

**Compton Chamberlayne  
War Graves Cemetery,  
Wiltshire, England**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2249 PRIVATE**

**W. C. SNELL**

**60TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**16TH MARCH, 1917 Age 40**

*SADLY MISSED*

## William Charles SNELL

William Charles Snell was born in 1877 at Eaglehawk, near Bendigo, Victoria to parents Richard & Maria May Snell (nee Champion).

The 1903 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Bendigo, subdivision of Eaglehawk listed William Charles Snell, Miner, of Caldwell's Road, Eaglehawk, Victoria.

Maria May Snell, mother of William Charles Snell, died on 14th December, 1905 at Eaglehawk, Victoria.

William Charles Snell married Julia May Geary in 1906 in Victoria.

The 1909, 1912 & 1913 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Bendigo, subdivision of Eaglehawk listed William Charles Snell, Miner, & his wife Julia May Snell, Home duties, of Caldwell's Road, Eaglehawk, Victoria.

A birth was registered in Victoria in 1912 for Elma May Snell, daughter of William Charles & Julia May Snell (nee Geary). She was born on 3rd March, 1912 at Eaglehawk. A birth was registered in 1914 in Victoria for Dellia Grace Snell, daughter of William Charles and Julia May Snell (nee Gray – name as recorded on Victorian BDM).

The 1914, 1915, 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Bendigo, subdivision of Eaglehawk listed William Charles Snell, Miner, & his wife Julia May Snell, Home duties, of View Point, Eaglehawk, Victoria. (The 1919 Electoral Roll still listed William Charles Snell only at the same address).

William Charles Snell was a 39 year old, married, Miner / Labourer from Eaglehawk, Victoria when he enlisted in Bendigo, Victoria on 5th April, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2249 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Julia May Snell of High St, Eaglehawk, Victoria.

William Charles Snell was posted to "Z" Company, 60th Depot Battalion at Bendigo, Victoria on 2nd May, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 4th Reinforcements of 60th Battalion on 21st June, 1916.

Private William Charles Snell embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Orsova* (A67) on 1st August, 1916 with the 15th Infantry Brigade, 60th Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 14th September, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain area in the county of Wiltshire.

Private William Charles Snell joined the 15th Training Battalion, No. 14 Camp at Codford on the Salisbury Plain area, Wiltshire. He was sent to Hospital on 16th October, 1916 & admitted to 1st A.D.H. (Australian Dermatological Hospital) at Bulford, Wiltshire on 17th October, 1916 & discharged on 19th December, 1916.

Private William Charles Snell was marched in to No. 7 Camp, 15th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 19th December, 1916 from Hospital. He was medically classified as C1 – fit for Home Service only on 25th January, 1917.

Private William Charles Snell was admitted to the Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire on 4th February, 1917 with indigestion. From 10th March, 1917 Private Snell was treated for Tubercle of Lung.

Private William Charles Snell died at 6.20 a.m. on 16th March, 1917 of Tubercle of the lung at the Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire, England.

A death for William C. Snell, aged 40, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Private William Charles Snell was buried on 19th March, 1917 in Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Middle Row, Grave Plot # 11. From the burial report – coffin was oak with metal mounts & name plate. Pte Snell was given a Military Funeral.

Julia May Snell, widow of Private William Charles Snell, applied for the War Pension & was granted £2 per fortnight from 23rd May, 1917. The War Pension was also granted to Private Snell's 2 daughters – Elina May Snell received 20/- per fortnight & Dedia Grace Snell received 15/- per fortnight.

Private William Charles Snell was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll (sent May, 1922) & Memorial Plaque (sent July, 1922) were sent to Private Snell's widow who had remarried – Mrs Julia May Convery of 24 McCormick St, Port Melbourne.

Private W. C. Snell is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 171.



*(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)*



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

The Eaglehawk War Memorial, located outside the Town Hall, Teg Leg & Sailors Gully Roads, Eaglehawk, Victoria does not list individual names.



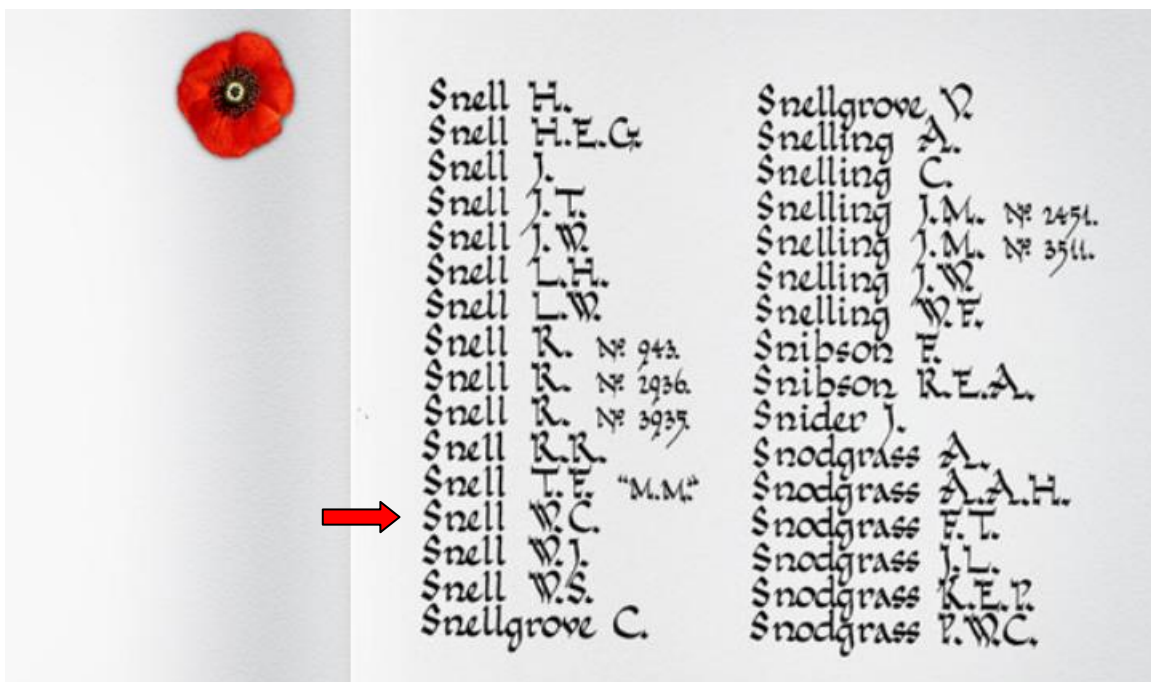
**Eaglehawk War Memorial** *(Photo from Monument Australia – Kent Watson)*

W. C. Snell is remembered on the Roll of Honour, located in Eaglehawk Uniting Church, Victoria.



Eaglehawk Uniting Church Roll of Honour (Photo by Sarah K via Steve Lee)

W. C. Snell is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.





(47 pages of Private William Charles Snell'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) & National Archives*



**\*\*\* Private William Charles Snell of the 60th Battalion, A.I.F. died at 6.20 a.m. on 16th March, 1917 at the Military Hospital at Fovant.**

**Private Charles Tull of the 57th Battallion, A.I.F. died at 5.50 a.m. on 16th March, 1917 at the Military Hospital at Fovant.**

**They were both buried at Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery on 19th March, 1917. They are buried next to each other in Middle Row – plots 10 & 11.**





**Private William Charles Snell** (*c July, 1916*)



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **EAGLEHAWK ENLISTMENTS**

During the last couple of days Dr Lyons, of Eaglehawk, passed" William Charles Snell, Charles Thomas and George Hearn Alexander for active service.

*(Bendigo Independent, Victoria – 13 April, 1918)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **285th Casualty List - Died – Other Causes**

VICTORIA

W. C. Snell, South Melbourne, illness

*(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – Saturday 7th April, 1917)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **Australian Casualties**

VICTORIA – Died of Illness

W. C. Snell, South Melbourne, 16/3/17

*(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Qld – Saturday 14th April, 1917)*

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#### **For Freedom's Cause**

SNELL – In loving memory of Private W. C. Snell, who died 16th March, 1917, at Foonah Military Hospital, England, aged 40 years. Father of little Elma and Deada and uncle of Sgt. E. J. Taylor, on active service.

It was not for the love of battle

That he left his native land;

But he heard the call of duty-

He was a soldier and a man.

-Inserted by his loving father and sisters, R. M/ Snell, Mrs J. Johnston and Mrs E. Taylor.

*(Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria – 16 March, 1918) & (Bendigonian, Bendigo, Victoria – 21 March, 1918)*

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Private Charles Snell is remembered on his parents' headstone located in Eaglehawk Cemetery, Great Bendigo City, Victoria.



(photos by Suzy & Rob – Find a Grave)



### 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 Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery. 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)*

Pte Snell does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

**SADLY MISSED**

### **Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England**

Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery contains 34 Commonwealth War Graves all from World War 1. Of these 28 are of Australian Soldiers.



*(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)*



**Compton Chamberlayne War Graves** *(Photo from CWGC)*



**Photo taken from back of Cemetery looking towards the Entrance** *(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)*



**Left & right of Cemetery with central Plinth** *(Photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)*

Photo of Private W. C. Snell's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)*

## Compton Chamberlayne War Grave Locations



British Soldier



Irish Soldier



Australian Soldier

Front Row	Grave	Middle Row	Grave	Back Row	Grave
<i>Public</i>	1	Oliver	1		1
<i>Public</i>	2	Knowles	2	<i>Public</i>	2
Haywood	3	Skipper	3	Turner	3
Gilbert	4	Wehrmann	4	Evans	4
Le Tisser	5	Park	5	Dreckow	5
Jones	6	Riley	6	Cass	6
Cook	7	Turnbull	7	Arnold	7
Pairman	8	White	8	Sillar	8
	9	Howard	9	Ross	9
Norris	10	Tull	10	Finn	10
Lintott	11	Snell	11	McCarthy	11
Redman	12	Ferrow	12	Trengove	12
<i>Public</i>		<i>Public</i>			13
<i>Public</i>		<i>Public</i>			14
<i>Public</i>					15
					16
					17
					18
					19



*(Photo taken c March, 1919)*

Graves of Australian soldiers in the cemetery at Compton-Chamberlyne, each marked by a cross.

*Back row, left to right:* 55821 Private (Pte) Alfred Alwin Dreckow, 32nd Battalion (Bn), died 19 October 1918; 3712 Pte Thomas Cass, 10th Bn, died 17 August 1918; 3764 Pte William Joseph Arnold, 31st Bn, died 2 July 1918; Captain Roy Allan Sillar, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 30 June 1918; 1993A Pte Sydney Ross, 18th Bn, died 31 May 1918.

*Front row:* 1666 Sergeant Percy Robert Knowles, 9th Australian Light TM Battery, died 30 January 1918; 1995 Pte Thomas James Skipper, 51st Bn, died Fovant Military Hospital 7 January 1918; 687 Pte John Thomas Wehrmann, 32nd Bn, died 3 November 1917; 3462 Pte William Joseph Park, 60th Bn, died 23rd September 1917; 1725 Pte William Ernest Riley, 60th Bn, died 22 May 1917.