

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

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**124 PRIVATE**

**W. O. MANUEL**

**10TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**24TH DECEMBER, 1916 Age 45**

*Thy Will Be Done*

## William Owen MANUEL

William Owen Manuel was born at Stockport, South Australia on 10th October, 1866 to parents William Owen & Lavinia Manuel (nee Freeman).

William Owen Manuel married Elizabeth Florence Webb on 20th May, 1890 in South Australia at the residence of C. Webb, Dublin, South Australia. A son - Ernest Owen Manuel was born on 24th March, 1891. A daughter – Olive Blanche Manuel was born on 21st May, 1893 at Wild Horse Plains, South Australia. A daughter – Ivy Jane Manuel was born on 12th September, 1896 at Wild Horse Plains, South Australia.

Lavinia Manuel, mother of William Owen Manuel, died on 16th August, 1901 at Brompton Park, South Australia.

William Manuel, father of William Owen Manuel, died on 4th September, 1907 in South Australia.

William Owen Manuel was a 45 year old, married (no children – as listed on Attestation Papers), Labourer from Hudson Street, Prospect, South Australia when he enlisted in Adelaide, South Australia on 18th December, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Methodist & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Elizabeth Florence Manuel, of Hudson Street, Prospect, South Australia.

Private William Owen Manuel was posted to “C” Company, 2nd Depot Battalion on 18th December, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 1st Depot Battalion - 16th Reinforcements of 10th Infantry Battalion at Morphettville on 1st January, 1916. Private Manuel was transferred to “A” Company, 43rd Battalion on 7th March, 1916.

Private William Owen Manuel, Service number 124, embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Afric (A19)* on 9th June, 1916 (Casualty Form – Active Service recorded he embarked from Outer Harbour on 9th June, 1916) with the 11th Infantry Brigade, 43rd Infantry Battalion “A” Company. He was admitted to Ship’s Hospital while at Sea on 16th June, 1916. Private Manuel disembarked at Marseilles\*, France on 20th July, 1916. (Note: \* as recorded on Casualty Form – Active Service. There appears to be an error in reporting that this soldier disembarked at Marseilles. From Australia – soldiers (from around 1916) were sent to England first for further training. The next recorded movement after 20th July, 1916 on Casualty Form is 16th September, 1916 where he proceeded overseas to France from England).

### 43rd Battalion

The 3rd Division was raised in Australia early in 1916. The 43rd Battalion was South Australia's contribution to the strength of the division. Along with the 41st, 42nd, and 44th Battalions, plus support troops, it formed the 11th Brigade.

The battalion embarked in June 1916 and, after landing briefly in Egypt, went on to Britain for further training. The battalion arrived on the Western Front in late December.....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

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 William Owen Manuel was marched in to 3rd Training Battalion from 43rd Battalion on 9th September, 1916. He was transferred to 10th Battalion on 9th September, 1916 from No. 12 Camp, Larkhill, Wiltshire, England.

Private William Owen Manuel proceeded overseas to France on 16th September, 1916 to join 10th Battalion from 3rd Training Battalion in England. He was marched in to 1st A.D.B.D. at Etaples, France on 17th September, 1916 from England. Private Manuel proceeded from 1st A.D.B.D. on 30th September, 1916 to join his Battalion. He joined 10th Battalion in the Field on 2nd October, 1916 from Reinforcements.

Private William Owen Manuel was written up for an Offence on 12th October, 1916 in the Field – “*Whilst on Active Service having a dirty rifle when mounting guard at 17.00 on 12/10/16.*” He was awarded 7 days confined to Barracks.

Private William Owen Manuel reported sick on 16th October, 1916. He was admitted to 10th Stationary Hospital at St. Omer, France on 16th October, 1916. He was transferred to Boulogne on 5th November, 1916 with Pyrexia (fever of unknown origin) & embarked for England the same day on Hospital Ship *Jan Breydel*.

### 10th Battalion

The 10th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. The battalion was recruited in South Australia, and together with the 9th, 11th and 12th Battalions, formed the 3rd Brigade.

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After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the 10th Battalion returned to Egypt and, in March 1916, sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bitter trench warfare. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July. After Pozieres the battalion fought at Ypres in Flanders before returning to the Somme for winter.....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private William Owen Manuel was admitted to the County of Middlesex War Hospital on 8th November, 1916 for observation – severe. He was transferred on 20th November, 1916 to 1st (Australian) Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, Middlesex with Trench Feet. Private Manuel was discharged to Weymouth on 23rd November, 1916 after Trench Fever. (Statement of Service form recorded he was marched into No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 22nd November, 1916 from Harefield Hospital).

Base Records advised Mrs E. F. Manuel, Hudson Street, Prospect, South Australia, on 18th November, 1916 that her husband Private William O. Manuel had been admitted to County of Middlesex War Hospital on 8th November. *“Patient under observation severe will promptly advise if anything further received.”*

Private William Owen Manuel was Boarded on 6th December, 1916. Finding:- *“Permanently unfit for General Service but fit for Home service.”*

Private William Owen Manuel reported sick to Sidney Hall Military Hospital, Weymouth on 21st December, 1916 from No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset, England.

Private William Owen Manuel died at 8.45 am on 24th December, 1916 at Sidney Hall Military Hospital, Weymouth, Dorset, England from double Pneumonia & Cardiac Failure. (Hospital Admissions form recorded he died at 8.35 am)



**Sidney Hall Military Hospital, Weymouth**

A death for William O. Manuel, aged 46, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Weymouth, Dorset, England.

Private William Owen Manuel was buried on 28th December, 1916 in Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England – Section “C” Grave 2673.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Plot number III. C. 2673 and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private William Owen Manuel contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of his wife to obtain details of the sufferings, death and burial.

- The O.C. Military Hospital, Weymouth, wrote the following letter regarding Pte W. O. Manuel, 124, 10th Battalion, A.I.F. *“This patient was admitted to the Sidney Hall Hospital, Weymouth on 22.12.16 suffering from extensive consolidation of both lungs. He stated he had been ill for 4 days prior to admission. His condition was exceedingly bad from the commencement and he was immediately put on the danger list. Stimulants and all remedied failed to relieve the patient, who rapidly sank and died of heart failure 44 hours after admission.”*

A War Pension was granted to Elizabeth Florence Manuel, Hudson St, Prospect, widow of the late Private William Owen Manuel, (of “A” Coy. 43rd Batt” as stated on War Pension slip) in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 1st March, 1917. A War Pension was also granted to Ivy Jane Manuel, daughter of the late Private William Owen Manuel in the sum of 10/- per fortnight from 1st March, 1917.

Private William Owen Manuel was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Manuel’s widow – Mrs E. F. Manuel, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent March, 1922 & Plaque sent January, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Owen Manuel – service number 124, aged 45, of 10th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William Manuel; husband of E. F. Manuel, of 19 Hudson St., Prospect, South Australia.

Private W. O. Manuel is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 59.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. O. Manuel is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



**National War Memorial – Adelaide** (Photos by Bilby)

The Prospect Memorial, located on Menzies Crescent, Prospect, South Australia does not list individual names.



**The Prospect Memorial** (Photo from Monument Australia – Roger Johnson)

W. O. Manuel is remembered on the Prospect Roll of Honour located in Prospect RSL Hall of Memory, Wilcox Avenue & Menzies Crescent, Prospect, South Australia.



Prospect Roll of Honour (State Library of South Australia PRG 280/1/18/10)



W. O. Manuel is remembered on the Wild Horse Plains Roll of Honor, located in Mallala Museum, Railway Avenue, Mallala, South Australia.

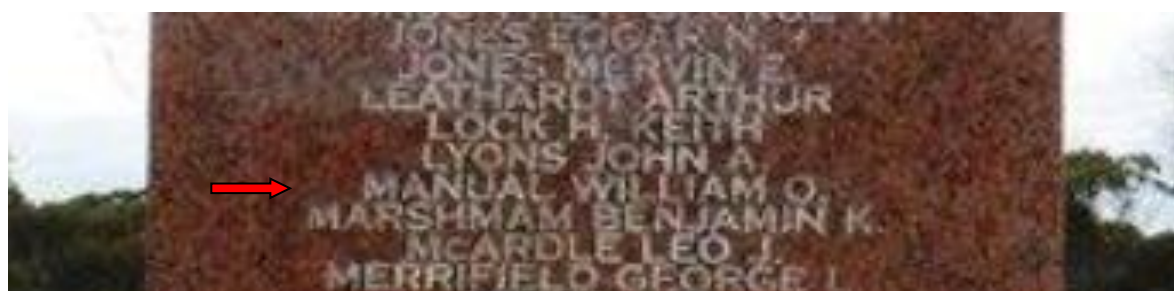


Wild Horse Plains Roll of Honor (Photo from Monument Australia – Laura Parsons)

William O. Manual is remembered on the Dublin War Memorial, located in Pioneer Park, Port Wakefield Road, Dublin, South Australia.



**Dublin War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia – Mary Beaven)



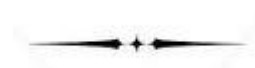


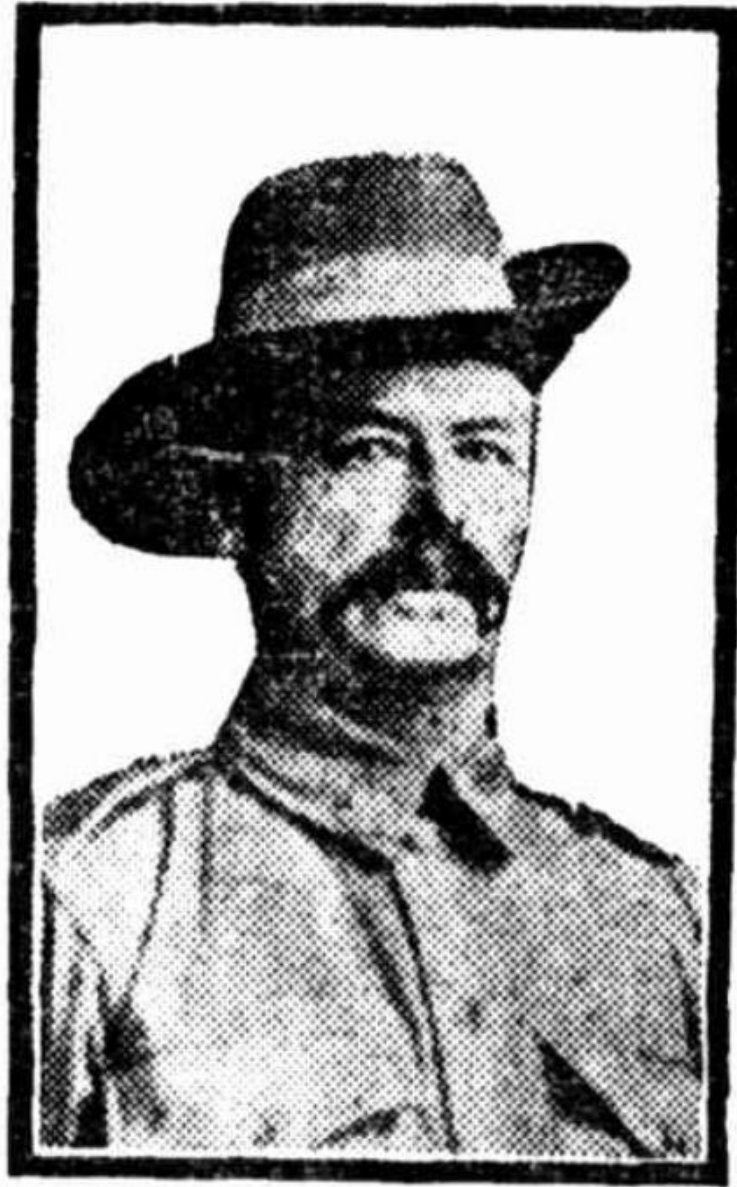


**Dublin War Memorial**

(63 pages of Private William Owen Manuel's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

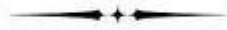
*Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*





Private W. C. Manuel.

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 13 January, 1917)



### **Newspaper Notices**

#### **ON ACTIVE SERVICE**

Mrs W. O. Manuel, of Hudson-street, Prospect Park, ahs received news that her husband, Private W. O. Manuel, was admitted to County Middlesex Hospital on November 8 in a serious condition, but ti was not stated whether he was wounded or sick.

(*The Express and Telegraph*, Adelaide, South Australia – 20 November, 1916)

## **THE ROLL OF HONOR**

### **244th CASUALTY LIST**

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Seriously Sick

124 Pte W. O. MANUEL, Prospect

*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 28 November, 1916)*

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### **DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE**

MANUEL – On the 24th December, Private W. O. Manuel, dearly beloved husband of Elizabeth F. Manuel, Hudson-street, Prospect, died of sickness in England.

*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 3 January, 1917) & (Chronicle, Adelaide, Sth Aust – 6 January, 1917)*

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### **Local and District War Items**

Pte W. O. Manuel, formerly a resident of Border Town, has died of wounds in England.

*(The Narracoorte Herald, South Australia – 9 January, 1917)*

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## **THE ROLL OF HONOR**

### **262nd CASUALTY LIST**

Died – Cause not Stated

124 Pte W. O. MANUEL, Prospect (Dec. 24)

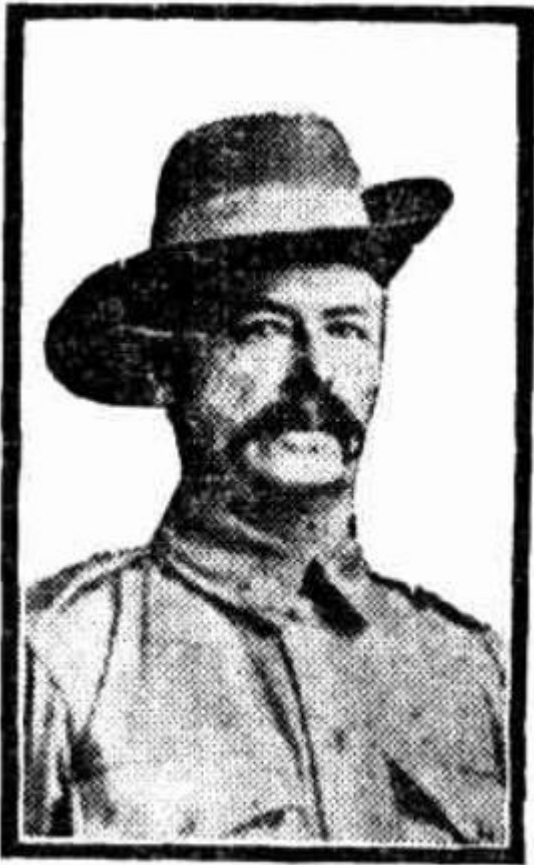
*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 12 January, 1917)*

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL**

### **THE LATE PRIVATE W. O. MANUEL**

Private W. O. Manuel, who died in the Sydney Hall Military Hospital, London, on December 24, 1916, enlisted on December 13, 1915 and left South Australia on June 9. He left England for France on September 15, and was admitted to the County Middlesex Hospital on November 8. Previous to enlisting he lived at Prospect for almost two



Private W. C. Manuel.

years. He had been engaged in farming at Wild Horse Plains, Bordertown, and Murrayville. A widow, one son, and two daughters are left.

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 13 January, 1917)

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### OUR FALLEN HEROES

The following further deaths of members of the S.A. forces are reported:-....Pte W. O. Manuel, Prospect (Dec. 24) ...

(*Southern Cross*, Adelaide, South Australia – 19 January, 1917)

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### HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

MANUEL – In memory of Private W. O. (Will) Manuel, who died in England, December 24, 1916.

His duty nobly done.

-Inserted by his aunt Alice and cousins, Dorrie Candy and Hilda Lynch.

MANUEL- In loving memory of our dear husband and father, Private William Owen Manuel, who died December 24, 1916, in England.

Stay the current of thy tears,  
Be comforted. Why weepest thou?  
He fell a hero in the fight,

For King and country and the right.

-Inserted by his loving wife and daughters.

MANUEL – In loving memory of our dear father, Private William Owen Manuel, who died December 24, 1916, in England.

You are not forgotten father dear,  
For true love never dies;  
One dearest spot on earth to us  
Is where dear father lies.

-Inserted by his loving son and daughter-in-law, Ernest and Mary and grandchildren.

*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 24 December, 1917)*

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### **HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR**

MANUEL- In loving memory of our dear father, No. 124 Private William Owen Manuel, who died of illness in hospital in England, December 24, 1916.

Two years have passed, dear father,  
Your face we cannot see;  
But let this little token tell  
We still remember thee.

-Inserted by his loving son and daughter-in-law, Ernest and Mary and grandchildren.

*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 24 December, 1918) & (Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia –28 December, 1918)*

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### 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 21st July, 1921, to Mrs E. F. Manuel, Hudson Street, Prospect, South Australia, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her husband, the late No, 124 Private W. O. Manuel, 10th 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.

Private W. O. Manuel does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Thy Will Be Done*

## 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

*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.*



**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 £5,600 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.

**3**

THESE BOYS BEING ASSISTED BY ACUTT BROTHERS

THE AUSTRALIAN RECOVERY CAMPS

ROYAL JUBILEE HALL

PALLADIUM THEATRE

ARCADIA

THE TOWN OF WEYMOUTH

THE ROYAL PALM COURT

WEYMOUTH, ENGLAND, 1918. AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS VISITING AN OPEN AIR THEATRE AT A YMCA ON THE ESPLANADE.

#weyforward

The National Lottery

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



(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, Littlehampton, Chichester 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.



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.



### 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.



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	

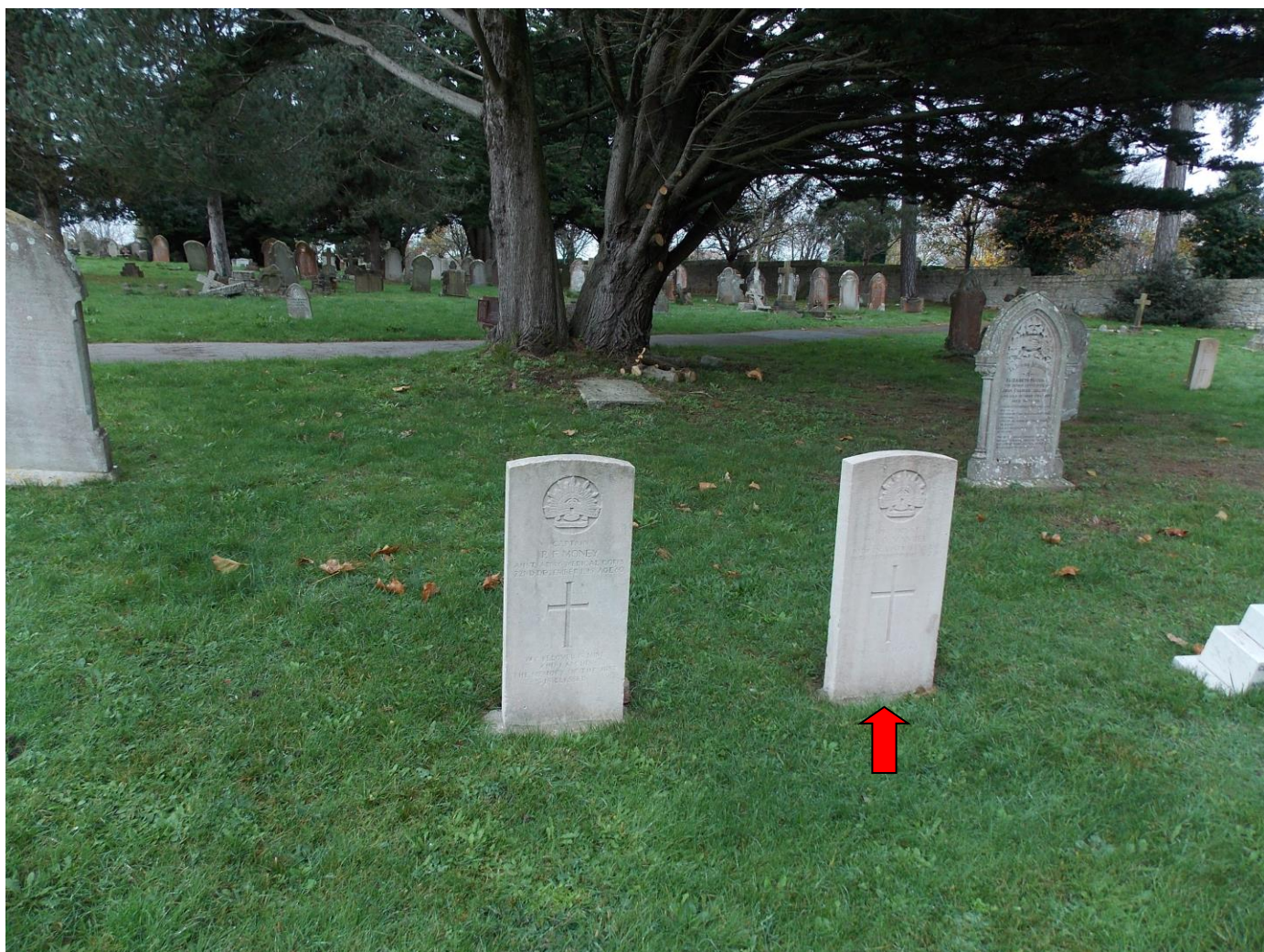




Photo of Private W. O. Manuel's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England.



*(Photo from Find a Grave – Janice Dennis)*



**Captain Money (left) & Private Manuel (right)** (Photo courtesy of Allan Wood)