

**Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery,
East Sussex, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5690 PRIVATE

A. TAYLOR

26TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

12TH MARCH, 1917

The Lord Hath Given

And The Lord Hath Taken Away

Alexander TAYLOR

Alexander Taylor was born at Bundaberg, Queensland on 29th April, 1890 to parents Henry and Annie Taylor (nee MacKenzie).

Alexander Taylor attended the State School at Apple Tree Creek, Queensland.

Alexander Taylor was aged 25 years & 1 month, single & a Labourer from Point Vernon, Pinalba, Queensland when he enlisted at Maryborough, Queensland on 22nd April, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5690 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Annie Taylor, Point Vernon, Pinalba, Queensland. Alexander Taylor stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service.

Private Alexander Taylor was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 9th May, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 15th Reinforcements of 26th Battalion on 10th June, 1916.

Private Alexander Taylor embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Clan McGillivray (A46)* on 7th September, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 26th Infantry Battalion, 15th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 2nd November, 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 Alexander Taylor was marched in from Wareham to 7th Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire on 21st November, 1916.

Private Alexander Taylor proceeded overseas to France on 16th January, 1917 on *Princess Clementina*. He was marched in to 2nd Divisional Base at Etaples, France on 17th January, 1917.

Private Alexander Taylor was transferred from 2nd Divisional Base to 26th General Hospital at Etaples, France on 11th February, 1917 & admitted with Pneumonia. He was invalided to England from Calais, France on 16th February, 1917 on Hospital Ship *Dieppe*.

26th Battalion

The 26th Battalion was raised at Enoggera, Queensland, in April 1915 from recruits enlisted in Queensland and Tasmania, and formed part of the 7th Brigade.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Alexander Taylor was admitted to 3rd Australian General Hospital at Brighton, Sussex, England on 17th February, 1917 with Pleurisy (severe).

Mrs A. Taylor, Point Vernon, Pinalba, Queensland, mother of Private Alexander Taylor, was advised by Base Records on 1st March, 1917 that Private Taylor had been admitted to Hospital on 17th February with Pleurisy severe. She was advised again on 14th March, 1917 that Private Taylor was now dangerously ill with Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

Private Alexander Taylor died on morning of 12th March, 1917 at 2nd Eastern General Hospital, Brighton, Sussex, England from Tempero Spheroidal Abscess. A Cable from O.C. 3rd Australian General Hospital, Brighton to Commandant, Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F., London & also a Cable from 2nd Eastern General Hospital, Brighton both stated the cause of death as Cerebro Spinal Meningitis. Another Cable stated Private A. Taylor had died at 2nd Eastern General Hospital of Tempero Spheroidal Abscess. (Note: Both Hospitals were listed separately as the place of death on Casualty Form – Active Service). Advice was sent to Mrs A. Taylor on 17th August, 1917 stating that her son had died at 2nd Eastern General Hospital, Brighton, England from Tempero Spheroidal Abscess.

A death for Alexander Taylor, aged 26, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Steyning, Sussex, England.

Private Alexander Taylor was buried on 15th March, 1917 in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England – Plot number ZIX.48 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Base Records contacted Mrs A. Taylor, "Huxley Cottage" Pt. Vernon, Pinalba, Queensland in March, 1921 stating she was noted as the registered next-of-kin of the late Private A. Taylor but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & asked specifically 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.

Mr Henry Taylor, replied on behalf of his wife as she was in Hospital stating "... you want to know if Father still alive I am and my address is above."

Private Alexander Taylor was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Taylor's father – Mr H. Taylor, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Alexander Taylor – service number 5690, of 26th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Henry and Annie Taylor, of Huxley Cottage, Pt. Vernon, Pinalba, Queensland.

A. Taylor & his brother W. H. Taylor are both remembered on the Apple Tree Creek Honour Board, located in memorial Hall, Bruce Highway, Apple Tree Creek, Bundaberg, Queensland.

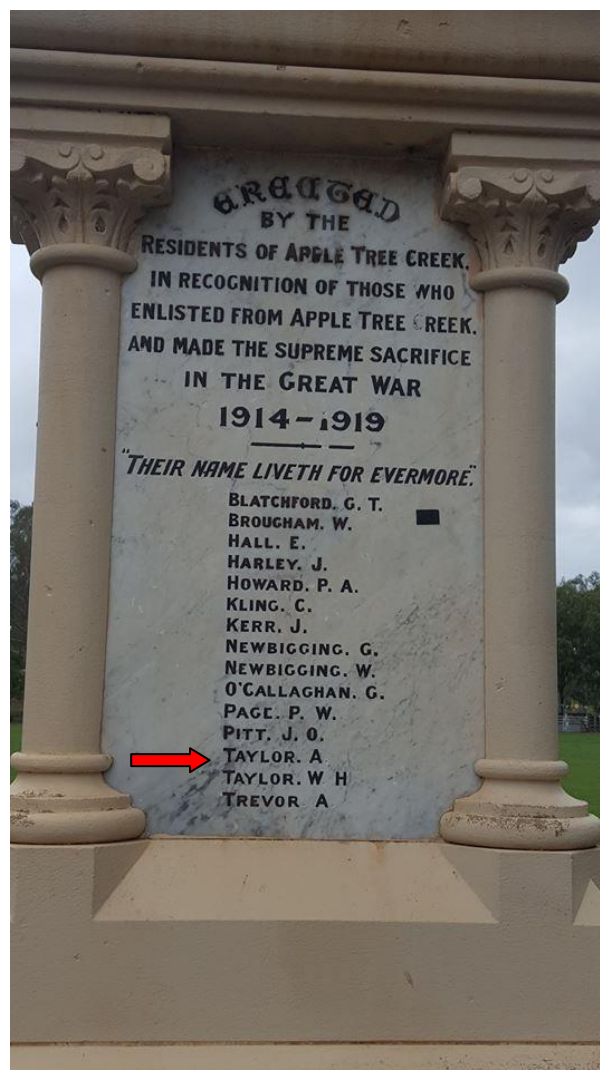


Apple Tree Creek Honour Board (Photo from VWMA)

A. Taylor & his brother W. H. Taylor are both remembered on the Apple Tree Creek War Memorial, located on Bruce Highway, Apple Tree Creek, Queensland.



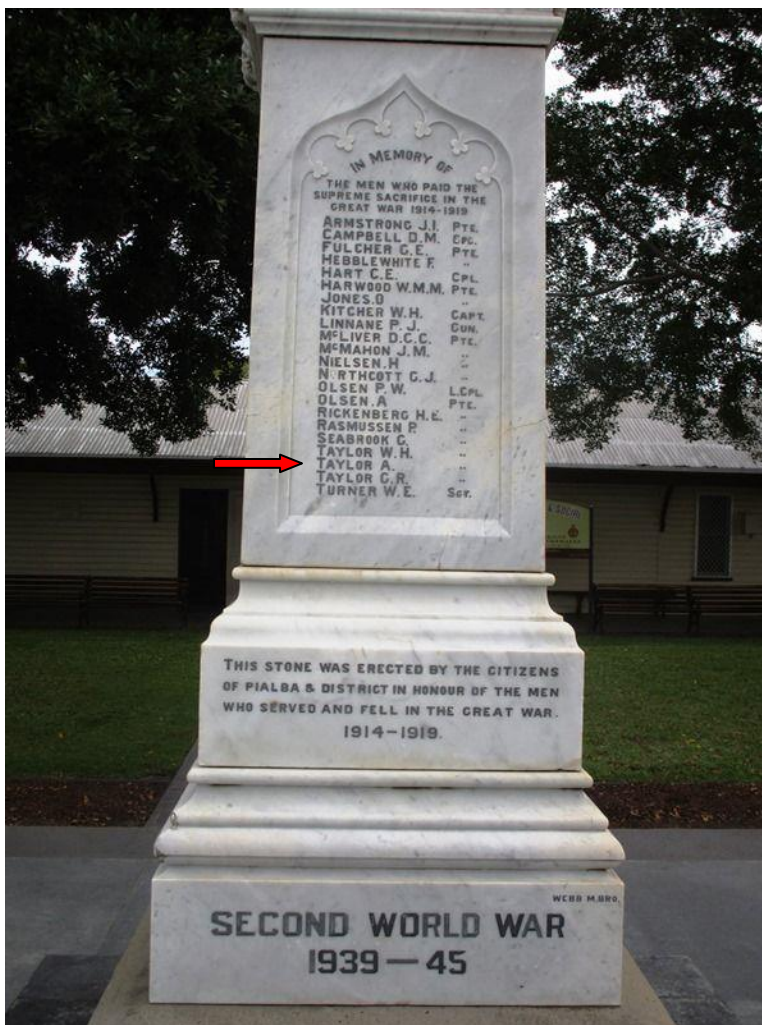
Apple Tree Creek War Memorial (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Faithe)



A. Taylor & his brother W. H. Taylor are both remembered on the Pialba Memorial Cenotaph, located in Freedom Park, Main Street, Pialba, Queensland.



Pialba Memorial Cenotaph (Photos from Monument Australia – John Huth)



A. Taylor & his brother W. H. Taylor are both remembered on the Pialba Circuit Honour Board, located inside Hervey Bay Uniting Church, Queensland.



Pialba Circuit Honour Board (Photo from AWM – Places of Pride – Maryborough Military & Colonial Museum)

Private A. Taylor is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 109.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(42 pages of Private Alexander Taylor'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) & National Archives



Private Alexander Taylor

(Photo from Discovering Anzacs & Queenslander Pictorial supplement to The Queenslander 18 November, 1916)

From Discovering Anzacs:

NAA - Taylor Brothers - Gary Parsons (Researcher 26th Bn)
Posted by blackboycreek, Wednesday, 2 September 2015

Letter from father Henry Taylor dated 10/02/18 to Minister for Defence.

"Two sons have paid the supreme sacrifice. Now our youngest son is in the firing lines in France. Since the death of my two sons, my wifes health, also my own has completely broken down with the weight of grief and the horrible uncertainty pertaining to the safety of my only other son.... I implore you Sir, and let the bleeding heart of a Mother plead with you, to do your very best to get him at least removed from the firing line if you cannot set him free."

19/03/18 Minute Paper from Adjutant General Department of Defence.

Re: Pte John Taylor

Secretary, In view of:

- *The aged of the parents and the delicate health of the mother.*
- *The fact that three sons went on Active Service and two have been killed in action.*
- *The son in question is the only boy left.*

It is recommended that the return of this soldier be approved, and that the following cable be sent to "Adminaust" –

"Please return No. 6683, Private J. Taylor, 25th Battalion, for discharged family reasons."



Connected to Private Alexander Taylor:

Older Brother William Henry Taylor – Enlisted 25th September, 1915 as a 28 year old Labourer. 3151 Gunner – 11th Australian Field Artillery Brigade. Died of wounds in France 2nd January, 1917. Buried Heilly Station Cemetery, France.



Younger Brother – John Taylor – Enlisted 4th December, 1916 as a 23 year old Saddler. 6683 Private – 25th Battalion. Embarked from England for Return to Australia - 24th August, 1918.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "ADMINAUST, LONDON." SWD/IW. CABLE ADDRESS: "ADMINAUST, LONDON." TELEPHONES (10 LINES), VICTORIA 8860.
REPLY COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE COMMANDANT.

IN REPLY QUOTE Aa-2709.14.40. Apr 11 19th, 1918.

The Secretary,
Department of Defence,
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA.

A. 630/22/322

No. 6683, Pte. J. TAYLOR, 25th Battn.

With reference to Defence Cablegram WT275 of the 28th ultimo, reading as follows :-

"WT275 Please return 6683, Pte. J. TAYLOR, 25th Battn., for discharge for family reasons".

it is advised that arrangements are being made for the return of the abovenamed soldier to Australia at an early date for discharge.

1119

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
MELBOURNE
11 APR 1918

Thompson
Brig.-General.

Newspaper Notices

THE COMMONWEALTH

THE 278th CASUALTY LIST

Private A. Taylor, Pialba, seriously ill.

(*Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser, Queensland – 10 March, 1917*)

THE COMMONWEALTH

MILITARY NOTES

Mr Henry Taylor, of Point Vernon, Pialba, on Tuesday received the sad news that his son, Private Alexander Taylor, of the 26th Battalion, had died on 12th March in a London hospital from cerebro-spinal meningitis, contracted while on active service in France. He was nearly 27 years of age at the time of his death, and a fine young fellow. This is the second son Mr and Mrs Henry Taylor have given to the Empire's cause, and much sympathy will be felt for them in their hour of sorrow.

(*Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser, Queensland – 22 March, 1917*)

THE 282ND CASUALTY LIST

Private A. Taylor, Pialba, died of illness.

(Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser, Queensland – 27 March, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

TAYLOR – In sad but loving memory of our darling son and brother, Private Alexandra Taylor, aged 27 years, died on March 12th, 1917, in England, of spinal abscesses, after serving in France, and brother of the late Bombardier W. H. Taylor, died of wounds in France on January 2nd, 1917.

Just as his life was brightest,
Just as his hopes were best,
His country called, "he answered"
Now in God's Hands he rests.

(Inserted by his sorrowing parents, sisters and brother John, serving in France.)

(Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser, Queensland – 12 March, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

TAYLOR – In loving memory of our darling son and brother, Private Alexander Taylor, 26th Battalion, who died of illness in England, March 12th, 1917.

Had he asked us well we know,
We should cry, O spare this blow;
Yes, with streaming eyes should pray
Lord we love him, let him stay.
But the Lord doth naught amiss,
And since He hath ordered this,
We have naught to do but still
Rest in silence on His will.

(Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser, Queensland – 12 March, 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 A. Taylor does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

The Lord Hath Given And The Lord Hath Taken Away

Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England

The cemetery is on the Lewes road. It was opened in 1857, and now covers 44 acres. It climbs the hill Eastward, crossing a public road. A War Cross stands in the cemetery.

There are 275 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and a further 102 of the 1939-1945 war commemorated in this site. The 1939-45 commemorations include 3 unidentified Merchant seamen and 1 unidentified British soldier. There are also 40 Foreign National war burials here and 4 non-war service burials.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photos by julia&keld – Find a Grave)



(Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Private A. Taylor's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England.



(Photo by Terry Denham)



(Photo from CWGC)