

**Hartshill Cemetery,
Stoke-On-Trent, Staffordshire**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3632 PRIVATE

H. G. TARR

8TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

3RD AUGUST, 1916 Age 19

Ever Remembered

Harold George TARR

Harold George Tarr was born at Bendigo, Victoria in 1897 to parents George and Bessie Tarr (nee Seymour). His birth was registered in the district of Kangaroo Flat.

Harold George Tarr attended Queensberry Street State School, North Melbourne, Victoria.

Harold George Tarr was an 18 year old, single, Salesman from 87 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne, Victoria when he enlisted on 9th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3632 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr George Tarr, 87 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne, Victoria. Harold Tarr stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with Senior Cadets 61st Area.

As Harold Tarr was under the age of 21 years – his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service abroad. George & Bess Tarr both signed their consent on 10th July, 1915.

Private Harold George Tarr was posted to "N" Company, 4th Depot Battalion on 21st October, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 24th Battalion on 9th December, 1915.

Private Harold George Tarr embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Afric (A19)* on 5th January, 1916 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 24th Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements.

Private Harold George Tarr was allotted to & proceeded to join 8th Battalion from Zeitoun on 24th February, 1916. He was taken on strength of 8th Battalion at Serapeum on the same day.

Private Harold George Tarr proceeded from Alexandria on 26th March, 1916 on H.M.T. *Megantic* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 31st March, 1916.

Private Harold George Tarr was wounded in action in France on 26th July, 1916. He was admitted to 1st General Hospital at Rouen, France on 26th July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wounds) to right Arm & right Thigh. Private Tarr embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Western Australia* on 28th July, 1916.

8th Battalion

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

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion was heavily involved in operations against the German Army. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary -8th Battalion

Pozieres – 25th July, 1916:

At 0100 CO reported again at Bge Hqrs and was informed that operations were to take place at 0330 that morning. C.O. received orders for the operations (appendix I). At 0220 half Battn (C & D Coys) moved from Bn Hqrs at X 16 a 28 and took up positions at strong posts in Pozieres occupied by A & B Coys from which the attack was to be delivered. Battn Hqrs moved forward to X 4 c 72. At 0330 under cover of artillery fire the attack was launched. The Bn attacking on a frontage of 2 Coys (C & D Coys) right & left respectively with 1 Coy B in Support. One coy (A) was detailed to clear a short trench running almost at right angles to our advance W of Pozieres. The attack proceeded vigorously through the Village each trench & string post being quickly cleared of enemy. The left Coy (D) with an irresistible advance reached its objective by 5 am and proceeded to establish itself 50 yds north of Cemetery. Our right Coy (C) met with strong opposition but fighting with great determination speedily overcame it and shortly after 5 am reached their objective NE of village and at once dug themselves in. The bombing parties of 4th Bn working up German Trench at X 4 c 58-59 co operated splendidly driving enemy N towards position occupied by our left Coy (D)

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where they were either killed or made prisoners. The left Coy (D) sent forward a patrol north to within 100 yards of MOUQUET FARM, encountering on 1 German who was shot. From there they observed enemy in Force moving along trenches at approx. X 34 central to R 35 Cent towards windmill as if concentrating for Counter Attack, this was communicated to Artillery and a heavy fire was brought to bear on these trenches. During afternoon the 6th Battn moved forward to our line and connected up with our left and right. An intense shelling by enemy guns all day tended to retard the strengthening of our line but in spite of this good deep trenches were dug which afforded fair protection. The Battn was ordered to send parties forward this night to sieze & consolidate points at Sq R 34 o 66 & R 34 a(d?) 23.

Poizieres – 26th July, 1916:

At 3am both posts were secured and a strong post constructed at latterpoint. At the former point our party was bombed and fired on by the Warricks and withdrew and as it was then daylight and exposed to severe fire this work was postponed until the following night when it was completed by this Battn. All this day Bn Hqtrs & trenches were subjected to a terrific bombardment which completely destroyed our trenches, it was a great strain on all ranks but they stood it unflinchingly.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Harold George Tarr was admitted to Stoke-on-Trent War Hospital, Newcastle, Staffordshire, England on 29th July, 1916 with G.S.W. to right Arm. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Gunshot wound of right humerus with severe compound fracture near the elbow. Gradual onset of Septicaemia resulting in death.*"

Private Harold George Tarr died on 3rd August, 1916 at Stoke-on-Trent War Hospital, Newcastle, Staffordshire, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. Arm, acute Septic Absorption. (Note: Both handwritten copy & typed copy of Casualty Form – Active Service have quoted incorrectly "G.S.W. left Arm")

A death for H. G. Tarr, aged 19, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire, England.

Private Harold George Tarr was buried in Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England – Grave Reference 3rd Class Grave No. 5134.

Mr G. Tarr, 87 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne, Victoria, was advised by Base Records on 19th April, 1920 that the remains of his son, the late No. 3632 Private H. G. Tarr, had "*been exhumed from grave No. 5134, Hartshill Cemetery, and re-interred in grave No. 15403, Section Block 39 of the same Cemetery. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain.*"

This is now recorded by CWGC as Grave Reference 15402 and now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Mr G. Tarr, 87 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne, Victoria, was advised by Base Records on 10th August, 1916 that No. 3635 Private H. G. Tarr 8th late 24th Battalion had been reported wounded.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Harold George Tarr contains a letter from Matron Clara A. Tisdell, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. War Hospital, Newcastle, Staffs which reads: "*Pte Tarr No. 3632 8th Battalion, A.I., died a few days after admission, he was very ill – suffering from wounds of the arm and shoulder, and being so weak was very disinclined to talk. I have made enquiries and find that he told one Sister that he had no friends in England, but I cannot learn that he left any message. He was very brave and uncomplaining, and bore his pain most wonderfully. The sister who was with him most has gone to India, but I am under the impression she wrote to his friends at once. He was buried with full Military Honours at Hartshill Cemetery Stoke-on-Trent. I am extremely sorry I cannot give you more details for his friends.*"

A War Pension was granted to Bessie Tarr, 87 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne, Victoria, mother of the late Private Harold George Tarr, in the sum of £1 per fortnight from 12th October, 1916.

A letter was sent to Mr G. Tarr, Caretaker, Broadmeadows Camp, via Campbellfield P.O., Victoria, from base Records on 12th February, 1923 advising that a package containing the Victory Medal on account of the service of his son, the late Private H. G. Tarr, would be arriving shortly & that upon receipt the slip at the bottom of the form should be returned as proof of receipt.

Base Records wrote to Deputy Commission, Department of Repatriation, Melbourne on 26th July, 1923 stating it was noted that a Pension had been granted to Mrs Bessie Tarr, mother of the late Private Harold George Tarr, & they would be obliged if a later address for Mrs Tarr could be furnished as communications addressed to C/- Mr G. Tarr, Caretaker, Broadmeadows Camp, via Campbellfield P.O., Victoria had been returned unclaimed.

A reply was sent to Base Records by Deputy Commissioner advising that Bessie Tarr's pension was being paid at Moreland Post Office & the latest recorded address for her was 108 Tinning Street, West Brunswick.

Base Records wrote to Mrs B. Tarr, 108 Tinning Street, West Brunswick, Victoria on 9th August, 1923 asking if she would advise whether Mr G. Tarr, father of the late Private Harold George Tarr, was residing at the undermentioned address (108 Tinning Street, West Brunswick) & if not was he still living & his present address. Base Records explained that the information was required in order that the *"Victory Medal issuable on account of the late soldier's service in accordance with the instructions under the Deceased Soldiers' Estates Act of 1918, which prescribe that these items must go to the next-of-kin in a certain order of relationship – the claims of a father being regarded before those of a mother – unless good and sufficient reasons for varying the procedure are stated for the consideration of the Minister. Of course, if Mr Tarr no longer survives the Medal will be transmitted to you upon receipt of your advice to that effect."*

Mr G. Tarr, 108 Tinning Street, West Brunswick, wrote to Base Records on 16th August, 1923 in reply to their letter regarding the Victory Medal stating *"I called at the Office some months ago for same & was told that I could not get it personally I would have to wait till I received a form to fill in & I have been waiting for the said form but in vain so being the father of the late H. G. Tarr No. 3632 I am asking you to forward Victory Medal which I am intitled to to the above address."*

Private Harold George Tarr was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Tarr's father – Mr G. Tarr, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent January, 1922).

The Victory Medal was signed for, as receipt, by George Tarr on 24th August, 1923.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Harold George Tarr – service number 3632, aged 19, of 8th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of George and Bessie Tarr, of 87 Queensbury St., North Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

Private H. G. Tarr is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 54.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

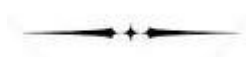
The North Melbourne War Memorial, located at King & Hawke Streets, North Melbourne, Victoria, does not list individual names.



North Melbourne War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia – Kent Watson)

(56 pages of Private Harold George Tarr'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

DEATHS

On Active Service

Tarr – On the 3rd August, died of wounds received in France, Harold, dearly loved eldest son of George and Bessie Tarr, 87 Queensberry-street, North Melbourne, loved brother of Ferdie, Marcus and Gwen.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 15 August, 1916)

DEATHS

On Active Service

TARR – A tribute to our dear friend, Private Harold G. Tarr, of 87 Queensberry-street, North Melbourne, who died of wounds received in France on the 3rd August.

One of the best, a loving friend,
A friend both kind and true;
So dearly loved, so sadly missed
By everyone he knew.

-Inserted by his loving friends, Ruby, Irene and Mrs Harvey.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 August, 1916)

THE 202nd CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF WOUNDS

Private G. H. Tarr, North Melb.

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

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)

The Department of Defence, Melbourne, wrote to Mr G. Tarr, on 3rd March, 1920 in regards to the form giving particulars for an Inscription on War Grave & added that *"You have stated on the form that you require the Star of David inscribed. Perhaps you do not know that the Star of David is a customary emblem of the Jewish Faith. Will you please say whether you still desire the Star of David inscribed, or whether you require the Cross. Neither will be placed on the Headstone, if you so wish."*

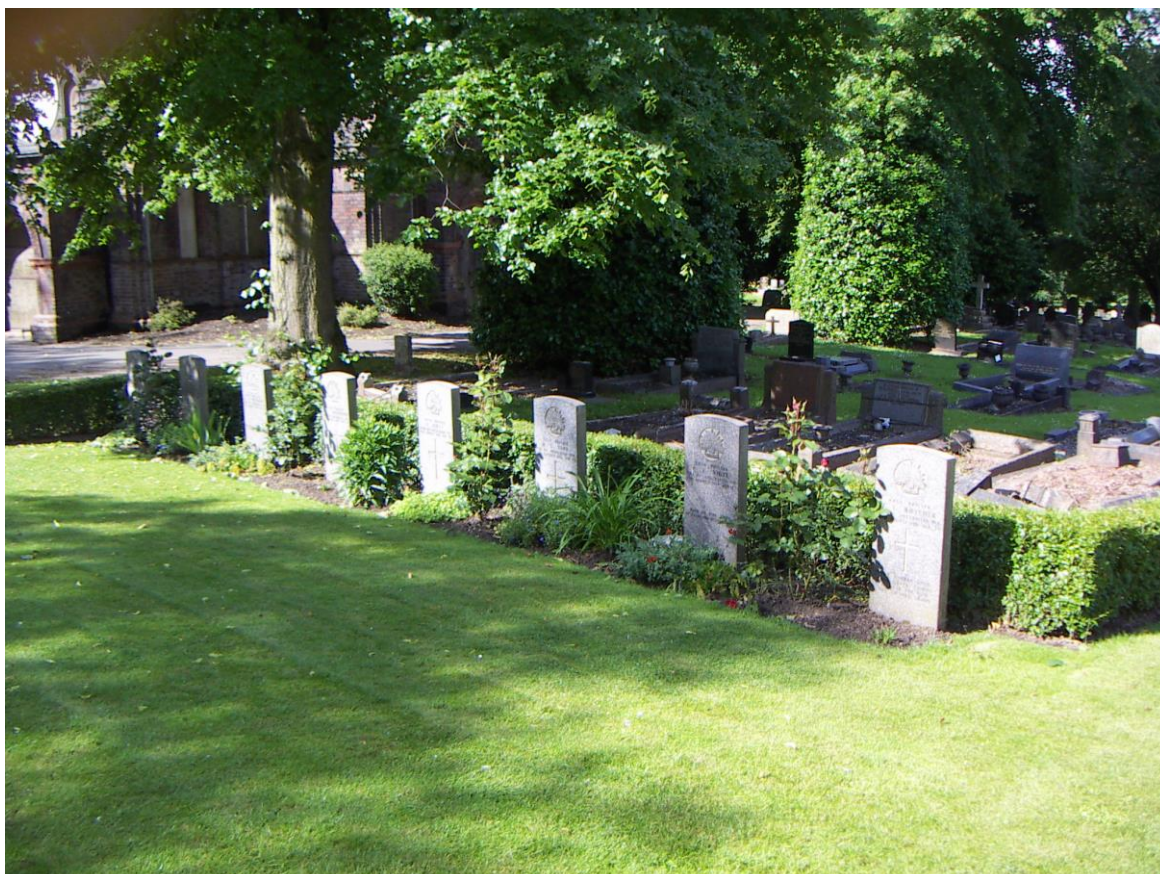
Mr G. Tarr replied with a handwritten note at the bottom of the original letters with *"Kindly place Cross on grave."*

Private H. G. Tarr does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Ever Remembered

Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England

Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent contains 151 Commonwealth War Graves Commission War Graves – 91 from World War 1 & 60 from World War 2. There are 8 Australian WW1 Graves in this Cemetery.



8 Australian War Graves in Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent

(Photo by ken perkins 2017 – Find a Grave)

Photo of Private H. G. Tarr's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England.



(Photo by Alf -28th61st)



8 Australian War Graves in Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent

(Photo by Callan Chevin)