

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

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**4395 PRIVATE**

**W. G. PRICE**

**30TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**2ND MARCH, 1917    Age 22**

*Sadly Missed  
And Deeply Mourned  
By Those  
Who Loved Him Dearly*

## William George PRICE

William George Price was born at Dalmorton, NSW in 1893 to parents Henry & Rachel Mary Price (nee Fuller). His birth was registered in the district of Glen Innes in 1893.

William George Price was a 22 year old, single, Labourer (listed as a Horse Driver in information supplied by his mother for the Roll of Honour) from Newtown, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted on 20th September, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4395 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs B. Price of 36 Australia St, Newtown, Sydney, NSW. William had been a member of the Scottish Rifles in Sydney for 3 years.

Private William George Price embarked from Sydney on SS *Port Napier* on 17th November, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 30th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 29th January, 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 William George Price was admitted sick to Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire on 17th February, 1917 from 8th Training Battalion, Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Private William George Price died at 11.45 a.m. on 2nd March, 1917 at Military Hospital Fovant, Wiltshire from Bronchitis.

A death for William G. Price, aged 23, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Private William George Price was buried on 5th March, 1917 in the churchyard of St. Edith's at Baverstock, Wiltshire and has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

The Red Cross was contacted by the family of the late Private William George Price requesting any details possible regarding his illness, death and burial. A letter was sent from the Red Cross, dated 12th April, 1917, to the Matron, Fovant Military Hospital, Salisbury Plains. A reply was written on 19th April, 1917 which reads:

*"He was admitted into this hospital on the 17.2.17 suffering from Bronchitis, lung trouble followed and he died on 2.3.17. Was buried at Baverstock, Dinton. The sister who nursed him has written a few lines, if it will be of any use to you in writing to his people.*

*S. Tawning, Military Hospital Fovant*

*In reference to your letter regarding Pte Price I helped nurse him. He was always very good, bright and cheerful right to the very end, and most patient. All that we could possibly do for him, was done, and we were very grieved when he passed away. I thought perhaps writing these few words would help you with his people.*

*The Sister, Fovant Military Hospital."*

A War Pension was granted to Mrs Rachel Mary Price, mother of late Private William George Price, in the sum of £2 per fortnight, granted from 12th May, 1917. War pensions were also granted to the late Private W. G. Price's sisters – Linda Mabel Price, from 24th May, 1917 & Gladys Margaret Price, from 12th May, 1917 – both in the sum of 5/- per fortnight.

Private William George Price 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 Price's mother – Mrs R. M Price (Both sent October, 1924). As the A.I.F. had endeavoured to contact the father of the late Pte W. G. Price without success, it was decided that the British War Medal would be handed over to Mrs Rachel Price, mother of late Pte W. G. Price, provided that a Declaration be signed beforehand. A Statutory Declaration was signed by Rachel Mary Price on 16th October, 1924 stating that she would preserve the War Medals & any other items given into her custody on

account of the service of late Private W. G. Price & would return them to the Dept. of Defence at any time should anyone with prior right claim the items.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William George Price – service number 4395 as being 22 years old & served with 30th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Henry and Rachel Mary Price of “Qvista”, Empire St, Haberfield, Sydney.

Private W. G. Price is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 117.



*(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)*



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

(57 pages of Private William George Price'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*



## Newspaper Reports

### CASUALTIES – 280th LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte W. G. Price, Newtown

*(The Land, Sydney – Friday 23 March, 1917)*

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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)*

Private W. G. Price does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Sadly Missed And Deeply Mourned By Those Who Loved Him Dearly*



## 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 W. G. Price's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)*