

**Earlham Road Cemetery,
Norwich, Norfolk
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1090 PRIVATE

R. STANFORD

41ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

18TH NOVEMBER, 1917 Age 24

Thy Will Be Done

Roy STANFORD

Roy Stanford was born on 12th August, 1894 in Lismore, NSW to parents Stephen and Eliza Stanford (nee Lumley).

Roy Stanford was a 21 year old, single, Farmer from Tatham, Richmond River, NSW when he enlisted at Lismore, NSW on 18th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1090 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Eliza Stanford of Tatham, Richmond River, NSW.

Private Roy Stanford was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 16th February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 1st Reinforcements of 41st Battalion on 4th April, 1916.

Private Roy Stanford embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Demosthenes (A64)* on 18th May, 1916 with the 41st Infantry Battalion, 1st Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 20th 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 Roy Stanford was taken on strength of 11th Training Battalion in England on 7th August, 1916.

Private Roy Stanford was written up for overstaying leave from 6 am on 22nd August, 1916 until noon on 22nd August, 1916. He was awarded 7 days confined to Barracks & forfeited 1 days' pay.

Private Roy Stanford was marched out to Details 11th Training Battalion on 22nd October, 1916.

Private Roy Stanford was taken on strength of 41st Battalion on 23rd October, 1916.

Private Roy Stanford proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 24th November, 1916.

Newspaper item – Northern Star, Lismore NSW – 2 April, 1917:

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

Pte Roy Stanford, writing from France to his sister at Tatham on January 21st, 1917, says :—We are putting up with some very cold weather over here at present. The snow is about four inches thick, ankle deep, and one cannot walk on the top of the water. I left my Dixie, half full of water alongside my bed last night and this morning, when I woke up it was one solid piece of ice. How is that for only two blankets, eh? I don't think George is out of the hospital. He was in with mumps. Poor Hunter King was wounded the other night. The bullet went in just above his heart and came out his back. Rather hard luck for him. My word, his comrades think a lot of him too. I had a letter from Bert, dated 10/1/17. His letter took three days to reach me, so he cannot be very far away from here. I received two parcels from down that way last week one from Codrington and the other was from the Coraki Girls' Patriotic League. They were two very nice parcels and I can tell you they were very much appreciated.

Gunner A. Stanford also writes a short note his mother. We have not had a great deal of snow yet, he says, but we have had an over supply of rain. I have had wet feet every day for about a month, but am pleased to say that I have always had a dry bed to go to at night and a fire to dry socks. I have never received any parcels since I left home the second time, but I have been getting my letters regular.

Private Roy Stanford was wounded in action on 16th October, 1917. He was admitted to 11th Australian Field Ambulance on 16th October, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to hand & gassed (shell). Pte Stanford was transferred to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station on 16th October, 1917 then transferred & admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 19th October, 1917. He embarked for England on 20th October, 1917 on Hospital Ship *Princess Elizabeth*.

41st Battalion

The 41st Battalion was raised at Bell's Paddock Camp in Brisbane in February 1916 with recruits from Brisbane, northern Queensland and the northern rivers district of New South Wales. It formed part of the 11th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division.

After training in Australia and Britain, the 41st Battalion arrived in France on 25 November 1916. It entered the front line for the first time on Christmas Eve and spent the bleak winter of 1916-17 alternating between service in the front line, and training and labouring in the rear areas.

Compared to some AIF battalions, the 41st's experience of the battles in Belgium during 1917 was relatively straightforward. It had a supporting role at Messines on 7 June, captured its objectives at Broodseinde on 4 October with little difficulty, and was spared the carnage of Passchendaele on 12 October. It was some of the battalion's more "routine" tasks that proved its most trying experiences. At the end of June 1917, the 11th Brigade was ordered to establish a new front line west of Warneton, in full view of the Germans. Work carried on night and day under heavy shellfire and the period became known to the battalion as "the 18 days". The start of August found the 41st holding ground captured by two of its sister battalions in a feint attack on 31 July. Enduring continual rain, flooded trenches and heavy shelling many of the battalion's platoons dwindled from 35 men to less than ten.

Belgium remained the focus of the 41st Battalion's activities for the five months after its action in October 1917 as it was rotated between service in the rear areas and the front line.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary 41st Battalion

16th October, 1917 – Nil 40

41st Battalion relieved by 34th Battalion relief completed by 6 am with slight casualties.

Position, Battalion took its position in reserve behind VAN ISACKERE FARM (D.20a.D21b.) in ground located by 36th Battalion and moved up in close support to the 34th. Weather - slightly improved. Artillery on both sides very active.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Roy Stanford was admitted to Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich, Norfolk, England on 20th October, 1917 with gunshot wounds to hand.



Private Roy Stanford died at 11.25 am on 18th November, 1917 at Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich, Norfolk, England from Pulmonary Embolism.

A death for Roy Stanford, aged 23, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Blofield, Norfolk, England.

Private Roy Stanford was buried at 11 am on 24th November, 1917 in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England – Plot number 54. 714 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Roy Stanford - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The Gun Carriage was supplied by the R.F.A. and the bearers by Norfolk Depot. A service was conducted in the Cemetery Chapel and at the graveside by Chaplain Rev. F. W. Bennett Symons, S.C.F. (C. of E.) attached to Norfolk War Hospital. The "Last Post" was sounded by a Bugler of the Norfolk Depot. Misses N. & C. Scholes (friends of the deceased) from 8, Ostrich Lane, Heaton Park, Manchester were present at the graveside. Eighty Patients (Australians) under the command of Warrant Officer Geddes, 1st A.S.C. and S/Sgt Ellis, 3rd Field Ambulance, followed the remains of the deceased soldier from the Hospital to the Cemetery – a distance of 5 miles. Wreaths were sent by the Sister and Patients of "M" Ward and the Misses Scholes. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented.*

A letter was sent on 19th September, 1920 from Base Records to Mrs E. Stanford, Tatham, Richmond River, NSW, advising that *"the Authorities of the Norwich Cemetery, Norwich had allocated a new number to the grave of your son, the late No. 1090 Private R. Stanford, 41st Battalion, the number being now 718 In lieu of 714 shown in my letter of 14th February last."*

Base Records contacted Mrs E. Stanford, Tatham, Richmond River, NSW in January, 1922, mother of the late Private R. Stanford, asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & in particular of his father was still alive due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. Mrs E. Stanford replied in February, 1922 stating that the father of Pte R. Stanford was still alive – Stephen Stanford, of Tatham, Richmond River, NSW.

Private Roy Stanford was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Stanford's father - Mr S. Stanford, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent April, 1922 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Roy Stanford – service number 1090, aged 24, of 41st Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Stephen and Eliza Stanford, of Tatham, Richmond River, New South Wales, Australia.

Private R. Stanford is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 134.

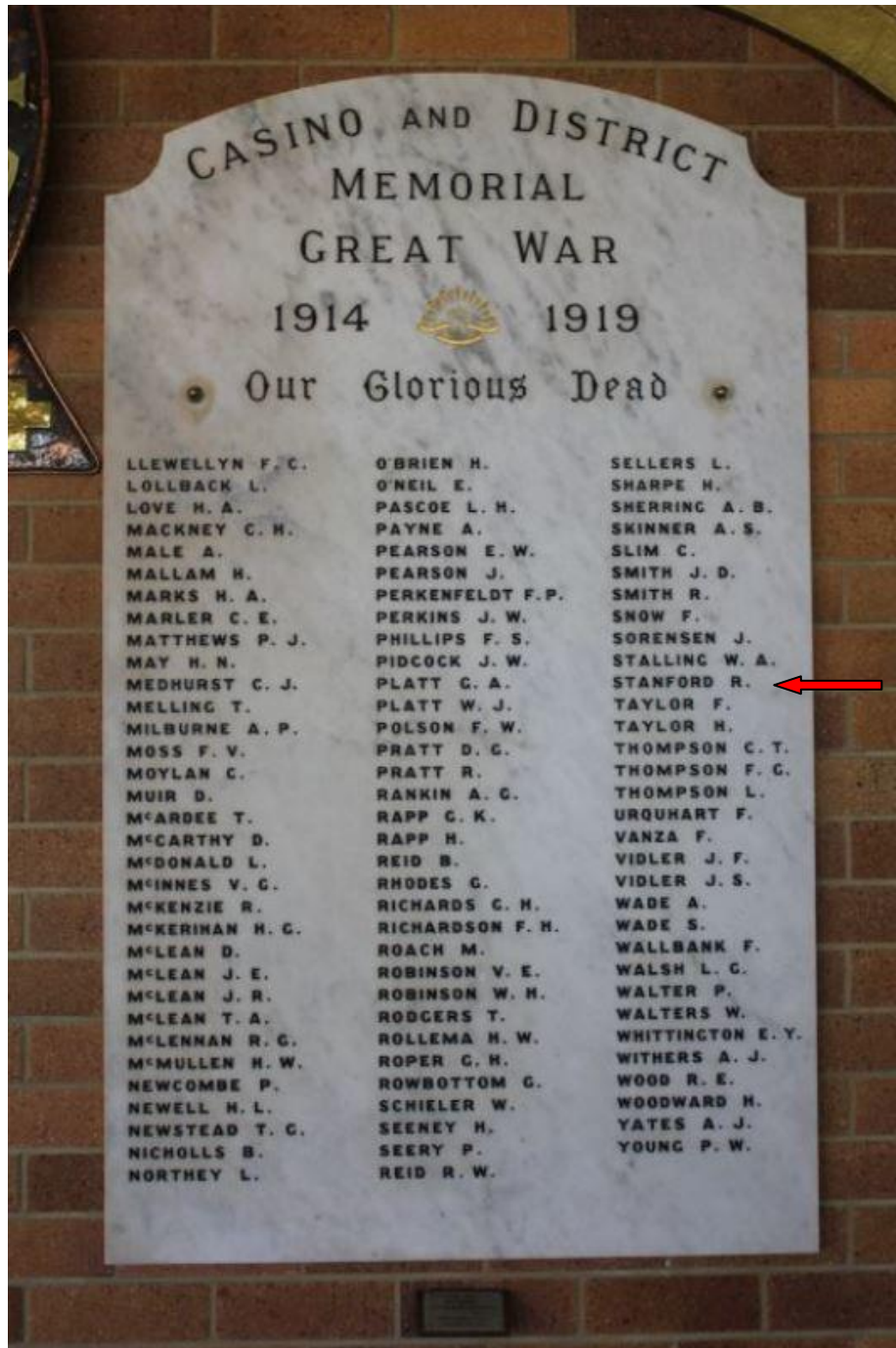


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

R. Stanford is remembered on the Casino and District Memorial, located at Casino & District War Memorial Hospital, Hotham & Canterbury Streets, Casino, NSW.



Casino and District Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Roger Johnson)



(62 pages of Pte Roy Stanford'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



Connected to Private Roy Stanford:

Younger Brother – Albert Stanford - Enlisted 27th October, 1914, 19 year old Farmer from Tatham, NSW. No. 416 5th Light Horse Regiment – embarked from Sydney, NSW on 21st December, 1914. Re-enlisted 5th Light Horse Regiment No. 2351 – embarked from Sydney, NSW on 5th April, 1916. Returned to Australia 1 July, 1919. Entitled to 1914/15 Star, Briths War Medal & Victory Medal. Albert Stanford applied for the Gallipoli Medallion in 1967.



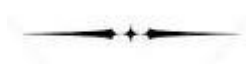
These two soldiers are the sons of Stephen and Eliza Stanford, of Tatham, Richmond River.

Driver Albert Stanford (left) & Private Roy Stanford (right)





Private Roy Stanford



Newspaper Notices

ENLISTMENTS AT LISMORE

The following have enlisted at the Lismore recruiting depot during the past three days:R. Stanford (Tatham).....

(*Northern Star*, Lismore, NSW – 20 January, 1916)

LETTER FROM SERGT. POLSON

Sergt. A. H. Polson, of Tatham, writing on April 27th from Salisbury Plains, to the "R.R. Herald" says: No doubt you will be surprised to know that I am still cooling off over here in England. It is now a couple of months since I last wrote to you, and at that time my prospects of getting overseas and having a fly at Fritz were far better than they are at the present, as we are now very short of instructors.

..... I had a note from Roy Stanford. He is still going strong, and his brother Bert is in a London Hospital ill, but nothing serious.....

(The Richmond River Herald and Northern Districts Advertiser, NSW – 29 June, 1917)

PERSONAL

Mr and Mrs S. Stanford, "Salehurst" Tatham, received word on the 24th November, that their son, Pte Roy Stanford, died on the 18th November.

(Northern Star, Lismore, NSW – 10 December, 1917)

MORE CASUALTIES

Casualty list No. 374 was released for publication to-day.

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte ROY STANFORD, Tatham (previously reported died, cause not stated)

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 22 December, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

STANFORD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Roy, who died in England 18th November, 1917, aged 23 years.

Far away from all who loved him,

They gently laid him to rest;

In a far away soldier's grave he is sleeping,

One of God's bravest and best.

Inserted by his loving parents, sisters and brother (Bert on active service).

(Northern Star, Lismore, NSW – 20 November, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

STANFORD – In proud and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Pte Roy Stanford, who died in England from wounds and gas 18th November, 1917.

"He rose responsive to his country's call,

And gave his best, his life, his all."

Inserted by his parents, brothers and sisters.

(Northern Star, Lismore, NSW – 20 November, 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 R. Stanford does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Thy Will Be Done

Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich contains 533 Commonwealth War Graves.

The cemetery was laid out in 1856 and casualties of the South African War were buried in the oldest part. Nearly half of the 1914-1918 burials are to be found in two military plots; one in the North-Eastern part and the other in the Western part of the burial ground. Ground immediately adjoining the latter was reserved for service burials of the 1939-1945 War and is now combined with it to form the 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 War Graves Plot. The Cross of Sacrifice, which honours the servicemen of both Wars who are buried in the cemetery, stands in the plot, and carved upon two of the panels of its base are the dates 1914-1918 and 1939-1945. There are now nearly 350, 1914-1918 and nearly 200, 1939-1945 war casualties commemorated in this site. In addition, a special memorial is erected to one soldier buried among civilian air raid victims in a grave on which it was not possible to erect a headstone.

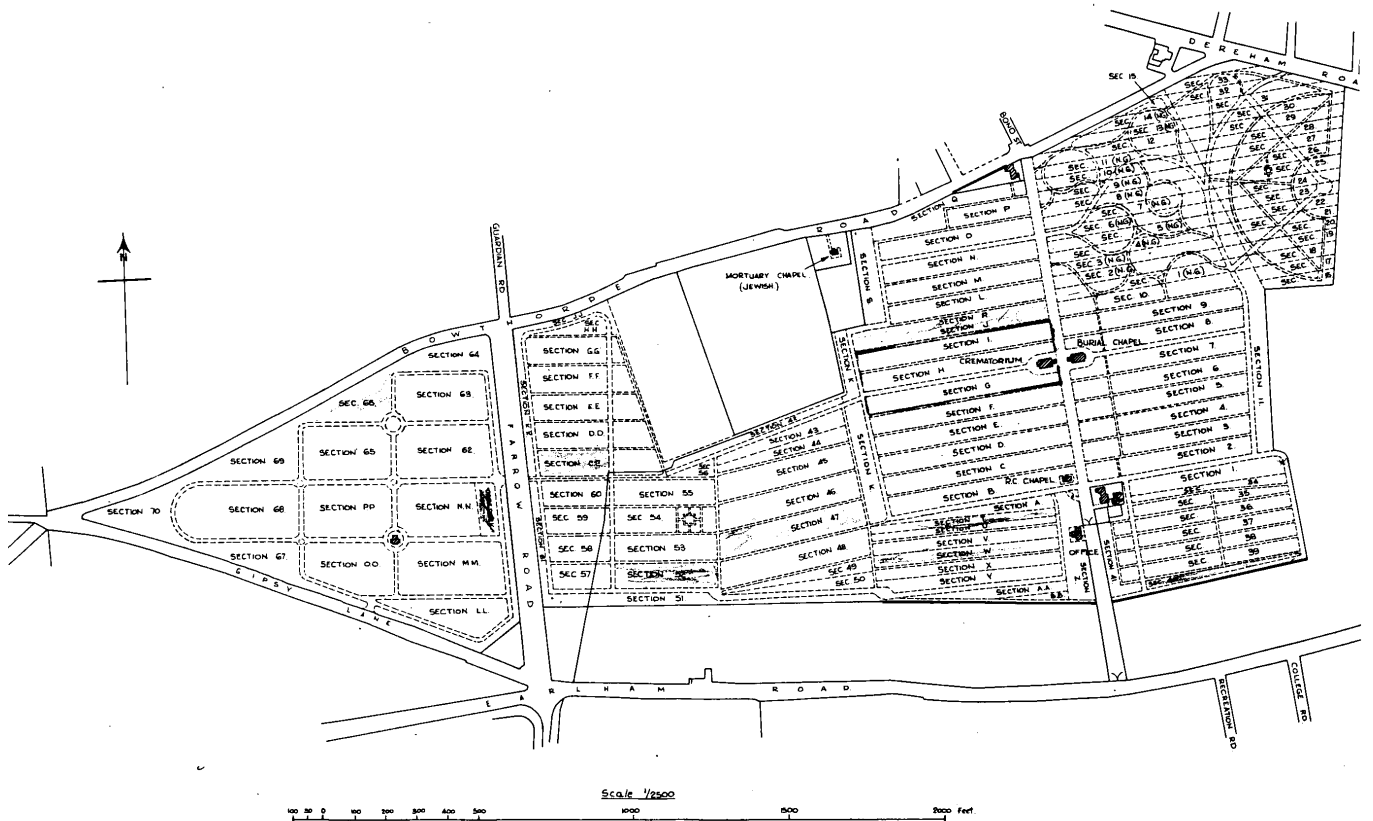
(Information & photo from CWGC)



Photo of Private R. Stanford's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Earlam Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England.



(Photo by Jennifer Hart – Find a Grave)



Map of Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

