

**Stourbridge Cemetery,
Stourbridge, West Midlands, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



608 PRIVATE

C. E. TAYLOR

AUST. MACHINE GUN CORPS

25TH APRIL, 1918 Age 22

Charles Ernest TAYLOR

Charles Ernest Taylor was born at Tickera, near Kadina, South Australia on 10th November, 1895 to parents John and Jessie Mina Taylor (nee Kinnear). His birth was registered in the district of Daly, South Australia.

Charles Ernest Taylor was educated at Prince Alfred College.

John Taylor, Tintinara, father of Charles Edward Taylor, wrote to The Authorities, Recruiting Depot, Currie Street, Adelaide (date unknown as the right hand section of the letter in Private Taylor's Service Record file has been covered by a folded form) stating "..... my son C. E. Taylor is an _____ who has been anxious to enlist ever since the _____ but his mother and I have prevented him from _____ on account that he has never been _____ (strong?) _____ a severe attack of rheumatic fever when _____ has had several attacks since the last one _____ months ago & the one before that about two _____ and was treated by Dr Gilbert North Terrace _____ also treated him for Piles. I have no objection to him enlisting providing _____ ghly satisfied he is physically fit and that _____ good enough to allow him to help me thro _____ which will be finished about the 20th Oct next."

Charles Ernest Taylor was a 21 year old, single, Farmer from Tintinara, South Australia when he enlisted on 20th October, 1916 (some copies of Attestation Papers have date as 14th September, 1916) with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 608 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Taylor, Tintinara, South Australia. Charles Taylor stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 1 year with Senior Cadets.

Private Charles Ernest Taylor was posted to "E" Company, 2nd Depot Battalion on 20th October, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to Trench Warfare at Mitcham (no date) then transferred to "A" Company on 4th November, 1916. Private Taylor was transferred to Musketry School at Cheltenham as Acting Sergeant on 22nd November, 1916 then transferred on 1st December, 1916 to 10th Reinforcements of 8th Machine Gun Company with the rank of Private. (Dates differ slightly between 2 separate Statement of Service forms).

Private Charles Ernest Taylor embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Omrah* (A5) on 17th January, 1917 with the 8th Machine Gun Company, 10th Reinforcements. He was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 9th March, 1917 & discharged from Ship's Hospital on 14th March, 1917. Private Taylor disembarked at Devonport, England (as per Casualty Form – Active Service) on 27th March, 1917. (Statement of Service form recorded that Private Taylor disembarked at Plymouth).

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 Charles Ernest Taylor was marched in to Machine Gun Training Depot at Belton Park, Grantham from Australia on 28th March, 1917.

Private Charles Ernest Taylor was written up for a Crime on 8th May, 1917 while posted at Australian Machine Gun Training Depot, Grantham - "Overstaying Pass from 2 am to 1 pm". He was awarded 7 days Confined to Barracks by Major E. Sexton & forfeited 1 days' pay.

Private Charles Ernest Taylor proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 26th June, 1917 from Machine Gun Training Depot at Grantham. He was marched in to Machine Gun Base Depot at Camiers, France on 27th June, 1917. Private Taylor was marched out from Machine Gun Base Depot on 25th September, 1917 & was taken on strength of 8th Australian Machine Gun Company in France on 4th October, 1917.

The contact details for Private Charles Ernest Taylor's next-of-kin - his father were changed to Murray Bridge, South Australia on the records on 23rd October, 1917.

Private Charles Ernest Taylor was wounded in action in France – Gassed on 17th April, 1918. He was admitted to 55th Field Ambulance on 17th April, 1918 – Gassed (Shell) then transferred the same day to Casualty Clearing Station. Private Taylor was transferred & admitted to 9th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 19th April, 1918. He was invalided to England on 21st April, 1918.

War Diary – 8th Australian Machine Gun Company

Aubigny – 17th April, 1918:

Enemy shelled Villers Bretonneux heavily with red blue & green cross gas from 4.45 am till 9 am. Several direct hits on Coy H.Q. and the personnel received the full effects of a strong concentration before being able to adjust respirators. All Coy H.Q. personnel were casualties. No. 1 Section were subjected to the same bombardment and Lieuts Fox & Watson & 2 NCOs became casualties almost immediately & evacuated. Later on the whole section except 2 had to evacuate to position gassed. Casualties 5 Off. 28 OR. Remaining officers in rear proceeded to line & took over. Coy H.Q. moved to O24c5080 on account of old quarters being saturated with gas.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Charles Ernest Taylor was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital, Stourbridge Section, England on 23rd April, 1918 with Shell Gas Poisoning. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*R & L Pulmonary consolidation. ___ Heart action continued good until a few days before death.*"

Private Charles Ernest Taylor died at 9 pm on 25th April, 1918 at 1st Southern General Hospital, Stourbridge Section, Birmingham, West Midlands, England from wounds - Shell Gas Poisoning (was classed as wounded in action).

A death for Charles E. Taylor, aged 22, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Stourbridge, Worcestershire, England.

Private Charles Ernest Taylor was buried at 3.30 pm on 30th April, 1918 in Stourbridge Cemetery, Stourbridge, West Midlands, England – Soldiers Plot - Grave number C. 342 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

From the burial report of Private Taylor - Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack Flag and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths. Firing Party and Bugler were supplied by Australians (Patients in the 1st Southern General Hospital), Pallbearers by R.A.M.C. staff at hospital. About 20 Australian patients followed the remains to the Cemetery. Prior to the interment a service was held by the Rev. W. H. Pritchard in the Cemetery Chapel. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.

Private Charles Ernest Taylor requested in his Will, dated 1st January, 1917, "I appoint my father John Taylor Farmer of Tintinara to be my executor and direct that my funeral and testamentary expenses and all my debts shall be paid as soon as conveniently may be after my decease. I give unto my father John Taylor the whole of my money in Commonwealth Bank and Savings Bank of S.A. and the whole of my property."

Base Records wrote to Mr J. Taylor, Tintinara, North Adelaide, South Australia on 23rd April, 1919 to advise:

"...regret to inform you that a package of personal effects of your son, the late No. 608 Private C. E. Taylor, 5th Machine Gun Battalion, was included in a consignment of 5500 packages comprising the personal effects of over 5000 soldiers, shipped per the H.M.A.T. "Barunga" which was lost by enemy action at sea. This is all the more regrettable as the loss by the "Barunga" was the only instance in which any personal effects of deceased members of the A.I.F., were lost in transit to Australia. To date no advice has been received as to the contents of the packages consigned per the "Barunga", but A.I.F. Headquarters, London, has been requested to furnish inventories, and when to hand all concerned will be advised...."

The contents of the package due to be sent via "Barunga":

Inventory of Effects of - No. 608 Taylor. C.E. 8th M.G. Coy. A.I.F.
Forwarded to - Will held by,
Father,
Mr. John Taylor.
Murray Bridge.
Tintinara,
Sth Australia.

Effects.
Ex. 1st Southern General Hospital. Stourbridge.
Book. No. 18.

4 Discs. 1 Medallion. Three 1 Franc Notes. 1 Letter.
5 Coins. 1 Note Book. 1 Wallet containing:- Letters,
& papers. 1 Cigarette Case, 1 Pr Spectacles (damaged),
in case.
Paybook handed to Estates Branch. A.I.F. Headquarters,
London.

Per "Barunga" 20.6.18.
In case No 1206.

Private Charles Ernest Taylor was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Taylor's father - Mr John Taylor, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1922 & Plaque sent October, 1922).



Memorial Plaque for Private Charles Ernest Taylor – also referred to as “Death Penny”

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Charles Ernest Taylor – service number 608, aged 22, of 5th Bn., Australian Machine Gun Corps. He was the son of John and Jessie Mina Taylor, of Tintinara, South Australia.

Private C. E. 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 177.



Roll of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

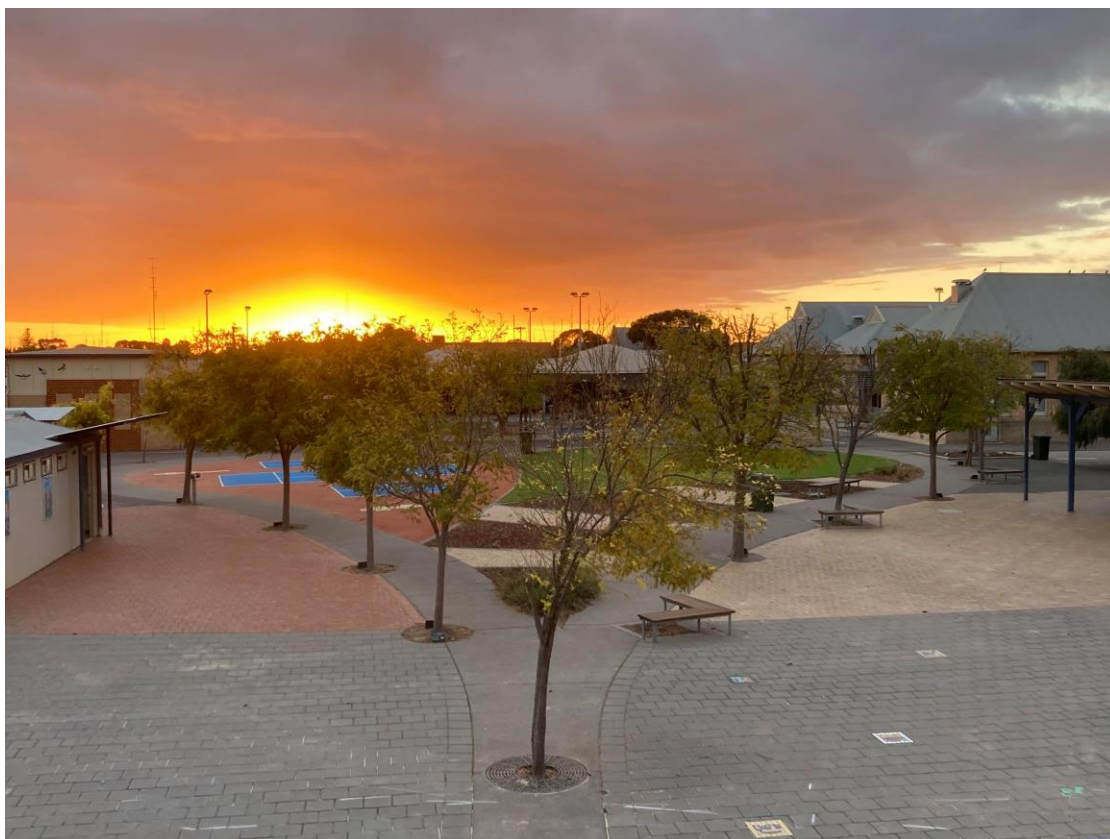
C. E. Taylor is remembered on the Kadina Memorial High School Roll of Honour for World War 1, located at Doswell Terrace, Kadina, South Australia.



Kadina Memorial High School Roll of Honour for World War 1

(Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Paula McKay)

Charles Ernest Taylor is remembered with a Plaque amongst the Memorial Trees which were planted to commemorate soldiers who served in World War 1 at Kadina Memorial High School, located at Doswell Terrace, Kadina, South Australia.



Memorial Trees at Kadina Memorial School (Photos courtesy of Kadina Memorial School)



Private Taylor's Plaque



Private Taylor's Plaque (Photos courtesy of Kadina Memorial School)

C. E. Taylor is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

(43 pages of Private Charles Ernest 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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Private Charles Ernest Taylor

Newspaper Notices

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

400th CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Died from Other Causes

608 Pte C. E. TAYLOR, Murray Bridge (25/4/18, cause not stated).

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 18 May, 1918)

CASUALTIES

The latest casualty lists contain the names of the following Southern District soldiers:-

.....

Died of wounds – Pte C. E. Taylor, Murray Bridge

....

(The Mount Barker Courier and Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser, South Australia – 31 May 1918)

404th CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Died of Wounds

608 Pte C. E. TAYLOR, Murray Bridge (gas, 25/4/18, p.r. died 25/4/18 C.N.S.)

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 1 June, 1918)

IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE

TAYLOR – In fond and loving memory of our darling loved son and only child, Charles Edward Ernest Taylor, died from shell gas poison, Birmingham Hospital, on 25th April, 1918.

One sad year has passed since our darling passed away, without one good-bye; but his duty called him, he was there to do his bit and take his share. Gained for ever safe above – his crown. – Inserted by his sad and loving father and mother.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 25 April, 1919) & (The Journal, Adelaide, South Australia – 25 April, 1919)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

TAYLOR – In loving memory of my true friend, who gave his young life so bravely.

God took him home, it was His will;
Forget you, dear Charl, I never will.

-Inserted by his little friend, Audrey Hibbotson.

TAYLOR – In fond and loving memory of our darling loved son and only child, Charles Edward Ernest Taylor, died from shell gas poison, Birmingham Hospital, on 25th April, 1918.

One sad year has passed away
Since our darling passed away,
But his duty called him, he was there,
To do his bit and take his share.
Gained for ever safe above, his crown.

– Inserted by his sad and loving father and mother.

TAYLOR – In loving memory of our dear nephew and cousin, Private Charl E. Taylor, who died from gas poisoning, Birmingham, England on April 25, 1918.

Good was his heart, his friendship sound,
Peaceful in mind, beloved all round;
Always as thoughtful, loving, and kind,
Few in the world his equal to find.

-Inserted by his affectionate uncle and aunt, Tom and Grace, and cousins Ollie, Jack, and Thelma.

TAYLOR – In fond and loving memory of our dear nephew and cousin, Charl, who died on April 25, 1918, from shell gas.

When you hear of brave lads dying
You may not care – they are not your own;
But suppose you lose your loved one ?
That is the time it strikes home.
Far away from the home of his childhood,
Away o'er the mighty ocean,
In a foreign land our dear Charl
Is taking his last long sleep.

-Inserted by his loving aunt, uncle, and cousins, L. and W. Harmer, and family, "Mindarie."

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 25 April, 1919)

IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE

TAYLOR – In sad but loving memory of our dear son and only child, Pte Charles E. Taylor, 8th Machine Gun Company, who died in 1st Southern General Hospital, England, April 25th, 1918.

Two sad years have now passed by
Since our great sorrow fell,
While in our hearts we mourn the loss
Of him we loved so well.
But Peace has come at last, Dear Charl.,
Though your precious life you gave;
Now you sleep with allied comrades
In a far-off hallowed grave.

-Inserted by his loving parents, Mr and Mrs J. Taylor, Lucernville, Tintinara.

TAYLOR – In loving memory of our dear friend, Pte Charl. E, Taylor, 8th Machine Gun Company, who passed away in 1st Southern General Hospital, England, April 25th, 1918.

-Inserted by Mr and Mrs D. Williams and family, Tintinara.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 24 April, 1920)

IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE

TAYLOR – In loving memory of our dear son Charles, who died from shell gas poison on the 25th April, 1918.

The blow was sudden, the shock severe,
We little thought his death was near;
Only those who have lost can tell
The pain at heart at not saying farewell.
A painfull shock, a blow severe,
To part with one we loved so dear,
Not one he loved was by his side,
But with God in heaven he will abide.

-Inserted by his loving and lonely father and mother, Tintinara.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 25 April, 1921)

**Notices were also placed in 1922, 1923, 1924

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

TAYLOR – Pte C. E. Taylor, 5th M.G. Battalion, who died on the 25th April, 1918.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 25 April, 1925)

**Notices were also placed in the following years (not all years checked)

1927, 1928, 1939, 1940, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1949

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 C. E. Taylor does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Stourbridge Cemetery, Stourbridge, West Midlands, England

The cemetery contains 47 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war, (including those of 13 Australian soldiers, near which a Cenotaph is placed); and a War Cross is erected on the main roadway close to the entrance. The 1st Southern General Hospital had a Section in the Stourbridge Infirmary.

Most of the First World War burials are scattered but 17 form a small plot. The cemetery also contains 20 scattered burials of the Second World War and 1 Non World War burial here.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photo by cookie – Find a Grave)



Australian Plot (Photo courtesy of Margaret Carter)

Stourbridge Cemetery Overseas Soldiers Sarcophagus

Adjacent to the Plot where the 13 Australian WW1 War Graves are located sits a Sarcophagus Memorial (listed by CWGC above as a Cenotaph) which reads:

*“In Grateful Memory Of Our Comrades From
Overseas Who Died In The Stourbridge Military
Hospital During The Great War 1914-19.”*



Stourbridge Cemetery Overseas Soldiers Sarcophagus/Memorial

(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)

The names of the 13 Australians are listed on the Plaque along with a Soldier from Canadian Contingent & 2 Soldiers from U.S.A.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



Arrow showing the Plot where Australian WW1 War Graves are located (Photo courtesy of Margaret Carter)



Stourbridge Cemetery showing Australian WW1 War Graves *(Photo courtesy of Margaret Carter)*



Australian Plot *(Photo courtesy of Margaret Carter)*

Photo of Private C. E. Taylor 's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Stourbridge Cemetery, Stourbridge, West Midlands, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett – Private Collection)