

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

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



952 PRIVATE

H. A. FLETCHER

44TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

29TH NOVEMBER, 1916

Henry Arthur (Artie) FLETCHER

Henry Arthur Fletcher was born on 6th May, 1894 at Dongarra, Western Australia to parents Henry & Annie Eleanor Fletcher (nee Vann).

Henry Arthur Fletcher attended State School at Mingenew, Western Australia.

Henry Arthur Fletcher was a 21 year old, single, (Blacksmith) Striker from Mingenew, West Australia when he enlisted on 8th January, 1916 in Perth, Western Australia with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Henry Fletcher, of Mingenew, West Australia.

Private Henry Arthur Fletcher was posted to 44 Depot on 18th January, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to "B" Company, 44th Battalion on 28th January, 1916.

Private Henry Arthur Fletcher, Service number 952, embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Suevic* (A29) on 6th June, 1916 with the 44th Infantry Battalion - Headquarters. He was admitted to Ship's Hospital at Sea on 17th June, 1916 & discharged the same day. Private Fletcher was admitted again to Ship's Hospital on 29th June, 1916 & discharged on 13th July, 1916. Private Fletcher disembarked at Plymouth, England on 21st July, 1916.

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 Henry Arthur Fletcher reported sick on 15th November, 1916 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). He was admitted to Military Hospital at Tidworth & was reported to be dangerously ill on 28th November, 1916.

44th Battalion

The 44th Battalion was raised at Claremont, Western Australia in February 1916. It formed part of the 11th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division, and soon became known as "Old Bill's Thousand" after its first commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel William Mansbridge. The battalion left Australia on 6 June and proceeded to Britain for further training. It arrived in France on 27 November and entered the front line trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 29 December....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Henry Arthur Fletcher died on 29th November, 1916 at Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from Double Pneumonia. A Telegram was sent from S.M.O. Headquarters, A.I.F., Tidworth to Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F., London on 29th November, 1916 at 2.30 pm to advise that "952 Pte Fletcher, E.A. late 44th Battalion died here today...."

A death for Henry A. Fletcher, aged 22, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Andover, Hampshire, England.

Private Henry Arthur Fletcher was buried on 1st December, 1916 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. Grave number 221 (this is now recorded by CWGC as C. 221) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Mr Henry Fletcher, Mingenew, Western Australia, father of the late Private Henry Arthur Fletcher, wrote to Base Records on 15th November, 1917 requesting a copy of Death Certificate for No. 952 Private Henry Arthur Fletcher, 44th Battalion.

Base Records replied on 26th November, 1917 enclosing a certificate of report of the death of his son, the late No. 952, Private H. A. Fletcher, 44th Battalion.

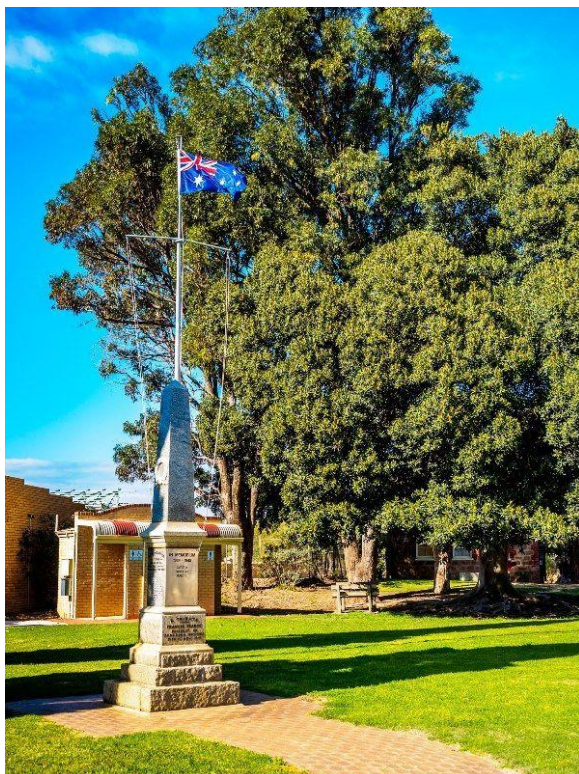
Private Henry Arthur Fletcher was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Fletcher's father – Mr H. Fletcher, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent Mya, 1922 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Henry Arthur Fletcher – service number 952, of 44th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

H. A. Fletcher is remembered on the Dongara War Memorial, now located in Dongara Memorial Park, Moreton Terrace & Point Leander Drive, Dongara, Western Australia.



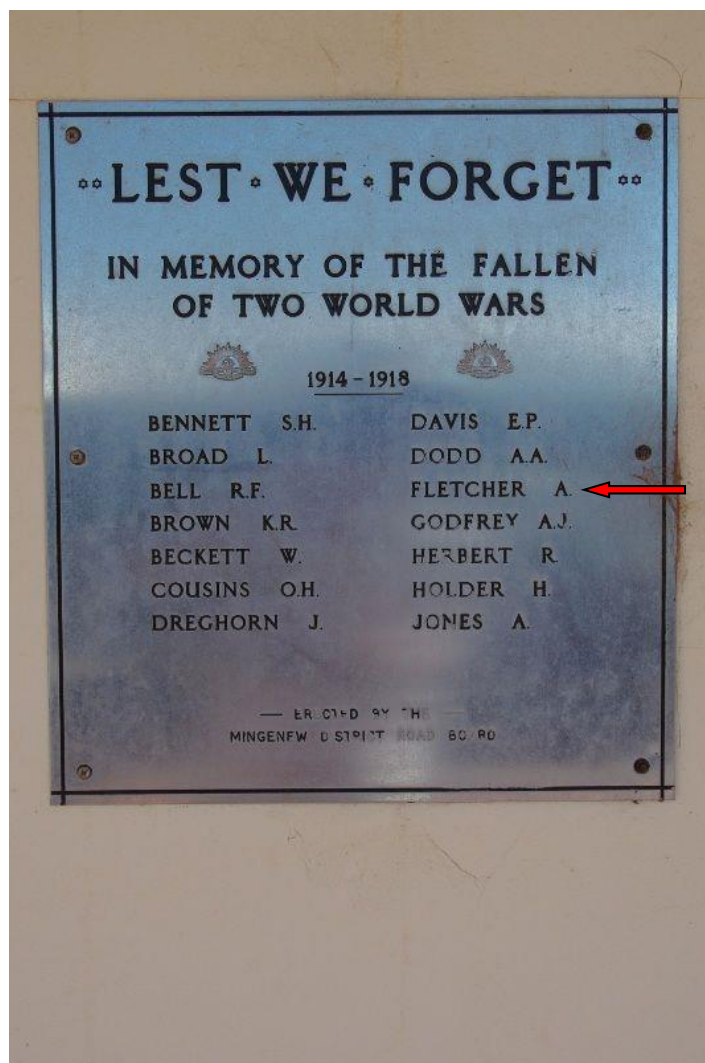
Dongara War Memorial in Memorial Park (Photos from Monument Australia – Erich Nussbaumer)



A. Fletcher is remembered on the Mingenew Honour Roll, located at Shire of Mingenew Office, 22 Victoria Road, Mingenew, Western Australia.



Mingenew Honour Roll (Photos from Monument Australia)



A. Fletcher is remembered on the Mingenew War Memorial, located at Mingenew Recreation Centre & Sports Ground, Entrance Drive, Mingenew, Western Australia.



Mingenew War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Peter F. Williams)



H. A. Fletcher 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.

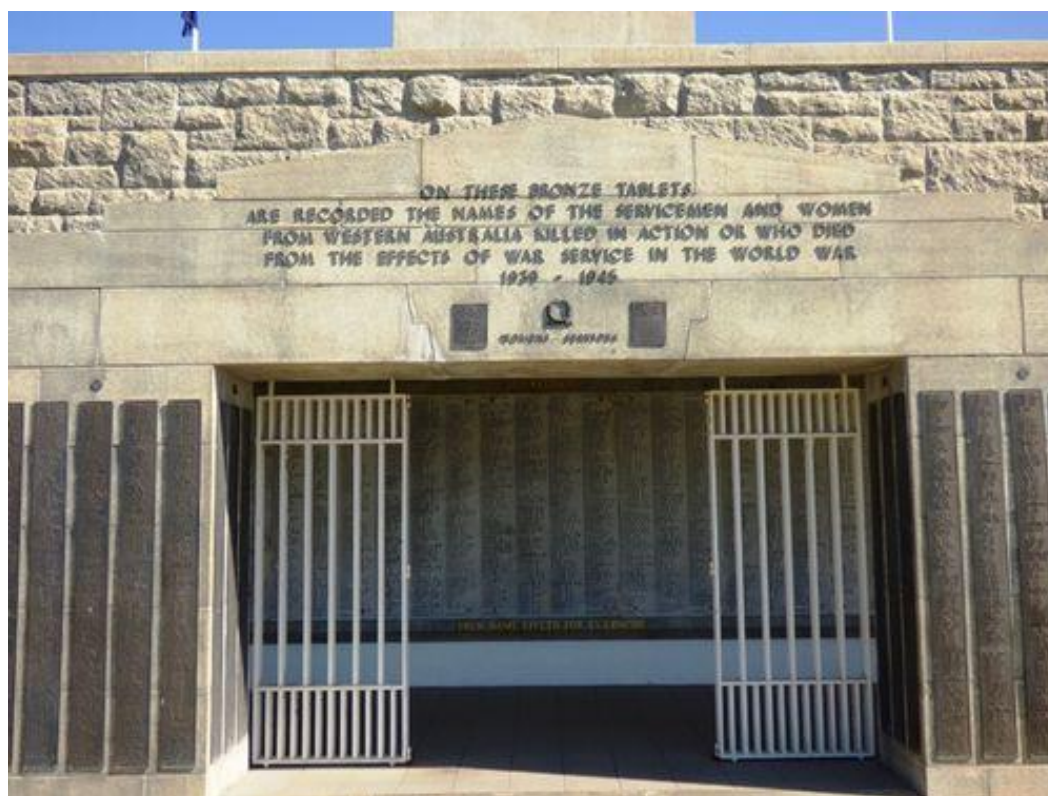
The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a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





44th Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

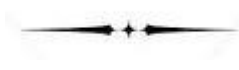
Private H. A. Fletcher is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 138.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(41 pages of Private Henry Arthur Fletcher'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

DEATHS

FLETCHER – A token of love to the memory of my beloved friend, Private H. A. Fletcher, (Artie), 44th Battalion, died of pneumonia, Tidworth, Salisbury, on November 29, 1916, aged 22 years and 6 months. Deeply regretted.

Though Thou has called me to resign

What most I prized it ne'er was mine;

I only yielded what was Thine.

Thy will be done.

-Inserted by his dear devoted friend, May Murtha, Mingenew.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 13 December, 1916)

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FLETCHER – On November 29, 1916, Private H. A. (Artie) 44th Battalion, dearly beloved son of Henry and Annie Fletcher, of Mingenew, died of pneumonia, at Tidworth, Salisbury, England, aged 22 years and 6 months. A loving son and brother at rest.

FLETCHER – A token of love to the memory of my beloved friend, Private H. A. Fletcher, (Artie), 44th Battalion, died of pneumonia, Tidworth, Salisbury, on November 29, 1916, aged 22 years and 6 months. Deeply regretted.

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What most I prized it ne'er was mine;

I only yielded what was Thine.

Thy will be done.

-Inserted by his dear devoted friend, May Murtha, Mingenew.

(Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 15 December, 1916)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

249th LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

H. A. Fletcher (Minginew)

(*Western Mail*, Perth, Western Australia – 22 December, 1916)

W. A. Soldiers Who Have Done Their Bit



(*Sunday Times*, Perth, Western Australia – 28 January, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

FLETCHER – In loving memory of Private Henry Arthur Fletcher, who died with double pneumonia at Tidworth Hospital, England, on November 29, 1916, aged 22 ½ years.

He left his home and loved ones
To obey his country's call,
And which he filled so nobly,
He gave his life, his all.
Deeply mourned and sadly missed.

-Inserted by his loving father, mother, sisters, brothers, Charlie, Rodney, Gladys, Laura.

FLETCHER – In memory of Private H. A. Fletcher (Artie), who died in England of illness on November 29, 1916. Mya his soul rest in peace with God.

-Inserted by May.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 29 November, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

FLETCHER – In loving memory of Private H. A. (Artie) Fletcher, 44th Battalion, died of pneumonia, Tidworth Hospital, England, on November 29, 1916, age 22 ½ years.

Duty called and he was there
To do his bit and take his share,
His heart was good, his spirit brave
He's resting in a soldier's grave.

Inserted by his loving parents, sisters and brothers, Claremont.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 29 November, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

FLETCHER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Henry Arthur Fletcher, who died at Tidworth Hospital, November 29, 1916.

In our home you are fondly remembered,
Sweet memories cling around your name;
True hearts that have always loved you,
Will always do the same.

Inserted by loving father, mother, brothers, and sisters, Charlie, Rodney, Laura and Gladys, Claremont.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 29 November, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

FLETCHER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Henry Arthur Fletcher, who died at Tidworth Hospital, November 29, 1916.

Can we forget you dear Artie?
No; our grief is just as deep
As four years ago,
And the hot tears often flow.

Inserted by his loving father and mother, brothers, and sisters, Princess-road, Claremont.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 29 November, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

FLETCHER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private H. A. Fletcher, who died Military Hospital, Tidworth, England, November 29, 1916.

Ever remembered

Inserted by his loving father, mother, sisters and brothers, Claremont.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 29 November, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

FLETCHER – In loving memory of Henry Arthur Fletcher, who died at Military Hospital, Tidworth, November 29, 1916.

Ever remembered by his father and mother and sisters and brothers, 20 Princess-road, Claremont.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 1 December, 1922)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

FLETCHER – In fond memory of our loving son and brother, Henry Arthur Fletcher, who died at Tidworth, England, 1916.

Ever remembered.

Inserted by his loving father and mother and brothers and sisters, Princess-road, Claremont.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 29 November, 1923)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

FLETCHER – In memory of Henry Arthur Fletcher, 44th Battalion, who died November 29, 1916.

While you lie in peaceful sleep,

Your memory we all do keep.

Inserted by his loving mother, father, sisters, brothers.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 29 November, 1924)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

FLETCHER – In loving memory of Henry Arthur Fletcher, who died November 29, 44th Battalion.

Just memory, fond and true,
To show dear Artie, we think of you.
Oh, we call it not death,
It is a new life begun.

Inserted by his loving mother and father, sisters and brothers, Princess-road, Claremont.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 28 November, 1925)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

FLETCHER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Henry Arthur Fletcher, who died November 29, 1916 (44th Battalion, A.I.F.).

Love and remembrance last for ever.

Inserted by his loving mother, father, and sisters and brothers, 20 Princess-road, Claremont.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 29 November, 1926)

IN MEMORIAM

FLETCHER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Henry Arthur.

It's eleven years to-day, dear Artie, since you passed away,
And you are just as fresh in our memory to-day.

Inserted by his loving father, mother, sisters and brothers.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 29 November, 1927)

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 11th July, 1921, to Mr H. Fletcher, Princess Street, Opp. School, Claremont, W.A., advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late No. 957 Private H. A. Fletcher, 44th 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.

The “*Inscriptions on War Graves*” form was completed by Mr Henry Fletcher (date unknown) & he added “*Dear Sir, Your to hand dated 11th July 1921. I have filled in the form at the best of my knowledge & have put a verse in the first form. My son was a Church of England & ___ living Boy. In the section where the personal inscription was supposed to be recorded – Mr Fletcher wrote “Henry Fletcher”.*

Base Records wrote to Mr Fletcher on 18th August, 1921 advising him that “... you have only quoted the name – Henry Fletcher – in the space set apart for the personal inscription. For your information I would point out that the soldier’s name, regimental particulars, and date of death, will be inscribed free...”

Private H. A. Fletcher 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)



Tidworth Military Cemetery *(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)*



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.

Note Gunner McDonald has a large headstone which reads in part 'erected by his sorrowing comrades of the Australian Field Artillery. His duty done.'



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00481

Tidworth Military Cemetery – 12 June, 1919

A corner of the Australian cemetery. Front row, left to right: 5840 Private F. W. Heede, 25th Battalion died 3 June 1917; 7350 Private A. E. Campbell, 8th Battalion, died 2 August 1917; 1824 Driver A. C. Jones, 4th Company, Australian Machine Gun Corps, AADC, died 8 August 1917; 8009 Corporal W. J. Giles, Australian Tunnelling Company, died 17 March 1918.



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 H. A. Fletcher's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Selena Hardie)

