

Durrington War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



6851 PRIVATE

C. E. H. LEY

11TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

11TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 35

Our Daddy

There is No Death

My Beloved Mizpah

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte C. E. H. Ley is located in Grave Plot # 192
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Cyril Edwin Halse LEY

Cyril Edwin Halse Ley was born on 29th July, 1881 at Fremantle, Western Australia. His birth was registered in 1881 to parents Edwin & Ellen Isabella Ley (nee Stone).

Cyril Edwin Halse Ley married Hilda Jean Edwards at Holy Trinity Church York, Western Australia on 26th September, 1905.

Cyril Edwin Halse Ley was a 35 year old, Business Manager from Perth, Western Australia when he enlisted on 28th September, 1916 with the 11th Infantry Battalion, 22nd Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6851 & his religion was Anglican. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs H. J. Ley, Work, W.A.

Pte Cyril Edwin Halse Ley embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 9th November, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 10th January, 1917. Pte Ley had been admitted to the Ship's Hospital in December, 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 Cyril Edwin Halse Ley was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital with Influenza on 1st February, 1917.

A telegram was sent to Mrs H. J. Ley advising that Private Cyril Ley was in Hospital with Bronchitis – Severe.

Private Cyril Edwin Halse Ley died on 11th February, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Bronchitis. Pte A. Wheatley, 2412, 4/40 Rfts, 10 Training Battalion also died the same day but from Influenza.

A death for Cyril E. H. Ley, aged 35, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Cyril Edwin Halse Ley was buried on 15th February, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 192 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private C. E. H. Ley is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 63.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Cyril Ley is also remembered with a plaque in York Cemetery, Western Australia. His plaque is located with the headstone for Revd. Stephen Brown along with 2 other plaques located with the headstone – one for Georgiana Marianne (nee Morris)(wife of Revd. Brown) & their daughter Rosie & the second plaque for Nelma Halse Gould, daughter of Cyril & Hilda Ley (Nelma was also the great granddaughter of Revd. Stephen & Marianne Brown). (With thanks to Lorraine at [Ozburials](#) for York Cemetery photos).



Cyril Ley's Daughter - Nelma



Plaque for Pte Cyril Ley (above) & main headstone (below) where plaques are located



Pte Cyril Edwin Halse Ley 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 Pte Ley's widow – Mrs H. J. Ley (sent September, 1921 & February, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Cyril Edwin Halse Ley – service number 6851 as being 35 years old & served with 11th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Edwin and Ellen Ley; husband of Hilda Jean Ley, of Ford St, York, Western Australia, Born in Western Australia.

War Pensions were applied for & granted for the following children of the late Pte Cyril Edwin Halse Ley, from 20th April, 1917:

- Ieuan Chaswin Ley – sum of 20/- per fortnight
- Rona Nellmar Ley – sum of 15/- per fortnight
- Nelma Halse Ley – sum of 10/- per fortnight

(66 pages of Pte Cyril Edwin Halse Ley'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





Portrait of Private Cyril Edwin Halse Ley



Newspaper Reports

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

THE ROLL OF HONOUR - 273RD LIST

ILL

C. E. H. Ley, York, seriously

(*Kalgoorlie Miner*, W.A. – Tuesday 20 February, 1917)

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

THE ROLL OF HONOUR – 275TH LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

C. E. H. Ley, York, previously reported seriously ill

(*Kalgoorlie Miner*, W.A. – Wednesday 28 February, 1917)

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH

DIOCESE OF PERTH

.....

Another good worker Mr C. E. H. Ley, of York, has died on active service. To the friends of all these goes out our heartfelt sympathy.

(*The West Australian*, Perth, W.A. – Wednesday 18 April, 1917)

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 at Durrington War Graves Cemetery. 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)

Pte C. E. H. Ley does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Our Daddy There Is No Death My Beloved Mizpah



Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire *(Photo by Dave Healing 2013)*

Photo of Pte C. E. H. Ley's Headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)