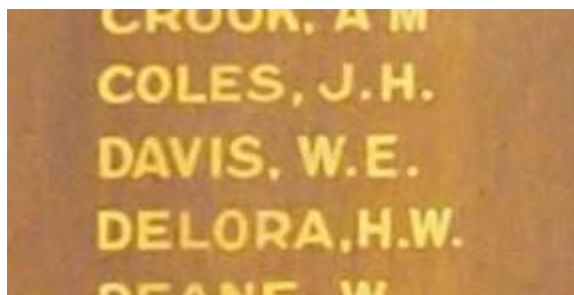


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

H. W. Delora is remembered on the Prahran RSL Honour Roll, located at 301 High Street, Prahran, Stonnington City, Victoria.



Prahran RSL Honour Roll



(80 pages of Private Henry William Delora'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

231st AND 232nd LISTS

Wounded

Pte H. W. Delora, Prahran

(*The Bendigo Independent*, Victoria – 10 October, 1916)

BATMAN AVENGES OFFICER

CAPTAIN GAINS OBJECTIVE,

BUT IS FATALLY WOUNDED

BALLARAT, Wednesday

In response to a letter from Mr Newton Wanliss, inquiring as to the manner in which his son, Captain Harold Wanliss, D.S.O., met his death in France, Private H, Delora has written to Mr Wanliss as follows:-

“I came over from Australia with the late Captain Wanliss, and was with him until his death, I was his batman, and can honestly assure you he was idolised by all the officers and men. He was in the best of spirits when he started off on his last stunt, and led his men coolly and calmly right to our final objective, getting his men into the exact position. He was 75 yards ahead of his company in a shell hole with the officer second in command, and I was just behind him, when a machine gun started to play all round us. The Captain was up observing when a bullet got him through the side and another hit him just under the neck, killing him outright.

“It was the most successful battle the battalion had engaged in, and much depended on Captain Wanliss, on account of his company being on the right flank, and by his command everything went lovely. We dug in at the exact spot desired. It was a great loss to the army, parting with such a brave and intelligent officer, and clean fighter. I might add that the Hun who killed your son will never kill another, as he was finished off by an officer and myself, both of us firing together.”

(*The Herald*, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 February, 1918)

DIED ON SERVICE

DELORA – Died of wounds, 13th June, at First Southern General Hospital, England, three years' active service, aged 22 years and 4 months, Gunner Henry William, of the 14th Battalion, eldest dearly beloved son of Henry and Harriett Delora, 109 Charles Street, Prahran, and beloved brother of Reginald, Doris, Jack and dear little Mavis, beloved grandson of Sarah and the late William Bradley, and the late Charlotte Delora.

Duty nobly done.

Deeply mourned. Beloved by all who knew him.

There is a land that is fairer than day.

-(Inserted by his sorrowing parents)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 June, 1918) & (*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 June, 1918) &

(*The Australasian*, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 June, 1918)

AUSTRALIA'S HEROES

CASUALTY LIST No. 413

VICTORIA

DIED OF WOUNDS

Gnr H. W. Delora, Prahran....

(*The Ballarat Star*, Victoria – 2 July, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOR

VICTORIAN LIST

DIED OF WOUNDS

Gnr H. W. DELORA, Prahran, 13/6/18 (prev. rep. W., 2nd occ.)

(*Weekly Times*, Melbourne, Victoria – 6 July, 1918)

Australians and the War

Died of Wounds

Gunner H. W. DELORA, formerly of the 14th Battalion, eldest son of Mr and Mrs H. Delora, of Prahran, died at the 21st Southerners' General Hospital, Dudley-road, Birmingham, from wounds receive din France, after three years' active service.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 10 August, 1918)

BEREAVEMENT CARDS

Mr and Mrs H. DELORA and Family desire to THANK their many kind relations and friends for visits, letters, telegrams, and cards in their sad loss of their dearly beloved son and brother, Gunner Henry. Would kind friends accept this intimation, as we find it impossible to answer all personally. 481 Malvern road, Hawksburn.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 10 August, 1918)

District News

PRAHRAN

Gunner H. W. Delora, formerly of the 14th Battalion, eldest son of Mr and Mrs H. Delora, of Prahran, has died of wounds received in France after three years' active service.

(*The Prahran Telegraph*, Victoria – 17 August, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

DELORA – In sad and loving memory of our loved son and brother, Gunner Henry William (Hen), died in Birmingham on the 13th June, 1918, of wounds received in France whilst in his sleep.

Our hero at rest.

No mother was there to sooth his brow,

No father to say good-bye;

No brother to take him by the hand

When death was drawing night.

No sister to kiss him on the lips

And whisper, Dear Hen, farewell.

He went with the hopes of returning,

Along with his comrades so brave;

With many a brave hero he is sleeping

In a soldier's honoured grave.

-Invited by his sorrowing father and mother, brothers and sisters.

DELORA – In sad and loving memory of my dear brother, Gunner Henry William (Hen), died in Birmingham on the 13th June, 1918, of wounds received in France whilst in his sleep.

'Twas just one year yesterday

Since my dear brother was called away,

True was his heart, faithful and kind,

There are few on this earth his equal to find.

-Inserted by his loving brother, Reg. and Violet.

DELORA – In loving memory of Henry, died of wounds in England 13th June, 1918.

Some day we'll understand.

-Inserted by his loving uncle and aunt, J. and K. Morris, and Grandma Bradley.

DELORA – In sand and loving remembrance of Gunner H, Delora, died of wounds 13th June, 1918.

'Tis sweet to be remembered,

And this our wish we show,

We hold you always in memory,

In the years that will come and go.

-Inserted by his loving uncle, aunt and cousins, Coburg.

DELORA – A tribute of love to the memory of our dear cousin, Henry, died of wounds in England 13th June, 1918. Behind all shadows standeth God.

-A. and W. Hill, Young-street, Albert Park.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 June, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

DELORA – In loving memory of my dear brother, Henry, who died of wounds received in France on 13th June, 1918.

He died as he lived nobly, beloved by all.

-Inserted by his loving brother, Reg., and Violet.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 June, 1920)

**Notices were also placed in 1922, 1925, 1926, 1927

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Private H. W. Delora does not have CWGC headstone, his name is instead remembered on a CWGC Screen Wall as his grave was one that could not be individually marked with a headstone.

Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England

The First World War saw four important hospitals - besides many smaller - posted at Birmingham: the 1st Southern General (3,500 beds) was in the university and other buildings, with a section at Stourbridge; the 2nd/1st Southern General (1,800 beds) in the Dudley Road Infirmary and in billets; the 1st Birmingham War Hospital (1,000 beds) at Rubery Hill Asylum and the 2nd Birmingham War Hospital (900 beds) at Hollymoor Asylum. Military hospitals were at Birmingham again during the Second World War, including No 7 Canadian Hospital at Marston Green. Birmingham and Coventry were among the chief manufacturing areas producing materials for the war effort and were subjected to many devastating air raids during the Blitz of 1940-41.

BIRMINGHAM (LODGE HILL) CEMETERY contains 499 First World War burials, most of them in a war graves plot in Section B10. The names of those buried in the plot, or in graves elsewhere in the cemetery which could not be individually marked, are inscribed on a Screen Wall. Second World War burials number 125, most of them scattered throughout the cemetery, although there is a small plot in Section 2E. Birmingham Municipal Crematorium stands within the cemetery. In the chapel, there is a bronze plaque commemorating 48 servicemen of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there.

(Information from CWGC)



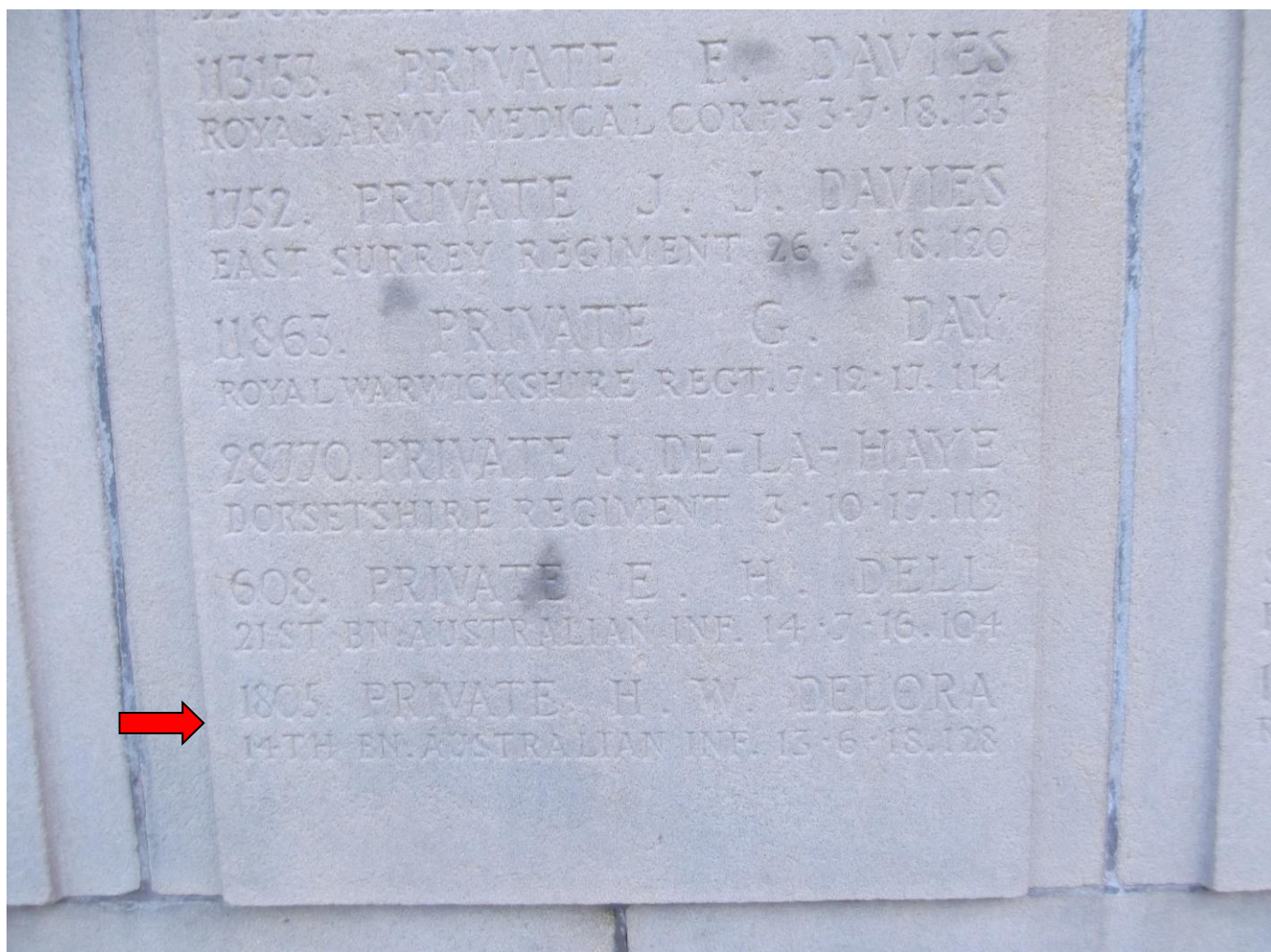
(Photo by Lepidus Magnus)



Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham *(Photos from CWGC)*



Photo of Private H. W. Delora's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission WW1 Screen Wall in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England.



(Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)





WW1 Screen Wall in Garden of Remembrance (Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)



WW2 Garden of Remembrance (Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)

Lodge Hill Cemetery

