

Wandsworth Cemetery, London, England War Graves

(also known as Earlsfield Cemetery, Magdalen Road Cemetery, Wandsworth Earlsfield Cemetery)



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1433 PRIVATE

R. TATLER

1ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

25TH JUNE, 1915 Age 27

**Note: Service Number 1289 also applies to Private R. Tatler*

Robert TATLER

Robert Henry Tatler was born at Newington, London, England in 1887 to parents Robert & Amelia Tatler. His birth was registered in the December quarter, 1887 in the district of St. Saviour Southwark, London. Robert Henry Tatler was baptised on 10th February, 1888 at St. John's Church, Walworth, Surrey, England. The family lived at 37 Heygate St & his father – Robert was listed as a Warehouseman.

The 1891 England Census recorded Robert Tatler as a 3 year old, living with his family at 6 Manor Place, Newington, London, England. His parents were listed as Robert C. Tatler (Warehouseman, aged 28, born Portsmouth) & Amelia Tatler (aged 30, born Stepney, London). Robert was the eldest of three children listed on this Census (all born Newington, London) – Robert, then Alfred (aged 2) & Charles (aged 1 month). Also listed was a visitor – Richard Lane (Coachman, aged 26, born Portland, Dorset).

[The 1911 England Census recorded Robert's parents Robert Henry Tatler & Amelia Tatler along with 3 children – (Charles Richard Tatler, May Priscilla Tatler & Maud Amelia Tatler) living at 12a Brithannia Chamber, Gt Dover St, St Mary Newington, London & Surrey, England.]

Robert Tatler was a 27 year old, single, Stacker when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, New South Wales on 30th October, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1433 (as per Embarkation Roll) & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Amelia Tatler, 17 York Street, Walworth, London, England. Robert Tatler's younger brother – Charles Richard Tatler also enlisted on the same day (service number 1432).

[Note: The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records Private Robert Tatler's Service number as 1289 on their website, yet had Service number 1433 engraved on his CWGC Headstone. Update – Headstone has been changed to show Service number 1289.

The Australian War Memorial records Private Robert Tatler on their Roll of Honour with a Service number of 1289; the Embarkation Roll with a Service Number of 1433 & the Nominal Roll with a Service number of 1289.

The National Archives of Australia has recorded Private Robert Tatler's Service Record file under Service number 1289.

Attestation Papers & other forms in Private Robert Tatler's Service Record file show Service Numbers 1433 & 1289.

An email was sent to CWGC, AWM & National Archives Australia at the time of researching – suggesting that both Service numbers be listed against Private Robert Tatler's name.]

Private Robert Tatler was posted to A.I.F. 2nd Reinforcements of 1st Battalion on 30th October, 1914 for recruit training.

Private Robert Tatler & his brother Private Charles Richard Tatler embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Seang Bee* (A48) on 11th February, 1915 with the 1st Infantry Battalion, 2nd Reinforcements.

Private Robert Tatler embarked from Alexandria on 5th April, 1915 on *Minnewaska* to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) – Gallipoli Campaign.

Private Robert Tatler was wounded at Gallipoli on 11th May, 1915. He was admitted to Hospital Ship *Gascon* on 11th May, 1915 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to right Shoulder -severe.

1st Battalion

The 1st Battalion was the first infantry unit recruited for the AIF in New South Wales during the First World War. The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months

later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. The battalion took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves, and served there until the evacuation in December.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

C04661

Placing cars and mules aboard the *Minnewaska* at Alexandria,
before she left for the landing at Gallipoli.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

G00902

A scene on the deck of the troopship HMT *Minnewaska* whilst the Australians were waiting to disembark for the landing on Gallipoli Peninsula. 25 April, 1915



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

C02158

25 April, 1915. Australian troops transferring from the transport HMT *Minnewaska* to a British destroyer. Rowboats took them from the destroyer to Anzac Cove, where they became involved in holding ground that their comrades had won in the morning.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

G00897

At Sea. 25 April 1915.

Men of the 1st Australian Infantry Battalion transferring from the *Minnewaska* to the destroyer, *Scourge*, about 8 a.m. on the first day of the Gallipoli landings.

Private Robert Tatler died on 25th June, 1915 at Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, Southampton, Hampshire, England from Wounds received in Action at Gallipoli.

A death for Robert Tatler, aged 27, was registered in the June quarter, 1915 in the district of South Stoneham, Hampshire, England.



Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley

Private Robert Tatler was buried in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England – Plot number Aust. 32 and now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Robert Tatler requested in his Will dated 12th April, 1915: *“I Robert Tatler leave to Amelia Tatler, May Tatler and Maud Tatler, all of 17 York St, Walworth, London, England. One third each of all moneys due to me from the Commonwealth Government and Com. Savings Bank a/c No 12969.”*

Private Robert Tatler was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Tatler’s mother in England – Mrs A. Tatler, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in October, 1921). (Note: Amelia Tatler had died in the June quarter, 1921 at Lambeth, London, England).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Robert Tatler – service number 1289, aged 27, of 1st Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private R. Tatler is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 31.

Information provided for the Roll of honour was normally completed by the next-of-kin. In Private Tatler’s case the information was compiled by *“Official Historian’s Staff.”* The next-of-kin was listed as C. R. Tatler – brother of 148 Queens Street, Woollahra, New South Wales.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(30 pages of Private Robert Tatler'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

From de Ruvigny's Roll of Honour, 1914 – 1919 (Volume 1 – page 346):



A BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD OF MEMBERS
OF HIS MAJESTY'S NAVAL AND MILITARY
FORCES WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918

346

The Roll of Honour

TANNER, RALPH EYRE, Capt., 1st Battn. The King's Liverpool Regt., elder s. of Ralph Tanner, of 2, Little Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey, S.W., M.A., Senior Assistant Master at Westminster School, by his wife, Lucy Lawrence Le Grice, dau. of George Lewis Phipps Eyre; *b.* Regent's Park, 16 July, 1885; educ. South Kensington Preparatory School; Westminster, and Sandhurst. He was gazetted on 16 Aug. 1905, as 2nd Lieut. to the King's Liverpool Regt., which had formerly been commanded by his great-uncle, Major-Gen. Edward Tanner, C.B. He was promoted Lieut. 25 Sept. 1908, and Capt. 16 Sept. 1912, and served for a year with the 1st Battn. in India, 1908-9. On the outbreak of war he went to the Front with the Expeditionary Force, and was in the retreat from Mons, behaving in the first action in which the regt. was engaged, as his Colonel wrote, "with great coolness under a murderous fire." On 14 Sept. 1914, during the Battle of the Alsne, while leading his company through thickly wooded country he was seriously wounded by a party of Germans upon whom they came suddenly. Owing to heavy shell fire



Branksome Park, Bournemouth), dau. of Michael Hodgson Tatham; *b.* Newcastle-on-Tyne, 16 Nov. 1887; educ. The Old Ride, Branksome Park, Bournemouth; Stubbington House, Fareham, and H.M.S. Britannia; entered the Navy and became Midshipman, 15 Feb. 1904; Sub-Lieut. 15 April, 1907, and Lieut. 15 July, 1908; served six years on H.M. ships Formidable, Duncan and Barham; was A.D.C. to Capt. Walker while a Midshipman on the Formidable; took part in the Somaliland Expedition, 1909 (medal); re-appointed to the Formidable (his first ship), 9 Aug. 1913; and was lost when that ship was torpedoed in the English Channel, 1 Jan. 1915.



Robert Tatler.

TATLER, ROBERT, Private, No. 1289, 1st Battn. Australian Imperial Force, s. of the late Robert Tatler, by his wife, Amelia (14, Longville Road, Newington Butts); *b.* Walworth, 30 Oct. 1891; joined the Australian Contingent on the outbreak of war; died at Netley Hospital, Southampton, 25 June, 1915; *unm.*

TATLER, ROBERT, Private, No. 1289, 1st Battn. Australian Imperial Force, s. of the late Robert Tatler, by his wife, Amelia (14, Longville Road, Newington Butts); *b.* Walworth, 30 Oct. 1891; joined the Australian Contingent on the outbreak of war; died at Netley Hospital, Southampton, 25 June, 1915; *unm.*

[NOTE: Date of birth in de Ruvigny's Roll of Honour is listed incorrectly as 30th October, 1891. Robert Henry Tatler was baptised in 1888]

Connected to Private Robert Tatler:

Younger brother Charles Richard Tatler – Enlisted in the A.I.F. on 30th October, 1914, as a 23 year old, single Boot Trade. He embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Seang Bee (A48)* on 11th February, 1915 with the 1st Infantry Battalion, 2nd Reinforcements as Private 1432.

Wounded 25 – 30th April, 1915 – bullet wound to Leg at Dardanelles. Rejoined his Unit on 20th September, 1916.

Appointed Lance Corporal on 26th October, 1916.

To be Returned to Australia as part of 1915 Personnel from 14th December, 1918. Discharged from Australian Imperial Force in Sydney, NSW on 31st March, 1919.

Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.

[Note: Service Record file is located using Service number 1292.]



Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOR

Tamworth Volunteers

A large number of volunteers from Tamworth have left to join the expeditionary force for active service. There are at present many of the Tamworth volunteers with the expeditionary force in Egypt. Following is a list of names enlisted by the Tamworth police. This list does not include all of Tamworth's quota for many journeyed to Sydney and enlisted there:-.....

.....R. Tatler, C. R. Tatler.....

(The Tamworth Daily Observer, NSW – 5 March, 1915)

CASUALTIES

AUSTRALIAN LOSSSES

FORTY-FIFTH LIST

SERIOUSLY ILL

Pte R. TATLER, 1st Btn., 2nd Rfcts., England (in Netley Hospital, previously reported wounded).

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 29 June, 1915)

The Gallant Australians

Great Deeds on Gallipoli

The Dardanelles Theatre

49th CASUALTY LIST

NSW

Died of illness: Private R. Tatler

(Tweed Daily, Murwillumbah, NSW – 9 July, 1915)

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. Tatler does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London

This is to the North-East of Earlsfield Station and is bounded by the Magdalen Road on the East and the main railway line on the West.

It contains five 1914-1918 War Plots, (the general Military Plot, the Australian, the Newfoundland, the New Zealand and the South African plots). These are on the main path leading West from Magdalen Road and there are also over 200 burials in other parts of the cemetery. The Military Plot contains a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried in it and those in unmarked graves in other parts of the cemetery. The majority of the 1939-1945 burials are scattered throughout the cemetery but there is one group of six burials together in a War Plot near the main entrance. Again, those whose graves are unmarked are also named upon the Screen Wall, Panel 1.

Many of the 1914-1918 burials are from the 3rd London General Hospital which was at Wandsworth. There are 477 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 115 of the 1939-1945 war here. There are also 5 non-war service burials here.

There are 34 Australian World War 1 Soldiers buried here & 1 Australian Soldier from 1925.

(Information from CWGC)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H16917

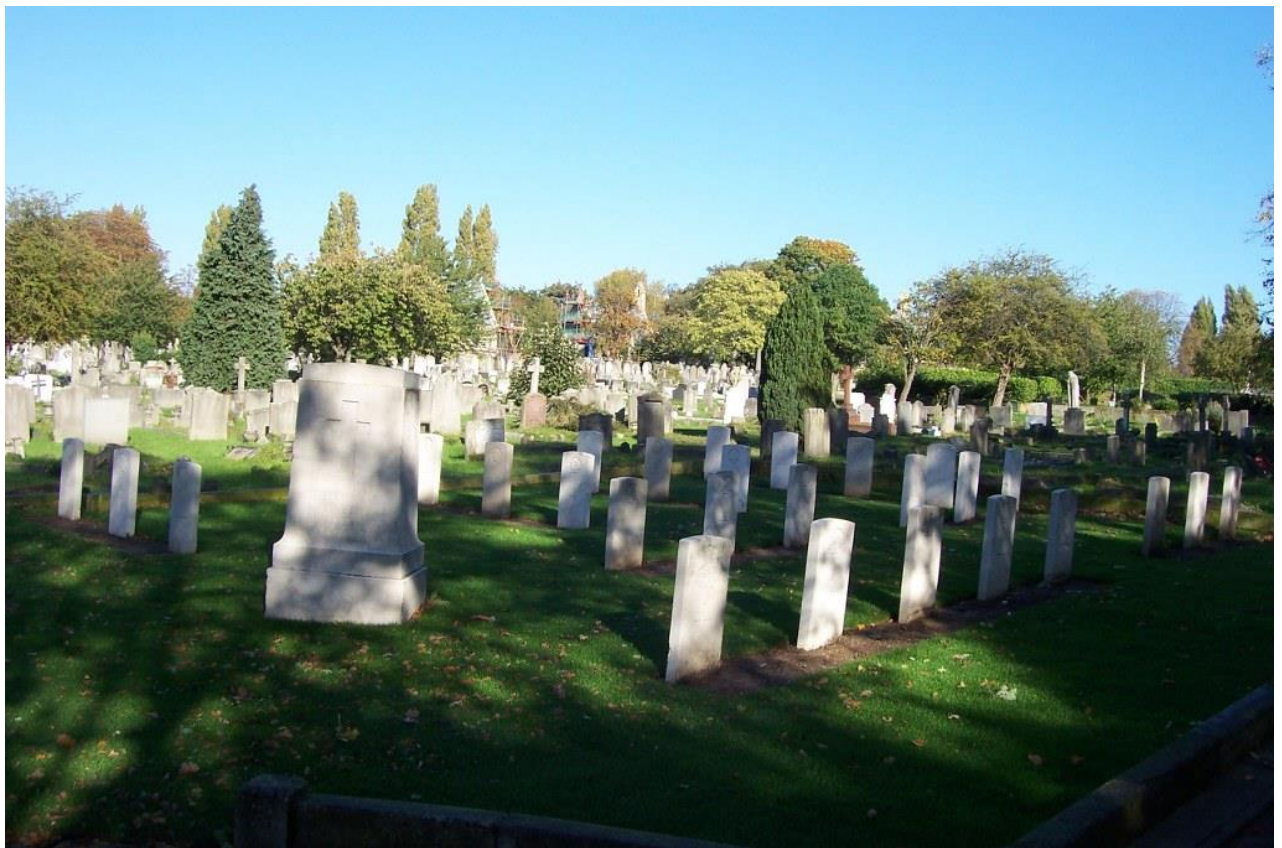
A group of Soldiers' graves in the Australian Section of Wandsworth Cemetery, London *(taken 15 April, 1931)*



(Photo by Scotch Mist 2013)



The Australian Plot in Wandsworth Cemetery, London *(Photos from CWGC)*





Cross of Sacrifice (Photos from CWGC)

Photo of Private R. Tatler's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Wandsworth (Earlsfield) Cemetery, London, England. (Note: Photo is from 2009 & the headstone has been replaced with correct Service number of 1289)



(Photo from Find a Grave – Julia&keld – photo from March, 2009)



(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright)

(Note: See below for further updated headstone photo from CWGC – received September, 2023)



(Photo from CWGC – Sept, 2023)