

**Netley Military Cemetery,
Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4274 PRIVATE

J. L. NAYLOR

1ST AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS

28TH AUGUST, 1918

John Langford (Jack) NAYLOR

John Langford Naylor was born on 24th July, 1893 at St. Arnaud, Victoria to parents George Herbert & Margaret Jane Naylor (nee Leach/Leech).

Margaret Jane Naylor, mother of John Langford Naylor, died in 1896 at Stawell, Victoria.

John Langford Naylor's father – George Herbert Naylor remarried in 1896 to Margaret Elizabeth Delaney.

The 1914, 1915 & 1916 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Grampians, subdivision of Stawell, Victoria listed John Langford Naylor, Labourer of Sloane Street, Stawell.

John Langford Naylor was a 23 year old, single, Blacksmith from Sloan Street, Stawell, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 24th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4274 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr G. H. Naylor, of Sloan Street, Stawell, Victoria.

Private John Langford Naylor was posted to 21st Depot Battalion at Warrnambool on 13th October, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 13th Reinforcements of 8th Battalion at Broadmeadows on 23rd November, 1915 (Statement of Service Form states 16th November, 1915).

Private John Langford Naylor embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Demosthenes (A64)* on 29th December, 1915 with the 8th Infantry Battalion, 13th Reinforcements.

Private John Langford Naylor was taken on strength of 1st Pioneer Battalion on Serapeum on 17th March, 1916. (Statement of Service form states Pte Naylor was transferred to 1st Pioneer Battalion on 25th March, 1916).

Private John Langford Naylor embarked from Alexandria on 27th March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 3rd April, 1916.

Private John Langford Naylor was sent to Hospital in France on 18th May, 1916. He was admitted to 1st Australian Field Ambulance on 18th May, 1916 with Phthisis then transferred to 1st Casualty Clearing Station on 19th May, 1916. Pte Naylor was admitted to No. 7 General Hospital on 20th May, 1916 with T.B. Lung. He was admitted to Australian Hospital at Wimereux on 20th May, 1916 with T.B. lung. Pte Naylor was transferred to 5th Convalescent Camp & admitted to 5th Convalescent Depot at Wimereux with Bronchitis on 5th June, 1916. Pte Naylor was discharged to Base Details on 14th June, 1916.

Private John Langford Naylor was marched in to 1st A.D.B. D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France from Hospital on 16th June, 1916. He proceeded from 1st A.D.B. D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) on 26th July, 1916 to join his Battalion & rejoined his Battalion in France from Hospital on 27th July, 1916.

Private John Langford Naylor was on leave to UK from 25th August, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion from leave on 8th September, 1917.

Private John Langford Naylor was detached for duty with 21st Machine Gun Company on 16th August, 1917 & ceased to be attached on 2nd September, 1917.

Private John Langford Naylor was sent sick to Hospital on 12th December, 1917. He was admitted to 1st Australian Field Ambulance on 12th December, 1917 then transferred & admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 12th December, 1917 with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). Pte Naylor was transferred to England on Hospital Ship St. Patrick on 19th December, 1917 with Trench Fever.

Private John Langford Naylor was admitted to 2nd Eastern General Hospital at Brighton, England on 20th December, 1917 with Trench Feet. He was transferred & admitted to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, Kent, England on 7th January, 1918. The Hospital Admissions form reads: "*After being ill for 6 days he was admitted to C.C.S. in Belgium with "trench fever" and has since been in Hospital. He has now pain in chest, cough, slight expectoration pain in legs, principally in shins. ...Well marked and persistent tachycardia.*" Pte Naylor was discharged to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset, England on 19th February, 1918.

Private John Langford Naylor was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset on 19th February, 1918 from 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford. The Hospital Admissions form reads: *“Evacuated with trench fever. Had vomiting & swelling of feet in Hospital also pain in back & legs. Now complains of pain in chest.”*

Private John Langford Naylor was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 13th April, 1918 from No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth. Pte Naylor was medically classified at No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott on 13th April, 1918 as B1 A 2. (Fit for Overseas Training Camp in 3 to 4 weeks). He was assessed again on 22nd April, 1918 as B1 A 2 and also for the following dates – 29th April, 1918, 6th May, 1918 & 14th May, 1918. Pte Naylor was assessed on 21st May, 1918 as B1 A3 (Fit for Overseas Training Camp in 2 to 3 weeks). He was assessed again on 28th May as B1 A2. Pte Naylor was medically assessed on 4th June, 1918 as B1 A4 (Fit for Overseas Training Camp when passed dentally fit).

Private John Langford Naylor was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire, on 7th June, 1918 from No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Private John Langford Naylor proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone from Longbridge Deverill on 3rd July, 1918. He was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 4th July, 1918. Pte Naylor was marched out to his Unit from A.I.B.D. on 7th July, 1918 & joined 1st Australian Divisional Reinforcements Camp in France on 9th July, 1918. Pte Naylor rejoined the 1st Pioneer Battalion in France on 4th August, 1918.

Private John Langford Naylor was wounded in action in France on 23rd August, 1918. He was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance on 24th August, 1918 with gunshot wounds to left shoulder then transferred to Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Pte Naylor was admitted to 3rd Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 25th August, 1918. He was listed as dangerously ill. Pte Naylor embarked for England on 27th August, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Guildford Castle* with gunshot wounds to spine.

War Diary – 1st Australian Pioneer Battalion

23rd August, 1918

1st Australian Division launch an attack from present front line. Zero hour fixed for 4.45 am.

CASUALTIES 10 OR Killed, 1 Off 35 OR Wounded

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

1st Pioneer Battalion (Australia)

The 1st Pioneer Battalion was formed in Egypt in March, 1916 & was assigned to the 1st Division. Trained as infantrymen, the pioneers were tasked with light combat engineer functions in the field, with a large number of personnel possessing trades from civilian life to meet a need for troops with construction and engineering skills to assist with digging trenches, labouring, constructing strong points and undertaking battlefield clearance. At the same time, they could be pressed into the line to fight alongside regular infantry where required.

After a short period of training at Serapeum, in Egypt, in late March 1916 the 1st Pioneer Battalion embarked on a troopship from the port of Alexandria, bound for Marseilles. After landing in France, they boarded a train and were subsequently transported to the Somme. From there, the 1st Pioneers moved to Armentieres where they established a camp, in an area which was dubbed a "nursery" sector by the Allies, where newly arrived units could gain their first experience of fighting on the Western Front. They subsequently entered the front line around Fleurbaix.

At Fleurbaix, the 1st Pioneers received new equipment and in late May were tasked with assisting the 2nd Australian Tunnelling Company in digging a mine towards German lines around the Cordonnerie Salient, where they were positioned opposite the 6th Bavarian Reserve Division. On the night of 30/31 May, the sector of the line the pioneers were digging under was subjected to a heavy artillery bombardment, followed by a trench raid. In the confusion that followed several of the battalion's personnel were killed or taken prisoner. One member of the battalion, Private William Cox, was subsequently nominated for a posthumous Victoria Cross for his actions during the raid, refusing to

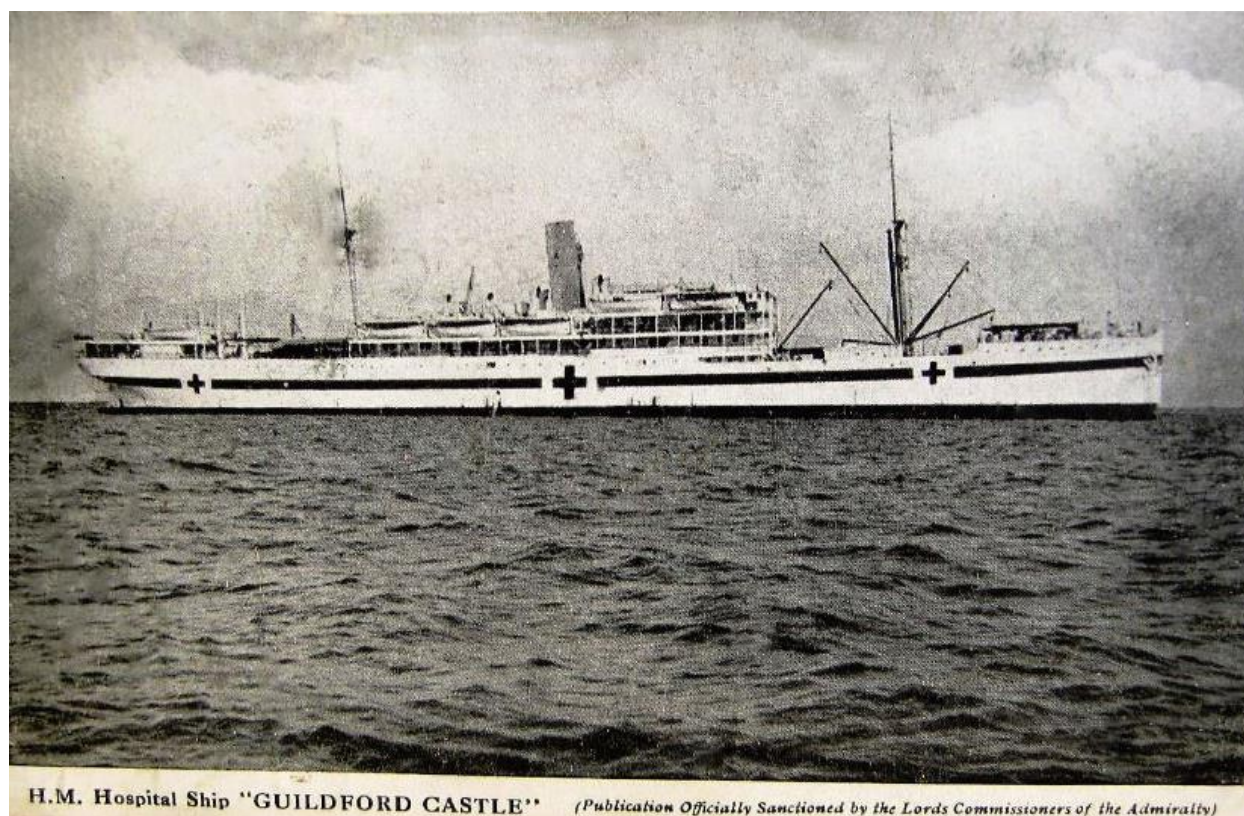
leave his pumping station despite the danger and despite already having been wounded. The award was later downgraded to a Mention in Despatches.

The battalion subsequently served on the Western Front until the end of the war in late 1918. After the battalion's introduction to trench warfare around Fleurbaix it was committed to the Battle of Pozieres in July 1916 where, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Edmund Nicholson – an artillery officer who had served at Gallipoli – they laid the form-up trench for the attack, before being committed to the capture of the village itself. The battalion's losses in its first battle amounted to 180 killed or wounded. During the next two-and-a-half years, the battalion fought in most of the main battles that the Australians fought in along the Western Front. They took part in the Battle of Mouquet Farm later in 1916, and in early 1917, they were tasked with extending a light railway system towards Fremicourt as part of preparations for the Battle of Bullecourt.[10] Later in the year, they took part in the Third Battle of Ypres, taking part in actions around the Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Broodseinde Ridge and Passchendaele.[11] Later, around Ypres in October, the battalion worked to clear the Ypres–Zonnebeke road, which had virtually disappeared under a layer of thick mud and debris due to a prolonged artillery bombardment.

In early 1918, the Germans launched their Spring Offensive during which the 1st Pioneer Battalion, which had spent the winter around Messines, supported the 1st Division's operations around Hazebrouck in April, establishing the division's trench systems. From April 1918 until the end of the war, the battalion was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Murdoch. After the defeat of the German offensive, a lull period followed during which the Allied armies sought to regain the initiative through a series of small scale actions dubbed peaceful penetrations, which were carried out throughout June and July 1918. During the Allied Hundred Days Offensive that was launched in August, which finally brought about an end to the war in late 1918, the pioneers took part in the Allied offensive around Amiens, supporting the capture of Lihons and then the exploitation beyond Proyart, losing around 80 casualties during the month. The following month they followed up the drive through the Somme until the 1st Division was withdrawn from the line in late September 1918. They remained out of the line until the armistice in November 1918 and did not see any further action. After the war, the battalion was disbanded in May 1919 as part of the demobilisation of the AIF and its personnel were repatriated back to Australia.

(Information from Wikipedia)

Private John Langford Naylor died at 10.30 pm on 28th August, 1918 while at Sea on board Hospital Ship *Guildford Castle* while at Sea from wounds received in action – paraplegia following gunshot wounds & fracture of spine.



H.M. Hospital Ship "GUILDFORD CASTLE" *(Publication Officially Sanctioned by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty)*

Hospital Ship *Guildford Castle*

A death for John L. Naylor, aged 25, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of South Stoneham, Hampshire, England.

According to a memo from Staff Officer, M.R.C., British Museum in the Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private John Langford Naylor – his body was transferred to Southampton for burial on 29th August, 1918.

Private John Langford Naylor was buried at 2 pm on 2nd September, 1918 in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England – Plot number R.C. 919 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private John Langford Naylor - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack. Chaplain Father The Rev. C. Buss, officiated at the graveside. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Private John Langford Naylor requested in his Will, dated 4th December, 1915 that he appointed his mother Margaret Elizabeth Naylor as Sole Executrix of his Will & he bequeathed all his real & personal property to her as well.

The personal effects of the late Private John Langford Naylor from the Ambulance Transport *Guildford Castle* were returned to his father – Mr G. H. Naylor, Sloan Street, Stawell, Victoria. They included 1 Purse (containing 2 rings, 1 Rosary, 8 coins), 2 Wallets, 3 Discs, 1 Clasp Knife & Lanyard, 1 Pocket Knife, 1 Whistle, 1 Pipe, 1 Diary, 1 Belt, Letters, Photos.

Private John Langford Naylor was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Naylor's father – Mr G. H. Naylor, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private J. L. Naylor – service number 4174, of 1st Australian Pioneers. No family details are listed.

Private J. L. Naylor is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 172.

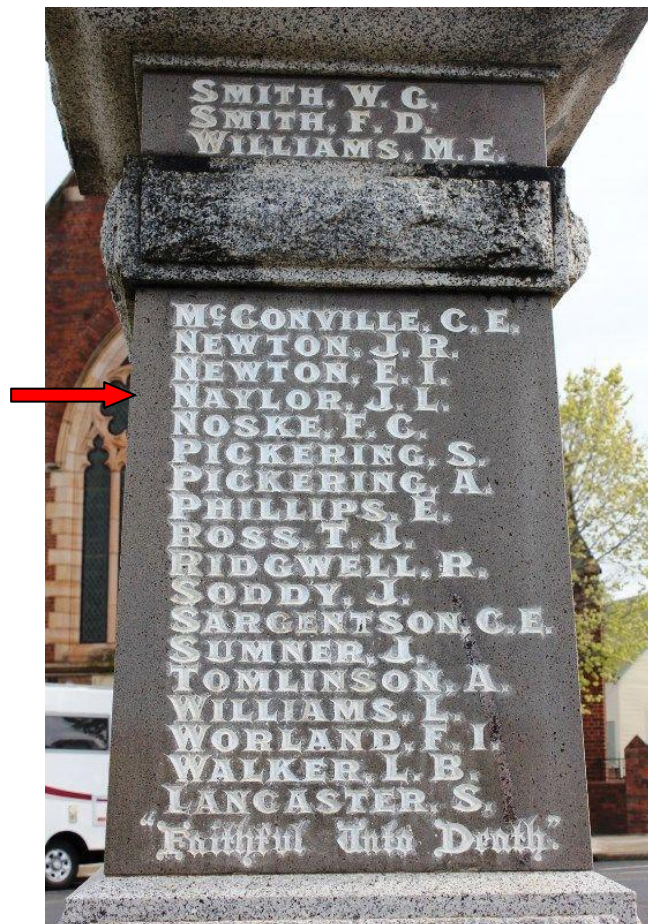


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. L. Naylor is remembered on the Stawell War Memorial, located in Main & Victoria Streets, Stawell, Victoria.



Stawell War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



J. L. Naylor is remembered on the Stawell & District Avenue of Honour which is located on Patrick Street, Stawell, with each tree bearing a small plaque displaying the service number of an Australian Soldier. The Avenue of Honour Project was officially opened in November, 2016 & was a partnership between Stawell Rotary, the Stawell branch of R.S.L. & Council.



Stawell & District Avenue of Honour (Photo from Ararat Advertiser)

J. Naylor is remembered on the Honour Roll at St. Mary's Primary School, Ararat, Victoria.





Honour Roll at St. Mary's Primary School, Ararat (Photo courtesy of Debi Gramson)

(48 pages of Private John Langford Naylor'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





The Solemn Memory



NAYLOR, John L., Pte., 8th Batt., 13th Rfts.; s. of George H. and Margaret E. Naylor, Patrick-st., Stawell; b. St. Arnaud, July 24, 1893; educ. Stawell and Ararat SS's.; blacksmith; enl. July 24, 1915; emb. Dec. 29, 1915. War service: France; Belgium; shot by sniper, Aug. 25, 1918, and died at sea three days later, on way to English hosp.; buried at Netley Military Cemetery, Southampton.

*NAYLOR, John L., Pte., 8th Batt., 13th Rfts.; s. of
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(Photo courtesy of Debi Gramson)



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST No. 131

VICTORIA

ILL

J. L. Naylor, Stawell

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 1 February, 1918)

PTE J. L. NAYLOR

Yesterday Mr and Mrs G. Naylor, Sloane street, were officially notified that their son, Pte J. L. Naylor died at sea on the 28th August from paraplegia following gunshot wounds (fractured spine) on a hospital ship. Pte Naylor was returning home and his friends were looking forward to his early arrival, but unfortunately they were denied this pleasure. He enlisted on the 14th July, 1915, and thus had done over three years service. He was a fine type of young man, upright in character and popular with his mates. He was a member of the Stawell Fire Brigade and played with one of the junior football teams. Mr and Mrs Naylor and family are extended heartfelt sympathy from residents generally.

(*Stawell News and Pleasant Creek Chronicle*, Victoria – 4 September, 1918) & (*The Horsham Times*, Vic. – 6 September, 1918)

NEWS AND NOTES

The news was received in Rupanyup on Tuesday that Private Jack Naylor, eldest son of Mr Geo. Naylor, of Stawell, and formerly of Rupanyup had died at sea on 28th Aug., the result of a fractured spine caused by gunshot wounds. Young Jack who was returning home after three years service was a Rupanyup school boy and a fine stamp of Australian manhood. Sincere sympathy is expressed for the family in their great bereavement.

(*Rupanyup Spectator and Lubeck, Banyena, Rich Avon and Lallat Advertiser*, Victoria – 5 September, 1918)

LOCALISMS

Three Stawell house were darkened on Tuesday, when news arrived of the deaths of three brave boys. Capt. A. R. Fox, A.A.M.C., 25 years, son of Dr and Mrs Fox, died at sea whilst returning home on 23rd August..... - Corp Thomas H. Burrows, 24 years, died of wounds on 28th August after two years and three months active service. – Private J. L. Naylor, whilst returning home with gunshot wounds (fractured spine) died at sea on 28th August.

(*Dunmunckle Standard*, Victoria - 6 September, 1918)

DIED ON SERVICE

NAYLOR – Killed in action in France on August 28, 1918, Private J. L. Naylor, eldest son of Mr and Mrs George Naylor, Sloane street, Stawell, aged 25 years. R.I.P.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 6 September, 1918)

THANKS

Mr and Mrs Geo. Naylor and family desire to express their sincerest thanks for letters, telegrams, and expressions of sympathy in their recent sad bereavement in the death of their son, Private Jack Naylor, who died at sea on 28th August.

(Rupanyup Spectator and Lubeck, Banyena, Rich Avon and Lallat Advertiser, Victoria – 12 September, 1918)

AUSTRALIANS IN WAR

433rd AND 434th CASUALTY LISTS

DIED OTHER CAUSES

Pte J. L. NAYLOR, Stawell (illness result of wounds)

(Hamilton Spectator, Victoria – 15 October, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

NAYLOR – In loving memory of my dear loved brother, Pte Jack Naylor, died of wounds, August 28, 1918. R.I.P.

There are griefs that cannot find comfort,
And wounds that can never be healed;

There are sorrows so deep in a sister's heart
That cannot be half revealed.

In my heart your memory lingers,
So tender, fond and true;
There is not a day goes by, dear Jack,
That I do not think of you.

-(Inserted by his sorrowing sister, Vivia, Stawell)

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria 30 August, 1919) & (The Age, Melbourne, Victoria 30 August, 1919)

FROM STAWELL TO THE SOMME

Debi Gramson, Ballarat



FAR FROM HOME: John Langford Naylor (front left with pipe) is pictured here with other WW1 Australian soldiers, probably in a rehabilitation hospital in England. After being wounded in the Somme he never returned to Australia.

My great uncle John Langford Naylor from Stawell died 100 years ago on August 28, 1918 on the Somme in France in WW1.

John Langford Naylor (also known as Jack) was born in St Arnaud in August 1893 to George Naylor (Stawell) and Margaret Jean Naylor (nee Leach) originally from Barkly.

The family, including a daughter Vivia, relocated to Stawell where Margaret died of illness. Jack was only three and his sister was five.

His father then remarried Margaret Elizabeth Delaney from Ararat and they went on to have five children, also raising the two from George's previous marriage.

The Delaney family were pioneers to Ararat and the Naylors had been in Stawell since the early mining days as George's father John Dudley Naylor was a mining engineer as well as Mayor of Stawell for a term.

Jack was involved with football and his name appears in the Rupanyup under 14s between 1911 and 1912.

He was a volunteer fire fighter in Stawell, employed at the Moonlight Mine Battery in Darlington Road and in 1915, he worked as a blacksmith in Stawell just prior to enlisting in the AIF which he did on July 24, 1915 at age 22.

On December 29, 1915 Private John Langford Naylor left Australia having joined the 13th Rifles 8th Battalion and had previously trained in both Broadmeadows and Warrnambool before embarkation.

© Cathy Sedgwick 2018

For the next three years he represented his country many times in fierce battle and trench warfare, excluding leave taken in London and two visits to hospital and rehabilitation units, but he never returned to Australia.

In an early morning raid on August 23, 1918 just three months short of the end of WW1, Private Naylor was wounded in action at Rouen and moved to a casualty clearing station where he was regarded as seriously ill.

He was then transported to the hospital ship 'Guildford Castle' where he died a few days later on August 28, 1918 before the ship reached England. He was buried in the Netley British Military Cemetery on September 2, 1918 in a military funeral.

I visited the Netley Military Cemetery in Southampton, England and found his resting place in beautiful wooded grounds just behind Netley Victoria Park's impressive Chapel and, in the recently refurbished Chapel Museum, a photo of Private John Langford Naylor and a brief story of his life.

His name is also listed on the Honour Roll at St Mary's Primary School in Ararat as well as on the Epitaph in Stawell and the newly-erected WW1 Stawell Avenue of Honour in Patrick Street.

Among his belongings which were sent home to Stawell to his father George Naylor there was 'one pipe'.

(The Ararat Advertiser, Victoria – 19 September, 2018)

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 J. L. Naylor does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England

Netley Military Cemetery is a permanent military cemetery, the property of the Ministry of Defence. The cemetery was at the back of the Royal Victoria Military Hospital and was used during both wars for burials from the hospital. The cemetery contains 637 First World War burials but only 35 from the Second World War. In addition to the Commonwealth graves, there are a number of war graves of other nationalities including 69 German graves dating from the First World War.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire



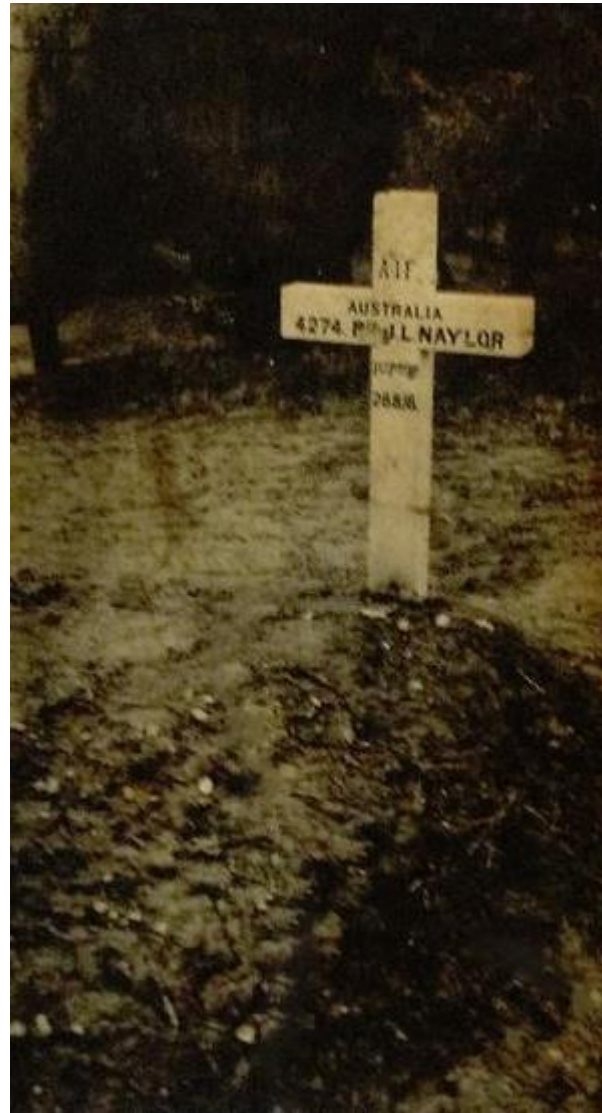


Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire (Photo above - Andrea Charlesworth; below - darealjolo)



Photo of Private J. L. Naylor's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England.





Original Cross marker for Pte J. L. Naylor



Original Cross markers – Netley Military Cemetery