

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



422 DRIVER

G. W. MURRAY

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

17TH JANUARY, 1918 Age 25

*In Loving Memory
Of Our Dear Son & Brother
Peace Perfect Peace*

George Wren MURRAY

George Wren Murray was born at Fairy Burn, Orange, New South Wales on 15th February, 1892 to parents William & Alice Murray (nee Wren).

George Wren Murray attended Nashdale Public School, NSW. (He was named on the 1914-1918 Honour Roll but around 1923 the school building was burnt down including many valuable records, including the Honour Roll).

George Wren Murray was a 22 year old, single, Farmer from Fairy Burn, Orange, NSW when he enlisted at Roseberry Park, NSW on 22nd August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 422 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Murray, Cargo Road, Orange, NSW. George Murray stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 3 ½ years with 3rd Infantry Regiment & was now serving in 9th Light Horse at Orange.

Private George Wren Murray was posted to 1st Light Horse Regiment on 22nd August, 1914 recruit training.

Private George Wren Murray embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Star of Victoria (A16)* on 20th October, 1914 with the 1st Light Horse Regiment "C" Squadron. His younger brother Private Sage Clyde Sinclair Murray, service number 423, embarked at the same time.

Private George Wren Murray embarked from Alexandria on 9th May, 1915 for Gallipoli Peninsula.

Private George Wren Murray was admitted to 16th Stationary Hospital at Mudros on 6th August, 1915 with Diarrhoea & Dysentery. He was admitted to 24th Casualty Clearing Station at Mudros on 22nd August, 1915 with Dysentery. Private Murray rejoined 1st Light Horse Regiment at Gallipoli Peninsula on 31st August, 1915.

Private George Wren Murray was taken on strength of NZ & A Divisional Headquarters at Gallipoli Peninsula on 30th October, 1915 & he was posted to Divisional Headquarters on 31st October, 1915 as Escort.

Private George Wren Murray disembarked at Alexandria on 28th December, 1915 (after evacuation of Gallipoli).

Newspaper item – *Molong Express and Western District Advertiser*, NSW – 5 August, 1916:

Gallipoli Sidelights

Trooper Geo. Murray, son of Mr. W. Murray, of "Fairyburn," and grandson of the late Mr. Jno. Murray, in a diary written at Gallipoli recounts some amusing incidents :—

The Indians are very fond of the Australians, and, speaking about the big shells, one Indian said, " One big shell come, Englishman run to his dug-out; two big shell come, Indian run to his dug-out; three big shells come, Australian turn round and say, ' You - - - ,' and then go on."

On one occasion I saw an Australian walking across a flat in full view of the Turkish trenches at about 1000 yards range. The Turks commenced firing at him, the bullets knocking up the dust on the track in front and behind him, but he took no notice and walked calmly along. The Turks became a little angry, and began to fire faster, but he stopped, turned toward them, took off his hat and waved it to them (meaning they were firing misses), and then walked slowly on. The Turks became very angry, and turned the machine guns on him, but as far as I could see him he was safe.

"I saw another boy, with a camera, standing on a hill where the high explosives were falling, trying to take a photo of them. One of our boys on sentry one night saw some men advancing on him. He halted them and said, ' Advance one, and come and get your counter-lunch,' instead of saying, ' Advance one, and give the counter-sign.'

"This was the worst Xmas I have spent. I had to take in my belt several holes, as we had very little to eat, for there were so many men on the boat numbering well into thousands, that there was scarcely room to move about, and at night we were packed side by side like sardines. Although we had a very poor Xmas, we had a fair New Year; boiled mutton and cabbage, with tomatoes, pickles, and bread and butter, the pudding being stewed peaches and cream—that was our dinner.—

George Wren Murray, once of Fairy Burn, Orange—the best and nicest spot on earth."

1st Australian Light Horse Regiment

The 1st Light Horse Regiment was raised, from recruits from New South Wales, at Rosebury Park in Sydney in August 1914. It was one of three regiments of the 1st Light Horse Brigade - the first mounted formation committed by Australia to the First World War. The regiment sailed from Sydney on 19 October and disembarked in Egypt on 8 December.

The light horse were initially considered unsuitable for the Gallipoli operation, but were soon deployed without their horses to reinforce the infantry. The 1st Light Horse Regiment landed on 12 May 1915 and was attached to the New Zealand and Australian Division. It played a defensive role for most of the campaign but mounted an attack on the Turkish position known as "the Chessboard" as part of the August Offensive on 7 August - 200 men were involved, 147 became casualties. The regiment left Gallipoli on 21 December 1915.

Back in Egypt, the 1st Light Horse Regiment joined the ANZAC Mounted Division. Between January and May 1916, it was deployed to protect the Nile valley from bands of pro-Turkish Senussi Arabs.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private George Wren Murray was taken on strength of 1st L.H.R.R. (Light Horse Reserve Regiment) at Heliopolis on 1st March, 1916 from 1st Light Horse Regiment.

Private George Wren Murray was transferred to 4th Divisional Artillery from Tel-el-Kebir on 21st April, 1916. He was taken on strength of 10th F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) at Serapeum on 22nd April, 1916 & was posted to 37th Battery as Gunner.

10th Field Artillery Brigade

The 10th Field Artillery Brigade formed in Egypt in early 1916 to support the newly raised 4th Division. It went on to serve in Egypt: Defence of Egypt, Western Front: Retreat to the Hindenburg Line, Bullecourt, Messines, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele, Villers Bretonneux, Hamel, Amiens, Albert, Hindenburg Line.

10th Field Artillery Brigade February 1916 – past November 1918 consisted of : 37th Field Artillery Battery; 38th Field Artillery Battery; 39th Field Artillery Battery; 110th Field Artillery (Howitzer) Battery & 10th Brigade Ammunition Column.....

(Extract of information from Steve Larkins via VWMA)

Gunner George Wren Murray was mustered as Driver on 1st June, 1916 with 10th F.A.B. while in France.

Driver George Wren Murray proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 5th June, 1916. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 13th June, 1916.

Driver George Wren Murray was admitted to 39th Casualty Clearing Station on 15th December, 1916 with Appendicitis. He was discharged on 16th December, 1916 & admitted to Field Ambulance on 17th December, 1916. Driver Murray was transferred & admitted to 1st General Hospital at Etreat on 17th December, 1916. He was marked for transfer to England on 1st January, 1917 & embarked from Havre, France on 2nd January, 1917 on Hospital Ship *Carisbrook Castle*.

Driver George Wren Murray was admitted to 3rd Australian General Hospital, Brighton, England on 3rd January, 1917 with Appendicitis. (The Hospital Admissions form recorded he was admitted to Kitchener's Hospital on 3rd January, 1917 with Renal Colic then transferred to V.A.D. Claytons ____ on 8th February, 1917.) He was transferred to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield, Middlesex, England on 10th April, 1917 with Renal Colic.

Mr Murray, Cargo Rd, Orange, NSW, was advised by Base Records on 31st January, 1917 that his son Driver George W. Murray had been admitted to 3rd Australian General Hospital on 3rd January with Appendicitis severe. Mr Murray was advised on 27th February, 1917 that Driver George Murray's condition was improving.

Driver George Wren Murray was posted to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire, England on 26th June, 1917 & was medical classified as B1 A3 (fit for overseas training camp in 2 – 3 weeks).

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 & also in Dorset. Later training & convalescing Units were combined under the one Command Depot.

Driver George Wren Murray was sent sick to Fovant Hospital, Wiltshire, on 11th July, 1917 where the old inflamed appendix was removed. He was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot on 10th August, 1917 from Fovant Hospital.

Driver George Wren Murray was medically classified as B1 A3 (fit for overseas training camp in 2 – 3 weeks) at No. 3 Command Depot on 16th September, 1917. He was medically classified on 18th September, 1917 as B1 A2 (fit for overseas training camp in 3 – 4 weeks) & medically classified again on 19th September, 1917 as B1 A3 (fit for overseas training camp in 2 – 3 weeks).

Driver George Wren Murray was medically classified as B1 A3 (fit for overseas training camp in 2 – 3 weeks) at No. 3 Command Depot on 22nd September, 1917. He was medically classified as A3 (medically & dentally fit) at No. 3 Command Depot, Hurdcott, Wiltshire, England.

Driver George Wren Murray was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 26th October, 1917 from No. 3 Command Depot, Hurdcott, Wiltshire, England.

Driver George Wren Murray proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 23rd November, 1917. He was posted to A.G.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 24th November, 1917. Driver Murray was marched out from A.G.B.D. on 27th November, 1917 to 4th Divisional Artillery & rejoined 37th Battery from England on 29th November, 1917.

Driver George Wren Murray reported sick on 11th December, 1917. He was admitted to 12th Australian Field Ambulance on 12th December, 1917 with Pleurisy then transferred to Casualty Clearing Station on the same day. From there he was transferred & admitted to 5th General Hospital at Rouen on 16th December, 1917 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). He was marked for transfer to England on 12th January, 1918 & transferred on 14th January, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Aberdonian*.

Mr Murray, Cargo Rd, Orange, NSW, was advised by Base Records on 15th January, 1918 that Driver G. W. Murray's condition was reported as stationary.

Driver George Wren Murray died at 5.45 pm on 17th January, 1918 at Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from Pleurisy and Heart Failure.

A death for George W. Murray, aged 28, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Andover, Hampshire, England.

Driver George Wren Murray was buried on 22nd January, 1918 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 265 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Newspaper item – *Leader*, Orange, NSW – 25 January, 1918:

ROLL OF HONOR

DRIVER G. W. MURRAY

It is our sad duty to chronicle the death of another member of the Murray family, of whom about fifteen have responded to the call of Empire and have gone forward to fight for their King and country on the various battlefields of this war, and at least four have made the supreme sacrifice. On Tuesday the Rev. J. C. McDonald called at the residence of Mr. W. Murray, "Fairyburn," Cargo-road, and informed him of the death of his son, Driver George W. Murray, who had died on the 17th of this month. The deceased was one of Orange's first soldiers. Enlisting on 27th August, 1914 — ten days after the outbreak of war — he left Orange with his brother Sage, making a party of fifteen Light Horsemen. Many residents will recall the enthusiastic send-off those brave young men received. They were a

fine body of men, all overflowing with a desire to serve their country and when the war was over to return to their homes in Orange. Alas, some will never. Of that gallant little party, Trooper James McNeilly has been invalided home and Trooper Roy Stanford and G. W. Murray have paid the penalty of their courage. Driver Murray, was originally attached to the 1st Light Horse and was later transferred to the 10th Field Artillery Brigade, served in Gallipoli and has constantly been on service ever since. He was 27 years of age and no better soldier ever left these shores. Born on the land, he took up orchardry just prior to the war and had set out a young orchard on a site just beyond the balance-tank on the Cargo-road. During his absence Mr Murray senr. has bestowed a fatherly care of the property. The deceased was a splendid young fellow, and his death will be deeply deplored by a large circle of friends. There are two other brothers (Sage and Walter) at the front.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Driver George Wren Murray contains a letter from O.C. dated 22nd February, 1917 which reads: *"He was admitted suffering from renal colic. He is at present in an Auxiliary Hospital and was very well when he left here."*

Another letter was written for The Matron, Military Hospital, Tidworth which reads : *"Re No. 422 George W. Murray. He was admitted to this hospital on 17.1.18 with a convoy of sick and wounded soldiers from France. He was suffering from Pleurisy but did not appear very ill. He was quite cheerful and well enough to have a good meal on admission, shortly after that he had an attack of syncope and died in a few minutes, in spite of all we could do. He died about two hours after admission. He was buried in the Military Cemetery Tidworth on 22.1.18 Grave No. 265 Plot C. there were no last words nor messages of any kind – as the attack was so very sudden."*

Driver George Wren Murray was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver Murray's father – Mr W. J. Murray, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver George Wren Murray – service number 422, aged 25, of 10th Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of William & Alice Murray, of Fairyburn, Orange, New South Wales.

Driver G. W. 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 16.



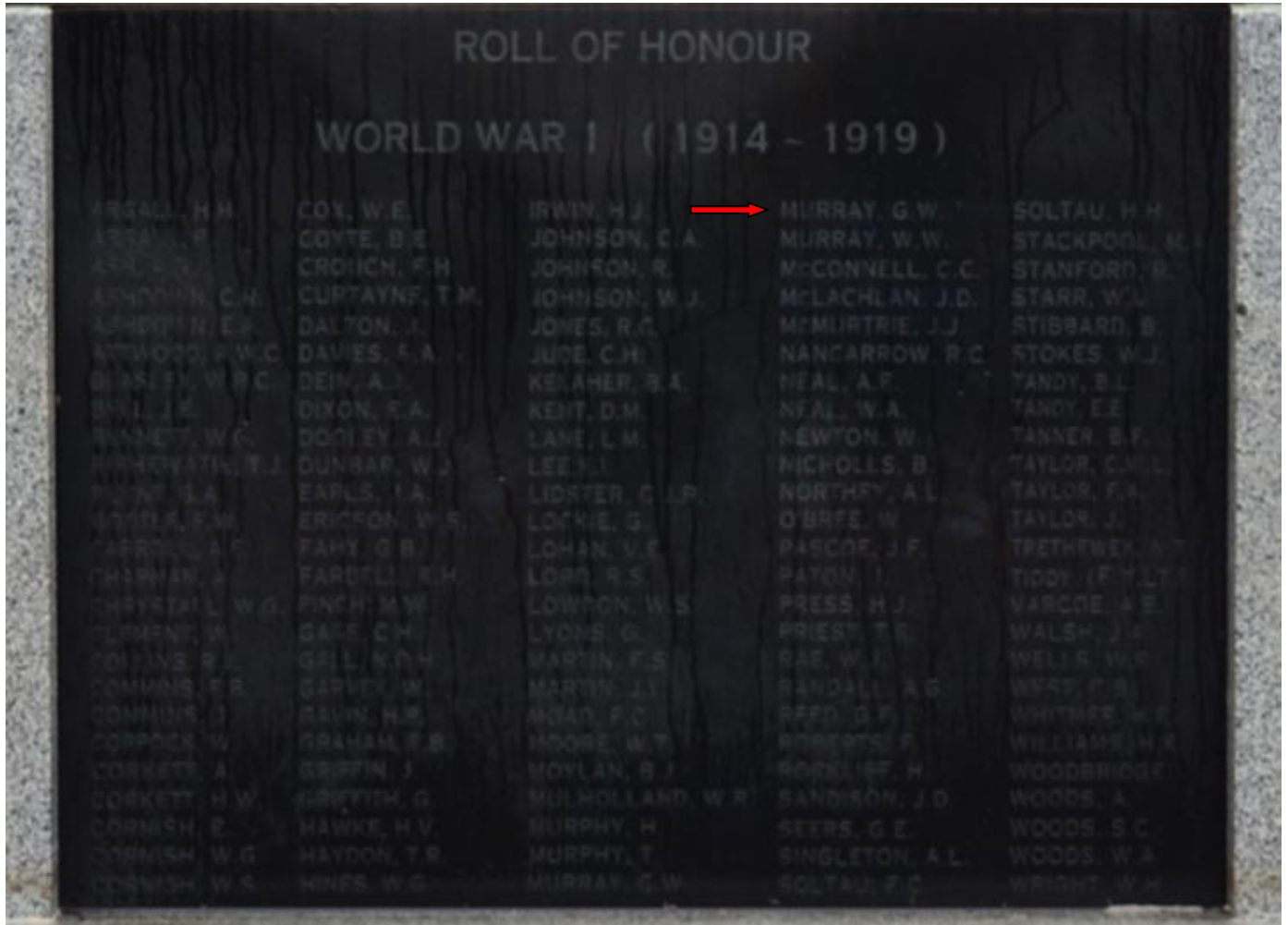
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

G. W. Murray is remembered on the Orange Cenotaph, located in Robertson Park, Summer Street, Orange, NSW.



Orange Cenotaph (Photos from AWM Place of Pride – Henry Moulds)





G. W. Murray is remembered on the Orange WW1 Honour Board, located in Memorial Hall, 231 Anson Street, Orange, NSW.



Orange WW1 Honour Board (Photos courtesy of Bradley Bliss – VWMA)



G. W. Murray is remembered on the Orange Shire of Canobolas Honour Roll, located in Memorial Hall, 231 Anson Street, Orange, NSW.



Orange Shire of Canobolas Honour Roll (Photo from VWMA)



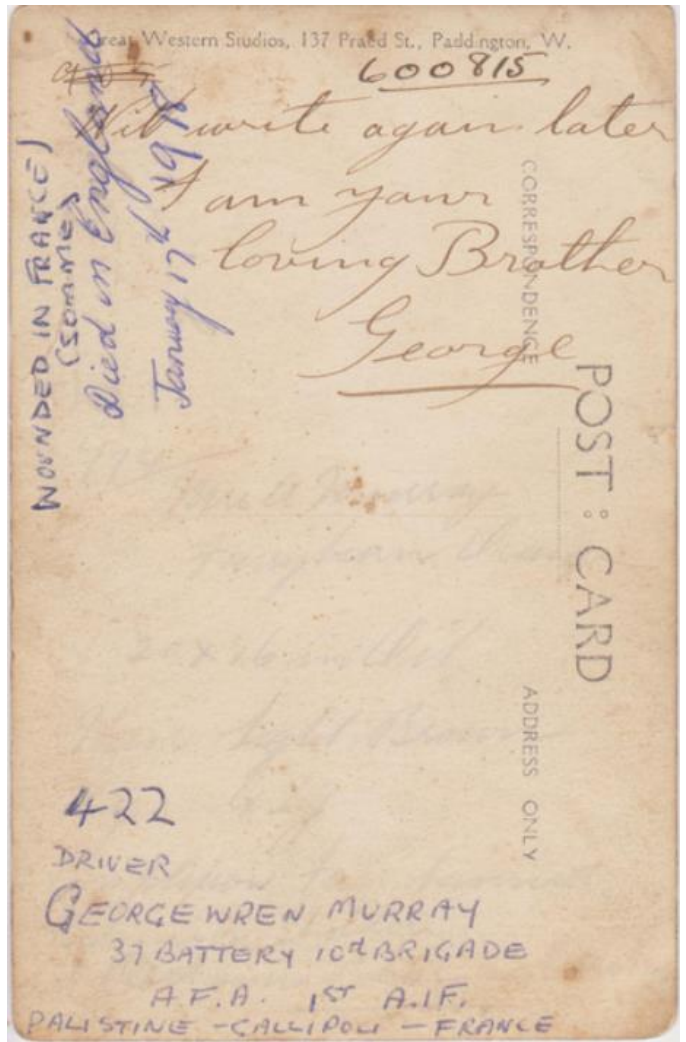
Orange Memorial Hall (*Photo courtesy of Bradley Bliss – VWMA*)

George Wren Murray is remembered on St. John's Presbyterian Church Honour Roll in Orange, NSW.

(54 pages of Driver George Wren Murray's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

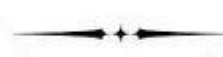
Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives





Driver George Wren Murray

(Photo postcard from Driver George Wren Murray – from Wally Bell – VWMA)



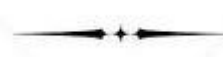
Connected to Driver George Wren Murray:

Younger brother – Sage Clyne Sinclair Murray – Enlisted 22nd August, 1914, aged 21. He was posted with 1st Light Horse Regiment “C” Squadron & embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT Star Of Victoria on 20th October, 1914 as Private 423.

Returned to Australia 12th July, 1918.

Younger brother - Walter Stewart Murray - Enlisted 20th January, 1917, aged 21. Embarked from Sydney, NSW on RMS Osterley on 10th February, 1917 with 1st Battalion, 24th Reinforcements as Private 7288.

Returned to Australia 6th July, 1919.



Newspaper Notices

LATEST CASUALTY LIST

The 271st casualty list, issued today.....

ILL

Driver G. W. Murray, Orange (seriously)

(National Advocate, Bathurst, NSW – 9 February, 1917)

PERSONAL

Ten days after the war broke out, Driver G. W. Murray, son of Mr W. Murray, Fairyburn, Cargo-road, Orange, now reported killed in action, enlisted with fourteen others from that district with the Light Horse. There were fourteen other members of the Murray families of the district to obey the call. Two of them were deceased's brothers, who are still in action, whilst at least four of the others have been killed. Deceased was 27 years of age, and an orchardist. Upon being transferred from the Light Horse, he first served with the Field Artillery at Gallipoli.

(The Forbes Advocate, NSW – 29 January, 1918)

Australian Casualties

List No. 381

New South Wales

Other Deaths

Dvr G. W. MURRAY (Orange), 17/1/18, cause not stated.

(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 6 February, 1918)

Western Casualties

Died of Illness

Dvr G. W. Murray, Orange

(Mudgee Guardian and North-Western Representative, NSW – 21 February, 1918)

George W. Murray is remembered on a plaque located next to his parents headstone in Orange General Cemetery, NSW.



(Photo from Find a Grave – maditi)

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 G. W. Murray does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Loving Memory
Of Our Dear Son & Brother
Peace Perfect Peace*

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)*



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



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.

Note Gunner McDonald has a large headstone which reads in part 'erected by his sorrowing comrades of the Australian Field Artillery. His duty done.'



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



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers – Kevin)

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



(Photo courtesy of Selena Hardie)

