

**Melcombe Regis Cemetery,
Weymouth, Dorset, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2902 PRIVATE

E. TICHBON

39TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

22ND FEBRUARY, 1919 Age 25

Gone But Not Forgotten

His Loving Wife

V. A. Tichbon

Edward Charles TICHBON

Edward Charles Tichbon was born at Forrest Avenue, East Perth, Western Australia in 1891 to parents Thomas and Louisa Ellen Tichbon (nee Currie).

Edward Charles Tichbon attended school at East Perth, Western Australia.

The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Perth, subdivision of East Perth, Western Australia listed Edward Charles Tichbon, Printer, 31 Wellington Street.

Edward Tichbon stated he was a 23 year old, single, Machinist when he enlisted at Black Boy Hill, Western Australia on 31st October, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2902 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Thomas Tichbon, 31 Wellington Street, East Perth, Western Australia. Edward Tichbon stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service due to defective vision.

Private Edward Tichbon was posted to 92 Depot on 31st October, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 39th Battalion on 2nd December, 1916.

Private Edward Tichbon was written up on 8th December, 1916 while posted at Black Boy Hill – Absent without leave from Reveille on 8th December, 1916 till Tattoo on 9th December, 1916 – 2 days. He was fined 2/6 & forfeited 2 days' pay.

Private Edward Tichbon embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Persic (A34)* on 29th December, 1916 with the 39th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 3rd March, 1917.

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 Edward Tichbon was marched out from Australian Details at Sutton Mandeville, Wiltshire on 21st March, 1917 & in to No. 10 Training Battalion at Larkhill, Wiltshire the same day.

Private Edward Tichbon was transferred to 67th Battalion at Windmill Hill on 28th April, 1917 from 10th Training Battalion. He was taken on strength of 67th Battalion from 39th Battalion at Windmill Hill on 28th April, 1917.

Private Edward Tichbon was sent sick to Brigade Hospital at Windmill Hill on 23rd May, 1917. He was medically examined on 28th May, 1917 & his vision was found to be 6/36 for right vision & 1/60 for left vision. Lieutenant Campbell, Ophthalmic Surgeon, ordered glasses for Private Tichbon & would be issued within 10 days. He was fit for Garrison Duty as far as his eyes were concerned. From the facts of the history of the disability: *“Under particulars on first page this man's vision is entered as R.V. 6/12 L.V. 6/12. According to this man's statement this entry must be absolutely incorrect as his L.V. is found to be only 1/60. Enquiry is suggested to find out how he was passed.”*

Private Edward Tichbon was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 2nd June, 1917.

Private Edward Tichbon was marched out to A.P. at Tidworth, Wiltshire for duty on 13th June, 1917.

Private Edward Tichbon was written up for an Offence on 18th August, 1917 – At Bulford on 18th August, 1917 – neglect of duty. This was admonished by Lt. Col. J. Williams.

Private Edward Tichbon was detached from attached duty with Anzac Provisional Corps on 1st October, 1917 & was attached for duty at Administrative Headquarters, London on 1st October, 1917 from 67th Battalion ex Tidworth – Guard.

Private Edward Tichbon was sent sick to Hospital in London on 25th October, 1917. He was admitted to 1st Auxiliary Hospital, Southall, London on 25th October, 1917 with Tonsillitis. He was discharged to duty – Headquarters Guard on 6th November, 1917 & rejoined Administrative Headquarters the same day from Hospital.

Private Edward Tichbon was detached from duty with Administrative Headquarters on 4th December, 1917 & marched out to Hurdcott & 67th Battalion. He was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 4th December, 1917.

Private Edward Tichbon was transferred back to 39th Battalion on 5th December, 1917.

A Medical Report was completed on Private Edward Tichbon on 6th December, 1917 at No. 3 Command Depot, Hurdcott, Wiltshire. His disability was listed as Defective vision which had originated prior to enlisting. Private Tichbon was medically classified as C1 (permanently unfit for General Service but fit for Home Service) on 6th December, 1917 & again on 11th December, 1917.

Private Edward Tichbon was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire on 13th July, 1918 with V.D. He was discharged to Convalescent Training Depot at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 15th July, 1918.

Private Edward Tichbon was marched out from Convalescent Training Depot at Parkhouse & in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 24th September, 1918.

Edward Charles Tichbon, Soldier on Active Service, aged 25, married Violet Alice Purnell, aged 22, on 19th October, 1918 at Christ Church, Mayfair, London, England.

Private Edward Tichbon was marched out from No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny & marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset on 2nd November, 1918.

Private Edward Tichbon was sent sick to Hospital on 18th February, 1919. He was reported to be dangerously ill on 20th February, 1919 at Monte Video Camp Hospital, Weymouth.

Private Edward Tichbon died at 03.30 on 22nd February, 1919 at Monte Video Camp Hospital, Weymouth, Dorset, England from Nephritis.

A death for Edward C. Tichbon, aged 24, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Weymouth, Dorset, England.

Private Edward Tichbon was buried on 25th February, 1919 in Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England – Plot number II. C. 3042 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Tichbon - *Coffin was Elm with brass fittings. Deceased was buried with full Military honors the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside in a Gun-carriage preceded by a Firing party and band from No. 2 Australian Command Depot. Six of deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall and a number of Officers, N.C.O.'s and men from the Depot attended as mourners. Headquarters, A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Private Edward Tichbon was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Tichbon's widow – Mrs V. A. Tichbon, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in November, 1922).

Mrs R. T. Tichbon, (previously Mrs V. A. Tichbon) of 185 Railway Rd, Subiaco, Western Australia, wrote to Base Records on 9th April, 1923 "*I have made several inquiries at the Perth Drill Hall, about my late husband, Military Medals, Pte E. C. Tichbon, Reg No. 2902. I have been waiting six months for the Medals but I have not received them, could your Department kindly make enquiries as I would like to have the Medals.*"

[NOTE: Mrs Violet A. Tichbon, widow of the late Private Edward Tichbon, married Thomas Tichbon in Perth, Western Australia in 1922. Robert Thomas Tichbon was the older brother (b. 1890) of Edward Charles Tichbon]

Base Records replied to Mrs V. A. Tichborn on 19th April, 1923 to advise that "*Australia House, Strand, London, to which office the British War Medal for your husband, the late No. 2902 Private E. TICHBON, 39th Battalion, was forwarded, has now been furnished with your address and requested to transmit the medal direct to you.*"

The Official Secretary (Military), Australia House, Strand, London wrote to Base Records, Melbourne on 14th July, 1923 to advise that the British War Medal issued in respect of the late No. 2902 Private E. Tichborn together with the Memorial Plaque No. 355513 had been forwarded direct to Mrs Tichbon as requested.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Edward Tichbon – service number 2902, aged 25, of 39th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Thomas and Louisa Tichbon, of East Perth, Western Australia; husband of V. A. Tichbon, of 31 Wellington St., East Perth, Western Australia.

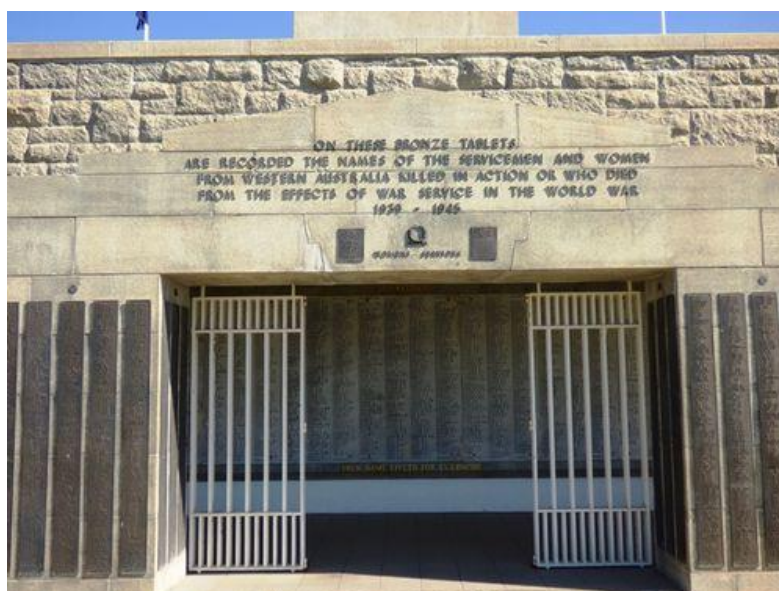
E. Tichbon is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



**Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)
& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names**

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)





Other Corps Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)



Private E. C. Tichbon is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 132.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(81 pages of Private Edward Tichbon'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



Newspaper Notices

DIED ON SERVICE

TICHBON – On February 22, died of nephritis, at Monte Vides Hospital, Weymouth, Private Edward C. Tichbon, dearly beloved son of Mr and Mrs T. Tichbon of 31 Wellington-street, East Perth, second eldest son, and dearly beloved brother of Private R. T. Tichbon (on active service), also Maud, red., Elsie, Gladys, Eric. Loved by all who knew him.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 6 March, 1919) & (Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 14 March, 1919)

BEREAVEMENT NOTICES

Mr and Mrs T. Tichbon and family, of 31 Wellington-street, East Perth wish to sincerely THANK their many kind friends for letters and cards and personal expressions of sympathy in the sad loss of their dear son and brother, Private E. C. Tichbon.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 22 March, 1919)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

462ND CASUALTY LIST

DIED OTHER CAUSES

Tichbon, Edw. (East Perth), illness

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 9 April, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

TICHBON – In fond and loving memory of my dear husband Private E. C. Tichbon, 39th Battalion, who died at Monte Video Hospital, Weymouth, on February 22, 1919.

The sigh of grief still lingers,
In my sad heart to-day,
In memory of my dear husband,
Who sleeps so far away.

Inserted by his loving wife.

TICHBON – In fond and loving memory of our dear son and brother Private E. C. Tichbon, 39th Battalion, who died at Monte Video Hospital, Weymouth, on February 22, 1919.

Just one year ago to-day dear Edward
Since our great sorrow came,
In our hearts we mourn the loss
Of him we loved so well.

Just as your life was fairest,
White flowers were laid on your breast,
Just as your hopes were brightest,
Dear Edward, they laid your to rest.

Inserted by his loving father and mother, sisters and brothers.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 23 February, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

TICHBON – In fond and ever loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private E. C. Tichbon, who died at Weymouth, England, on February 22, 1919.

Days of sadness still come o'er us, dear Edward,
Secret tears do often flow,
But memory keeps our loved one near us,
Though he died two years ago.

Inserted by his ever loving mother and father, sisters and brothers, 31 Wellington-street, East Perth.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 22 February, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

TICHBON – In ever fond and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private E. C. Tichbon, who died at Weymouth, England.

'Tis just three years ago to-day,
Fond memories linger still,
Though others may forget you, dear Edward,
There are those who never will.

Inserted by his loving mother, father, sisters and brothers, 31 Wellington-street, East Perth.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 22 February, 1922)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

TICHBON – In fond memory of our dear son and brother, Private E. C. Tichbon, 39th Battalion, who died at Weymouth, England, February 22, 1919.

He lies asleep in that far off land,
His grave we may never see;
Honoured in life and honoured in death,
And treasured in memory.

Inserted by his loving mother, father, sisters, and brothers, 31 Wellington-street.

TICHBON – In loving memory of my dear brother, Private Edward Charles, who died February 22, 1919, Weymouth, England.

Ever remembered.

Inserted by his loving brother Robert.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 22 February, 1923)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

TICHBON – In ever fond memory of our dear son and brother, Private E. C. Tichbon, who died at Weymouth, England, February 22, 1919.

Five years have passed away dear Edward,
Since you were called to rest.
And those who think of you to-day,
Are those who loved you best.

Inserted by his fond mother and father, sisters and brothers, 31 Wellington-street, East Perth.

TICHBON – In loving memory of my dear brother, Private Edward C., who died February 22, 1919, Weymouth, England.

Ever remembered.

Inserted by his loving brother Robert.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 22 February, 1924)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

TICHBON – In sad but loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private E. C. Tichbon, who died at Weymouth, England, February 22, 1919.

May the winds blow softly
On a grave so far away,
When God gave His great command
Just six years ago to-day.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 21 February, 1925)

Newspaper notices were placed from 1926 up to 1942***

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 E. Tichbon does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Gone But Not Forgotten

His Loving Wife V. A. Tichbon

Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England

Weymouth became a depot for Australian forces in 1916 and 83 of the 147 First World War burials in Melcombe Regis Cemetery are of Australian servicemen; most of these graves are scattered in the old part. The 36 Second World War burials are in the extension. The cemetery also contains seven war graves of other nationalities and one non-war burial.

(Information from CWGC)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00333

Australian graves in the cemetery at Melcombe Regis. March 1919

Identified, front row, left to right: unidentified; Butler; 5917 Private Edgar Allan Thornell, 22nd Battalion (Bn), died 9 August 1918; 1207 Corporal Jesse Adams Davis, 12th Bn, died 15 November 1918.

Back row: 5329 Private Frederick Albert Archer, Anzac Provost Company, died 6 November 1918; 5990 Private Albert Robert Blackmore, 12th Bn, died 2 November 1918; 11099 Driver Matthew Charles Percival Nettle, 6th Australian Field Artillery Brigade, died 22 October 1918; 3942 Private Walter Alick Weckman, 51st Bn, died 9 November 1918.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00332

Some of the Australian graves in the cemetery at Melcombe Regis. March 1919

Identified, left to right: Captain Francis Arthur Deravin, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 8 July 1917 aged 41 years (large headstone); 138 Private Louis Nelson Matthews, 27th Battalion, 4 July 1917; 5082 Private Victor George Smith, 21st Battalion, died 13 November 1918.



(Photo courtesy of Steve Stewart)



(Photos courtesy of Steve Stewart)





(Photos courtesy of Steve Stewart)

Australians in Weymouth

What was life like for the Australians?

The Camp

Within the camp, there were educational facilities as well as medical rooms which helped to recover and re-educate the soldiers. There was help provided for soldiers suffering with physical or emotional impairments, such as massage rooms, psychotherapy training rooms and a remedial gymnasium. This strengthened the men to help them recover from their injuries. The educational aspects were diverse, allowing soldiers to pick a completely different profession for when they went back home. This included architecture, motor engineering, electrical and carpentry classes. Another option allowed the soldiers to be retrained in their previous professions which may have become more difficult, due to loss of limbs or new techniques that may have been created whilst they were at war.

The Town

Weymouth benefited hugely from the influx of Australian and New Zealand soldiers. One shop that still exists today is the Acutt's clothing store, which used to sell everything a soldier could possibly need for his uniform, from the whole jacket to just the buttons and epaulettes. As well as Acutt's, the Commonwealth Bank of Australia also opened up their own branch in Weymouth, for the soldiers to use during their time over here, which highlighted the permanence of their stay. There was also a monthly newsletter that circulated amongst the men, which was produced by local company Sherrins, which still operates on the Granby Industrial estate.

Special Events

The Australian recovery camps took special occasions very seriously, such as Christmas and Easter, to try and reduce the ache of home sickness and being away from their family and friends. Most camps tried to make their soldiers feel at home, with large celebrations with Christmas dinners and special guest performances at Easter. However, there were also other special events that gained press attention, such as the opening of the YMCA building, which used to be on Abbotshay Road. This provided help and welfare to the Australian soldiers, such as free food and blankets. There were fundraising days for the prisoner-of-war soldiers that had been captured during the fall of the Kut, who were mainly Dorset soldiers. From these fundraising days in Weymouth, Dorchester and Bridport, the towns managed to raise £3,600 to help comfort the prisoners.

Entertainment

Entertainment was a highly important aspect of the soldiers' lives whilst they were in Weymouth. It kept the soldiers motivated and in high spirits whilst they were ill or injured, in hopes of helping to speed up their recovery. Throughout the camps in Weymouth, there was always something to watch or listen to, whether it was singing and acting companies who toured round the camps or at the Pavilion Theatre on the Esplanade. Sometimes, the soldiers even made their own entertainment, with marching bands and choirs being set up by the YMCA building in Westham. There were also balls and dances at the camps themselves and even a small trip to the Alexandra Garden along the Esplanade. Dating also became a significant part of the soldiers' lives, with many Weymouth women losing husbands and boyfriends at war. Finding comfort with the new soldiers at the camp, this led to many marriages between the two groups, and some migrating back to Australia with their new families, or staying here and leaving their families.

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THESE BOYS BEARING ACUTT BROTHERS

THE JOURNAL OF A SOLDIER

THE ROYAL PALM COURT

ROYAL JUBILEE HALL

ARCADIA

#weyforward

The National Lottery

Images courtesy of Australian War Memorial, Newsletter originals published by Sherrins, Ltd. Weymouth



(Photos courtesy of Steve Stewart)

Australians in Weymouth

From Weymouth to Auswey - A Soldier's Récovery



During the First World War between 1914 and 1918, many injured soldiers who were mostly from Australia and New Zealand, were brought to Weymouth. They were known as ANZACS (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps). They were placed in Repatriation and Rehabilitation camps in Westham, Littlehampton, Chichester and Portland. This was in the hope of sending them back to the line of action in France or back home to Australia due to lack of fitness. Weymouth was picked as the place to set up camp, as it was seen as a relaxing seaside location. This would help to heal the sick and injured Australians who had been fighting in major battles of the war or on the Western Front between France and Belgium.



Although thousands of ANZACS passed through Weymouth during the First World War, there are some soldiers who unfortunately did not make it home. These soldiers are proudly buried in the Melcombe Regis cemetery. This is only 100 metres away from one of the major camps in Westham, with 142 soldiers buried in the cemetery, 83 from Australia and 59 from New Zealand. These graves are similar to some of the war memorials and graves placed around Europe, much like the Somme in France. Unfortunately, there are too many grave names to be displayed on this board, but they can be found on the website link at the bottom of this board.



Past and Present Westham

As you can see on the map of the Westham camp, many of the street names have an Australian connection, highlighting the history of the area. Residents of the housing estates, which are now built where the camp once stood, are still digging up remains of the camp, such as bullets or cooking equipment.



Modern Day Street Names	Westham Camp - December 1916
Cheset Close	Soldiers Huts
Sussex Road	Company Officers
Queensland Road	Regimental Institute
Kitchener Road	Minutemen Rifle Range
Corporation Road	Officers' Mess
Shorn Road	Shower Block
Longcroft Road	Vehicle Shed, Mob Store
Wessex Road	Home Shelter
Parth Street	Cool Yard
Melcombe Street	Cook House
Adelaide Crescent	YMCA
Abbotsbury Road	Dung Pit
Sydney Street	Fire Hydrant
Shirecroft Road	

www.westhamcommunitygroup.co.uk

supported by

Images courtesy of Australian War Memorial

Photo of Private E. Tichbon's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England.



(Photo courtesy of Allan Wood)