

**Compton Chamberlayne
War Graves Cemetery,
Wiltshire, England**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3462 PRIVATE

W. J. PARK

60TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

23RD SEPTEMBER, 1917 Age 18

*ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S
YOUTHFUL HEROES*

William Joseph PARK

William Joseph Park was born at Geelong, Victoria in 1898 to parents William Peter & Rose Park.

William Joseph Park attended Highton State School, Victoria. He also attended Cadet Training at Geelong, Victoria.

William Joseph Park was an 18 year old, single, Labourer from Highton, via Geelong, Victoria when he enlisted on 18th May, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3462 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – William P Park, Highton, via Geelong, Victoria.

Private William Joseph Park embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Port Melbourne (A16)* on 16th July, 1917 with 60th Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 16th September, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain area in the county of Wiltshire.

Private William Joseph Park was marched into 15th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Private William Joseph Park was admitted to Hospital at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 22nd September, 1917 with mumps.

Private William Joseph Park died on 23rd September, 1917 at Military Hospital Tidworth, England. A Post Mortem was conducted & cause of death was found to be an abscess in the throat. The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private William Joseph Park states that he died in Group Clearing Hospital, Hurdcott, Wiltshire, England.

A death for William J Park, aged 18, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

From Private William Joseph Park's medical records on being admitted to hospital with the diagnosis of mumps - *Appeared well, ate his tea. Awoke at 4.20 a.m. the following morning, unable to breathe. Died in 5 minutes. Artificial respiration carried on for an hour... no result.*

Private William Joseph Park was buried on 25th September, 1917 in Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Middle Row, Grave Plot #5. From the burial report of Pte W J Park – Coffin was oak – *Military Funeral. Pte Park was a keen soldier and his conduct exemplary. He was a fine clean living lad and very popular. His loss is very keenly felt.*

Private William Joseph Park was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll (September, 1921) & Memorial Plaque (September, 1922) were sent to Pte Park's mother (as his father had died) – Mrs Rose Park of Robinson St, Dandenong, Victoria.

Rose Park, mother of deceased Private William Joseph Park, William Park, father of deceased Private Park & his 3 sisters – Eileen Park, Margaret Park & Jean Park & brother – John Park, all applied for the War Pension. All 3 sisters & brother were rejected on the basis they were not dependent on Pte W. J. Park. Rose Park (mother) was awarded a War Pension in the sum of 40/- per fortnight from 28/11/1917 & William Park (father) was granted £1 3/- per fortnight from 28/11/1917.

Private W. J. Park is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 170.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. J. Park is remembered on the Highton Honour Roll for World War 1, which is located in Highton Seniors Community Centre, 84 Barrabool Road, Highton, Victoria.



Highton Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Nancy Alford)

W. J. Park is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.



(61 pages of Private William Joseph Park's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DA18328

Private William Joseph Park



Newspaper Reports

THE 341st CASUALTY LIST

The Victorian names are :-

Died of Cause Not Stated

Private W. J. Park, Highton, 23/9/17

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – Saturday 13th October, 1917 & *The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – Wednesday 17th October 1917)

Connected to Private William Joseph Park:

Cousin – Private Bernard Collins –Service No. 820 of 21st Battalion was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal & recommended for the Victoria Cross.

The DCM Award was noted in the London Gazette on 11th May, 1917 page 4597

820 Pte B Collins, Aust. Inf.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He went forward alone and succeeded in putting an enemy machine gun out of action. He set a splendid example of courage and determination.



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 at Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery. 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 W. J. Park does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S
YOUTHFUL HEROES

Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery contains 34 Commonwealth War Graves all from World War 1. Of these 28 are of Australian Soldiers.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)



Compton Chamberlayne War Graves (Photo from CWGC)



Left & right of Cemetery with central Plinth (Photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)



Photo taken from back of Cemetery looking towards the Entrance (Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)



(Photo taken c March, 1919)

Graves of Australian soldiers in the cemetery at Compton-Chamberlyne, each marked by a cross.

Back row, left to right: 55821 Private (Pte) Alfred Alwin Dreckow, 32nd Battalion (Bn), died 19 October 1918; 3712 Pte Thomas Cass, 10th Bn, died 17 August 1918; 3764 Pte William Joseph Arnold, 31st Bn, died 2 July 1918; Captain Roy Allan Sillar, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 30 June 1918; 1993A Pte Sydney Ross, 18th Bn, died 31 May 1918.

Front row: 1666 Sergeant Percy Robert Knowles, 9th Australian Light TM Battery, died 30 January 1918; 1995 Pte Thomas James Skipper, 51st Bn, died Fovant Military Hospital 7 January 1918; 687 Pte John Thomas Wehrmann, 32nd Bn, died 3 November 1917; **3462 Pte William Joseph Park, 60th Bn, died 23rd September 1917**; 1725 Pte William Ernest Riley, 60th Bn, died 22 May 1917.

Photo of Private W. J. Park's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)

Compton Chamberlayne War Grave Locations



































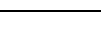



British Soldier



Irish Soldier



Australian Soldier

Front Row	Grave	Middle Row	Grave	Back Row	Grave
<i>Public</i>	1	 Oliver	1		1
<i>Public</i>	2	 Knowles	2	<i>Public</i>	2
 Haywood	3	 Skipper	3	 Turner	3
 Gilbert	4	 Wehrmann	4	 Evans	4
 Le Tisser	5	 Park	5	 Dreckow	5
 Jones	6	 Riley	6	 Cass	6
 Cook	7	 Turnbull	7	 Arnold	7
 Pairman	8	 White	8	 Sillar	8
	9	 Howard	9	 Ross	9
 Norris	10	 Tull	10	 Finn	10
 Lintott	11	 Snell	11	 McCarthy	11
 Redman	12	 Ferrow	12	 Trengove	12
<i>Public</i>		<i>Public</i>			13
<i>Public</i>		<i>Public</i>			14
<i>Public</i>				 Walsh	15
					16
				 Hooper	17
					18
				 Larkin	19