

**Tottenham Cemetery,
Greater London, Middlesex, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4654 PRIVATE

W. G. STAVELEY

58TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

12TH NOVEMBER, 1916

William George STAVELEY

William George Staveley was born at Carlton, Melbourne, Victoria in 1893 to parents William and Jemima Staveley (nee Thompson).

William George Staveley attended State School at South Melbourne, Victoria.

William George Staveley was a 22 year old, single, Rider from 58 York Street, South Melbourne, Victoria when he enlisted on 10th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4654 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs J. Staveley, 23 Tope Street, South Melbourne, Victoria. William George Staveley stated on his Attestation Papers that he had been an Apprentice to Wilson & Co. at Bonnie Vale.

Private William George Staveley was posted to 9th Depot Battalion on 12th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 12th Reinforcements of 7th Battalion on 15th October, 1915 then transferred to 10th Depot Battalion on 13th November, 1915. Private Staveley was transferred to 14th Reinforcements of 6th Battalion on 30th December, 1915.

Private William George Staveley embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) on 28th January, 1916 with the 6th Infantry Battalion, 14th Reinforcements.

Private William George Staveley disembarked from H.M.T. *Themistocles* at Alexandria on 28th February, 1916

Private William George Staveley was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Cairo on 29th February, 1916 with V.D.G. He was discharged on 2nd April, 1916 to Base Details.

Private William George Staveley was admitted to No. 2 Australian Stationary Hospital at Tel-el-Kebir on 17th April, 1916 with VD. He was discharged to Duty on 13th May, 1916. Total number of Days with VD – 27.

6th Battalion

The 6th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 7th and 8th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private William George Staveley was transferred from 2nd Training Battalion (Reinforcements to 6th Battalion) to 15th Training Battalion (as reinforcements to 58th Battalion) on 19th May, 1916. He was taken on strength of 58th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 19th May, 1916.

Private William George Staveley embarked from Alexandria on 21st June, 1916 on H. T. *Invernia* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 30th June, 1916.

58th Battalion

The 58th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 17 February 1916 as part of the expansion of the AIF. Roughly half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 6th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 6th, the 58th was predominantly composed of men from Victoria. The battalion became part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Having only arrived in France on 23 June, the 58th became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front at Fromelles on 19 July. The battle was a disaster. The 58th had the dual role of providing carrying parties and a reserve force. The reserve force (approximately half of the battalion) was ordered to attack late in the battle and was virtually annihilated by machine-gun fire; as a whole, the 58th suffered casualties equal to almost a third of its strength. Despite the grievous losses in its battalions, the 5th Division continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private William George Staveley embarked from Calais, France on 12th August, 1916 for England on Hospital Ship *Stad Antwerp* with T.B. Lung.

Mrs J. Staveley, 23 Tope Street, South Melbourne, Victoria was advised by Base Records on 14th August, 1916 that Private W. G. Staveley was seriously ill suffering from Bronchitis.

Mrs J. Staveley wrote to Base Records on 17th August, 1916 stating she had received a letter from Base Records concerning her son's health who was seriously ill with Bronchitis. She stated she had not heard from him since 16th April, 1916 and would like his present address.

Base Records replied to Mrs J. Staveley on 24th August, 1916 stating that no further information regarding her son had come to hand. His postal address was "*No. 4564 Private W. G. Staveley, 6th Australian Infantry, C/o A.I.F. Headquarters, 130 Horseferry Road, London, S.W.*"

Mrs J. Staveley was advised again on 3rd September, 1916 that Private W. G. Staveley was dangerously ill with Bronchitis.

Mrs J. Staveley, 23 Tope Street, South Melbourne, Victoria was advised by Base Records on 18th September, 1916 that Private W. G. Staveley's condition was stationary & was reported to be still stationary on 5th October, 1916. Mrs Staveley was advised on 18th October, 1916 & again on 1st November, 1916 that Private W. G. Staveley's condition was still stationary.

Private William George Staveley was admitted to Edmonton Military Hospital, London, England on 11th August, 1916. He was reported as gravely ill (no date recorded).

Private William George Staveley died on 12th November, 1916 at Edmonton Military Hospital, London, England from Haemoptysis – Tuberculosis Lung.

A death for William G. Staveley, aged 23, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Edmonton, Middlesex, England.

Private William George Staveley was buried in Tottenham Cemetery, Greater London, Middlesex, England Grave No. 7008.

Base Records wrote to Mrs L. Staveley, 23 Tope Street, South Melbourne, Victoria on 20th April, 1920 to advise that the remains of her son, the late No. 4654 Private W. G. Staveley, 58th Battalion has "*been exhumed from the former site and re-interred in grave No. 7356, Tottenham Cemetery, Tottenham, London. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain.*"

Private William George Staveley is now remembered on CWGC Screen Wall - Gen. 7356 as he has no headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private William George Staveley contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of two enquiries from Melbourne for details regarding his death & burial.

- One report stated that Private W. E. Staveley, 4654, had been admitted to Military Hospital, Edmonton, Nightingale Ward on 9th August, 1916 with Bronchitis. An update was posted on 25th August, 1916 that he had "*Bronchial pneumonia – not very serious – quite comfortable, but still ill.*"
- The Matron, Edmonton Military Hospital, Silver Street, Upper Edmonton reported the following "*The Doctors report stated that he was suffering from Pulmonary Phthisis and had been suffering from the disease for several months. He was too ill to be sent home and appeared quite contented to be nursed here. He was buried in the Heroes Corner of the Tottenham Cemetery a with a full Military funeral. All his chums and a large number of soldiers attended the funeral. Sister Mahoney was also there as she took a personal interest in the boy, and if this will be any comfort to his people in Australia to know she grieved for him, and followed him to his last resting places as his own sister would have done.*"

A War Pension was granted to Jemima Staveley, Tope St., South Melbourne, mother of the late Private William George Staveley, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 17th January, 1917.

Mrs J. Staveley, mother of the late Private William George Staveley, advised Base Records on 23rd August, 1921 that her address was changing from 23 Tope Street, South Melbourne to 18 Henry Street, Glenferrie, Victoria.

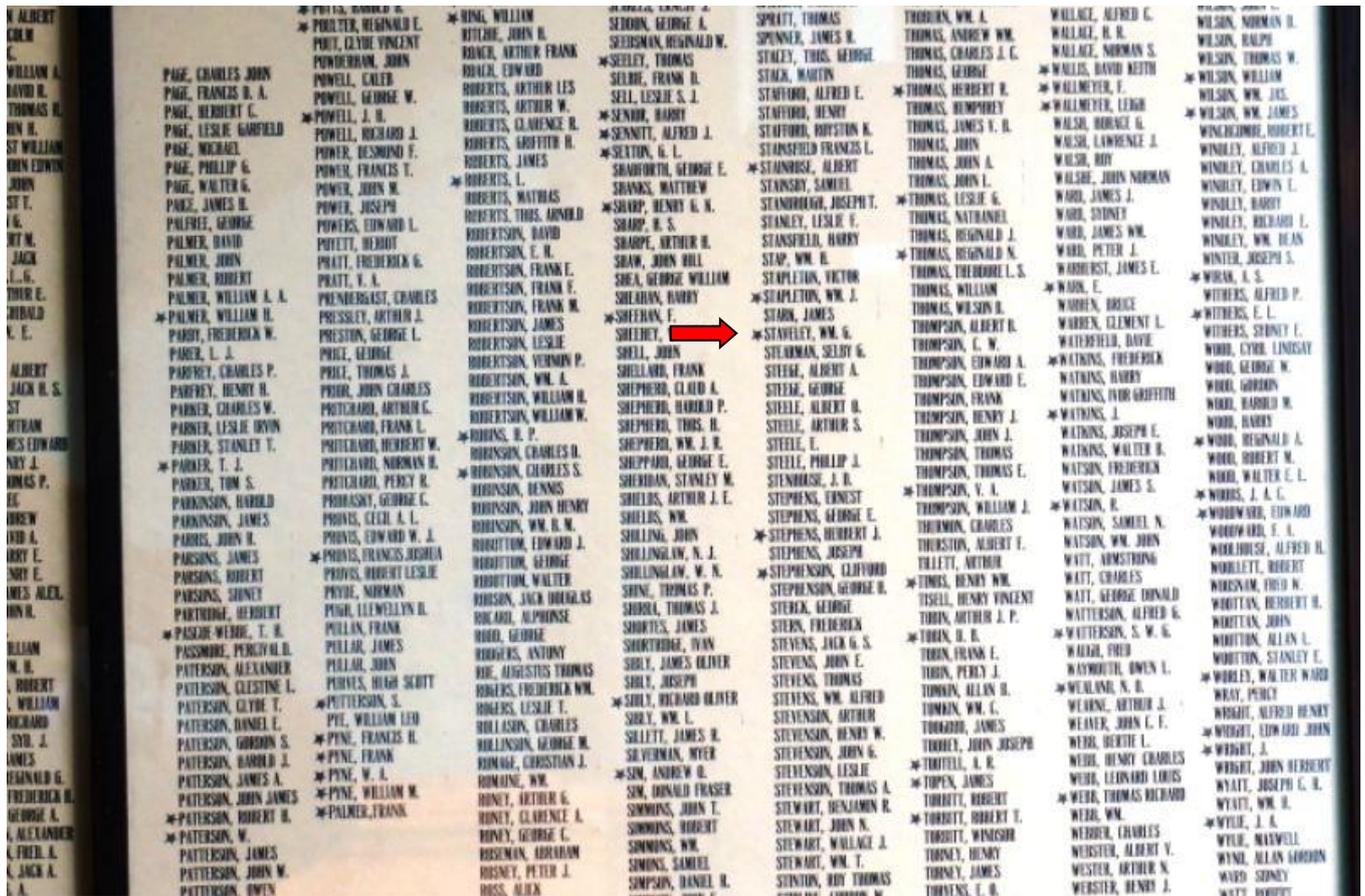
Base Records contacted Mrs J. Staveley, 18 Henry Street, Glenferrie, Victoria, mother of the late Private William George Staveley, on 24th October, 1921 stating she was noted as the registered next-of-kin but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & in particular was asked if 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.

Private William George Staveley was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Staveley's mother – Mrs J. Staveley, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William George Staveley – service number 4654, aged 22, of 58th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William and Jemima Staveley, of 18 Henry St., Glenferrie, Victoria, Australia.

W. G. Staveley is remembered on the South Melbourne Roll of Honour, located at South Melbourne Town Hall, Bank Street, South Melbourne, Victoria.





South Melbourne Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia)

Private W. G. Staveley is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 166.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(66 pages of Private William George Staveley'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

THE 202nd CASUALTY LIST

ILL

Private W. G. Staveley, South Melbourne

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 2 September, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

216th and 217th LISTS ISSUED

DANGEROUSLY ILL

VICTORIA

STAVELEY, W. G., South Melbourne

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 September, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOR

LATEST LISTS

VICTORIA

PROGRESS REPORT

W. G. Staveley (condition Stationary)

(*The Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, NSW – 9 October, 1916)

DEATHS

On Active Service

STAVELEY – Died of illness, 12th November, at military hospital, Edmonton, England, Private W. J. Staveley, A.I.F., loving grandson of Mrs Coyle, York-street; nephew of A. Butler and Jack Thompson (on active service); also beloved nephew of Jane Butler and cousin of Arthur and Margaret, 58 York-street, South Melbourne, aged 23 years.

At rest.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 20 November, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

244th LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte W. G. STAVELEY

(The Bendigo Independent, Victoria – 28 November, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN GRAVES

FLOWERS IN TOTTENHAM CEMETERY

Eight Australian soldiers are lying in Tottenham Cemetery, England. News of the tending of their graves has been received by Miss G. Limmer, of 299 Avoca street, Randwick, in a letter from a friend, Miss Lillian Short whose address is 130A Gladstone Avenue, Wood Green, London N. The letter says:

In Tottenham Cemetery there are eight Australian soldiers buried, and a few friends and myself have under taken to place flowers on the graves once every month, so that they are not forgotten. The graves are beautifully turfed and looked after by the cemetery authorities, but we supply the flowers. We have been wondering whether the relatives of the men would like to know that we are doing this. It seems so dreadful to think that the poor boys are lying here and their friends cannot get to them. I went to the cemetery yesterday and put daffodils, narcissus and marguerites (yellow) there. They looked so nice when they were finished. The men's names and numbers are as follow:

3959 Pte. W. Whitehead, 23rd Battn., died October 2, 1916.

4654 Pte. W. G. Staveley, 58th. Battn.. died November 12, 1916.

651 Pte. E. J. Willis, 29th Battn., died August 2, 1916.

3558 Pte. E. Smith, 6th Battn., died September 9, 1916.

2778 Pte. H. L. Beaumont, 10th Battn., died September 25, 1916.

4146 Pte. F. A. Beard, 59th Battn., died July 30, 1916.

553 Pte. D. Low, 32nd Battn., died August 4, 1916.

2466 Pte. R. V. Feehan, 10th Battn., died September 22, 1916.

(Advocate, Burnie, Tasmania – 17 June, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

STAVELEY – BUTLER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, 4654, Private W. G. Staveley, who died on the 12th November, 1916, at the Edmonton Military Hospital, buried at Tottenham, England; also his loving uncle, 3267, Private A. Butler, killed in action in France on the 19th July, 1916, loving father of A. and M. Butler.

Duty noble done.

-Inserted by his loving father, mother, brother and sisters, aunt and cousins, and uncle, J. J. Thompson.

STAVELEY - In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Pte W. G. Staveley, who died in Edmonton Military Hospital, on 12th November, 1916. Rest in peace.

-Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sister.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 12 November, 1919)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Tottenham Cemetery, Greater London, Middlesex, England

Tottenham Cemetery contains burials of both wars. Most of the 293 First World War graves are in a plot on the western side of the cemetery, backed by a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried both there and elsewhere in the cemetery, whose graves could not be individually marked.

There are 212 burials of the Second World War, mostly scattered, but 30 graves form a small plot facing the First World War plot. Again, some graves could not be individually marked and these casualties are commemorated on supplementary panels to the Screen Wall.

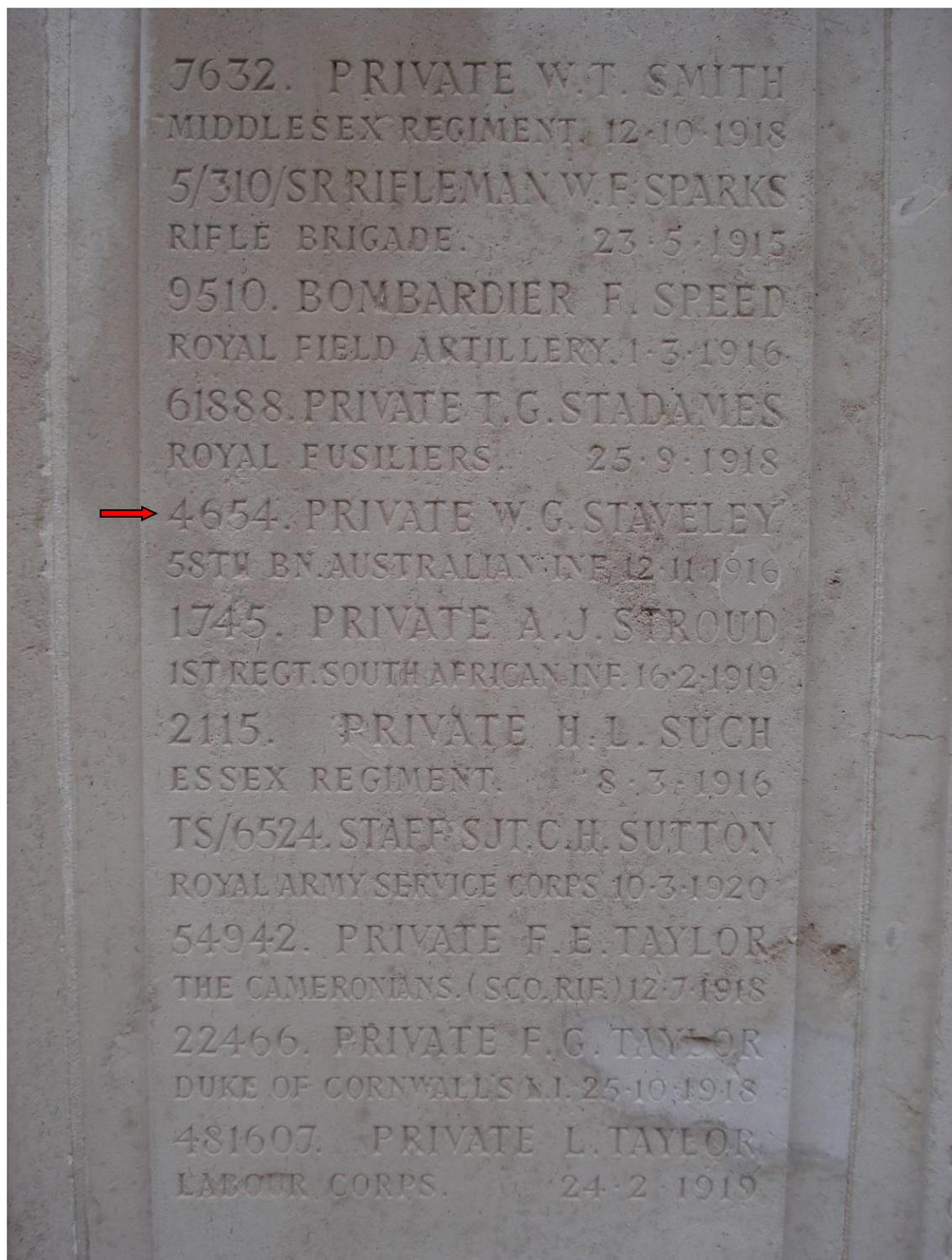
(*Information from CWGC*)



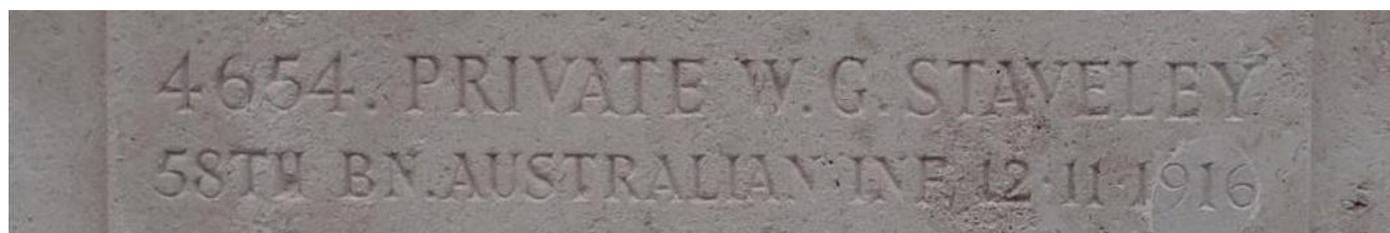
Tottenham Cemetery (Photo above from Find a Grave – Mike Ganly; below from CWGC)



Photo of Private W. G. Staveley's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Tottenham Cemetery, Greater London, Middlesex, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Julia&keld)





Tottenham Cemetery Map (Photo from Find a Grave – Justin)