

**Milton Cemetery,  
Portsmouth, Hampshire  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**227 DRIVER**

**A. MELVILLE**

**24TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**28TH AUGUST, 1918 Age 21**

*Too Dearly Loved*

*To Be Forgotten*

## Andrew MELVILLE

Andrew Isle Melville was born at 117 Peel Street North, Ballarat East, Victoria in 1897 to parents Andrew & Sophia Melville (nee Langley).

Andrew Melville attended Black Hill State School, Bendigo, Victoria.

Andrew Melville was an 18 year old, single, Butcher from 117 Peel Street North, Ballarat East, Victoria when he enlisted on 15th March, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 227 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Sophie Melville of 117 Peel Street North, Ballarat East, Victoria. As Andrew Melville was under the age of 21, the A.I.F required consent from the parents for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service abroad. Sophia Circuit Melville signed her consent on 11th March, 1915 for her son to join the Forces for Military training.

Private Andrew Melville was posted to Depot on 15th March, 1915 for recruit training.

Private Andrew Melville embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 10th May, 1915 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 24th Infantry Battalion "A" Company.

*(Note: No records show where Pte Melville disembarked & nothing was reported regarding his movements until 10th January, 1916, though "proceeded to join M.E.F. Gallipoli Peninsula 30/8/15" was stamped on the top of his Casualty Form – Active Service then crossed out.)*

Private Andrew Melville rejoined his Unit (Transport Section, 24th Battalion) at Tel-el-Kebir on 10th January, 1916.

Private Andrew Melville was admitted to Australian Casualty Clearing Station at Ferry Post with Influenza on 4th March, 1916. He was admitted to 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station at Ismalia on 11th March, 1916.

Private Andrew Melville proceeded from Alexandria on 20th March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 27th March, 1916.

Private Andrew Melville was appointed as Driver on 13th September, 1916 while in Belgium.

Driver Andrew Melville was admitted to 17th Casualty Clearing Station on 5th October, 1916 while in Belgium. He was evacuated sick on 5th October, 1916 & transferred to Ambulance Train. Driver Melville was admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 6th October, 1916 with "I.C.T. Buttock". He embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St. Patrick* on 8th October, 1916.

Driver Andrew Melville was admitted to Bevan Military Hospital, Sandgate, Kent (affiliated with Shorncliffe Military Hospital) on 8th October, 1916. He was transferred to 2nd Auxiliary Hospital ("I.C.T. Buttock slight") on 26th October, 1916. Driver Melville was discharged from 2nd Auxiliary Hospital to Command Depot at Weymouth on 4th November, 1916.

Driver Andrew Melville proceeded overseas to France on 24th January, 1917 on *Princess Clementine* via Folkestone from Infantry Draft Depot.

Driver Andrew Melville was marched into 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 25th January, 1917.

Driver Andrew Melville rejoined his Battalion in France on 5th February, 1917.

Driver Andrew Melville was sent to Hospital sick on 22nd March, 1917. He was admitted to 2nd Australian Field Ambulance then transferred to 2nd Divisional Rest Station with "S.T.A. foot." Driver Melville was discharged to duty on 1st April, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion on 2nd April, 1917.

Driver Andrew Melville was taken to Hospital sick on 6th April, 1917. He was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance then transferred to 45th Casualty Clearing Station with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). Driver Melville was transferred to Ambulance Train on 8th April, 1917 & admitted to 10th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 9th April, 1917. He was transferred & admitted to 2nd Convalescent Depot at Buchy on 12th April, 1917 then

transferred to 11th Convalescent Depot on 22nd April, 1917. Driver Melville was discharged to Base Depot on 8th May, 1917.

Driver Andrew Melville was marched in to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 11th May, 1917. He rejoined his Battalion on 13th May, 1917.

Driver Andrew Melville proceeded on leave to England on 1st February, 1918 & rejoined from leave on 18th February, 1918.

Driver Andrew Melville had been Absent without leave from midnight on 16th February, 1918 until 7.30 am on 18th February, 1918. He was awarded 14days Field Punishment NO. 2 & forfeited a total of 16 days' pay.

Driver Andrew Melville was sent sick to Hospital on 31st July, 1918. He was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance on 31st July, 1918 with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). Driver Melville was transferred & admitted to 5th Casualty Clearing Station on 3rd August, 1918 then transferred to Ambulance Train on 4th August, 1918. Driver Melville was admitted to 16th USA General Hospital at Le Treport on 5th August, 1918 with P.U.O. Driver Melville embarked for England on 11th August, 1918.

## **24th Battalion**

The 24th Battalion was raised in a hurry. The original intent was to raise the fourth battalion of the 6th Brigade from the "outer states", but a surplus of recruits at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria lead to a decision being made to raise it there. The battalion was formed during the first week of May 1915, and sailed from Melbourne at the end of that week.

Training shortfalls were made up in Egypt in July and August, and on 4 September 1915 the Battalion went ashore at Gallipoli. It spent the next 16 weeks sharing duty in the Lone Pine trenches with the 23rd Battalion. The fighting at Lone Pine was so dangerous and exhausting that battalions rotated every day. While the bulk of the battalion was at Gallipoli, a small party of 52, trained as packhorse handlers, served with the British force in Salonika.

The Battalion was reunited in Egypt in early 1916 and proceeded to France in March. It took part in its first major offensive around Pozieres and Mouquet Farm in July and August 1917. The Battalion got little rest during the bleak winter of 1916-17 alternating between the front and labouring tasks. When patrolling no-man's land the men of the 24th adopted a unique form of snow camouflage - large white nighties bought in Amiens.

In May 1917 the battalion participated in the successful, but costly, second battle of Bullecourt. It was involved for only a single day ' 3 May ' but suffered almost 80 per cent casualties. The AIF's focus for the rest of the year was the Ypres sector in Belgium, and the 24th's major engagement there was the seizure of Broodseinde Ridge.

Like many AIF battalions, the 24th was very weak at the beginning of 1918, but still played its part in turning back the German offensive in April. When the Allies took to the offensive, the 24th fulfilled supporting roles during the battles of Hamel and Amiens. At Mont St Quentin, however, it played a major role by recapturing the main German strong point atop the summit on 1 September.

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

Driver Andrew Melville was admitted to 5th Southern General Hospital (Milton Division), Portsmouth, Hampshire, England on 13th August, 1918 with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin).

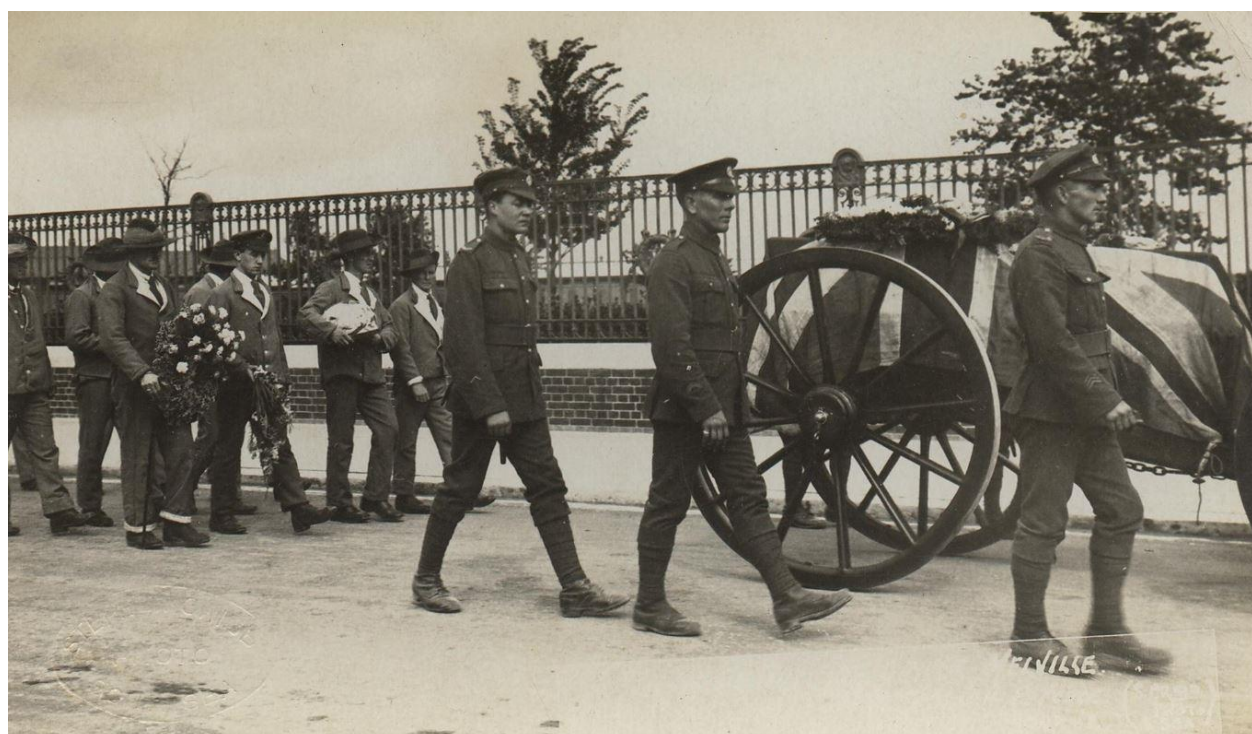
Driver Andrew Melville died at 10.15 am on 28th August, 1918 at 5th Southern General Hospital (Milton Section), Portsmouth, Hampshire, England from Gastric Ulcer perforation.

A death for Andrew Melville, aged 21, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Portsmouth, Hampshire, England.

Driver Andrew Melville was buried at 2 pm on 31st August, 1918 in Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England – Section – 12th Row, Plot number 424 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Driver Andrew Melville - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the "Union Jack", and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent by the following: Nursing Staff, 5th Southern General Hpl.; Miss K. White; Sister Smith, 5th Southern General Hpl., and an artificial wreath from Comrades of B. 2 Ward. A large number of patients and Sisters and Nurses from the Hospital attended the funeral, which was conducted by Rev. J. M. Young. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral. Names of relatives or friends present at the funeral – Friend – Miss K. White, 90 St. Mary's Road, Kingston, Portsmouth.*



**Funeral Procession of the late Driver Andrew Melville** (Photos courtesy of Tim Fitzgerald)





The above 3 photos of the Funeral Procession of the late Driver Andrew Melville were taken by Private 4028 George Donohue M.M., 39<sup>th</sup> Battalion, A.I.F., who was recuperating at Portsmouth Military Hospital at the time.

(Photos courtesy of Tim Fitzgerald – grandson of Pte George Donohue, M.M.)

Corporal Charles Nelson, 23<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, A.I.F. wrote the following letter about his friend – Driver Andrew Isle “Snowy” Melville:

*He was so very nice and such a beautiful boy, and I cannot tell you how deeply we all feel his illness and death. I saw him the evening before he died...and the colonel told me that the moment the trouble came he was operated on. The funeral was done with all reverence. Australian and British boys attended, and there were lovely flowers. The whole ward was deeply grieved about 'Snowy' passing away...'*

*Lady Hughes, of Norman Court, Southsea, Hampshire, England, expressed her sympathy to Sophie Melville of Ballarat after the death of her son Driver Andrew Melville on 28 August 1918. 'Snowy' Melville died of complications from a perforated gastric ulcer. Included in the letter was a series of photographs that were taken of the young soldier's burial in the Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth.*

*'...He would never complain, and I think that if he had he would have been alive today. When at length he did complain it was too late to do him any good; but I can sincerely say that the doctors, sisters and nurses did everything possible for him, and one sister, Sister Davis, calls for special mention.*

*Quite a lot of flowers were sent by the sisters, nurses and patients of the different wards, and those in our ward sent an artificial wreath beneath a glass shield and intertwined with his battalion colours...'*

(Transcript of letter provided by Tim Fitzgerald)

A letter was sent from Base Records on 21st April, 1920 to Mrs S. Melville, mother of the late Driver Andrew Melville, giving information regarding the funeral & burial of her late son. Included in the letter was advice that her son's remains had been exhumed from Grave No. 424, 12th Row in Milton Cemetery & had been re-interred in Plot H. Row 19. Grave No. 12 in the same cemetery. It was explained that *“this work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain”*.

A letter was sent from Base Records on 1st July, 1925 to Mrs S. Melville, 117 Peel Street North, Ballarat East, Victoria enclosing a photo of her late son's grave in Milton Cemetery & a general view of the Cemetery with Mr Sanderson (of 33 Exeter Road, Southsea, England who voluntarily attended to the care of the graves). The letter was returned to Base Records marked “Gone – no readdress.”



*(Photos located in Service Record file of Driver Andrew Melville)*



**Photo of re-interred 11 Australian Soldiers in Milton Cemetery  
with Mr Sanderson who voluntarily attended to the care of the graves**

Base Records contacted Mrs S. Melville, mother of the late Driver Andrew Melville, on 21st September, 1920, asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself, in particular was his father 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. Mrs S. Melville replied that the father of the late Driver Andrew Melville had “*been dead a number of years.*”

Driver Andrew Melville was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver Melville’s mother - Mrs S. Melville, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver Andrew Melville – service number 227, aged 21, of 24th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Andrew and Sophie Melville, of 117 Peel Street north, Ballarat, Victoria, Australia.

Driver A. Melville is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 102.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

A. Melville is remembered on the Ballarat Memorial Wall & Rotunda located at Sturt Street and Learmonth Avenue, Ballarat, Victoria.



**Ballarat Memorial Wall & Rotunda** (Photo from Carol's Headstone photos)

Andrew Melville is also remembered on the Ballarat Avenue of Honour (1917-1919) where almost 4,000 trees were planted to represent the number of men and women from the Ballarat district who served in World War 1. The trees were planted at intervals of 12 metres along 22 kms of the Ballarat-Burrembeet Road. The Ballarat Avenue of Honour is famous for being the first avenue of its kind in Australia. Tree number 428 was planted by Miss D. Webb in honour of Driver Melville.



**The Arch of Victory** was built as an entrance to the Avenue of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia)

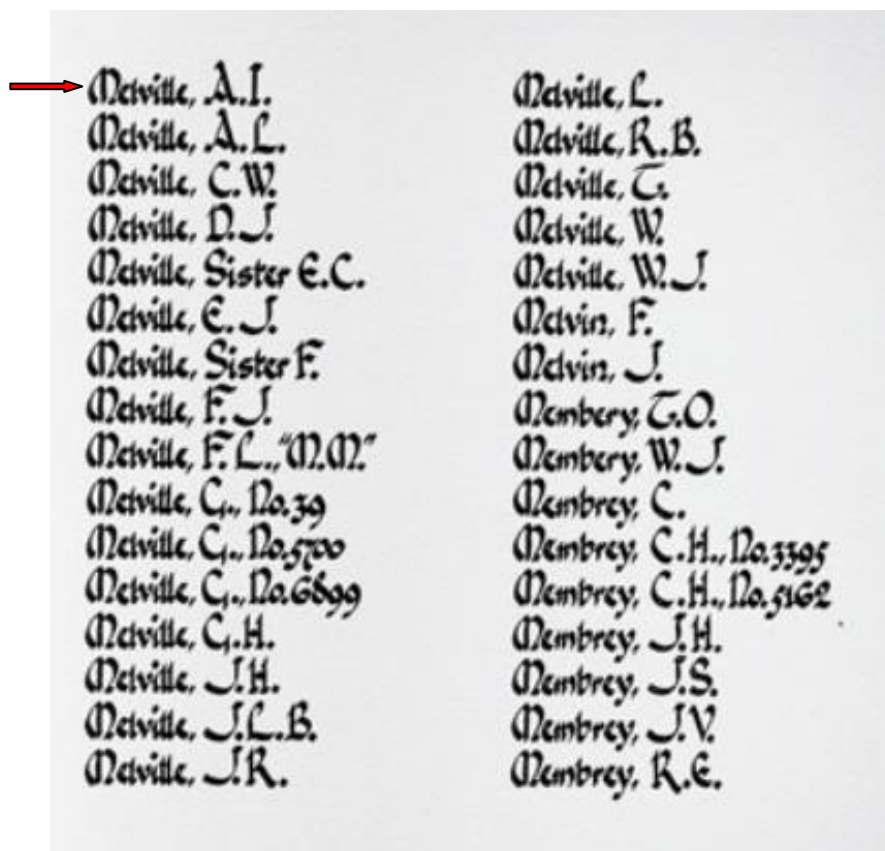




**Ballarat Avenue of Honour**

*(Photo from Victorian War Heritage Inventory)*

A. I. Melville is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.





(62 pages of Driver Andrew Melville'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*



*(Photo courtesy of Tim Fitzgerald)*

## **Newspaper Notices**

### **DRIVER A. MELVILLE**

Mrs Melville, of 117 Peel street north, has received information from her son Dvr A. Melville, of the 24th Battalion transports, stating he has undergone three operations. He is in the Bevan Military Hospital, Sandgate, Kent, England, where he states he receives splendid treatment.

*(The Ballarat Courier, Victoria – 15 December, 1916)*

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### **DIED ON SERVICE**

MELVILLE – AT the 5th Southern General Hospital, on the 28th August, 1918, Dvr. Andrew Melville, 24th Battalion Transports, dearly loved only son and brother of Sophia C. and Beatrice M., of 117 Peel street north, Ballarat East, aged 21 years.

Duty nobly done.

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 September, 1918)*

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**Fallen Soldiers Honored** – The flags at the City and Town Halls were flown at the half-mast yesterday morning to mark a civic tribute of respect to the memory of Ballarat soldiers whose deaths on active service were received during the week. The names of the fallen are: Lieut. Charles M. Findlay, Corporal Joseph H. Scott, Driver Andrew Melville, Privates Walter Chibnall and William Ritchie.

*(The Ballarat Star, Victoria – 9 September, 1918)*

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### **THE ROLL OF HONOR**

#### **BALLARAT AN DISTRICT MEN**

### **DRIVER A. MELVILLE**



Dvr. A. Melville, who died on active service on 28th August, at the 5th Southern General Hospital, was the only son of Mrs S. Melville, and was the second grandson to enlist of Mr J. C. Langley, of 117 Peel street. He left Australia on the 8th May, 1915, with the 24th Battalion, and was a transport driver to his company. The deceased was educated at Black Hill State School, and he attended the Black Hill Sunday School, where he was held in the highest esteem.

*(The Ballarat Courier, Victoria – 9 September, 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)*

Driver A. Melville does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Too Dearly Loved To Be Forgotten*

### **Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England**

Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth contains 426 Commonwealth War Graves – 192 relating to World War 1 & 234 relating to World War 2. There are 12 Australian War Graves from World War 1 in this cemetery.

It was opened in 1911, and contains war graves of both World Wars. The 1914-1918 burials are mainly in Plot 1. After the war a Cross of Sacrifice was erected on the northern side of the chapel in honour of all the servicemen buried in the cemetery. The 1939-1945 War burials are widely spread throughout the cemetery.

*(Information from CWGC)*



**Australian War Graves in Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth** *(Photo by Mr Peter Bennett)*

Photo of Driver A. Melville's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers)*



**Cemetery Chapel at Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth** *(Photo by Basher Eyre)*