

**Tidworth Military Cemetery,
Tidworth, Wiltshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2732 PRIVATE

G. MURRAY

AUSTRALIAN T. M. BATTERY

16TH JANUARY, 1917 Age 30

*One Of Australia's Best
Tho' Lost To Sight
To Memory Ever Dear*

George MURRAY

George Murray was born at Fremantle, Western Australia around 1887 to parents George Mason Murray & Jane Murray.

George Murray attended school at Bayswater, Western Australia.

George Murray was a 28 year old, single, Fireman (with Western Australian Government Railways) from Merredin P.O., Western Australia when he enlisted at Black Boy Hill, Western Australia on 17th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2732 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Jane Austin, King William Street, Bayswater, Western Australia.

Private George Murray was posted to 23rd Depot on 17th August, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 28th Battalion on 16th October, 1915.

Private George Murray embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Ulysses (A38)* on 2nd November, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 28th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements.

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....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private George Murray was transferred from 28th Battalion at Zeitoun to 51st Battalion on 3rd March, 1916. He joined 51st Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 3rd March, 1916.

51st Battalion

The 51st Battalion was raised in Egypt in the first week of March 1916, as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 11th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 11th, the 51st was predominantly composed of men from Western Australia. The battalion became part of the 13th Brigade of the newly-formed 4th Australian Division.

Arriving in France on 12 June 1916, the 51st moved into the trenches of the Western Front within a fortnight.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private George Murray was sent to Hospital at Serapeum on 25th April, 1916 & rejoined his Battalion on 27th April, 1916. He was admitted to 13th Field Ambulance on 28th April, 1916 with Pleurisy then transferred to 54th Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Private Murray was transferred & admitted to 1st Australian Stationary Hospital at Ismalia on 6th May, 1916. He rejoined his Battalion at Habieta on 24th May, 1916.

Private George Murray proceeded from Alexandria on 5th June, 1916 on *Invernia* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 12th June, 1916.

Private George Murray was transferred from 51st Battalion to 4th Divisional Light Trench Mortar Battery on 4th July, 1916 (as per Statement of Service form, however the Casualty Form – Active Service recorded he was seconded to 13th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery on 22nd July, 1916. Casualty Form also recorded he was taken on strength of 13th Light Trench Mortar Battery on 3rd July, 1916 from 51st Battalion)

Private George Murray was admitted to 13th Field Ambulance on 15th July, 1916. He was admitted to No. 1 N.Z. Hospital at Havre, France on 15th July, 1916 with Diarrhoea then transferred to 2nd Stationary Hospital at Abbeville on 17th July, 1916. Private Murray embarked for Southampton, England from Boulogne, France on 22nd July, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Dunluce Castle* with Haemorrhoids.

Light Trench Mortar Batteries

Initially, light trench mortar batteries were formed two per brigade in April 1916, with each battery having four 3.7 inch or 4 inch trench mortars. In June 1916, they were amalgamated in pairs so that each brigade had one battery of 8 guns, and they were standardised on the 3 inch Stokes mortar. Unlike Medium and Heavy Trench Mortar Batteries which were manned by artillerymen, light trench mortar batteries were manned by the infantry. Batteries carried the same number as their parent brigades.

13th Light Trench Mortar Battery was formed in France in July, 1916 & was assigned to 13th Infantry Brigade.

(Information from A.I.F. ADFA)

Private George Murray was admitted to Southwark Military Hospital at East Dulwich, England (no date) with Piles – slight. He was transferred to Dysentery Convalescent Hospital at Barton-on-Sea on 27th September, 1916.

Private George Murray was transferred from Barton-on-Sea on 6th December, 1916 & admitted to Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire. He was reported to be seriously ill with Pneumonia on 11th January, 1917.

Mrs J. Austin, King William Street, Bayswater, Western Australia, mother of Private George Murray, was advised by Base Records on 17th January, 1917 that her son was seriously ill with Pneumonia. Mrs Austin was advised again on 19th January, 1917 that her son Private George Murray was dangerously ill with Pneumonia.

Private George Murray died at 8.15 am on 16th January, 1917 at Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from Pneumonia.

A death for George Murray, aged 29, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Andover, Hampshire, England.

Private George Murray was buried on 19th January, 1917 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 255 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private George Murray contains a letter from The Matron, Military Hospital, Tidworth which reads: *“Pte Murray was admitted to this Hospital on the 6.1.17 suffering from Pneumonia. On admission he was very ill and in spite of everything that was tried he gradually got worse. He was buried in Tidworth Military Cemetery on the 19.1.17. His grave is No. 254 Plot C. I expect by this time his Australian relations will have had a letter from the sister who nursed him, as we make it a rule to write the relatives of patients who are not able to do so themselves.”*

Base Records contacted Mrs J. Austin, King William Street, Bayswater, Western Australia, on 16th November, 1920 stating she was registered on the records of the late No. 2732 Private G. Murray, 13th Light Trench Mortar Battery, as the next-of-kin but requested to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically asked if his father was still 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 J. Austin replied to Base Records on 25th November, 1920 stating his father *“has been dead many years & that I his mother is wholly & solely next to kin & that I will be very glad to received the “war Medal” you mention or anything else due to my late son who died on service for his country.”*

Private George Murray was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Murray’s remarried mother – Mrs J. Austin, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private George Murray – service number 2732, aged 30, of 13th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery. He was the son of Jane Austin (formerly Murray), of King William St., Bayswater, Western Australia and the late George Mason Murray.

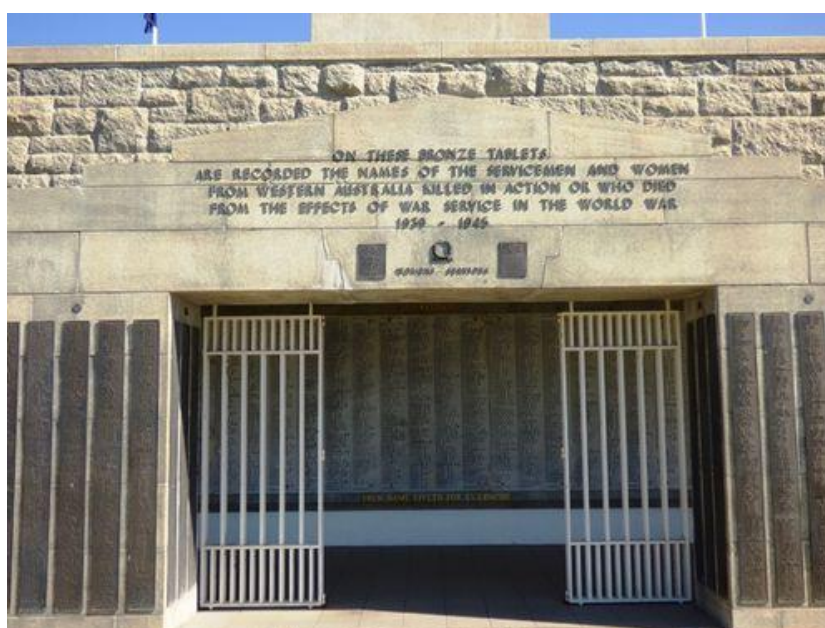
G. Murray is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica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





Other Corps Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

G. Murray is remembered on Fremantle's 849, located at War Memorial, Monument Hill Memorial Reserve, High & Swanbourne Streets, Fremantle, Western Australia. Twelve plaques contain all 849 names of the Fremantle servicemen who died in service or were killed in action during World War One. The plaques were created as part of the Centenary of Anzac commemorations.





Fallen Sailors & Soldiers Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)





(Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

Private G. Murray is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 20.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(49 pages of Private George Murray'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



PRTE G. (Bugler) MURRAY.

Died of pneumonia on
January 16. Late of
Government Railways,
Bayswater.

(The Sun, Kalgoorlie, W.A. – 25 February, 1917)

Newspaper Notices

DEATHS

MURRAY – On January 16, 1917, at Indwith Hospital, England, of pneumonia, Private George (Pluger) Murray, 51st Battalion, served in Gallipoli and France, late of Western Australian Government Railways at Bayswater, Bunbury, and Merredin, aged 29 years.

He answered his country's call.

His duty nobly done.

(The West Australia, Perth Western Australia – 23 January, 1917)

268th CASUALTY LIST

5TH MILITARY DISTRICT

ILL

G. Murray (Bayswater) Seriously

(Western Mail, Perth Western Australia – 26 January, 1917)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

269TH CASUALTY LIST

DEATHS

G. Murray (Bayswater), died of illness, previously reported seriously ill

(The West Australia, Perth Western Australia – 30 January, 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. 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 G. Murray does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*One Of Australia's Best
Tho' Lost To Sight To Memory Ever Dear*

Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Tidworth Military Cemetery, which contains burials of both wars, was directly connected with training grounds on, or near, Salisbury Plain.

During the First World War, the cemetery was used for burials from Tidworth and Fargo Military Hospitals and the 417 graves, many of them of Australian or New Zealand servicemen, are scattered throughout the cemetery.

There are 106 Second World War graves in the cemetery, two substantial groups of which can be found in sections F and D. The rest are scattered.

The cemetery also contains 40 war graves of other nationalities, many of them Polish.

(Information from CWGC)



Tidworth Military Cemetery *(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00327

The AIF Tidworth cemetery under snow. – March 1919.

Identified graves marked by a cross and headstone in the foreground

Front row: 50727 Private Rowland James Dickson, Australian Machine Gun Corps, died 14 October 1918.

Second row, left to right: 18282 Driver John Thalma Jackson, Details Australian Engineers, died 30 October 1917; 17445 Pte Roland Travers Woodville, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 13 September 1917; 31712 Gunner John Alexander McDonald, 15th Field Artillery Brigade, Australian Field Artillery, died 30 July 1917, aged 37, at Tidworth Military Hospital; 3062 Pte Even Thomas Kennedy, 3rd Australian Pioneers, died 7 August 1917.



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo courtesy of John Prestidge)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire *(Photo by Chris Talbot 2009)*



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers – Kevin)

Photo of Private G. Murray's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Selena Hardie)

