

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



13420 PRIVATE

L. E. PEARCE

AUST. ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

1ST OCTOBER, 1916 Age 18

Dearly Beloved Eldest Son

Of W. E. Pearce

Glenelg, South Australia

Laurence Edmonds PEARCE

Laurence Edmonds Pearce was born at St. Peters, South Australia on 5th December, 1897 to parents Willie Edmonds Pearce & Eliza Ellen Pearce (nee Gregor).

Laurence Edmonds Pearce was educated at East Adelaide Public School, Norwood High School & Prince Alfred College, South Australia.

Eliza Ellen Pearce, mother of Laurence Edmonds Pearce, died on 29th September, 1907 at St Peters, South Australia.

Laurence Edmonds Pearce was an 18 year old, single, Bank Clerk from Glenelg, South Australia when he enlisted on 3rd January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 13420 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr W. E. Pearce, 1 Old Exchange Buildings, Pirie Street, Adelaide, South Australia. Laurence Pearce stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 4 years with Senior Cadets & was still serving with 78th Battalion.

Private Laurence Edmonds Pearce was posted to "E" Company, of 2nd Depot Battalion on 17th January, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to A.A.M.C. (Australian Army Medical Corps) on 31st January, 1916 then transferred to A.M.C. (Army Medical Corps) March General Reinforcements on 16th March, 1916.

Private Laurence (name as listed on Embarkation Roll) Edmonds Pearce embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Kanowna (A61)* on 1st April, 1916 with the Army Medical Corps – March 1916 Reinforcements.

Private Laurence Edmonds Pearce embarked from Alexandria for Overseas on *Corsican* on 28th May, 1916.

Private Laurence Edmonds Pearce was transferred from A.A.M.C. Details at Tidworth, Wiltshire, England to Perham Downs, Wiltshire, England on 9th 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 Laurence Edmonds Pearce was admitted to Tidworth Military Hospital on 29th September, 1916.

Private Laurence Edmonds Pearce died on 1st October, 1916 in Lucknow Isolation Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England with Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

A death for Laurence Pearce, aged 19, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Pewsey, Wiltshire, England.

Private Laurence Edmonds Pearce was buried in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 197 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Newspaper item – *The Express and Telegraph*, Adelaide, South Australia – 10 October, 1916:

THE LATE PRIVATE L. E. PEARCE

The late Private Laurence Edmonds Pearce, of Glenelg, was the eldest son of Mr. W. E. Pearce, of the Stock Exchange of Adelaide, and a grandson of Mr. S. W. Pearce, the well-known prospector and discoverer of the gold mines, Great Boulder, Ivanhoe, &c. He was born at East Adelaide, and educated at the East Adelaide public. Norwood High School, and Prince Alfred College. Later he entered the service of the E.S. and A. Bank. He enlisted on January 3, shortly after his 18th birthday. Private Pearce joined the Army Medical Corps, and left Adelaide on March 30. After being in camp at Tel-el-Kebir, Egypt, and Salisbury Plain, England, he continued A.M.C. work in various hospitals, and it was while on duty at Brigade Hospital, Perham Downs, Andover, Hants, that he contracted meningitis, from which he died on October 1. Being of a quiet, unassuming disposition, he made many friends, who will mourn his early death.

A War Pension was granted to William Edmonds Pearce, Saltram Rd, Glenelg, South Australia, father of the late Private Laurence Edmonds Pearce, in the sum of 20/- per fortnight from 22nd October, 1917.

Private Laurence Edmonds Pearce 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 Pte Pearce's father - Mr W. E. Pearce, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent March, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Laurence Edmonds Pearce – service number 13420, aged 18, of Australian Army Medical Corps. He was the son of Willie Edmonds Pearce, of 14 Waterloo St., Glenelg, South Australia and the late Eliza Ellen Pearce.

Private L. E. Pearce is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 183.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

L. E. Pearce is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

L. E. Pearce is remembered on the Stained Glass Memorial window in Spicer Memorial Church, located at 44a Fourth Avenue, St. Peters, South Australia.

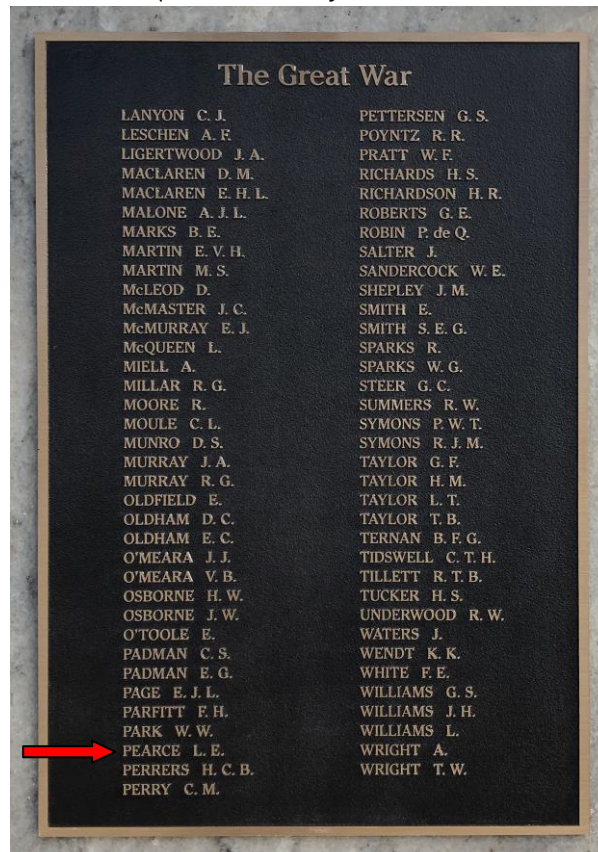


Stained Glass Memorial window in Spicer Memorial Church

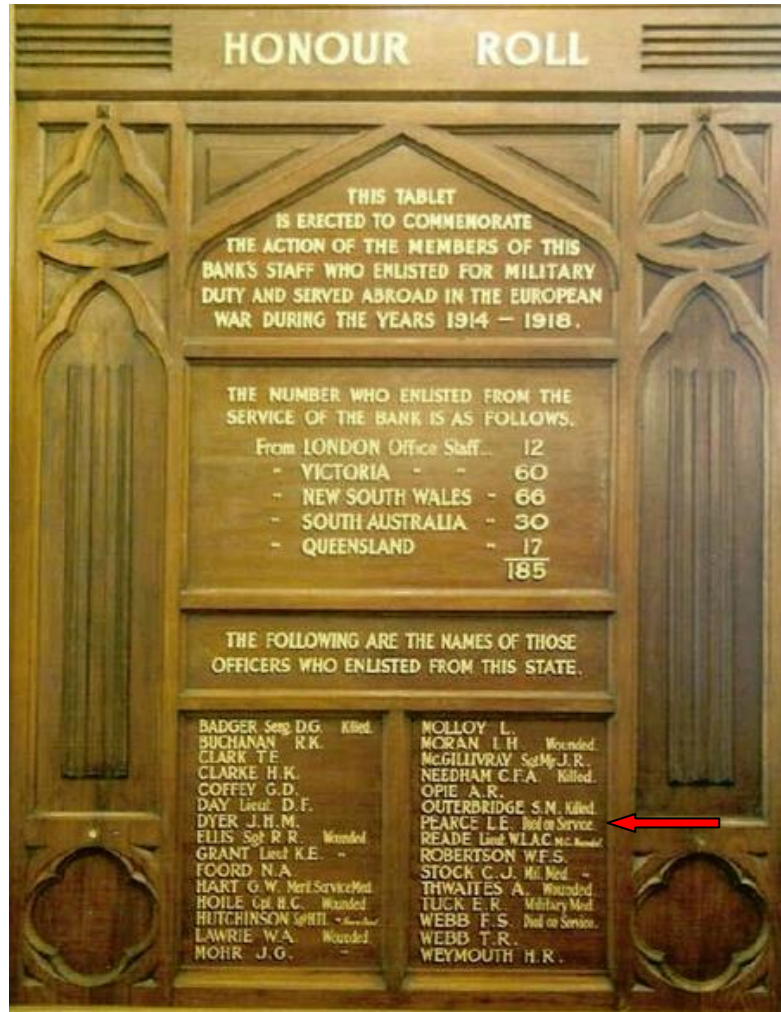
L. E. Pearce is remembered on the St. Peter's Heroes Memorial, located in St. Peters Street, St. Peters, South Australia. The memorial which was erected in 1922 was one of the Great War Memorials that did not feature the names of the fallen. A grant was awarded along with other funding & on 24th April, 2019 the memorial was re-dedicated with the names of 145 men from the suburbs of Hackney, College Park, East Adelaide, St. Peters, Stepney, Evandale and Maylands.



St. Peters Heroes Memorial (Photo courtesy of St Peters Residents Association Inc.)



L. E. Pearce is remembered on the Adelaide E.S. & A. Bank Honour Roll in Memorial Hall, ANZAC House, Victoria Drive, Adelaide, South Australia.



L. E. Pearce is remembered on the Mosley Street Uniting Church Honour Board, Glenelg, South Australia.

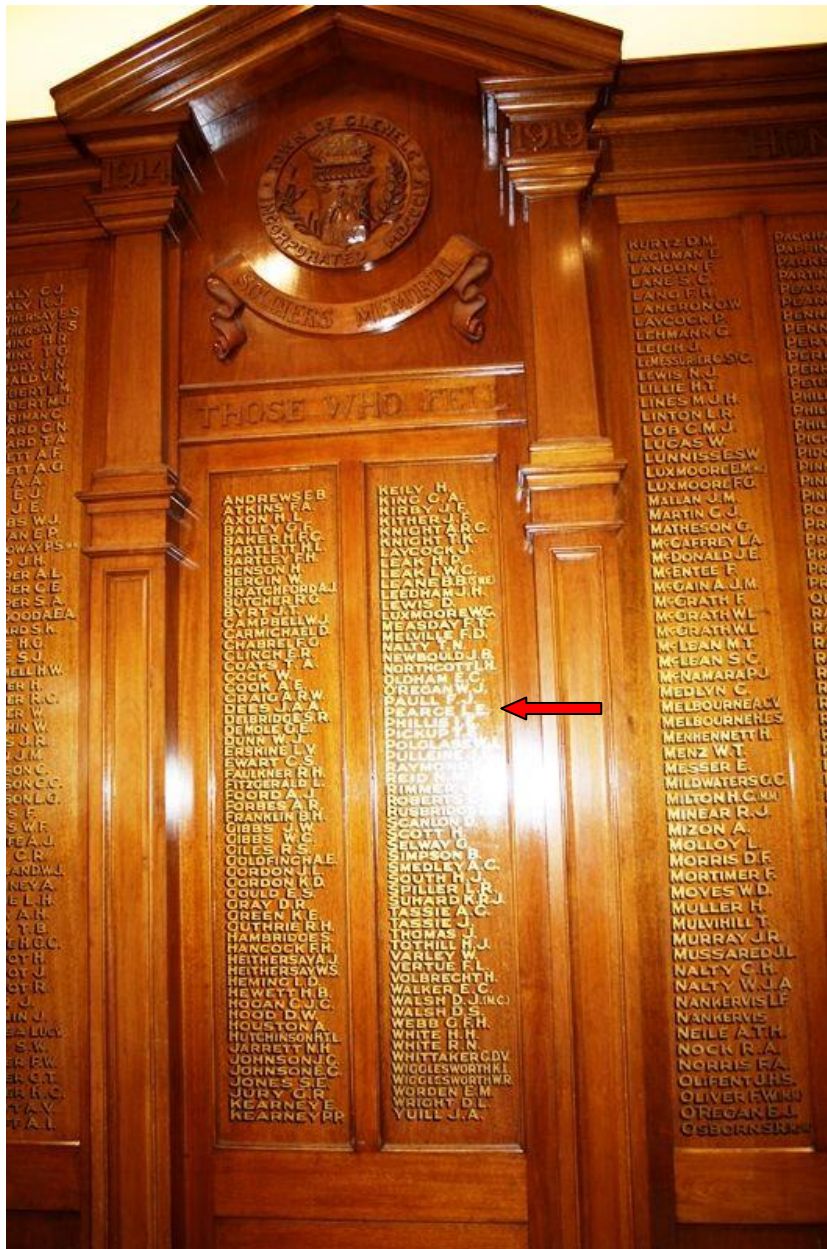


Mosley Street Uniting Church Honour Board, Glenelg (Photo from Virtual War Memorial Australia)

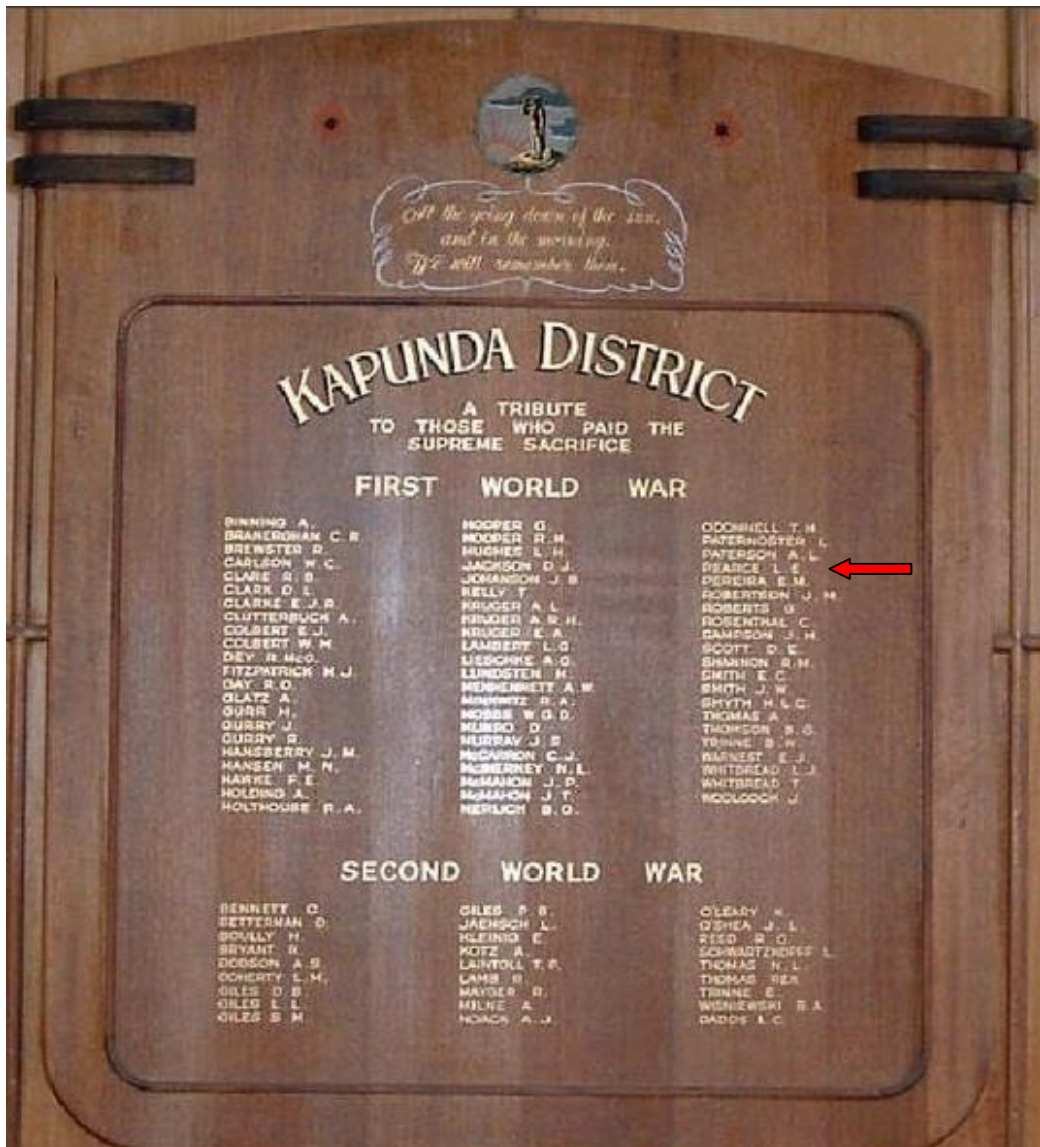
L. E. Pearce is remembered on the Glenelg Soldiers Memorial Honour Board, located in Town Hall Foyer, Jetty Road, Glenelg, South Australia.



Glenelg Soldiers Memorial Honour Board (Photos from Monument Australia)



L. E. Pearce is remembered on the Kapunda District Roll of Honour, located in War Memorial Building, Kapunda Street & Clare Road, Kapunda, South Australia.



Kapunda District Roll of Honour (Photos from AWM - Places of Pride)

(52 pages of Private Laurence Edmonds Pearce'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



Private Laurence Edmonds Pearce



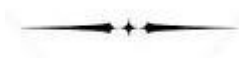
Private Laurence Edmonds Pearce

(Colourised Photo from VWMA – courtesy of Morris Forte)



Private Laurence Edmonds Pearce

(Photo from VWMA)



Newspaper Notices

Kapunda's Casualty List

THE LATE PRIVATE L. E. PEARCE

Another Kapunda lad has given his life on active service – Private Laurence Edmonds Pearce (aged 18 years and 10 months), son of Mr W. E. Pearce, of Glenelg. His death occurred at the Derham Downs camp, England, of meningitis. He was a nephew of Mr J. S. Pearce of this town. Last week letters were received from Mrs H. B. Kiddell (formerly Miss Agnes Pearce of Kapunda) to say that the soldiers was on a visit to her and enjoying his visit. His death occurred on October 1.

(*Kapunda Herald*, South Australia – 6 October, 1916)

THE LATE PRIVATE L. E. PEARCE

The late Private Laurence Edmonds Pearce, of Glenelg, was the eldest son of Mr. W. E. Pearce, of the Stock Exchange of Adelaide, and a grandson of Mr. S. W. Pearce, the well-known prospector and discoverer of the gold mines, Great Boulder, Ivanhoe, &c. He was born at East Adelaide, and educated at the East Adelaide public. Norwood High School, and Prince Alfred College. Later he entered the service of the E.S. and A. Bank. He enlisted



Private L. E. Pearce

on January 3, shortly after his 18th birthday. Private Pearce joined the Army Medical Corps, and left Adelaide on March 30. After being in camp at Tel-el-Kebir, Egypt, and Salisbury Plain, England, he continued A.M.C. work in various hospitals, and it was while on duty at Brigade Hospital, Perham Downs, Andover, that he contracted meningitis, from which he died on October 1. Being of a quiet, unassuming disposition, he made many friends, who will mourn his early death.

(*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 11 October, 1916) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 21 October, 1916) & (*Observer*, Adelaide, South Australia – 21 October, 1916)

THE AUSTRALIANS

235TH CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte L. E. PEARCE, Adelaide (Oct 1)

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 17 October, 1916)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

PEARCE – In loving memory of our dearly loved son and brother, Laurence Edmonds (Private L. E. Pearce), who died at Perham Downs Hospital, Hampshire, England, on the 1st October, 1916, aged 18 years and 10 months.

“Duty nobly done.”

-Inserted by his loving parents, brothers, and sisters.

PEARCE – Sacred to the memory of our dear friend, L. E. Pearce (Laurie), who died in an English Hospital, October 1, 1916. Ever remembered by Ruby and Alex Lovett, Malvern.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 1 October, 1917)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

PEARCE – A tribute of honor to the memory of our dear friend, Private Laurence Edmonds Pearce, who died on the 1st October, 1919. Gone but not forgotten. – Inserted by R. and A. Lovett, Malvern.

PEARCE – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Laurence Edmonds Pearce, who died at Tidworth, England, on the 1st October, 1916. Duty nobly done. -Inserted by his loving parents, brothers, and sisters.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 1 October, 1918)

IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE

PEARCE – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Laurence Edmonds Pearce, who died at Tidworth, England, on the 1st October, 1916.

Duty nobly done.

-Inserted by his loving parents, brothers, and sisters.

(Observer, Adelaide, South Australia – 5 October, 1918)

IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE

PEARCE – In loving memory of Pte Laurence Edmonds, who died at Tidworth, England, on the 1st October, 1916. –Inserted by his loving parents, brothers, and sisters.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 1 October, 1919)

IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE

PEARCE – In loving memory of Pte Laurence Edmond Pearce, who died at Tidsworth Hospital, England, on the 1st October, 1916. –Inserted by his loving parents, brothers, and sisters.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 1 October, 1920)

IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE

PEARCE – In loving memory of Pte Laurence Edmonds Pearce, who died at Tidsworth Hospital, England, on the 1st October, 1916.

–Inserted by his loving parents, brothers, and sisters.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 1 October, 1921)

IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE

PEARCE – In loving memory of Private Laurence Edmonds Pearce, who died on the 1st October, 1916, at Tidworth, England. -Inserted by his loving parents, sisters, and brothers. "Duty nobly done."

(Observer, Adelaide, South Australia – 2 October, 1922)

IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE

PEARCE – In loving memory of Private Laurence Edmonds Pearce, of Glenelg, who died at Tidworth, England, on the 1st October, 1916. - Inserted by his loving parents, brothers, and sisters Duty nobly done.

(Observer, Adelaide, South Australia – 1 October, 1923)

IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE

PEARCE – In loving memory of Private Laurence Edmonds Pearce, who died at Tidsworth, England, on the 1st October, 1916. –Inserted by his loving parents, brothers, and sisters. "Duty nobly done."

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 1 October, 1924)

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 L. E. Pearce does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Dearly Beloved Eldest Son Of W. E. Pearce

Glenelg, South Australia

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 & Photo from CWGC)



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



Photo of Private L. E. Pearce's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England



(Photo by Andrea Charlesworth)

Pte Lawrence Pearce is also remembered on a headstone with Cpl. Thomas Charles Foster, both of A.M.C. (Australian Medical Corps).



(Photo by Andrea Charlesworth)

