

**Melcombe Regis Cemetery,
Weymouth, Dorset, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



373 PRIVATE

G. PAVITT

37TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

28TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 33

*In Memory
Of The Dearly Loved Son
Of Mr & Mrs Pavitt
Of Gippsland*

George PAVITT

George Pavitt was born at Childers, Victoria in 1885 to parents Charles & Helen S. (Ellen) Pavitt (nee Waddell). (George Pavitt stated on his Attestation Papers that he was born near Moe, Victoria).

George Pavitt attended State School at Thorpdale, Victoria.

Charles Pavitt, father of George Pavitt, died on 18th July, 1906 at Thorpdale, Victoria.

George Pavitt was a 31 year old, single, Farmer from Thorpdale, Victoria when he enlisted on 1st February, 1916 at Trafalgar, Victoria with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Methodist & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Helen Smith Pavitt, Thorpdale, Victoria.

Private George Pavitt was posted to "A" Company, 37th Battalion for recruit training on 1st February, 1916. He was admitted to Clearing Hospital, Military Camp at Seymour, Victoria on 11th March, 1916 with a sprained ankle. He was discharged on 18th March, 1916 to Convalescent Hospital at Sandringham, Victoria for the sprained ankle (Note: the Statement of Service forms recorded he was posted to H.S. Pay Dept from 18th March, 1916.) Private Pavitt was discharged to Ascot Clearing Depot on 31st March, 1916. He was posted back to "A" Company, 37th Battalion on 4th April, 1916.

Private George Pavitt, Service number 373, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Persic* (A34) on 3rd June, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Brigade, 37th Battalion, "A" Company & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 25th July, 1916.

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 George Pavitt reported sick on 2nd September, 1916 to Hospital from No. 5 Camp, Larkhill, Wiltshire with Influenza. He was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital on 5th September, 1916 with Measles then transferred on 9th September, 1916 to Brimstone Bottom Hospital with Rubella. Private Pavitt was transferred to Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire on 25th September, 1916 with Pneumonia, however the comments on the Hospital Admissions form recorded "*to Tidworth Military Hospital on account of Bronchitis.*" On 15th October, 1916 an entry was made on his Statement of Service form & Casualty Form – Active Service: "*In Brimstone Bottom Hospital over 30 days. T. off. S.*" (taken off strength). He was transferred to Convalescent Home on 5th November, 1916 & returned to Tidworth Military Hospital on 27th December, 1916 with Tubercle of Lung.

Private George Pavitt was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire on 15th January, 1917 – seriously ill.

Base Records wrote to Mrs E. S. Pavitt, Thorpdale, Victoria, mother of Private George Pavitt advising that he had been admitted to Fargo Military Hospital on 15th January, 1917 (disability not stated) – severe.

A Medical Report was completed on Private George Pavitt on 23rd January, 1917 at Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire. His disability was listed as Tubercle of Lung which had originated in August, 1916 at Fargo, Salisbury Plain. He "*never had any chest trouble previous to August, 1916. No family history of Phthisis. In August, 1916 had an attack of measles associated with Broncho pneumonia & after his period of isolation was over was transferred from I. D. Hospital to Mil. Hosp Tidworth. Improved greatly & was transferred to a Convalescent Hospital in November 1916 from which he was readmitted into Tidworth in December 1916. Here T.B. was found in sputum.*" Private Pavitt's current condition was listed as "*Patient is confined to bed seriously ill. Cough is very troublesome with copious frothy muco-purulent expectoration, no blood, no haemoptysis, night sweats present and excessive. Is very weak Pulse 102. Can only manage very light food, no diarrhoea. Highest Weight – 12 st 4 lbs. Present Weight – 8 st 13 ¼ lbs.*" The Officer in charge of the case recommended that Private Pavitt be discharged as permanently unfit. The Officer in Charge of Hospital also agreed with the decision. The Medical Board were of the opinion that the disability was a result of exposure on active service.

Mrs E. S. Pavitt, Thorpdale, Victoria, was advised by Base Records on 30th January, 1917 that Private George Pavitt's condition was slightly improved. She was notified again on 1st February, 1917 advising "*I now beg to inform you that advice has just come to hand to the effect that No. 373 Private G. Pavitt, 37th Battalion, is reported seriously*

ill. This information was received subsequent to the advice forwarded to you on 30th ultimo, intimating that his condition was slightly improved, which report should refer to the cable stating him to be seriously ill. Progress reports, when received, will be promptly transmitted."

37th Battalion

The 37th Battalion was formed, as part of the 10th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division, in February 1916 at Seymour in Victoria. Its recruits were drawn from Melbourne, north-east Victoria and Gippsland.

After training in both Australia and Britain, the battalion moved to France on 23 November 1916.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private George Pavitt was transferred from Tidworth to Military Hospital, Weymouth, Dorset on 3rd February, 1917 (as per Hospital Admissions form, however the Purport Card recorded he was transferred on 7th February, 1917.)



The Sidney Hall Military Hospital, Weymouth

Private George Pavitt died at 12.45 pm on 28th February, 1917 at Sidney Hall Military Hospital, Weymouth, Dorset, England from Tubercle of Lung & Exhaustion.

A death for George Pavitt, aged 32, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Weymouth, Dorset, England.

Private George Pavitt was buried on 2nd March, 1917 in Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England – Section C Grave No. 2639.

This is now recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as Plot number III.C.2639 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Base Records contacted Mrs E. S. Pavitt, Thorpdale, Victoria on 10th January, 1922 stating she was noted as the registered next-of-kin of the late No. 373 Private G. Pavitt, 37th Battalion but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & was 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.

Base Records wrote to District Finance Officer on 2nd August, 1922 asking to who was the War Gratuity paid regarding the late No. 373 Private G. Pavitt, 37th Battalion. Also if the late soldier's father was still living & if the father was deceased the present address of mother.

The District Finance Officer replied "*The War Gratuity was paid to deceased soldier's mother Mrs H. S. Pavitt of Morwell. The father is deceased.*"

Private George Pavitt was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Pavitt's mother – Mrs E. S. Pavitt, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent September, 1922).

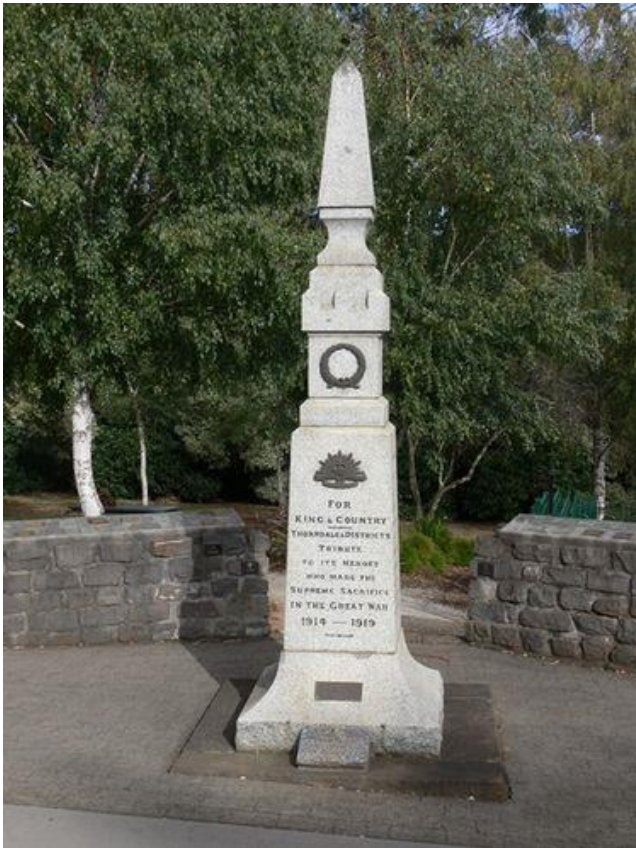
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private George Pavitt – service number 373, aged 33, of 37th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Charles & Helen S. Pavitt, of Thorpdale Post Office, Victoria, Australia.

Private G. Pavitt is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 128.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

G. Pavitt is remembered on the Thorpdale War Memorial, located in Pioneer Park, Station Street, Thorpdale, Victoria.



Thorpdale War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)

G. Pavitt is remembered on the Childers Mechanics Institute Roll of Honour, located in Thorpdale Community Hall, Thorpdale, Victoria.



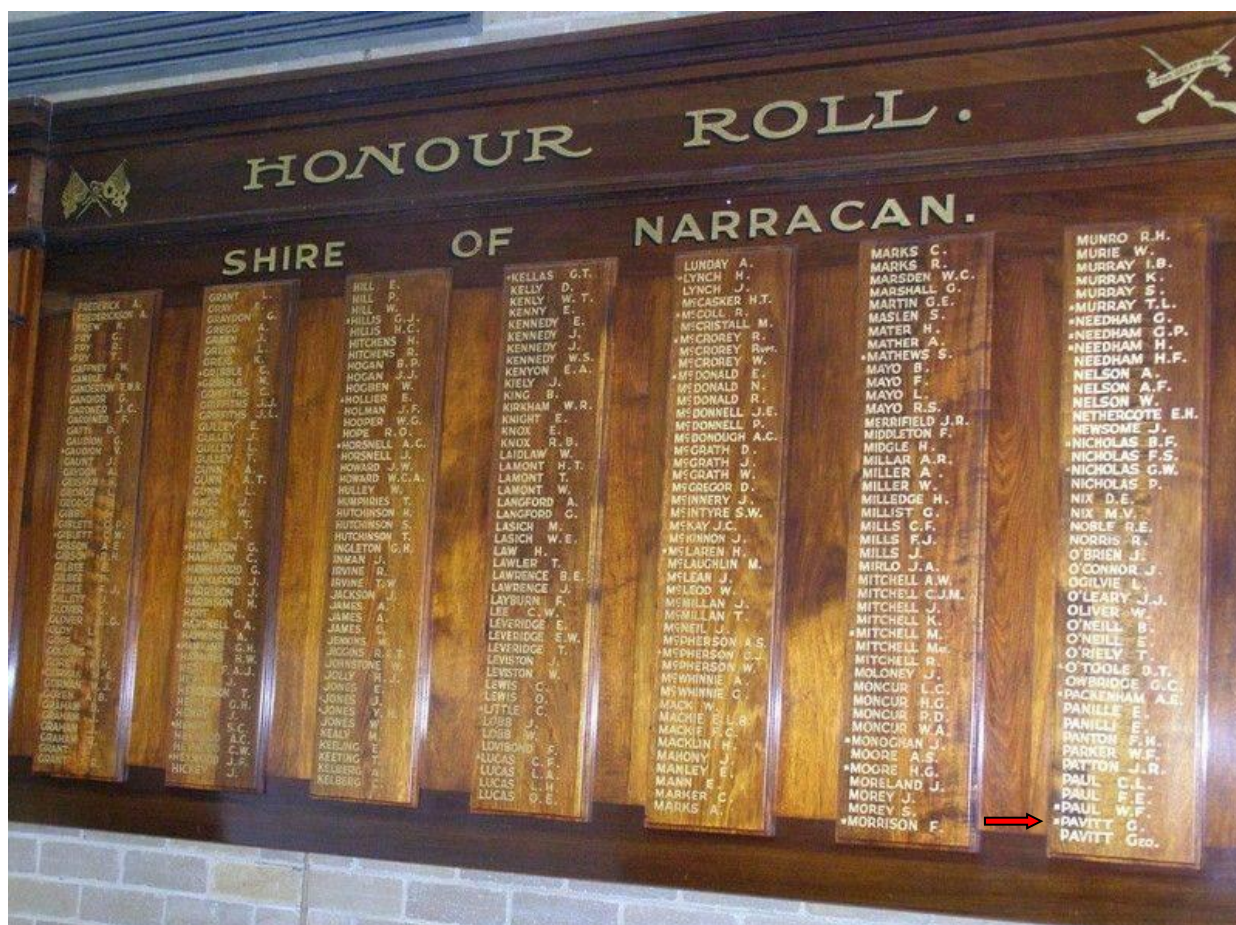
Childers Mechanics Institute Roll of Honour (Photo from Victorian Heritage Database)

G. Pavitt is remembered on the Childers Area Roll of Honour, located in Thorpdale Community Hall, Thorpdale, Victoria.

G. Pavitt is remembered on the Narracan Shire Honor Roll, located in Baw Baw Technology Centre (Old Shire Office), Princes Highway, Narracan, Victoria.



Narracan Shire Honor Roll (Photos from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)



(65 pages of Private George Pavitt'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

Local and General News

A young man named G. Pavitt (Thorpdale) met with a nasty accident on Sunday morning last. He was using an axe at the time, and placed his foot against a piece of wood for the purpose of steadying same. The axe (which had just been ground and was being tried) passed through the centre of the large toe, and also removed a piece of the ankle-bone. The sufferer was taken as speedily as possible to Trafalgar, where his injury was attended to by Dr Smithwick.

(The Narracan Shire Advocate, Victoria – 25 September, 1912)

COUNTRY

George Pavitt, a champion axeman, of Childers, was cutting wood, when the axe slipped, and cut through the boot between the large toe and the next one, right up to the ankle. Seventeen stitches had to be inserted in the wound.

(Weekly Times, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 September, 1912)

ENLISTMENTS

Appended is a list of those who have enlisted in this shire since the present Recruiting Campaign opened:-

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Thorpdale -G. Pavitt.....

(The Narracan Shire Advocate, Victoria – 25 September, 1912)

ON THE FIELD OF HONOR

297TH OFFICIAL LIST

DIED FROM OTHER CAUSES

Victoria – Pavitt, G., Thorpdale.

(The Ballarat Courier, Victoria – 16 March, 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. Pavitt does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Memory Of The Dearly Loved Son Of

Mr & Mrs Pavitt Of Gippsland

Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England

Weymouth became a depot for Australian forces in 1916 and 83 of the 147 First World War burials in Melcombe Regis Cemetery are of Australian servicemen; most of these graves are scattered in the old part. The 36 Second World War burials are in the extension. The cemetery also contains seven war graves of other nationalities and one non-war burial.

(Information from CWGC)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00332

Some of the Australian graves in the cemetery at Melcombe Regis. March 1919

Identified, left to right: Captain Francis Arthur Deravin, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 8 July 1917 aged 41 years (large headstone); 138 Private Louis Nelson Matthews, 27th Battalion, 4 July 1917; 5082 Private Victor George Smith, 21st Battalion, died 13 November 1918.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00333

Australian graves in the cemetery at Melcombe Regis. March 1919

Identified, front row, left to right: unidentified; Butler; 5917 Private Edgar Allan Thornell, 22nd Battalion (Bn), died 9 August 1918; 1207 Corporal Jesse Adams Davis, 12th Bn, died 15 November 1918.

Back row: 5329 Private Frederick Albert Archer, Anzac Provost Company, died 6 November 1918; 5990 Private Albert Robert Blackmore, 12th Bn, died 2 November 1918; 11099 Driver Matthew Charles Percival Nettle, 6th Australian Field Artillery Brigade, died 22 October 1918; 3942 Private Walter Alick Weckman, 51st Bn, died 9 November 1918.



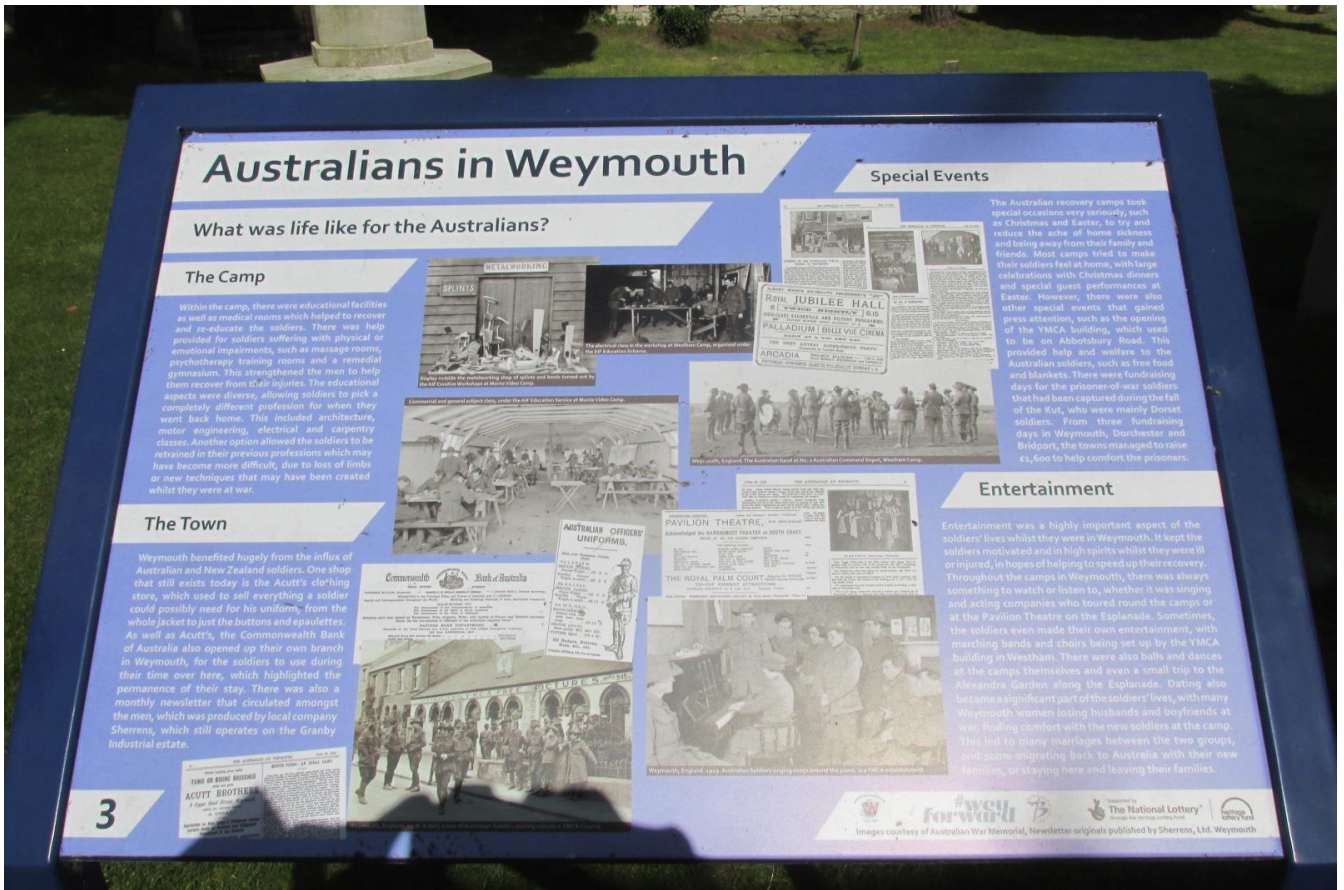
(Photo courtesy of Steve Stewart)



(Photos courtesy of Steve Stewart)



(Photos courtesy of Steve Stewart)



(Photos courtesy of Steve Stewart)

Photo of Private G. Pavitt's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England.



(Photo courtesy of Allan Wood)

Australians in Weymouth

From Weymouth to Auswey - A Soldier's Récovery



Weymouth, England, 1918. Australian and New Zealand Base.

During the First World War between 1914 and 1918, many injured soldiers who were mainly from Australia and New Zealand, were brought to Weymouth. They were known as ANZACS (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps). They were placed in Registration and Recuperation camps in Westham, Lishemoor, Chickerell and Portland. This was in the hope of sending them back to the line of action in France or back home to Australia due to lack of fitness. Weymouth was picked as the place to set up camp, as it was seen as a relatively seaside location. This would help to heal the sick and injured Australians who had been fighting in major battles of the war or on the Western Front between France and Belgium.



Weymouth, England, 1918. Group photo of Australian soldiers at 4th A.I. Coy. party.

Although thousands of ANZACs passed through Weymouth during the First World War, there are some soldiers who unfortunately did not make it home. These soldiers are proudly buried in the Melcombe Regis cemetery. This is only 500 metres away from one of the major camps in Westham, with 222 soldiers buried in the cemetery, 83 from Australia and 3 from New Zealand. These graves are similar to some of the war memorials and graves placed around Europe, much like the Somme in France. Unfortunately, there are too many grave names to be displayed on this board, but they can be found on the website link at the bottom of this board.



Weymouth, England, 1918. Hospital ward at the ANZAC camp, 4th Australian Trench Company, 4th Australian Trench Company, 4th Australian Trench Company.

Past and Present Westham

As you can see on the map of the Westham camp, many of the street names have an Australian connection, highlighting the history of the area. Residents of the housing estates, which are now built where the camp once stood, are still digging up remains of the camp, such as bullets or cooking equipment.



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Weymouth, England, 1918. Group photo of Australian soldiers at 4th A.I. Coy. party.



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| Modern Day Street Names | Westham Camp - Derivative of |
| Desert Close | Soldiers Barracks |
| Swanee Road | Company Officers |
| Queensland Road | Regimental Postbox |
| Kitchener Road | Miscellaneous Rifle Range |
| Corporation Road | Officers Mess |
| Short Road | Soldiers Mess |
| Langcroft Road | Vehicle Shed, Mob Store |
| Wessex Road | Horse Shelter |
| North Street | Cook Yard |
| Melbourne Street | Cook House |
| Subside Crescent | YMCA |
| Abbotsbury Road | Dung Pit |
| Sydney Street | Fire Hydrant |
| Shirecroft Road | |

www.westhamcommunitygroup.co.uk
 The National Lottery
 Images courtesy of Australian War Memorial