

**Weymouth Cemetery,
Weymouth, Dorset
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1608 PRIVATE

R. HENSHAW

12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

24TH MARCH, 1916 Age 20

Duty Nobly Done

Ralph HENSHAW

Ralph Kenneth Travers Henshaw was born on 11th July, 1895 at Zeehan, Tasmania to parents John and Elizabeth Mary Henshaw (nee Woodward).

Elizabeth Mary Henshaw, mother of Ralph Henshaw, died in 1902 at Zeehan, Tasmania.

Ralph Henshaw was a 19 year old, single, Miner from 8 Norton Street, Zeehan, Tasmania when he enlisted at Claremont, Tasmania on 22nd December, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1608 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Henshaw of 8 Norton Street, Zeehan, Tasmania. As Ralph Henshaw 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. John Henshaw, father of Ralph Henshaw, signed his consent on 11th January, 1915.

Private Ralph Henshaw embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Runic (A54)* on 19th February, 1915 with the 12th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements.

Private Ralph Henshaw was taken on strength with 12th Battalion from 3rd Reinforcements at Gallipoli on 7th May, 1915.

Private Ralph Henshaw was sent to Hospital on 28th June, 1915. He embarked on the Hospital Ship *Clacton* to Mudros with Influenza. Pte Henshaw rejoined his Unit at Anzac on 30th July, 1915.

Private Ralph Henshaw was sent to Hospital on 26th August, 1915. He was admitted to 1st Field Ambulance at Gallipoli with Diarrhoea then transferred to Mudros the same day. Pte Henshaw was transferred to Hospital Ship *Ionian* on 29th August, 1915 with Enteritis & transferred to Malta. Pte Henshaw was admitted to St. George's Hospital, Malta on 1st September, 1915. He was transferred to Hospital Ship Panama on 13th September, 1915 for England.

12th Battalion

The 12th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the A.I.F. during the First World War. Half of the battalion was recruited in Tasmania, a quarter was recruited in South Australia, and a quarter from Western Australia. With the 9th, 10th and 11th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade.

The battalion was raised within three weeks of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving in early December. The 3rd Brigade was the covering force for the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 and so was the first ashore at around 4:30 am. Lieutenant Colonel L. F. Clarke, commander of the 12th Battalion, was killed by a sniper within hours of the landing. The battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the front line of the ANZAC position, and in August contributed two companies to the attack on Lone Pine. It was the only battalion in the brigade to do so. The 12th served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

(Battalion information from The Australian War Memorial)

Private Ralph Henshaw was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, London on 21st September, 1915 with dysentery.

Private Ralph Henshaw was admitted to Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, Middlesex, England on 12th October, 1915 suffering from Shellshock, impairment of vision & hearing & dysentery. His Hospital Admissions form records: *"Was in Gallipoli 18 weeks – was incompletely buried by shell explosion 6 weeks after arrival – was off duty for 1 week and returned on duty for a further period of 12 weeks then developed dysentery – invalided to Malta – 2 weeks – then transferred to England into 3rd London Gen – furlough fortnight then sent to Harefield – complaining of impairment of hearing and of sight – does not hear watch on contact. 18/10/15 – hearing & eyesight bad – headaches."*

A Medical Report was completed on Pte Ray Henshaw, 1608, 12th Battalion on 19th October, 1915 while a patient at No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, Middlesex, England & was suffering from Shell Shock. Pte Henshaw's disability had occurred at Gallipoli on 6th June - *"four months and a fortnight in trenches. Shell exploded near him & was incompletely buried. Developed dysentery; later he complained of impairment of hearing & eyesight. Pte Henshaw's present condition was described as "Headaches; hearing & sight bad, unable to read at night."* The Medical Board recommended that Pte Henshaw was permanently unfit for Active Service but fit for Home Service.

Private Ralph Henshaw was admitted to Sidney Hall Hospital, Weymouth, Dorset, England on 14th March, 1916.

Private Ralph Henshaw died at 3.45 am on 24th March, 1916 at Sidney Hall Hospital, Weymouth, Dorset, England from Bronchial Pneumonia.

A death for Ralph Henshaw, aged 21, was registered in the March quarter, 1916 in the district of Weymouth, Dorset, England.

Private Ralph Henshaw was buried on 27th March, 1916 in Weymouth Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England – Plot number B. "C". 2022 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. A letter to Mr J. Henshaw, father of the late Private Ralph Henshaw, stated that Bugler Henshaw, a cousin of the deceased, attended the funeral which was carried out with full military honours.

Base Records contacted the District Finance Officer, 6th District requesting the current address for the next-of-kin of Private Ralph Henshaw - Mr J. Henshaw. They replied that the current address was Dunlop Avenue, Ormond, Victoria. Base Records advised that communications sent to Mr J. Henshaw at that address had been returned unclaimed. Notices were placed in the newspapers in late 1921 requesting the next-of-kin of the soldiers listed to contact Base Records, Victoria – Pte Ralph Henshaw was one of the soldiers listed.

Private Ralph Henshaw was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Henshaw's father – Mr J. Henshaw, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 then readdressed September, 1921 & Plaque sent February, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Ralph Henshaw – service number 1608, aged 20, of 12th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Elizabeth Mary Henshaw, of 68 Fisher St., East Malvern, Victoria, Australia. Born at Zeehan, Tasmania.

Private R. Henshaw is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 66.



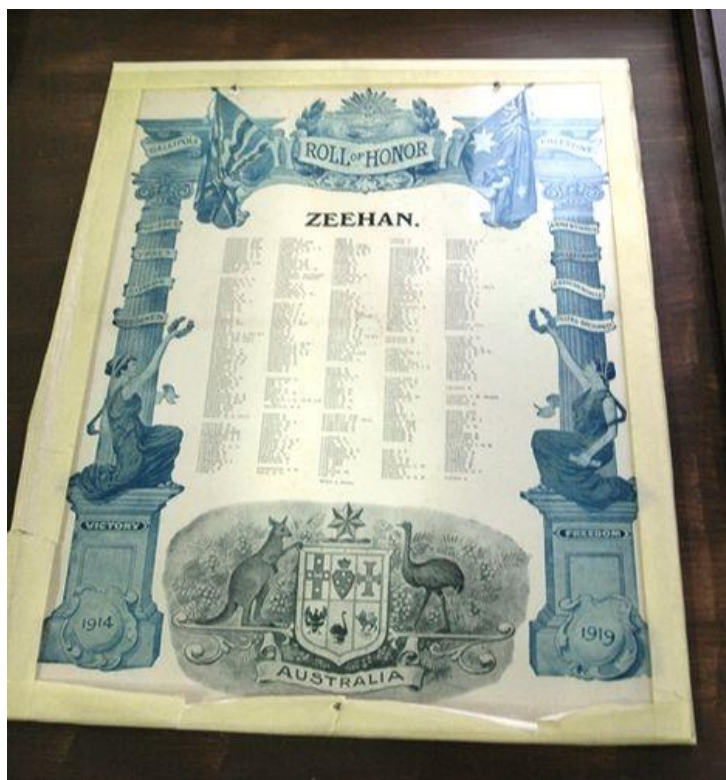
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

R. Henshaw is remembered on St. Luke's Anglican Church Honour Board, Zeehan, Tasmania.



St. Luke's Anglican Church Honour Board, Zeehan (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

R. Henshaw is remembered on the Zeehan Roll of Honor (paper), located in the Zeehan RSL Club, Main Street, Zeehan, Tasmania. Another Zeehan Roll of Honour (paper) is located in West Coast Pioneers Museum, 70 Main Street, Zeehan, Tasmania,



Zeehan Roll of Honor (Photos from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

R. Henshaw is remembered on the Zeehan Roll of Honour (wooden), located in the Zeehan RSL Club, Main Street, Zeehan, Tasmania.



Zeehan Roll of Honour (Photos from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

The Zeehan Cenotaph, located outside the Zeehan RSL Club, Main Street, Zeehan, Tasmania, does not record individual names.



Zeehan Cenotaph (Photo from Monument Australia)

(100 pages of Pte Ralph Henshaw'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 Ralph Henshaw:

Older brother – Clifford Osborne Henshaw – Private, 6794, 6th Australian Infantry Battalion. Embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ulysses* on 25th October, 1916. Pte Clifford Osborne Henshaw was wounded in action in France on 23rd August, 1918 & died of wounds the same day. Buried Heath Cemetery, Picardie, France.



Newspaper Notices

PERSONAL

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Private Ralph Henshaw, third son of Mr John Henshaw, of Norton street, Zeehan, died in hospital at Weymouth, England on March 24. Private Henshaw enlisted from Zeehan in the early stage of the war, and was wounded at Gallipoli.

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times – 31 March, 1916)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

LATEST LIST OF CASUALTIES TASMANIA

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte R. Henshaw, Zeehan, 12th Batt.

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times – 4 April, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

HENSHAW – In loving memory of Private Ralph Henshaw, No. 1608, 12th Battalion, 3rd Brigade, died in England on March 24, 1916.

Days of sadness oft come o'er us,
 Silent tears they often flow;
For memory keeps his face before us,
 Although he died three years ago.

“Sadly missed.”

-Inserted by his loving father, John Henshaw, and sister-in-law, C. Henshaw, Zeehan.

(Zeehan and Dundas Herald, Tasmania – 24 March, 1919)

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 R. Henshaw does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Duty Nobly Done

Weymouth Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England

Weymouth Cemetery contains 78 Commonwealth War Graves – 63 from World War 1 & 15 from World War 2.



Weymouth Cemetery, Weymouth (Photos courtesy of Carol Pollard)



Photo of Private R. Henshaw's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Weymouth Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England.



(Photo courtesy of Carol Pollard)