

**Christ Church Military Cemetery,
Portsdown, Hampshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



7772 PRIVATE

R. L. PALETHORPE

51ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

21ST MAY, 1918 Age 20

*He Was One Of England's
Best And Brightest*

Ralph Lishman PALETHORPE

Ralph Lishman Palethorpe was born at Holme, near Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, England in 1898 to parents Frank & Florence Mary Palethorpe (nee Lishman). His birth was registered in the June quarter, 1898.

A death was registered in the June quarter, 1899 for Florence Mary Palethorpe, aged 24, mother of Ralph. A birth was registered in the same quarter for Frank Russell Palethorpe.

The 1901 England Census recorded Ralph L. Palethorpe as a 2 year old, living with his widower father & family. Ralph's father was listed as Frank Palethorpe (Farmer, aged 33, born Sausthorpe, Lincolnshire). Also listed was Ralph's younger brother – Frank R. Palethorpe (aged 2) & 2 servants – Susan R. Good (Cook - domestic, aged 25) & Elizabeth Clarke (Nurse - domestic, aged 19).

A marriage was registered in the September quarter, 1908 in Peterborough between Frank Palethorpe & Sarah Webster.

Ralph Lishman Palethorpe, aged 12, was listed as a passenger on *Gneisenau* which arrived at the port of Fremantle, Western Australia on 1st January, 1911. Also listed – Frank Palethorp (Farmer, aged 43), his wife Sarah (aged 32) & Master Kurrel (Russell) Palethorpe (aged 11).

Ralph Lishman Palethorpe attended Narrogin School, Western Australia.

Ralph Lishman Palethorpe was an 18 year old, single, Assistant Town Clerk (at Narrogin) from Tarwongup, Western Australia when he enlisted in Perth, Western Australia on 13th April, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 7772 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr F. Palethorpe, "Woodcroft" Tarwongup, near Williams, Western Australia. Frank Palethorpe, father of Ralph Palethorpe, signed his consent for his son, who was under the age of 21 years, to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad.

Private Ralph Lishman Palethorpe was posted with Rifle Corps on 13th April, 1917 for recruit training. He was transferred to 26th Reinforcements of 11th Infantry Battalion on 8th May, 1917.

Private Ralph Lishman Palethorpe embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Borda* (A30) on 29th June, 1917 with the 11th Infantry Battalion, 26th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 25th August, 1917.

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.

Private Ralph Lishman Palethorpe was marched in to 3rd Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire from Australia on 25th August, 1917.

Private Ralph Lishman Palethorpe was admitted to Salisbury Isolation Hospital, attached to Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 23rd October, 1917 with Diphtheria. He was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny on 6th November, 1917 & medically classified as B1 B (for Observation). The Hospital Admissions form records that he had Tonsillitis not Diphtheria.

Private Ralph Lishman Palethorpe was marched in to 2nd Training Brigade on 7th November, 1917.

Private Ralph Lishman Palethorpe was marched out to No. 3 Command Depot, Hurdcott, Wiltshire from No. 1 Command Depot on 6th December, 1917 & was medically classified as A3 – fit for Overseas Training Camp on 7th December, 1917.

Private Ralph Lishman Palethorpe was marched out to 1st Training Brigade at Sutton Veny on 15th December, 1917.

Private Ralph Lishman Palethorpe was sent sick to Alford Hospital on 25th January, 1918. He was marched in to 2nd Training Brigade at Sutton Veny from Hospital on 1st February, 1918.

Private Ralph Lishman Palethorpe proceeded overseas to France from 2nd Training Battalion from Sutton Veny via Southampton on 2nd March, 1918 to reinforce 51st Battalion.

Private Ralph Lishman Palethorpe was marched in to A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 3rd March, 1918. He proceeded on 5th March, 1918 to join his Unit.

Private Ralph Lishman Palethorpe was taken on strength of 51st Battalion on 8th March, 1918 in the field.

Private Ralph Lishman Palethorpe was wounded in action on 24th April, 1918. He was admitted to 25th Field Ambulance on 25th April, 1918 with shell contusions in back & injury to his spine. He was transferred to 5th Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Pte Palethorpe was admitted to 9th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 28th April, 1918. Pte Palethorpe was invalided to England on 30th April, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Grantully Castle*.

War Diary – 51st Battalion

QUERRIEU 24th April, 1918:

Message received at 5.50 am from HQ 13th Aust Inf Bde for Bn to be prepared to move at short notice. Order received from Bde at 11 am from Bn to dump packs & Blankets & march to BLANGY-TRONVILLE with Transport echelon of S.A.A. & tools. Battalion moved at 12 noon & Marched to & bivouaced in a mill S.E. BANGY-TRONV ILLE in N35a b at 4 pm.

7.30 pm orders received from 13th Aust Inf Bde, for counter attack on enemy positions near VILLERS-BRETONEUX in conjunction with 50th & 52nd Aust Inf Bde....

Total Casualties received for the period 24/27th April, 1918:

	<u>Offs</u>	<u>O/Ranks</u>
<i>Killed</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>72</i>
<i>Wounded</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>244</i>
<i>Missing</i>	<i>–</i>	<i><u>60</u></i>
	<i>13</i>	<i>376</i>

(War Diary information from The Australian War Memorial)

Private Ralph Lishman Palethorpe was admitted to Alexandra Hospital, Cosham, Hampshire, England on 1st May, 1918 with shell contusion to back & paraplegia. He was listed as dangerously ill. Pte Palethorpe's family were advised on 20th May, 1918 that he was in hospital with "concussion Brain dangerously ill". This was corrected on 23rd May, 1918 stating Pte Palethorpe was "still dangerously ill correct disability Shell shock Paraplegia."

Private Ralph Lishman Palethorpe died at 4.25 am on 21st May, 1918 at Alexandra Hospital, Cosham, Hampshire, England from wounds received in action – Concussion of spine. A Telegram was sent to Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F from Alexandra Hospital, Corsham stating that Private Ralph Palethorpe had died & "*relatives cousin Mrs Cwmbehurst Lansdowne Rd, Bournemouth who have been informed desire interment at Bournemouth. Please communicate with her direct sending me instructions*"

A death for Ralph Patethorpe, aged 20, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Fareham, Hampshire, England.

Private Ralph Lishman Palethorpe was buried at 2.15 pm on 24th May, 1918 in Christ Church Military Cemetery, Portsdown, Hampshire, England – Plot number B. 15A and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Palethorpe - *Coffin was Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack and was carried on a gun-carriage supplied by 206 Company A.S.C. to the cemetery. Bearers, Firing Party and four buglers were supplied by 3rd Leinster Regt. The coffin was first taken to the chapel, where a short service was held and thence to the graveside, where the "Last Post" was sounded. Several Australian comrades of deceased attended; also Aunt and Uncle were present. Several wreaths were placed on the grave. The grave will be turfed and a temporary oak cross erected. Administrative Headquarters were represented at the funeral.*

Names of relatives present at the funeral – (Aunt) – Mrs Curtis, 87 Lownsdow Road, Bournemouth & (Uncle) – Mr H. Palethorpe, Saleby Grange, Alford, Lincs.

Private Ralph Lishman Palethorpe was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Palethorpe's father – Mr F. Palethorpe, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent March, 1923 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Ralph Lishman Palethorpe – service number 7772, aged 20, of 51st Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Frank & Florence Mary Palethorpe, of Midland Junction, Western Australia. Born at Holme, England.

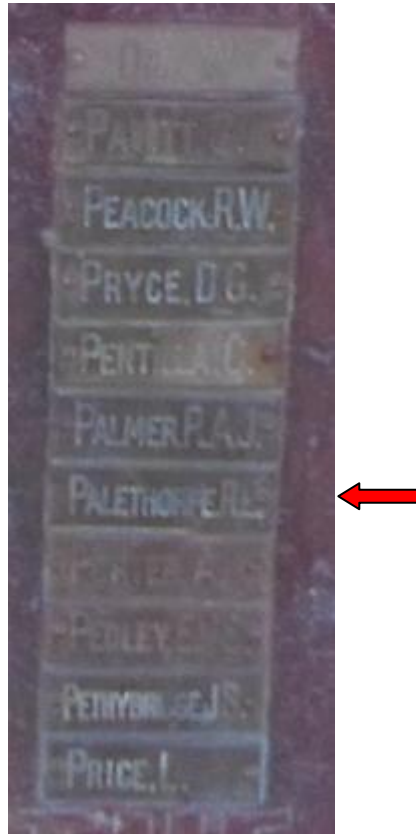
Private R. L. Palethorpe is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 153.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

R. L. Palethorpe is remembered on the Narrogin War Memorial Pavilion, located on Williams Road, Narrogin, Western Australia.





Narrogin War Memorial Pavilion – 3rd column of names

(73 pages of Pte Ralph Lishman Palethorpe'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) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

W.A. Casualties

ILL

Ralph Lishman Palethorpe, Narrogin

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – 22 December, 1917)

Local and General

At the last meeting of the Municipal Council, Dr Mackie reported that word had been received to the effect that Ralph Palethorpe, recently attached to the clerical staff of the Council, had been partially paralysed and otherwise injured as the result of shell shock on the Western front, and he considered that it would be a graceful act on the part of the Council to send an expression of sympathy to the lad in his misfortune. Decided that a cable be sent forthwith.

(Narrogin Observer and William District Representative, Western Australia – 18 May, 1918)

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

W.A. ROLL OF HONOUR

WOUNDED

Ralph Lishman Palethorpe, Kenwick, previously reported ill.

(Western Argus, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia – 4 June, 1918)

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

W.A. ROLL OF HONOUR

DIED OF WOUNDS

Ralph Lishman Palethorpe, Kenwick, previously reported wounded

(Western Argus, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia – 18 June, 1918)

The keenest regret has been expressed on all sides at the lamentable death of Private Ralph Palethorpe, late assistant to the Town Clerk, at Narrogin. It is well nigh impossible to grasp the fact that the once familiar figure of this manly lad will never more flit across the horizon of our local life, In the course of his occupation at the Municipal Chambers he naturally came in contact with practically every member in the community, and his bright and winning character endeared him to all, The future augured well for a boy of Ralph Palethorpe's stamp, and there were many who looked forward with confidence to his advancement along the lines of honour and worthy citizenship. Mere words inadequately express our sorrow and the sorrow of others at the loss of such a fine young man. Brave, unselfish Ralph. Death never claimed a nobler soul, nor yet can the grave obliterate the memory of his friends, who will long hold in deepest reverence the name of Ralph Palethorpe – hero, patriot, man.

(Narrogin Observer and William District Representative, Western Australia – 22 June, 1918)

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 R. L. Palethorpe does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

He was One of England's Best And Brightest

Christ Church Military Cemetery, Portsdown, Hampshire, England

Christ Church Military Cemetery, Portsdown contains 167 Commonwealth War Graves - 133 from World War 1, including 2 from Belgian Army & 34 relating to World War 2. There are 6 Australian World War 1 War Graves.



Christ Church Military Cemetery, Portsdown (Photo above from CWGC & below from Peter Bennett)



Photo of Private R. L. Palethorpe's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Christ Church Military Cemetery, Portsdown, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by FrankGrant – Find a Grave)