

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

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



180 PRIVATE

E. P. M. GUTHRIE

AUST. ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

16TH NOVEMBER, 1915 Age 21

Edward Percy Malcolm GUTHRIE

Edward Percy Malcolm Guthrie was born on 24th September, 1894 at Burwood, Sydney, New South Wales to parents Frederick Bickell Guthrie & Ada Guthrie (nee Adams).

Edward Percy Malcolm Guthrie attended Sydney Grammar School, New South Wales.

Edward Percy Malcolm Guthrie was a 20 year old, single, Clerk from Kimsha Road, Neutral Bay, NSW when he enlisted on 28th August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 180 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr F. B. Guthrie, Department of Agriculture, George Street, Sydney, NSW. Edward Guthrie stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with Colonial Forces & was still serving at the time of enlistment.

As Edward Percy Malcolm Guthrie was under the age of 21, his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service abroad. Mr F. B. Guthrie wrote & signed the following note on 26th August, 1914: *"I hereby give my consent to the enlistment of my son Malcolm Guthrie (age 19 ½) in the Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force."*

Private Guthrie was posted to 1st Field Ambulance on 28th August, 1914.

1st Field Ambulance

Field ambulances were attached to each of the AIF brigades. A field ambulance was a military unit, not a vehicle. The field ambulances played a vital role in triage.

Transport attached to a field ambulance included: three horse-drawn ambulance wagons; seven motorised ambulances; 10 general service wagons; three water carts; one motorcycle; one bicycle; one small two-wheeled Maltese cart.

Staff responsibilities:

Each infantry division had three field ambulance units with 10 officers and 182 other ranks from the Australian Army Medical Corps.

Staff in each ambulance unit gave immediate care to wounded soldiers. They were responsible for managing: advanced dressing stations; main dressing stations & walking wounded dressing stations.

Field ambulance staff moved the wounded from the regimental aid post (just behind the front lines) to an advanced dressing station. The trip was about 1 to 3 miles (1.6 to 4.8km) and took around 6 hours to complete.

Stretcher-bearers worked in relays. At least 36 stretcher-bearers handled each patient along the way. The main dressing station was another 3 to 8 miles (4.8 to 12.9km) beyond the advanced dressing station.

(Information from Anzac Portal)

Private Malcolm Edward Percy Guthrie (name as listed on Embarkation Roll & Attestation Papers) embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 20th October, 1914 with the 1st Field Ambulance (A.M.C.) "C" Section.

Private Guthrie proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli on 5th April, 1915 (from Alexandria).

Private Guthrie was admitted to Hospital at Mudros on 30th August, 1915 then transferred to Hospital at Malta on 6th September, 1915 (Statement of Service form has date as 2nd September, 1915) with Jaundice & Debility.

Private Guthrie was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital (Dudley Road Section) at Birmingham, England on 19th September, 1915 with Debility. The Hospital Admissions form recorded *"Fit for duty after 10 days Furlough."*

Mr F. B. Guthrie, Department of Agriculture, George Street, Sydney, N.S.W., was advised by Base Records on 28th October, 1915 that his son Private M. E. P. Guthrie was sick & had been admitted to Hospital in Birmingham, England.

Private Guthrie was transferred & admitted to Royal Hospital, Weymouth, Dorset, England on 10th November, 1915 with Appendicitis.

Private Malcolm Edward Percy Guthrie died on morning of 16th November, 1915 at Royal Hospital, Weymouth, Dorset, England from Acute Appendicitis. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Died. 6 days after Operation.*"

A death for Malcolm Guthrie, aged 21, was registered in the December quarter, 1915 in the district of Weymouth, Dorset, England.

Private Edward Percy Malcolm Guthrie was buried on 18th November, 1915 in Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England – Plot number III. C. 3851 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Guthrie – The Captain the Reverend F. de M. Tubman, M.A., B. Sc., Church of England, 2nd Australian Light Horse Brigade officiated at the Funeral. The Commonwealth Government was officially represented at the Funeral.

Mr F. B. Guthrie, Chemical Laboratory, Department of Agriculture, 136 George Street, Sydney, N.S.W., wrote to Base Records on 25th November, 1915 with the following: "*I received news by private cable of the death of one of my sons Private E. P. M. Guthrie (1st Field Ambulance) in England about a week ago. I am given to understand that when an official notification of such events is received at Headquarters, the news is communicated to the parents through the medium of the local clergyman. If such should be the custom, _____ I ask that an exception be made in our case and that the official communication be wired direct to me at the above address? If it is possible for that to be done I should be greatly obliged.*"

Base Records replied to Mr F. B. Guthrie on 1st December, 1915 with the following: "*.....If you will furnish me with the regimental numbers, names and full description of your other sons, the necessary adjustment can then be made on their records when, if such occasion unfortunately arises, any bad news will be communicated to you direct instead of through a clergyman. I may mention there are ten members of the Australian Imperial Force bearing the name of "Guthrie".*"

The Commonwealth Bank – Saving Bank Department, Sydney, NSW wrote to The Secretary of Defence on 9th May, 1916, requesting a certificate of the death of No. 180 Private N. E. P. Guthrie (Initials as listed in letter).

Base Records replied to The Superintendent, Commonwealth Bank on 13th May, 1916, enclosing a certificate of report of death of the late No. 180 Private M. E. P. Guthrie, 1st Field Ambulance.

Private Edward Percy Malcolm Guthrie was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Guthrie's father – Mr F. B. Guthrie, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

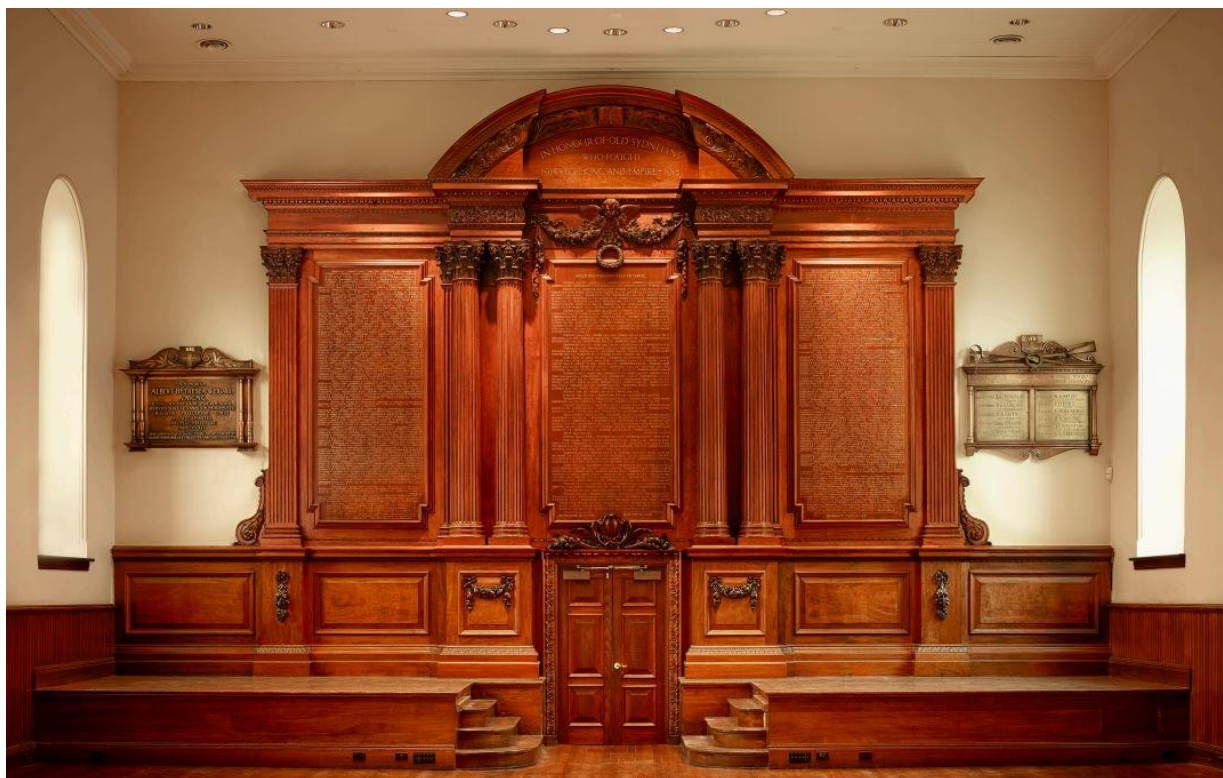
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Edward Percy Malcolm Guthrie – service number 180, aged 21, of 1st Field Ambulance, Australian Army Medical Corps Infantry. He was the son of Frederick Bickell Guthrie & Ada Guthrie; of Board of Agriculture, George St., Sydney, New South Wales.

Private E. P. M. Guthrie is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 182.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

E. P. M. Guthrie is remembered on the Sydney Grammar School Honour Board, located at Sydney Grammar School, College Street, Darlinghurst, Sydney, NSW.



Sydney Grammar School Honour Board (Image courtesy of Sydney Grammar School)

GAIR, PTE. J.H.H. - GALE, PTE. B.C.L. - GARLING, SGT. F.H.E. M.M. - GARVAN, LIEUT. E.W.
GARVIN, LIEUT. W. M. - GELME, LIEUT. R. W. - GEORGE, LIEUT. L.E. - GIBLIN, LIEUT. L.
GIBSON, GNR. J.C.E. - GIBSON, TPR. M.R. - GILES, LIEUT. A.M. - GOWENLOCK, LIEUT. E.S. - GRAHAM, CAPT. S.M.
GREEN, 2ND. LIEUT. E. - GRIFFITHS, SGT. H. - GRIFFITHS, CAPT. J.N. - GUTHRIE, LIEUT. F.A.
GUTHRIE, PTE. E.P.M. - GUTHRIE, PTE. G.B. - GREEN, SGT. E.W. - GORDON-BAKER, CAPT. RN, E.

E. P. M. Guthrie is remembered on the North Sydney War Memorial, located in St. Leonard's Park, Ridge Street, North Sydney, NSW.



North Sydney War Memorial (Photo by David Morgan-Mar)

(58 pages of Private Edward Percy Malcolm Guthrie'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

Edward Percy Malcolm Guthrie is remembered in De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour – 1914 – 1919 Volume 2 page 149.



GUTHRIE, EDWARD PERCY MALCOLM, Private. No. 180. 1st



Edward P. M. Guthrie.

in Sydney Hall Military Hospital there 16 Nov. 1915, from appendicitis contracted while on active service; *unm.*

Australian Field Ambulance, Army Medical Corps, Australian Imperial Force, yr. s. of Frederick Bickell Guthrie, F.I.C., Chemist, Department of Agriculture, Sydney, New South Wales, and Lecturer in Technology, University of Sydney; and gdsn. of the late Professor Frederick Guthrie, F.R.S.; *b.* Burwood, Sydney, 24 Sept. 1894; educ. Sydney Grammar School; subsequently entered a Merchant's office; joined the Commonwealth Junior Cadets in 1912, and was attached to the Garrison Artillery in Sydney; volunteered for Imperial Service, and joined the A.M.C. on the outbreak of the European War in Aug. 1914, when he was attached to the 1st Australian Field Ambulance; left for Egypt 20 Oct.; served with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force at Gallipoli from April; took part in the landing there on the 25th; was invalided to England with dysentery at the end of Aug., and after a spell of furlough, was sent to the Base Camp at Weymouth to await orders to rejoin his regiment, and died

GUTHRIE, EDWARD PERCY MALCOLM,

Private, No. 180, 1st Australian Field Ambulance, Army Medical Corps, Australian Imperial Force, yr.s. of Frederick Bicknell Guthrie, F.I.C., Chemist, Department of Agriculture, Sydney, New South Wales, and Lecturer in Technology, University of Sydney; and gdsn of the late Professor Frederick Guthrie, F.R.S.; b. Burwood, Sydney, 24 Sept, 1894; educ. Sydney Grammar School; subsequently entered a Merchant's Office; joined the Commonwealth Junior Cadets in 1912, and was attached to the Garrison Artillery in Sydney; volunteered for Imperial Service, and joined the A.M.C. on the outbreak of the European War in Aug. 1914, when he was attached to the 1st Australian Field Ambulance; left for Egypt 20 Oct.; served with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force at Gallipoli from April; took part in the landing there on the 25th; was invalided to England with dysentery at the end of Aug., and after a spell of furlough, was sent to the Base Camp at Weymouth to await orders to rejoin his regiment, and died in Sydney Hall Military Hospital there 16 Nov. 1915, from appendicitis contracted while on active service; un.

Newspaper Notices

MEN OF THE DARDANELLES

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PRIVATE E. P. M. GUTHRIE (Moaman), died of illness.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 19 November, 1915)

HEROES OF THE DARDANELLES

HEROES OF THE DARDANELLES.



PRIVATE E. P. MALCOLM GUTHRIE (Sydney). Died of illness.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 22 November, 1915)

ROLL OF HONOR

GUTHRIE – On Tuesday, 16th November, in England, from illness contracted in Gallipoli campaign, Private E. P. Malcolm Guthrie, 1st Australian Field Ambulance, younger son of Ada and F. B. Guthrie, Neutral Bay, aged 21 years.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 19 November, 1915) & (The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 19 November, 1915)

CASUALTIES

LIST No. 119

NEW SOUTH WALES

WOUNDED

Pte M. E. P. GUTHRIE, 1 Fld. Amb., Sydney

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 6 December, 1915)

119th CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of Illness: Private M. E. P. Guthrie, 1st Field Amb ., Sydney

(The Tamworth Daily Observer, NSW – 6 December, 1915)

[Connected to Private Edward Percy Malcolm Guthrie:](#)

Older brother – Frederick Alexander Guthrie; Enlisted on 25th August, 1914 as a 21 year old, single, Station Overseer, from Brewarrina, NSW.

Embarked from Sydney, NSW on 20th October, 1914 on HMAT Star of Victoria with 1st Light Horse Regiment “C” Squadron as Private 459.

Lieutenant Frederick Alexander Guthrie, 1st Australian Light Horse Regiment, was killed in action on 3rd November, 1917. He was buried in Beersheba War Cemetery, Beersheba, Israel.

Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.

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 E. P. M. Guthrie does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

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



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.

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THESE BOYS BEARING ACUTT BROTHERS

#weyforward

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

The National Lottery



(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, Littleton, Chickerell 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.



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.

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.





Modern Day Street Names	Westham Camp - December 1916
Queen 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
Melcombe 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 E. P. M. Guthrie's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Janice Dennis -2016)



(Photo courtesy of Allan Wood)