

**Netley Military Cemetery,
Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



8038 PRIVATE

J. D. H. PURTON

12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

11TH JANUARY, 1919

John David Hazel PURTON

John David Hazel Bamfield was born on 9th November, 1898 (birth listed on Attestation Papers as 9th October, 1898) at Ulverstone, Tasmania to mother Sarah Ann Banfield (father not listed). Shadrack Purton (aged 31) married Sarah Ann Banfield (aged 21) on 16th January, 1899 at Ulverstone, Tasmania.

John David Hazel Purton was a 19 year old, single, Labourer from Ulverstone, Tasmania when he enlisted on 22nd October, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 8038 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr S. Purton, Main Street, Ulverstone, Tasmania. John Purton stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 4 years with Cadets & 4 months with 91st Militia. As John Purton was under the age of 21 year, his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force for active service abroad. Both Shadrach Purton & Sarrah Ann Purton signed their consent on 22nd October, 1917.

Private John David Hazel Purton was posted to 1st Depot Battalion at Claremont, Tasmania on 24th October, 1917 for recruit training. He was transferred to 27th Reinforcements of 12th Battalion on 22nd February, 1918.

Private John David Hazel Purton embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Nestor (A71)* on 28th February, 1918 with the 12th Infantry Battalion, 27th Reinforcements & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 20th April, 1918.

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 John David Hazel Purton was marched in to 1st Training Battalion at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England on 20th April, 1918.

Private John David Hazel Purton proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone from 1st Training Battalion on 8th August, 1918. He was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 10th August, 1918 & marched out to his Unit on 12th August, 1918. Pte Purton was taken on strength of 12th Battalion in France on 16th August, 1918 from 27th Reinforcements.

Private John David Hazel Purton was wounded in action in France on 23rd August, 1918. He was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance on 23rd August, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to right buttock (penetrating) & left foot. He was transferred to 55th Casualty Clearing Station on 23rd August, 1918 & then transferred & admitted to 8th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 30th August, 1918.

War Diary – 12th Battalion

Operations from 23rd to 26th August, 1918:

At midnight 22nd/23rd August, the 12th Battalion were bivouacked in the wood and gully in Q.20.B & D. They moved off by companies at 100 yds. interval at 2 Am. in rear of the 16th Battalion in a position of assembly in the gully immediately east of St. Germain's Wood in R.14.B arriving about 4.15 am. A heavy artillery and M.G. barrage opened at 4.45 am and 1st and 2nd Brigades attacked. The enemy opened up a retaliatory barrage within 10 minutes, shelling the gully, in which the Battalion was staking cover, heavily with 5.9s, causing about 50 casualties.

The 12th Battalion moved off at 1 pm and passed over the high ground in R.9.C. in artillery formation and endeavoured to move into position down the gully on the northern side of Chuignolles. They were observed by the enemy however and subjected to extreme M.G. fire frustrating any attempt to reach the tape line. The M.G. fire came particularly from Long and Marly Woods.

At 2 pm our artillery barrage opened up, which, although somewhat ragged at first, thickened up considerably in advancing..... Heavy M.G. fire was encountered from Marly Wood and from prepared positions on top of the cliffs in R.5. A&C. Major J. A. Foster was killed by M.G. fire whilst advancing through Marly Wood.....

Casualties (during operation):

2 Officers Killed; 5 Officers Wounded

Other Ranks – 32 killed; 154 wounded; 1 Missing; 7 Gassed (Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private John David Hazel Purton's condition was reported as "No change" on 9th August, 1918 (Note: date should read 9th September, 1918). He was reported as "dangerously ill" on 22nd September, 1918 & "dangerously ill no change" on 29th September, 1918. Pte Purton's condition was listed as 'seriously ill, improving" on 13th October, 1918. Pte Purton embarked for England on 17th October, 1918.

12th Battalion

The 12th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Half of the battalion was recruited in Tasmania, a quarter was recruited in South Australia, and a quarter from Western Australia. With the 9th, 10th and 11th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade.

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In March and April 1918 the battalion helped to stop the German spring offensive, and later participated in the great allied offensive of 1918, fighting near Amiens on 8 August 1918. This advance by British and empire troops was the greatest success in a single day on the Western Front, one that German General Erich Ludendorff described as "the black day of the German Army in this war".

The battalion continued operations until late September 1918. At 11 am on 11 November 1918, the guns fell silent. Soon after, the members of the AIF began to return to Australia for demobilisation and discharge.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private John David Hazel Purton was admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England on 18th October, 1918 dangerously ill with gunshot wounds to buttock & penetrating abdomen.



Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley

Private John David Hazel Purton died at 12.40 am on 11th January, 1919 at Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Hampshire, England from wounds received in action in France – gunshot wounds to buttock & abdomen (as listed by Major, R.A.M.C. at Netley Hospital).

A death for John Purton, aged 20, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of South Stoneham, Hampshire, England.

Private John David Hazel Purton was buried at 2.30 pm on 15th January, 1919 in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England – Plot number N. 416 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte John David Hazel Purton - *Coffin was plain elm with metal fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by wreaths sent from Ward 3 British Red Cross Hospital, Netley. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the Rev: J. Laverack C.F. Meth: officiated. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of relatives and friends present at the Funeral – Sister Dalgleish of British Red Cross Hospital, Netley, and 5 patients from same hospital.

Private J. D. H. Purton requested in his Will, dated 13th February, 1918, that the whole of his property and effects be given to his mother – Sarah Purton, Main Street, Ulverstone, Tasmania.

Private John David Hazel Purton was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Purton's father - Mr S. Purton, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

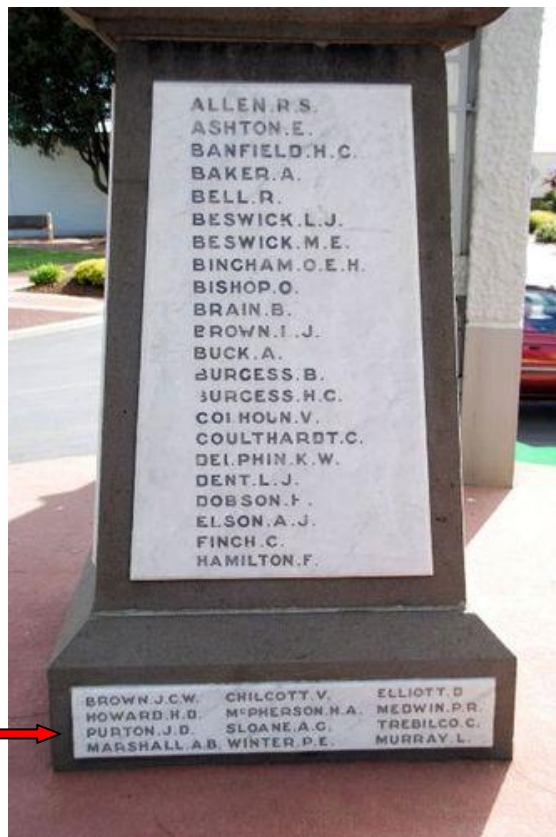
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private J. D. H. Purton – service number 8038, of 12th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private J. D. H. Purton is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 67.



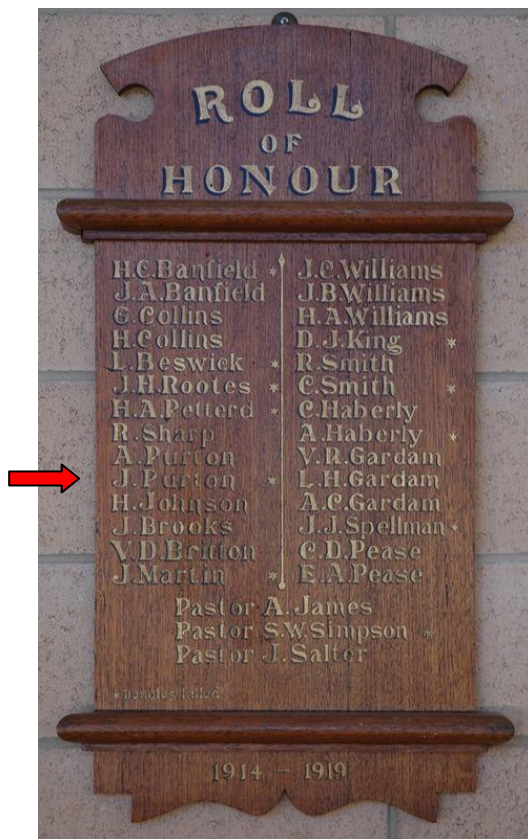
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. D. Purton is remembered on the Ulverstone Shrine of Remembrance, a clocktower built by immigrants in 1953. It is located at Risby Street, Reibey Street & Alexandra Road, Ulverstone, Tasmania.



Ulverstone Shrine of Remembrance (Photos from Monument Australia)

J. Purton is remembered on the Baptist Church Honour Roll, located at the Church on Alexandra Road, Ulverstone, Tasmania.



Baptist Church Honour Roll, Ulverstone (Photo from Monument Australia)

John David H. Purton is remembered on the Wall of Remembrance, at the War Memorial, Cecilia Street, St. Helens, Tasmania. The Wall of Remembrance commemorates those from Tasmania who died in service or were killed in action in World War One.

Front Inscription

Tasmania's World War One Roll of Honour, 1914 - 1918

The names of 3165 soldiers, sailors and airmen who were Tasmanian by birth or residence and died from their service in WW1 are commemorated on these walls. Their names appear alphabetically, grouped by the year of death. These men served with Australian, New Zealand and British units.

"What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men; and for their nation, a possession forever. "



Tasmania Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens (Photos from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)



6059	Pte	Moody	Ernest Charles	07.01.1919	23	12th Inf Bn	Sisters Creek	
2229	Trpr	Murdoch	George Alexander	08.04.1919	37	4th Lt Horse Regt	Lefroy	
15878	Dvr	O'Doherty	Joseph Frederick	09.02.1919	22	ANZAC Div Train	Battery Point	
63316	Pte	Oliver	Walter Sebastian	27.01.1919	21	12th Inf Bn	Mangana	
257	Gsc	Parker	Reginald Richard	25.10.1919	28	13AGA Ft Nelson	Glenorchy	
2370	Pte	Parke	Arthur Leslie	05.02.1919	28	40th Inf Bn	Hobart	
45037	2nd Lt	Paulling	Frank William	16.02.1919	25	NZEF Rtl Bde	Tas Native	
2138	Pte	Pennington	Frederick	11.02.1919	46	40th Inf Bn	Devonport	
22431	Dvt	Pickett	Osbourne Vincent	12.02.1919	26	8th Fd Arty Bde	Deloraine	
8038	Pte	Purton	John David H	11.01.1919	20	12th Inf Bn	Ulverstone	
2427	Pte	Quinn	Trevor	18.04.1919	25	2nd Pioneer Bn	St Marys	
8084	Pte	Reynolds	Albert	08.10.1919	20	12th Inf Bn	Zeehan	
935	AM II	Richardson	Ivan Morton R	08.04.1919	22	4 Sqn AFC	Dunorlan	
4348A	Pte	Riva	Jack Eugene	27.05.1919	20	7th Inf Bn	Launceston	
2059	Pte	Rudd	Henry Osbourne	27.10.1919	44	12th Inf Bn	Hagley	ANZAC
1435	Pte	Ryan	James	02.04.1919	31	1st AusCasCtrHosp	Launceston	ANZAC
927	Pte	Shearing	Thomas Edwin	26.11.1919	25	AAMC	Bagdad	
497	Pte	Sheppard	Frank	22.02.1919	25	51st Inf Bn	Ranelagh	
63334	Pte	Shepperd	Alfred Edward	09.01.1919	20	12th Inf Bn	Elliot	
2232	Pte	Smith	Augustus Eugene	19.12.1919	25	26th Inf Bn	Cygnat	ANZAC
8247	Sapr	Strickland	Lionel Victor	06.11.1919	22	12th Fd Coy Engr	Hobart	
335	Sqr	Taylor (3005)	Herbert Stephen	09.05.1919	27	HMAS Yarra	Hobart	
4602	Pte	Tiffin	Claude	19.05.1919	34	49th Inf Bn	Derby	
2972	Pte	Troon	John James	13.04.1919	36	47th Inf Bn	Launceston	
2400	Pte	Tyrrill	Edward James	04.01.1919	24	41st Inf Bn	Hobart	
63346	Pte	Vincent	John David	30.01.1919	32	12th Inf Bn	Sandfly	
14482	Sapr	Ward	Albert Edward W	13.02.1919	36	2nd Fd Coy Engrs	Weldborough	
2014	COMS	Webb	Albert Henry	27.12.1919	45	53rd Inf Bn	Launceston	
2903	Pte	Webb	Thomas Henry W	08.12.1919	26	40th Inf Bn	Deloraine	
20742	Pte	Webster	William Iverick	30.09.1919	39	AAMC	Hobart	
1105	Pte	Whelan	John Joseph	10.04.1919	29	40th Inf Bn	Claremont	
63372	Pte	Wilkes	Ernest Henry	12.02.1919	19	12th Inf Bn	Sand Hill South	

J. D. H. Purton was also remembered in the Gawler Gun House, Tasmania.

Newspaper item – Advocate, Burnie, Tasmania – 23 September, 1921:

GAWLER WAR TROPHY

AN INTERESTING CEREMONY

The residents of Gawler turned on in good force on Wednesday to witness the ceremony of the unveiling and handing over to the trustees the war trophy—a gun—which had been allotted to that locality. In addition to large muster of local residents several prominent people from adjacent centres also attended.

Cr. French introduced the Warden of Leven (Cr. A. S. Lakin), who had been requested to hand over the trophy to the trustees.

The Warden said he desired first to congratulate the people of Gawler upon the very neat gun house which had been built to receive the trophy. It was a distinct credit to them. He did not know another place which had made the preparation that Gawler had done and he hoped their example would be followed by other places in Tasmania. The building showed what could be done by co-operation among the people. Their men had captured the gun, and it was to be a lasting memorial of the part they took in the Great War. The valor of their lads had been fittingly recognised. The custody of the gun would realise that it represented a fitting memorial. A wonderful work had been carried on by the women of Tasmania during the war in order to brighten the lives of the men who were fighting the battles of the Empire. He had also to congratulate the committee on the very excellent result of their work, and he had much pleasure in handing over the gun to the trustees Messrs. W. Purton, D. Templar and P. F. Andrews. He was also pleased to donate £1 pound towards the cost of the handsome building.

Corp. P. F. Andrews said he and his co-trustees had great pleasure in accepting the gun that had been placed in their custody. He regarded it as a great honor to be a trustee of such a trophy.

Capt. Bislee thanked the Warden for performing the ceremony. He also referred to the hearty co-operation among the residents, which had enabled so much to be done. The gun would serve constantly to remind them of the men of Gawler who had gone to the war.

Mr. T. Collett also referred to the labors of the people of Gawler in carry out the erection of the beautiful memorial to their men. While other places were quarrelling about the character of the memorial they had erected one.

Cr. A. D. W. Tongs also congratulated the residents upon the success which had crowned their efforts in the erection of the memorial. - Mr. P. Frampton and himself could remember when the spot on which they then stood was dense bush. The memorial was a credit to all who had a hand in the building of it.

Mr. Fielding proposed a vote of thanks to all who had taken part, the Warden, the Ulverstone Band, the ladies who had prepared afternoon tea, and those who had offered to help at the concert in the evening. The motion was carried with applause.

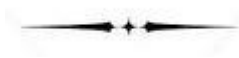
*The building is octagonal in shape and has a cement floor. Inside is a roll of honor containing the names of 33 men who left Gawler for the war. It also states that out of this number the following made the supreme sacrifice: C. H. Butler, **J. D. H. Purton**, H. Butler, C. Chambers, A. T. B. Jupp, A. C. H. Rockliff, W. J. Holden and J.C. W. Brown. The building, is enclosed by a neat fence, and is approached by a pathway, on either side of which are a number of beautiful flower beds.*

The following inscription was attached to the gun: "This gun was captured by the 26th Batt, on Sept. 2, 1918, in an attack under difficult circumstances during the final phase of the memorable battle of Mont St. Quentin in France. Thirty machine guns (this is one of them) were rushed and taken during the operation."

(Note – some Ulverstone Memorials related only to deaths between 1914 – 1918 & therefore J. D. H. Purton would not have been included as he died in 1919.)

(41 pages of Private John David Hazel Purton'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

434th CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED

Purton, John David Hazel, Ulverstone

(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – 15 October, 1918)

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

LIST NO. 458

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte J. D. H. Purton, Ulverstone – 11.1.19.

(Advocate, Burnie, Tasmania – 19 February, 1919)

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 J. D. H. Purton does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England

Netley Military Cemetery is a permanent military cemetery, the property of the Ministry of Defence. The cemetery was at the back of the Royal Victoria Military Hospital and was used during both wars for burials from the hospital. The cemetery contains 637 First World War burials but only 35 from the Second World War. In addition to the Commonwealth graves, there are a number of war graves of other nationalities including 69 German graves dating from the First World War.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire





Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire (Photo above - Andrea Charlesworth; below - darealjolo)



Photo of Private J. D. H. Purton's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire, England.





Original Cross markers – Netley Military Cemetery