

**Efford Cemetery,
Plymouth, Devon, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



6434 PRIVATE

A. MATHESON

28TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

19TH APRIL, 1917

Andrew MATHESON

Andrew Matheson was born in Norway around 1891.

Andrew Matheson was aged 25 years & 10 months, single & a Farm Manager from Gutha, Western Australia when he enlisted at Blackboy Hill, Western Australia on 17th November, 1916 (date as per Embarkation Roll. One copy of the Attestation papers were signed on 24th October, 1916 & another copy was dated 8th November, 1916. His Medical Examination was completed on 8th November, 1916 at Pintharuka, Western Australia) with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his friend – J. H. Kendall, Sawyers' Valley, Western Australia. He stated on his Attestation Papers that he had no relatives alive.

Private Andrew Matheson was posted to No. 1 Depot Company at Geraldton on 8th November, 1916 then transferred to No. 2 Depot Company at Northam on 11th November, 1916. He was transferred to 94 Depot Battalion on 17th November, 1916 for recruit training. Private Matheson was transferred to 18th Reinforcements of 28th Battalion on 29th December, 1916.

Private Andrew Matheson, Service number 6434, embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Persic* (A34) on 29th December, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 28th Infantry Battalion, 18th Reinforcements. He was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 9th February, 1917 with Pulmonary Tuberculosis & discharged on 28th February, 1917 on disembarkation. He disembarked at Devonport, England on 3rd March, 1917.

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 Andrew Matheson was admitted to No. 1 Section, Keppel ____ on 3rd March, 1917 with Tubercule of Lung. He was transferred to Military Hospital at Devonport, England on 12th March, 1917 with Tubercular Peritonitis.

28th Battalion

The 28th Battalion was raised at Blackboy Camp in Western Australia on 16 April 1915 from recruits previously earmarked for the 24th Battalion, which was instead being raised in Victoria.....

Base Records advised Mr J. H. Kendall, Sawyer Valley, Western Australia, on 9th April, 1917 that Private Andrew Matheson had been admitted to Hospital on 29th March with Tubercle of Lung – Severe.

Private Andrew Matheson died at 7.55 pm on 19th April, 1917 at Military Hospital, Devonport, England from Tubercular Peritonitis (as per Hospital Admissions form & Morning State of Sick form). (Note: some forms in the Service Record file recorded the cause of death as Tubercular Appendicitis.)

A death for Andrew Matheson, aged 27, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Devonport, Devon, England.

Private Andrew Matheson was buried at 10 am on 23rd April, 1917 in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England – Grave No. 4931. This is now recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as Plot number Church C. 4921.

From the burial report of Private Andrew Matheson - Coffin was Military – Brass fittings. Flowers were supplied by the Nursing Staff of the Military Hospital, Devonport, per S/Sgt. Vidgen, R.A.M.C. Military Honours and Firing Party supplied by the 3rd Battalion, Devon Regiment. Funeral attended by No. 1057 Sgt P. A. Kennedy, Administrative Headquarters, Australian Imperial Force.

Private Andrew Matheson requested in his Will dated 23rd February, 1917 that the whole of his personal estate be bequeathed to John H. Kendall, of Sawyers Valley, Western Australia. John H. Kendall was also appointed as Executor.

The personal effects of the late Private Andrew Matheson were sent to Mr J. H. Kendall, Sayers Valley, Western Australia on 27th August, 1917.

Mr J. H. Kendall, Sawyers Valley, Western Australia, wrote to Base Records on 11th May, 1918 requesting the Death Certificate of Private A. Matheson.

Base Records replied to Mr J. H. Kendall on 21st May, 1918 enclosing a certificate of death of the late No. 6434 Private Andrew Matheson, 28th Battalion.

Base Records contacted Mr J. H. Kendall, Sawyers Valley, Western Australia, on 23rd May, 1921 stating that he was registered on the records of the late No. 6434 Private A. Matheson, 28th Battalion, as next of kin but desired to know if there were any blood relatives alive due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

John H. Kendall replied to Base Records on 2nd June, 1921 advising "*...Mr Matheson told me the only relation he has that may be alive, was a sister; but she left the Old Country many years ago, and went to America, he never was able to find any trace of her, so he thought she to may be dead. So before leaving the West for the front he left me as his only friend, and next of kin, as you records show. Please inform me as early as possible, if I am entitled to his gratuity Bond, as the applications have got to be lodged by the end of this month....*"

Base Records replied to Mr J. H. Kendall on 17th June, 1921 thanking him for his information. "*...As regards the war gratuity of the late No. 6434 Private A. Matheson, 28th Battalion, unless you can prove dependence upon the deceased soldier, you have no claim whatever, and I can only suggest that you obtain the necessary blank form from the nearest Post Office, and submit in keeping with the instructions contained thereon.*"

Private Andrew Matheson 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 Matheson's next of kin. As there were no known relatives – the War Medals etc were sent to Untraceables.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Andrew Matheson – service number 6434, of 28th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private A. Matheson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 114.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

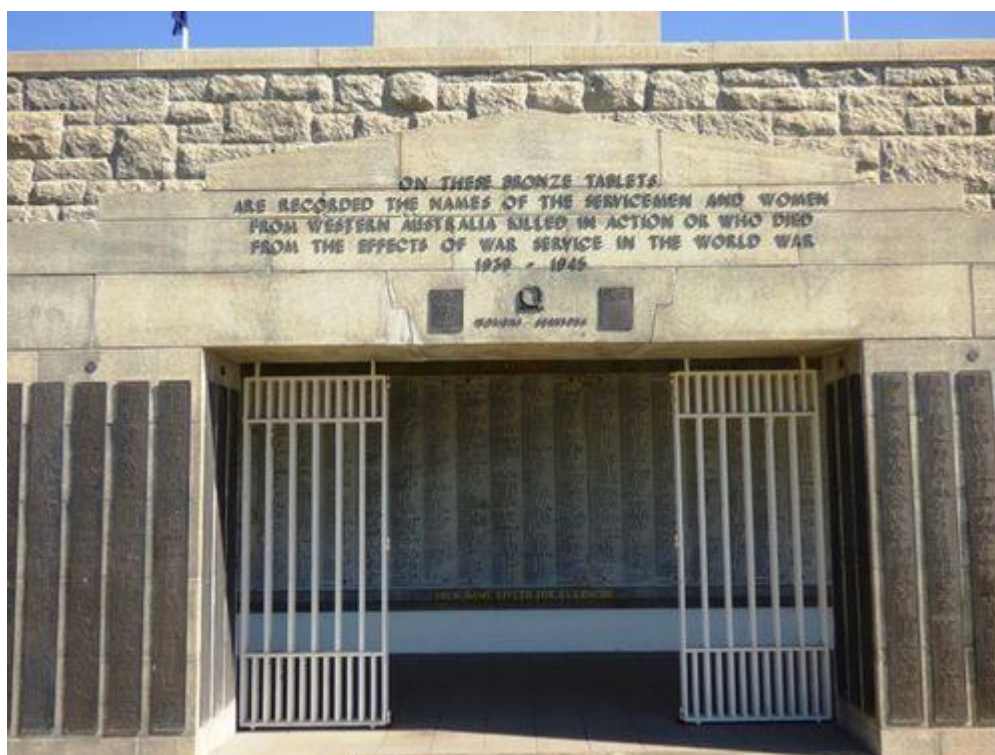
A. Matheson is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica 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)





28th Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

(61 pages of Private Andrew Matheson'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

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

291st CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

A. Matheson (Sawyer's Valley), previously reported seriously ill

(Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 11 May, 1917)

PROBATES AND ADMINISTRATIONS

Probates

...Andrew Matheson, late of Sawyer's Valley, to John Henry Kendall, £41 11s 2d....

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 20 July, 1918)

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 A. Matheson does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

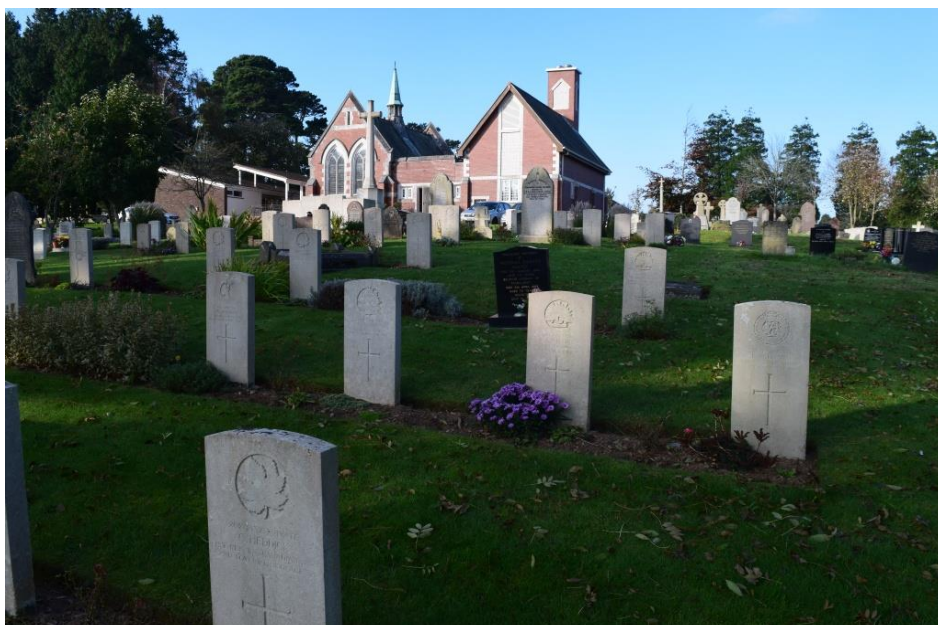
Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England

During the First World War, Plymouth, Devonport and Stonehouse contained between them the Royal Dockyard, Royal Naval Barracks (known as H.M.S. Vivid), the Royal Marine Barracks of the Plymouth Division, and naval and military hospitals. For the duration of the war, Devonport was made headquarters of the Auxiliary Patrol Area. Plymouth was a naval station second only to Portsmouth during the Second World War. Devonport was also an important military station and there was a R.A.F station at Mount Batten, opposite Plymouth. PLYMOUTH (EFFORD) CEMETERY contains 338 scattered burials of the First World War. The 109 Second World War burials, including 5 unidentified, are also scattered apart from a small group in Section C, in a plot set aside for service burials that was actually little used. The Commission also maintains five non-war burials within the cemetery and 12 war graves of other nationalities, most of them Greek merchant seamen. PLYMOUTH CITY CREMATORIUM is situated in Plymouth (Efford) Cemetery and 61 servicemen and women of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there are commemorated on a screen wall set into a recess in the hedge behind the Cross of Sacrifice.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth *(Photo from CWGC)*



War Graves in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth *(Photo from CWGC)*



War Graves in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth *(Photos courtesy of Rebecca Smith)*



Photo of Private A. Matheson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Cliff Barry)