

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

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4321 CORPORAL

T. S. EDWARD

11TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

18TH DECEMBER, 1916 Age 45

In Affectionate Remembrance

Thomas Stenhouse EDWARD

Thomas Stenhouse Edward was born at Montrose, Scotland on 9th February, 1865 to parents William & Mary Edward (nee Hutcheon). (Note: Thomas Stenhouse Edward stated his date of birth as 9th February, 1871 at Montrose, Forfarshire, Scotland on "*Descriptive Return of a Soldier discharged on account of Disability*" form on 8th October, 1916.)

The 1871 Scotland Census recorded Thomas Edward as a 6 year old Scholar, living with his family at 16 a High Street, Montrose, Forfarshire, Scotland. His mother was listed as Mary Edward (Shipmaster's Wife, aged 38, born Montrose, Forfarshire, Scotland). Also listed was Thomas older sister – Lizzie Edward, Scholar, aged 11, born Montrose, Forfarshire, Scotland) & Ann Stewart (General Servant, aged 13).

Thomas Stenhouse Edward married Ellen Susan Lynam in Perth, Western Australia in 1899. A daughter – Dorothy Mary Edward was born in 1906 in Sydney, NSW.

The 1903 & 1906 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Kalgoorlie, subdivision of Kanowna, Western Australia, recorded Thomas Stenhouse Edward, Miner from Kanowna.

The 1910 & 1912 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Coogardie, subdivision of Mount Leonora, Western Australia, recorded Thomas Stenhouse Edward, Prospector of Diorite King.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Kalgoorlie, subdivision of Mount Leonora, Western Australia, recorded Thomas Stenhouse Edward, Prospector of Diorite King.

The 1916 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Dampier, subdivision of Mount Magnet, Western Australia, recorded Thomas Stenhouse Edward, Miner from Sandstone.

Thomas Stenhouse Edward stated he was a 44 year old, single, Miner from Sandstone, Western Australia when he enlisted at Blackboy Hill, Western Australia on 28th October, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4321 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his sister – L. Brown, Montrose, Scotland. Thomas Edward stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served for 4 years with Yeomanry. He also stated he had served 4 years as an Apprentice with Williamson Mulligan Company at Sea.

Private Thomas Stenhouse Edward was posted to 34 Depot on 28th October, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 35 Depot (no date) then 22 Depot (no date). Private Edward was transferred to 13th Reinforcements of 11th Battalion on 7th December, 1915.

Private Thomas Stenhouse Edward embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Borda* (A30) on 17th January, 1916 with the 11th Infantry Battalion, 13th Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 8th February, 1916.

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 Thomas Stenhouse Edward was admitted to No. 3 Auxiliary Hospital, Heliopolis on 21st February, 1916. He was discharged to duty at Zeitoun on 6th March, 1916.

[Note: There is no record in the Service File of when Private Thomas Stenhouse Edward was transferred to England]

Private Thomas Stenhouse Edward was appointed Acting Corporal (without pay) from 29th April, 1916 in England.

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.

Acting Corporal Thomas Stenhouse Edward was promoted to Temporary Corporal from 22nd May, 1916 & Permanent Cadre of 3rd Training Battalion, Perham Downs, Wiltshire - vice 3953 Corporal J. M. Mitchell 12th Battalion transferred to 13th Training Battalion.

Corporal Thomas Stenhouse Edward was to be Acting Sergeant (without pay) from 26th May, 1916.

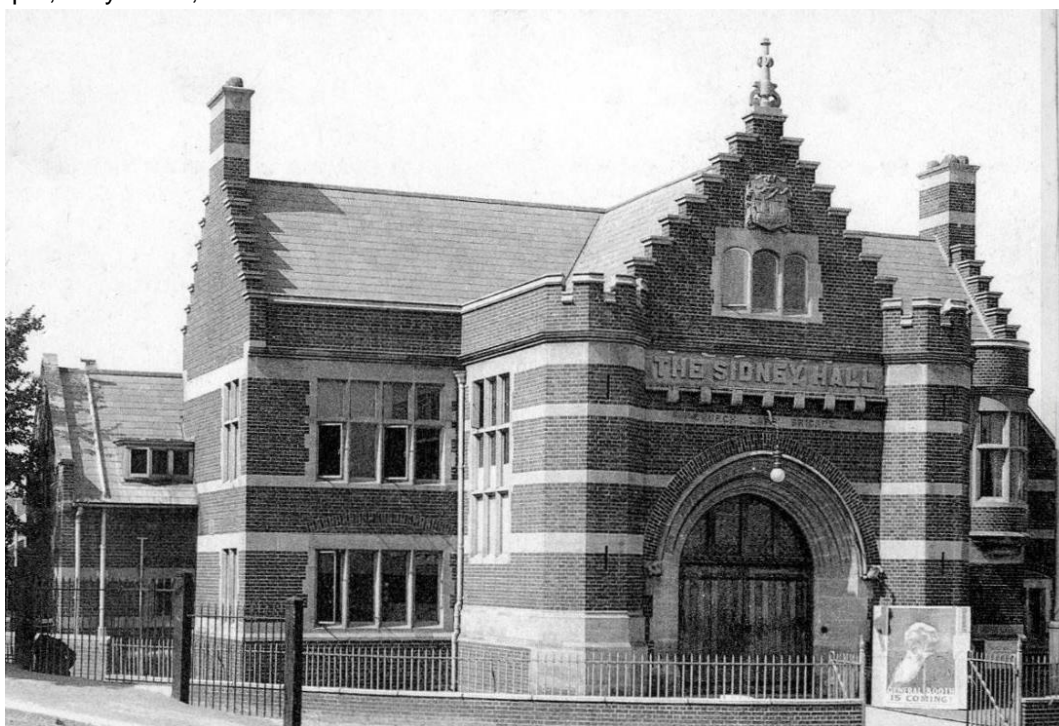
Acting Sergeant Thomas Stenhouse Edward was sent to Hospital on 26th August, 1916 from 3rd Training Battalion, Perham Downs, No. 6 Camp. He was admitted to Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England on 26th August, 1916 with an Aortic Aneurysm & was reported as dangerously ill. The Hospital Admission form recorded "*Aneurysm of the aorta, with haemorrhage into the sac on admission. The leakage has now apparently temporarily stopped.*"

Acting Sergeant Thomas Stenhouse Edward signed a "*Descriptive Return of a Soldier discharged on account of Disability*" on 8th October, 1916. His intended address in Australia was listed as Hill Street, Perth, Western Australia & his desired employment was listed as Accountant or clerical work in W. Australia. Thomas Edward stated on "*...Soldier whom it is proposed to discharge ...*" form that his last employer was Black Range Gold Mining Company, Sandstone, Western Australia. He stated his date of birth as 9th February, 1871 at Montrose, Forfarshire, Scotland.

Corporal Thomas Stenhouse Edward was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot, Weymouth, Dorset from Tidworth on 22nd October, 1916.

The Hospital Admissions form for Corporal Thomas Stenhouse Edward recorded him with V.D.H. (Aortic) on 27th October, 1916 at A. M. C. (Army Medical Corps) No. 2 Australian Command Depot, Weymouth. "*Has a loud aortic B___ at Base of the heart. Cannot lie down at night & sleeps badly. To travel as a Cot case.*" The last page of the Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Finding:- Permanently unfit for general service and permanently unfit for home service.*"

Corporal Thomas Stenhouse Edward was sent sick to Sidney Hall Military Hospital on 27th October, 1916 from No. 2 Command Depot, Weymouth, Dorset with Sarcoma of Mediastinal Gland.



Sidney Hall Military Hospital

Corporal Thomas Stenhouse Edward died at 10.40 am (as per Hospital Admissions form & Morning State of Sick – Army Form A. 27. Other forms in the Service Record file record the time of death as 11.10 am) on 18th December, 1916 at Sydney Hall Military Hospital, Weymouth, Dorset, England from Sarcoma of Mediastinal Glands. Coma.

A death for Thomas S. Edward, aged 56, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Weymouth, Dorset, England.

Corporal Thomas Stenhouse Edward was buried on 21st December, 1916 in Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England – Plot number III. C. 2823 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Thomas Stenhouse Edward requested in his Will, dated 16th December, 1915, that all his real or personal estate be bequeathed to Phoebe Mary Olifent, "Ashburton" Adelaide Terrace, Perth, Western Australia (Married Woman) & who was also appointed as Executrix.

Mrs P. M. Olifent, 37 Hill St. Perth, Western Australia, wrote to Base Records on 19th February, 1917 requesting the Death Certificate of No. 4321 Private T. S. Edward.

A change of address was sent by Lizzie Brown on 6th March, 1917, next of kin of the late Corporal Thomas Stenhouse Edward, from Montrose, Scotland to Leewood, 191 Cathedral Rd, Cardiff, Wales.

The personal effects of the late Corporal Thomas Stenhouse Edward were sent to Lizzie Brown, 191 Cathedral Rd, Cardiff, Wales. She signed for the items on 23rd March, 1917.

Base Records wrote to Mrs P. M. Olifent, 37 Hill Street, Perth, Western Australia on 24th May, 1917 stating "*You were supplied sometime since with a certificate of report of death of the late No. 4321 Sgt. T. S. Edward, 11th Battalion, and I shall be obliged if you can let me know at your earliest convenience the correct name and address of this soldier's next-of-kin. It was recorded as his sister, residing at Montrose, Scotland, but efforts to trace her, have, so far, proved unavailing...*"

Mrs P. M. Olifent, 37 Hill Street, Perth, Western Australia, replied to Base Records on 9th June, 1917 stating "*.... I do not know his relatives in Scotland. I only know he was born in Scotland. He resided in this State for the last 22 years first at Kanowna and afterwards at Sandstone from where he joined. He made his home with me & I am in possession of his Will in which he has made everything over to me.*"

Base Records replied to Mrs P. M. Olifent on 19th June, 1917 requesting that she forward "*a duly certified copy of deceased's Will, in order that the necessary steps may be taken to obtain his personal effects and transmit them to you as beneficiary named therein.*"

Mrs P. M. Olifent forwarded the copy of the Will of the late Corporal T. S. Edward to Base Records on 3rd July, 1917.

The Acting Secretary wrote to The Commandant, A.I.F. Headquarters, London, on 15th July, 1917 stating "*The late No. 4321 Corporal T. S. Edward, 11th Battalion, registered as his next-of-kin his sister, Mrs Lizzie Brown, Montrose, Scotland. A Will has now been produced, a duly certified copy of which is attached, which bequeaths this soldier's property to Mrs P. M. Olifent, of Perth, W.A. Any personal effects that may be available should consequently be transmitted to this office for necessary action.*"

A change of address was sent by Mrs P. M. Olifent to Base Records on 26th November, 1917 from 37 Hill Street, Perth to 715 Hay Street, Perth, Western Australia.

Base Records wrote to Mrs P. M. Olifent, of 715 Hay Street, Perth, Western Australia, on 9th January, 1918 stating "*With reference to my letter of the 15th July last, concerning the Will of the late No. 4321 Sergeant T. S. Edward, 11th Battalion, regarding which a communication was addressed to Australian Imperial Force Headquarters, London, I am now in receipt of the following reply:-*

"A parcel of his personal effects, as per inventory attached hereto, was despatched to Mrs L. Brown, Leewood, Cathedral Road, Cardiff, the late soldier's sister and registered next-of-kin on 20/3/17 and an identity disc was posted to her on 18/4/17.

On the receipt of your letter Mrs Brown was communicated with a copy of the Will referred to forwarded to her; a reply has been received from her, an extract of which reads as follows:-

"I have no wish to dispute the Will, but should be glad if you would allow the matter of returning the letters, spectacles in case, Photographs and identity disc until I hear from Mrs Olifent to whom I am writing to tell her what I have belonging to my brother and asking whether she will allow me to keep them as mementos."

Under the circumstances it is suggested that Mrs Brown be allowed to retain the effects until she has received a reply from Mrs Olifent, when further action will be taken if necessary..... I shall be obliged if you will let me know whether there is any objection to Mrs Brown retaining these articles as requested."

Mrs Olifent replied to Base Records on 9th January, 1918 stating *".....I replied that I was quite willing for her to keep them as she wished & I thought the matter closed."*

The Acting Secretary wrote to The Commandant, A.I.F. Headquarters, London, on 18th January, 1918 *"With reference to your memorandum of the 11th October last...concerning personal effects of the late No. 4321 Sergeant T. S. Edward, 11th Battalion, Mrs Olifent, deceased's legatee, writes stating that she has already advised Mrs Brown of Cardiff that the articles already handed to her may be retained."*

The Office of Curator of Intestate Estates, Perth, Western Australia wrote to Base Records on 5th February, 1918 requesting the *"death certificate, in triplicate, of Corporal T. S. Edwards, No. 4321, 11th Battalion."* Base Records replied on 13th February, 1918 enclosing the death certificate (in triplicate).

Corporal Thomas Stenhouse Edward was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Edward's sister – L. Brown, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in February, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal Thomas Stenhouse Edward – service number 4321, aged 45, of 11th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Corporal T. S Edward is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 62.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

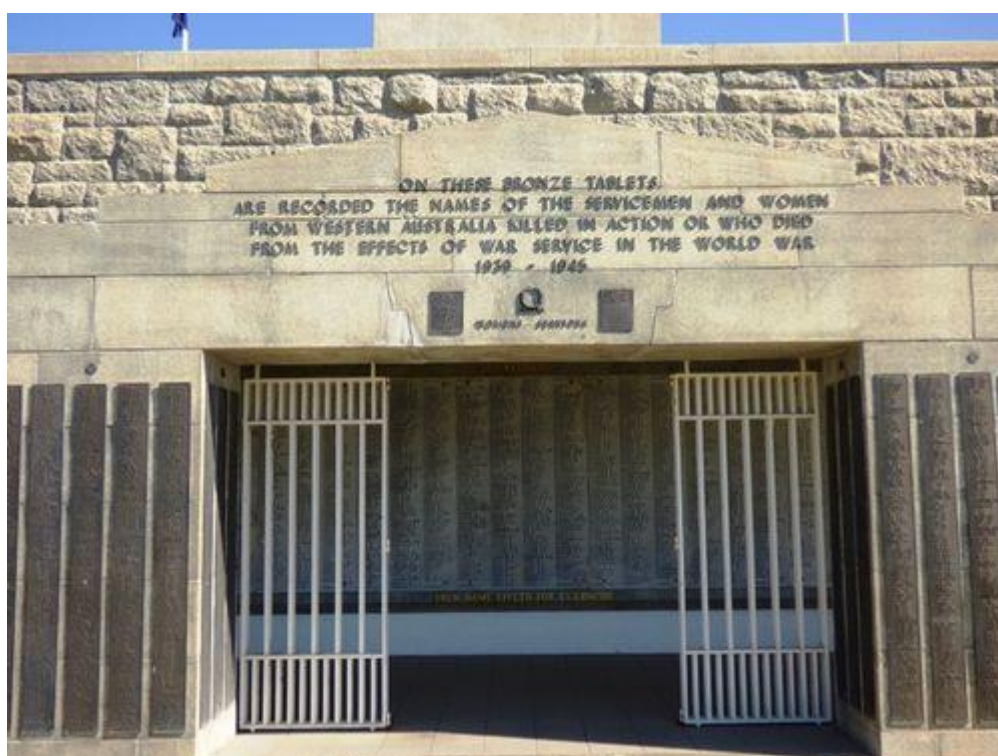
T. S. Edward is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a 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.



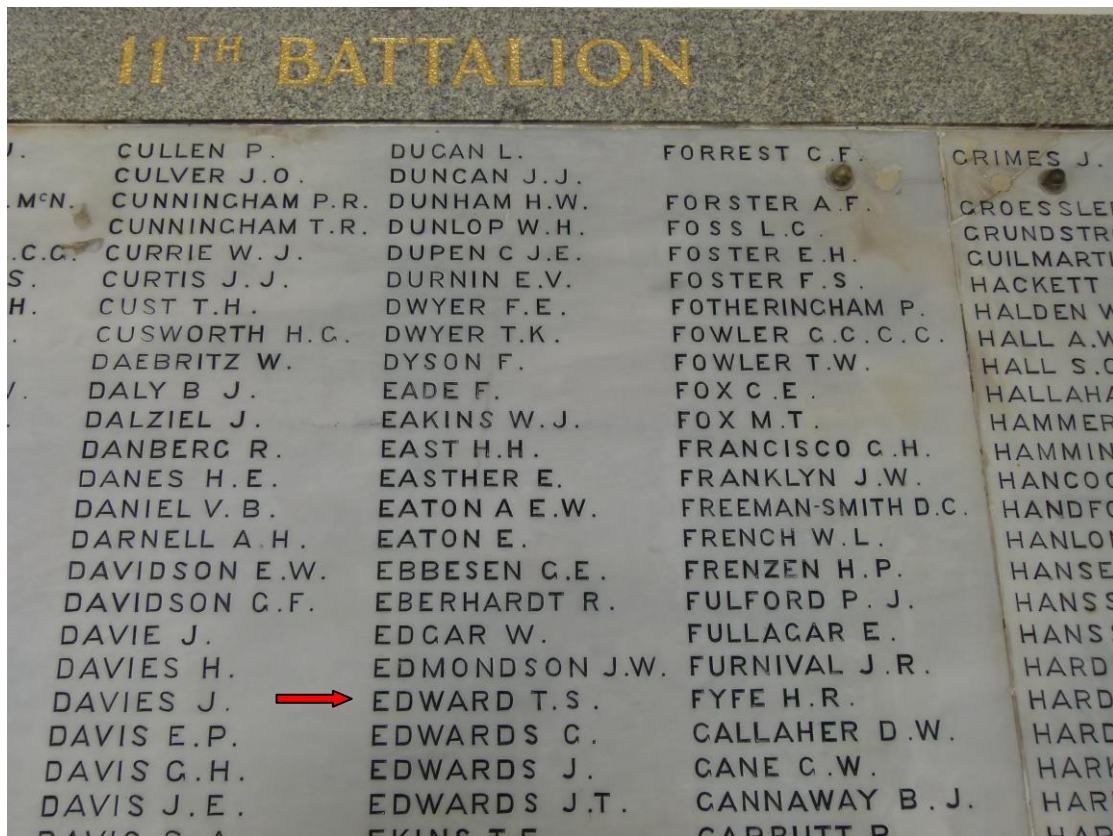
**Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)
& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names**

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





11th Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)



The Sandstone War Memorial, located next to Shire Council Building, Hack Street, Sandstone, Western Australia does not list individual names.



Sandstone War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia – Erich Nussbaumer)

Thomas Stenhouse Edward is remembered in the Roll of Honour books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad shelf in front of each of the bays, the names of the dead are listed in leather-bound books.



The Scottish National War Memorial & the Hall of Honour & the Roll of Honour books.

(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)



(88 pages of Corporal Thomas Stenhouse Edward'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

West Australian Casualties

152ND OFFICIAL LIST

WOUNDED OR ILL

11th Battalion – T. S. Edwards (Scotland), ill, in 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Cairo;

(*The Daily News*, Perth Western Australia – 14 March, 1916)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

229th LIST

ILL

Sergeant T. S. Edwards (Scotland), dangerously, previously reported ill.

(Western Mail, Perth Western Australia – 13 October, 1916)

W. A. Casualties

236th CASUALTY LIST

PROGRESS REPORT

Sergeant T. S. Edwards, Scotland, improving, previously reported ill, second occasion, dangerously

(The Daily News, Perth Western Australia – 19 October, 1916)

DEATHS

EDWARD – On December 18, 1916, at Sydney Hall Military Hospital, Weymouth, England, Sergeant T. S. Edward, late of Sandstone, W.A.

(The West Australian, Perth Western Australia – 15 January, 1917)

Probates and Administrations – The following list was issued by the Supreme Court last week :-Thomas Stenhouse Edward, late of Sandstone, to Phoebe Mary Olifent, £70, 19s. 9d.

(Western Mail, Perth Western Australia – 8 February, 1918)

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)

Corporal T. S. Edward does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Affectionate Remembrance

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 Melcome 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 Sherrins, 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 Bidport, 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 Weymouth. 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

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



(Photos courtesy of Steve Stewart)

Australians in Weymouth

From Weymouth to Auswey - A Soldier's Récovery

Weymouth, England, 1918. Australian and New Zealand Camp.

During the First World War between 1914 and 1918, many injured soldiers who were mainly from Australia and New Zealand, were brought to Weymouth. They were known as ANZACs (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps). They were placed in Registration and Recuperation camps in Westham, Litchmore, Chidwell 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.

Weymouth, England, 1918. Group photo of Australian soldiers at W.A.A.F. A. No. 100.

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 112 soldiers buried in the cemetery, 83 from Australia and 29 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.

Westham, England, 1918. A group of Australian soldiers at the Westham camp in the town of Westham, England. This is a memorial to the camp, which was built on the site of the camp.

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.

Western Day Street Homes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Beach Cove ■ Sussex Road ■ Devonland Road ■ Kitchener Road ■ Corporation Road ■ Stone Road ■ Longcroft Road ■ Weymouth Road ■ North Street ■ Malbourne Street ■ Adelaide Crescent ■ Abbotsbury Road ■ Sydney Street ■ Shirecroft Road 	Westham Camp - December 1918 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Soldiers Barracks ■ Company Officers ■ Regimental Hospital ■ Westham Rifle Range ■ Officers Mess ■ Soldiers Mess ■ White Shed, Milk Store ■ Horse Shelter ■ Cool Yard ■ Cook House ■ YMCA ■ Dung Pit ○ Fire Hydrant
--	---

www.westhamcommunitygroup.co.uk

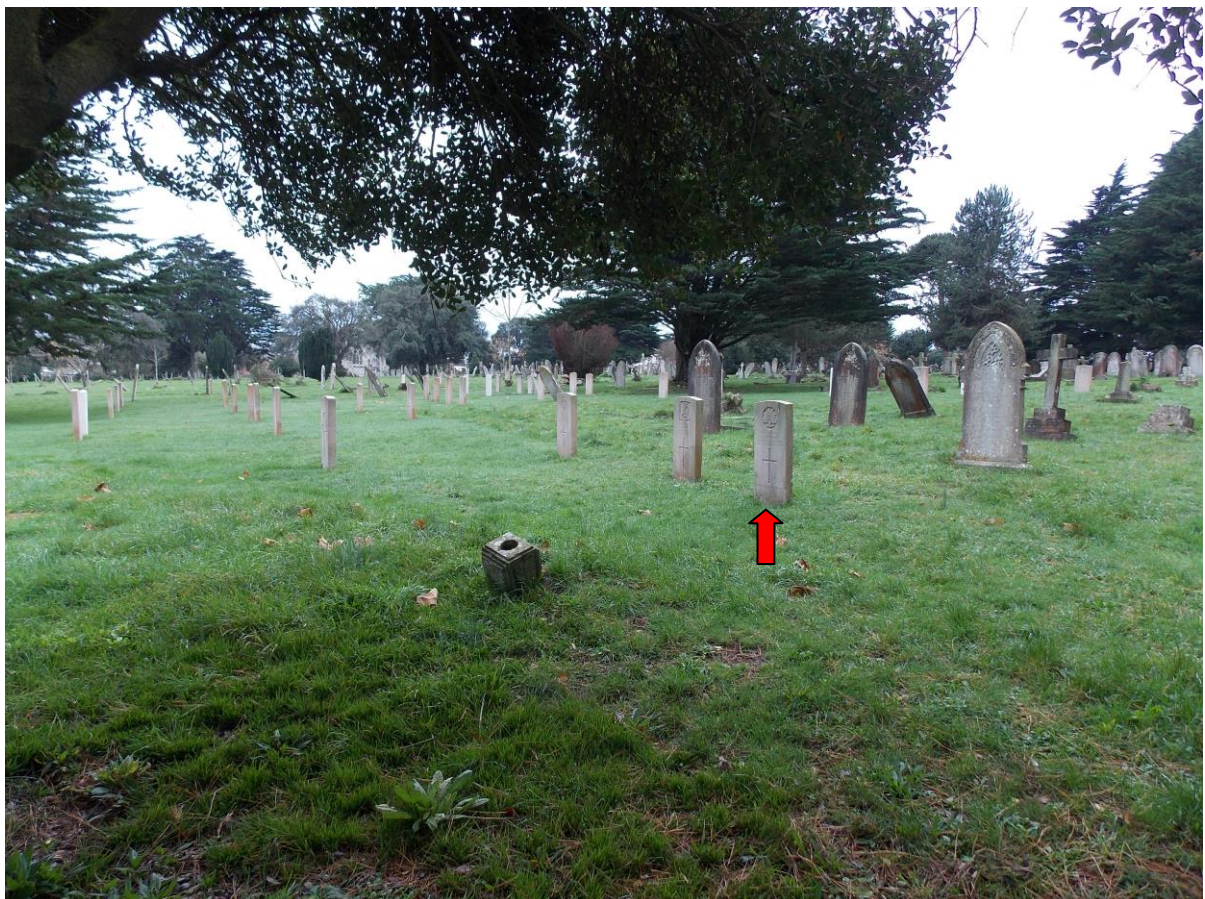
Photo of Corporal T. S. Edward's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England.



(Photo courtesy of Allan Wood)



Corporal Edwards' Headstone on right (Photos courtesy of Allan Wood)





Corporal Edwards' Headstone marked with arrow (Photos courtesy of Allan Wood)



CWGC Plot from north-east corner