

**St. Edith's Churchyard,  
Baverstock, Wiltshire, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3458 PRIVATE**

**H. R. PHILLIPS**

**55TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**5TH JUNE, 1917    Age 18**

*Responsive*

*To His Country's Call*

*He Gave His Life*

*His Best, His All*

## Harry Rudolph PHILLIPS

Harry Rudolph Phillips was born in May, 1899 in Sydney, New South Wales to parents Abraham Edward & Elizabeth Phillips (nee Hamilton).

Harry Rudolph Phillips attended school at Crown Street, Surry Hills, Sydney, NSW.

Harry Rudolph Phillips stated he was aged 18 years & 7 months (actual age 17 years & 7 months), single & a Council Employee (listed as Electrician on information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour) from 135 Commonwealth Street, Sydney when he enlisted on 28th December, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3458 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Albert Edward Phillips of 135 Commonwealth Street, Sydney. As Harry Phillips was under that age of 21 years his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. Mrs E. Phillips signed her consent for her son to enlist & serve overseas on active duty.

Private Harry Rudolph Phillips was posted to Showground Camp, Sydney, NSW on 28th December, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 30th December, 1916 & posted to "C" Company, 1st Battalion on 24th January, 1917.

Private Harry Rudolph Phillips embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Anchises (A68)* on 24th January, 1917 with the 55th Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 27th March, 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 Phillips was marched out to Home Service details from 14th Training Battalion, Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 29th March, 1917.

Private Phillips was written up on 21st April, 1917 for abusive language to a N.C.O. & for resisting arrest. He was awarded 28 days detention.

Private Harry Rudolph Phillips was admitted to Fovant Military Hospital on 26th May, 1917 with a Gunshot wound to the foot.

Private Harry Rudolph Phillips was reported as seriously ill in surgical section of Fovant Military Hospital on 4th June, 1917.

Private Harry Rudolph Phillips died at 11.15 a.m. on 5th June, 1917 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire from Septicaemia.

A death for Harry R. Phillips, aged 19, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Private Harry Rudolph Phillips was buried in the churchyard of St. Edith's at Baverstock, Wiltshire on 8th June, 1917 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

From the burial report of Private Harry Rudolph Phillips – *Military funeral. Coffin was elm polished 1 inch thick, handles brass 4 pairs, brass name plate.*

A War Pension was granted to Mrs Elizabeth Phillips, mother of late Private Harry Rudolph Phillips, in the sum of 26/- per fortnight from 8th August, 1917 & in addition to a pension of 30/- was granted in respect of late Private Alfred John Phillips 5885. (Deceased brother of Harry Phillips).

Private Harry Rudolph Phillips 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 Phillips's father – Mr A. E. Phillips, as the closest next of kin. (Memorial Scroll sent March, 1922 & Memorial Plaque sent February, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Harry Rudolph Phillips – service number 3458, as being 18 years old & served with 55th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of A. E. and Elizabeth Phillips of 135 Commonwealth St, Sydney.

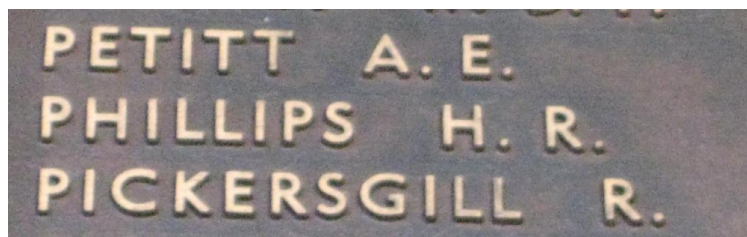
H. R. Phillips is also remembered on the Sydney Town Hall World War 1 Honour Roll located in the exterior entrance way to the Town hall at corner of George & Druiitt Streets, Sydney, NSW.



**Sydney Town Hall World War 1 Honour Roll**

*(Photos from Register of War memorials in NSW – David Roden & Peter Levarre-Waters)*

Private H. R. Phillips is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 161.



*(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)*



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

(50 pages of Pte Harry Rudolph Phillips' 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*



\*\* Pte Alfred John Phillips, an older brother of Pte Harry Phillips (by 2 years) was killed in action in France on 3rd May, 1917. He is remembered on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, aged 21.



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **OFFICIAL CASUALTY LIST - 312**

#### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

Pte HARRY RUDOLPH PHILLIPS, Sydney 5/6/17

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Tuesday 19th June, 1917)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

PHILLIPS – Died in France, Harry Rudolph Phillips.

Inserted by his brother and family.

He did his duty nobly.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Wednesday 20th June, 1917)*

*(\*Note – Harry did not die in France)*

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

#### **ON ACTIVE SERVICE**

PHILLIPS.-In sad but loving memory of our dear son and brother, Alfred John Phillips, who was killed in action on May 3, 1917, at Bullecourt, aged 20 years. Also Private Harry R. Phillips, brother of the above, who died of wounds on June 5, 1917, aged 18 years.

They rose, responsive to their country's call.

They gave their life, their best, their all.

Inserted by their loving father and mother, sister Myra, and brother Eddie (returned wounded from active service).

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Friday 3rd May, 1918)*

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**ON ACTIVE SERVICE**

PHILLIPS - In sad but loving memory of our dear sons and brothers, Private Alfred John Phillips, killed in action, May 3, 1917, at Bullecourt late 20th Batt aged 20 years; also Private Harry Phillips, died of wounds, June 5, 1917, late 55th Batt, aged 18 years.

In the midst of splendid manhood,  
When the tide of life was high,  
They lived to make others happy;  
For others they were content to die.

Inserted by their loving mother, father, sister, Myra, and brother, Edward (returned Anzac).

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Saturday 3rd May, 1919)*

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**ON ACTIVE SERVICE**

PHILLIPS - In sad but loving memory of our dear sons and brothers, Private Alfred John Phillips, 20th Battalion, killed in action at Bullecourt, May 3, 1917, aged 21 years; also Private Harry Phillips, died of wounds, June 5, 1917, 55th Batt, aged 18 years.

To-day brings back to memory fresh  
Those loved by all, and sadly missed.  
They rose responsive to their country's call,  
They gave their life, their best their all..

Inserted by their loving mother and father, and brother, Edward and sister, Myra.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Monday 3rd May, 1920)*

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**ON ACTIVE SERVICE**

PHILLIPS - In sad but loving memory of our dear sons and brothers, Private Alfred John Phillips, killed in action at Bullecourt, May 3, 1917, aged 21 years; also Private Harry R. Phillips, died of wounds, June 5, 1917, aged 18 years.

They rose responsive to their country's call,  
They gave their life, their best their all.

Inserted by their loving mother and father, brother, Edward and sister, Myra.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Tuesday 3rd May, 1921)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **ON ACTIVE SERVICE**

PHILLIPS - In sad but loving memory of our dear sons and brothers, Alfred John Phillips, who was killed at Bullecourt, May 3, 1917 and Harry R. Phillips, died of wounds, June 5, 1917.

They miss you most who loved you best.

Inserted by his loving father and mother, brother, Edward and sister, Myra.

PHILLIPS - In loving memory of our dear nephews and cousins, Alfred John, killed at Bullecourt, May 3, 1917; and also his brother, Harry, died of wounds, June 5, 1917. Thy will be done.

Inserted by his loving aunt and uncle, Hannah and Ted and cousins.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Thursday 3rd May, 1923)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **ON ACTIVE SERVICE**

PHILLIPS - In sad but loving memory of our dear sons and brothers, Alfred John Phillips, killed at Bullecourt May 3, 1917; also Harry R. Phillips, died of wounds, June 5, 1917.

They miss you most who loved you best.

Inserted by his loving mother, father, brother, Edward and sister, Myra.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Saturday 3rd May, 1924)*

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### 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 St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock. 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)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 28th June, 1921, to Mr A. E. Phillips advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription for the headstone of the late Pte H. R. Phillips had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private H. R. Phillips does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Responsive To His Country's Call He Gave His Life His Best, His All*

## St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire, England

St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock contains 32 World War 1 War Graves – 3 London Regiment Graves in the south-west corner & 29 Australian War Graves.



St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock (Photo courtesy of Helen Roberts)





**St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock** (Photos courtesy of Helen Roberts)





Photo of Private H. R. Phillips' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)*