

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

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1987 PRIVATE

A. MOORE

59TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

26TH SEPTEMBER, 1916 Age 22

Simply To The Cross I Cling

Allan MOORE

Allan Moore was born in 1894 at Bagshot, Victoria to parents Jonathan Dovey Moore & Alicia Moore (nee Stanley). [His place of birth was listed as Huntly on Victorian Births, Death & Marriages website & listed as Bendigo on Attestation Papers.]

Allan Moore attended school at Bagshot & Marong, Victoria.

Allan Moore was a 20 year old, single, Miner, from Dudley, Victoria when he enlisted on 12th January, 1915 at Wonthaggi, Victoria with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1987 & his religion was Protestant. His next of kin was listed as Alice Moore, Dudley, Victoria.

As Allan Moore 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. The following letter dated 12th January, 1915 by Jno. D. Moore reads: *"I hereby give my consent to my son Allan Moore volunteering for active service in the Expeditionary Force."*

Private Allan Moore was posted to Depot on 12th January, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 5th Reinforcements of 8th Battalion on 1st March, 1915.

Private Allan Moore embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Hororata* (A20) on 17th April, 1915 with the 8th Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements.

Private Allan Moore joined 8th Battalion at Anzac on 17th July, 1915.

Private Allan Moore was admitted to No. 2 Field Ambulance Dressing Station at Anzac on 7th August, 1915 with a bullet in head. He was transferred the same day to Casualty Clearing Station.

War Diary – 8th Battalion

Anzac

6th August, 1915:

As a prelude to major operations the 1st Division attacked certain points. Lone Pine taken by 1st Bde but 6th Battalion failed to take German Officers Trench lost over 100 men in 10 minutes. Terrific bombardment all afternoon and night.

7th August, 1915:

Fight continued NZ division working round on left with 1x Army Corps effecting a landing further north at Suvla Bay. 8th Battalion trenches subjected to terrific shell fire over 300 shells day & night. Trenches levelled. "C" Coy lost heavil 18 killed 53 wounded. Lieutenant Glasson killed an excellent officer.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Allan Moore was admitted to No. 2 Field Ambulance at Camp Sarpi, Lemnos on 19th November, 1915 with Jaundice. He was transferred to No. 3 Australian General Hospital at Mudros on the same day. Private Moore was transferred to 27th General Hospital on 2nd December, 1915.

Private Allan Moore was discharged to Anzac Base at Mudros on 13th December, 1915 from Lowland Casualty Clearing Station. He was classified as A (fit for active service) & rejoined 8th Battalion on 24th December, 1915.

Private Allan Moore disembarked at Alexandria on 7th January, 1916 from *Empress of Britain* (after the evacuation of Gallipoli).

8th Battalion

The 8th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade..... and in August the 2nd Brigade fought at the battle of Lone Pine. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Mrs J. D. Moore, Hicksborough, via Wonthaggi, Victoria, wrote to Base Records on 19th February, 1916 stating “*I feel anxious regarding my son Private Allan Moore, who was ill with yellow jaundice in the Third Australian General Hospital Mudros. The last letter we had from him was on the seventh of December 1915. I see my todays Age, that a Private A. Moore was in the Malta hospital..... Would you kindly let me know if there is a way of finding out how he is.*”

Base Records replied on 28th February, 1916 stating “*...there is on the records a No. 1987 Private Allan Moore, 5th Reinforcements, 8th Battalion, who enlisted at Wonthaggi on 12th January, 1915, stating his age at that date to be 20 years and 5 months, occupation, miner. Next-of-kin is shown as Alicia Moore, Dudley, Victoria. Should this soldier be identical with your son, I have to inform you that no report to any effect has been received concerning him, but if you will forward to this office any documentary evidence to the contrary, I will, upon receipt of same, if such action is warranted, cause enquiries to be instituted and the result communicated to you. Assuming that this soldier is your son, is it to be understood that you are identical with next-of-kin given above ?*”

Private Allan Moore was transferred from 8th Battalion at Serapeum to 60th Battalion. He was taken on strength of 60th Battalion on 24th February, 1916 at Tel-el-Kebir.

60th Battalion

The 60th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 24 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 8th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. The majority of both groups were Victorians. The new battalion formed part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Allan Moore was transferred to 59th Battalion on 15th March, 1916 & was taken on strength of 59th Battalion on the same day at Tel-el-Kebir.

Private Allan Moore embarked from Alexandria on 18th June, 1916 on *Kinfauns Castle* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 29th June, 1916.

Private Allan Moore was wounded in action in France on 19th July, 1916. He was admitted to No. 1 Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 22nd July, 1916 with G.S.W. (Gunshot wound/s) to Back, Arm & Legs. Private Moore was transferred to Ambulance Train then admitted to 32nd Stationary Hospital at Wimereux on 22nd July, 1916 with shrapnel wound/s to left Arm & Left Thigh. He embarked for England from Boulogne on 24th July, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Cambria* with Shrapnel wounds to left Thigh.

59th Battalion

The 59th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 21 February 1916 as part of the expansion of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits came from the veteran 7th Battalion, and the other half were fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 7th, the 59th was predominantly composed of men from rural Victoria. The battalion became part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

On 19 July 1916, the 59th became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front, less than a month after it arrived in France. The battle of Fromelles was a disaster for the 59th. Attacking in the first wave, the 59th suffered heavy casualties at the hands of German machine-gunners, and its advance faltered far short of its objective. Despite grievous losses, the units of the 5th Division manned the front line around Fromelles for a further two months.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 59th Battalion

19th July, 1916:

12 noon – Heavy bombardment of enemy lines. 60th Battn relieved half our front from PINNEY AVENUE inclusive.

7 pm – 59th Battn attacked enemy position in four waves. First wave going over parapet at 6.45 pm other three waves following at five minute intervals. Attack did not penetrate enemy trenches being held up by intense rifle and machine gun fire approximately 100 yards from enemy front line.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

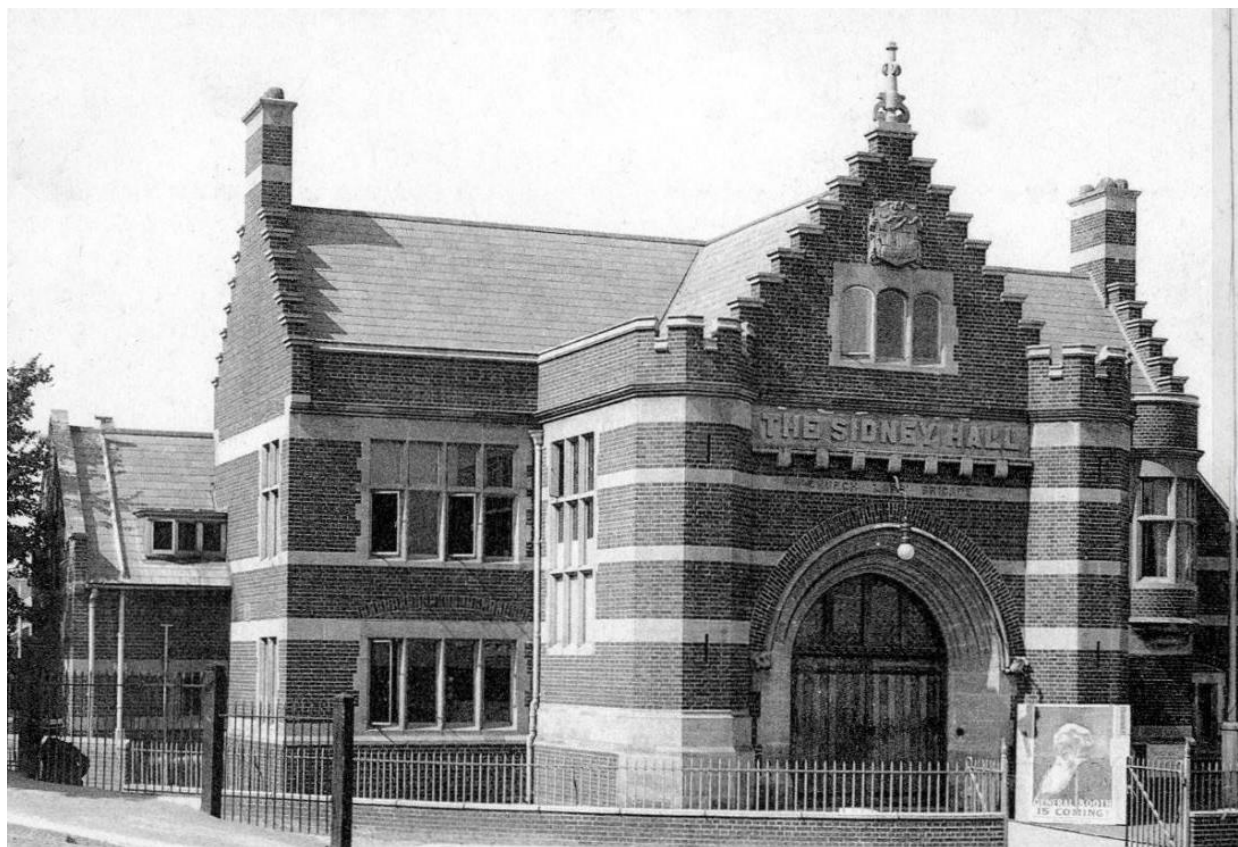
Private Allan Moore was admitted to Middlesex War Hospital, Napsbury, England on 25th July, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to Left Thigh & Left Arm. The Hospital Admissions form recorded “*FB not found wounds opened & drained.*” (FB = foreign body)

Mrs Moore, Dudley, Victoria, mother of Private Allan Moore, was advised by Base Records on 7th September, 1916 that No. 1987 Private A. Moore, 59th late 8th Battalion had been reported wounded.

Private Allan Moore was admitted to Hospital at Southall on 18th September, 1916 & discharged from Hospital on 20th September, 1916 to Weymouth.

Private Allan Moore was admitted to Military Hospital at Weymouth, Dorset on 22nd September, 1916 with Tetanus.

Private Allan Moore died at 7 am on 26th September, 1916 at Sidney Hall Military Hospital, Weymouth, Dorset, England from wounds received in action in France & Tetanus.



Sidney Hall Military Hospital, Weymouth

A death for Allen Moore, aged 22, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Weymouth, Dorset, England.

Private Allan Moore was buried on 28th September, 1916 in Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England – Plot number A. A. 1586 and now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Allan Moore contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives to obtain any details regarding his death and burial.

Lieutenant G. Clark, Adjutant, No. 2 Australian Command Depot, Monte Video Camp, Weymouth replied to the Red Cross with the following letter: *“You will have had word of the death of your son 1987 Pte A. Moore, 59th Batt A.I.F. who passed away at the Sydney Hall Military Hospital, Weymouth on Tuesday 26.9.16. He was buried to-day in the Melcombe Regis Cemetery. He was tendered a full Military funeral and the coffin was carried on a gun-carriage drawn by some of his comrades and covered with a Union Jack. I read the burial service at the grave-side and a large number of Australian soldiers attended. Three volleys were fired over the grave and the “Last Post” was sounded. I understand your loved one was wounded on July 20th. He left Southall Hospital on 20.9.16 and was admitted to Sydney Hall on 22.9.16. The cause of death was Tetanus. Everything possible was done for the lad, the doctors and nurses were very kind and he wanted for nothing he needed. I was with him on several occasions while he was in Sydney Hall and he was generally conscious. He looked very peaceful when it was all over. I am very sorry for your loss. Your son has died in a noble cause and God will reward him for his sacrifice.”*

A War Pension was granted to Alicia Moore, Hicksborough P.O., mother of the late Private Allan Moore, in the sum of 30/- per fortnight from 6th December, 1916.

Base Records contacted Mrs A. Moore, Post Office, Hicksborough, Wonthaggi, Victoria, mother of the late Private Allan Moore, on 16th July, 1920 stating she was noted as the registered next-of-kin but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & was specifically asked if his father was 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.

Alicia Moore replied to Base Records on 22nd July, 1920 stating *“his father died on 2nd. 11.18 therefore I claim to be next of kin of the above soldier.”*

Private Allan Moore was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Moore’s mother – Mrs A. Moore, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Allan Moore – service number 1987, aged 22, of 59th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Jonathan Dovey Moore and Alicia Moore, of Hicksborough, Wonthaggi, Victoria, Australia.

Private A. Moore is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 168.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(61 pages of Private Allan Moore'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



Newspaper Notices

THE 216th CASUALTY LIST

The Victorian names are:-

WOUNDED

Private A. Moore, Dudley

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 23 September, 1916)

DIED OF WOUNDS



Mr and Mrs J. D. Moore, of Hicksborough, Wonthaggi, but formerly of Bagshot and Marong, have received news that their second son, Allan, who in July last was wounded whilst fighting in France, has died in the Napsburg Hospital,

near St. Albans, England, on September 26. The family are well-known in the Huntly and Bagshot district, Mrs Moore having been a Miss Stanley and sister to the Misses Stanley, of the Victoria Coffee Palace, Bendigo.

(The Bendigo Independent, Victoria – 14 October, 1916)

THE 235th CASUALTY LIST

The Victorian names are:-

DIED OF OTHER CAUSES

Private A. Moore, Dudley

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 18 October, 1916)

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED FOR FREEDOM'S CAUSE



Private ALLAN MOORE

Died of wounds o 26th September: son of Mr and Mrs J. D. Moore, now of Hicksborough, Wonthaggi, but formerly of Bagshot and Marong.

(Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria – 18 October, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

MOORE – In loving memory of Private Allan Moore, 59th Battalion, second son of Mr and Mrs Moore, Dudley, Wonthaggi, loved brother of Edward, Ida, Will, Jack, May, Mrs Jacobs.

To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die.

-Inserted by his parents, brothers, sisters.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 25 September, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

MOORE – In loving memory of Private Allan, second eldest son of Alicia and the late J. Moore, of Dudley, Wonthaggi, who died of wounds at Sydney Hall Hospital, Weymouth, on the 26th September, 1916.

My son is sleeping his last, long sleep,
And his grave I may never see;
But some gentle hand in that distant land
May scatter some flowers for me.

-Inserted by his mother, brothers and sisters.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 26 September, 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 A. Moore does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Simply To The Cross I Cling

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.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00332

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 Weymouth. 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.

Command and general subject only, under the Air Education Service of British War Camp

Regular work in the manufacturing shop of goods and tools turned out by the Air Education Service of British War Camp

ROYAL JUBILEE HALL

ROYAL JUBILEE HALL, Weymouth, Dorset, is the largest and most modern of the Palladium Buildings in the country. It is a fine example of the architecture of the early 20th century.

THE JOURNAL OF A SOLDIER

THE JOURNAL OF A SOLDIER, published by the Australian War Memorial, is a monthly newsletter that provides news and information for Australian soldiers in the field.

AMERICAN OFFICERS' UNIFORMS

AMERICAN OFFICERS' UNIFORMS, a collection of military uniforms from the American Civil War, is available for purchase at the Australian War Memorial.

PAVILION THEATRE

THE PAVILION THEATRE, located on the Esplanade in Weymouth, was a popular venue for entertainment during the war.

THE ROYAL PALM COURT

THE ROYAL PALM COURT, a grand building in Weymouth, was a popular venue for entertainment during the war.

COMMUNWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA

COMMUNWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA, a financial institution that provided services to Australian soldiers in Weymouth.

ACUTT'S CLOTHING STORE

ACUTT'S CLOTHING STORE, a shop that provided clothing and supplies for soldiers in Weymouth.

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY, a fundraising organization that supported the war effort.

3

THIS IS BEING BROADCAST BY ACUTT BROTHERS

#weyforward

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

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
Sussex Road	Company Officers
Queensland Road	Regimental Institute
Kitchener Road	Minutemen Rifle Range
Corporation Road	Officers' Mess
Shorn 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 A. Moore's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England.



(Photo by Janice Dennis – Find a Grave)