

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5542 GUNNER

F. G. TOWNER

AUSTRALIAN T.M. BATTERY

19TH SEPTEMBER, 1917 Age 24

For God

King And Country

Frederick George TOWNER

Frederick George Towner was born on 20th September, 1894 at Morgan Street, Wagga Wagga, NSW to parents Stephen Joseph & Elizabeth Jane Towner (nee Cox).

Elizabeth Jane Towner, mother of Frederick George Towner, died on 24th February, 1896 at Wagga Wagga, NSW.

Frederick George Towner attended District School Gurwood St., Wagga Wagga, NSW.

Stephen Joseph Towner married Mary Elizabeth (Caroline) Ferrario on 2nd June, 1906 in Wagga Wagga, NSW.

Frederick George Towner was a 22 year old, single, Labourer when he enlisted on 20th July, 1915 at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5542 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr S. J. Towner, Morgan Street, Wagga, NSW. Frederick Towner stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served of his own free will with Compulsory Service, A.F.A. for 4 years.

Frederick George Towner was posted to 11th Reinforcements of D.A.C. (Divisional Ammunition Column) as Gunner on 20th July, 1915 for recruit training.

Gunner Frederick George Towner embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Nestor* (A71) on 11th October, 1915 with the 1st Divisional Ammunition Column, 11th Reinforcements. He was taken on strength of Headquarters 1st D.A.C. (Divisional Ammunition Column) in Cairo from Reinforcements on 12th November, 1915 & was posted to No. 1 Section.

Gunner Frederick George Towner was transferred to Divisional Ammunition Dump on 9th March, 1916 & was taken on strength of 21st Howitzer Brigade on 13th March, 1916 at Tel el Kebir.

Gunner Frederick George Towner proceeded from Alexandria on 25th March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 1st April, 1916.

Gunner Frederick George Towner was transferred to Trench Mortar Battery on 16th April, 1916. He was taken on strength of Y1A Medium T. M. Battery in France on the same day.

Gunner Frederick George Towner was wounded in action on 10th August, 1917. He was admitted to 55th Field Ambulance on 10th August, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wounds) to Chest, neck & abdomen. Gunner Towner was transferred to 17th Casualty Clearing Station on 10th August, 1917 then transferred & admitted to 53rd General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 24th August, 1917 with G.S.W. Chest (penetrating). He was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *St. Andrew* on 1st September, 1917.

Gunner Frederick George Towner was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham, England on 1st September, 1917 with "G.S.W. (*Shrapnel*) penetrating chest cavity left side over cardiac region with wound of heart and left lung." He was reported to be seriously ill on 8th September, 1917. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "Operation 12.9.17 Exploration of wound and front of chest. Recurrent Haemorrhage."

Gunner Frederick George Towner died at 11.30 pm on 19th September, 1917 at Ward B 1 2, 1st Southern General Hospital (Stourbridge Section), Birmingham, England from wounds received in action in France - G.S.W. Chest, Empyema & recurrent secondary Haemorrhage.

A death for Fred G. Towner, aged 24, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Stourbridge, Worcestershire, England.

Gunner Frederick George Towner was buried on 24th September, 1917 in Stourbridge Cemetery, Stourbridge, West Midlands, England – Plot number C. 328 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Gunner Frederick George Towner - *The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The Firing Party was supplied by Australian Imperial Force patients, and the bearers by R.A.M.C. of Stourbridge Hospital. A service was conducted at the graveside by Chaplain Rev. O'Shea English Chaplain, Church of England, attached to*

Stourbridge Hospital. The Last Post was sounded by a bugler of the R.A.M.C. stationed at Stourbridge. C.S.M. Fleming, T.W., 12th B.A.C. Field Artillery, A.I.F. and other A.I.F. patients were present at the funeral. Wreaths were sent by "Comrades in Stourbridge Hospital" and Mrs Oliver Townsend Lawnsia, Hagley. An oak Cross will be erected by the A.I.F.

(The patients in the Hospital have collected money to erect a Wooden Cross similar to the one over A.I.F. soldier buried in grave alongside him.)

Gunner Frederick George Towner requested in his Will, dated 5th June, 1917, that all his real & personal estate be bequeathed to his father – Mr S. J. Towner, Morgan St., Wagga Wagga.

Gunner Frederick George Towner was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Towner's father – Mr S. J. Towner, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

A. S. Towner, 147 Morgan St, Wagga, wrote to The Secretary, War Graves Commission, Melbourne, on 7th December, 1933: *"Cemetery, England. I am desirous of placing a memorial stone upon his grave and I would be pleased if you I am advised to communicate with you in regard to the grave of my late brother No. 5542 Gnr F. G. Towner late A.I.F. who is buried at Stourbridge would furnish me with full particulars re same, whether your department carries out the work and cost etc. Thanking you and awaiting your reply."*

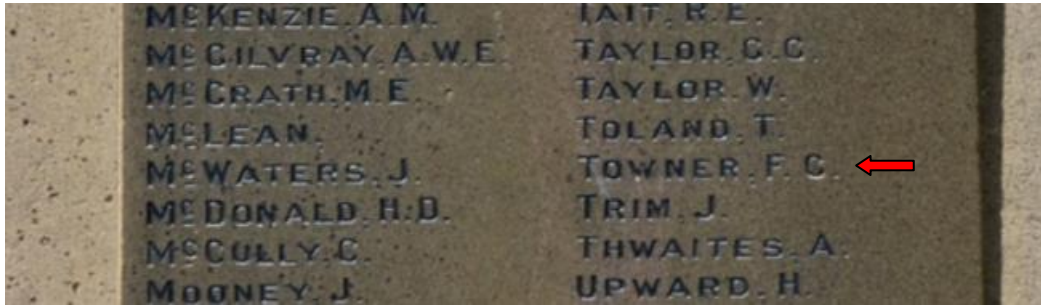
A reply was sent from Base Records, Melbourne on 8th December, 1933 to advise that *"the erection of a permanent headstone suitably inscribed is being undertaken by the Imperial War Graves Commission at the cost of the Government, following the usual practice adopted in the case of overseas war graves....."*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner Frederick George Towner – service number 5542, aged 24, of Y/1A Medium, Australian Trench Mortar Battery. He was the son of Stephen Joseph and Elizabeth Jane Towner, of Morgan St., Wagga Wagga, New South Wales.

Gunner F. G. Towner is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 21.

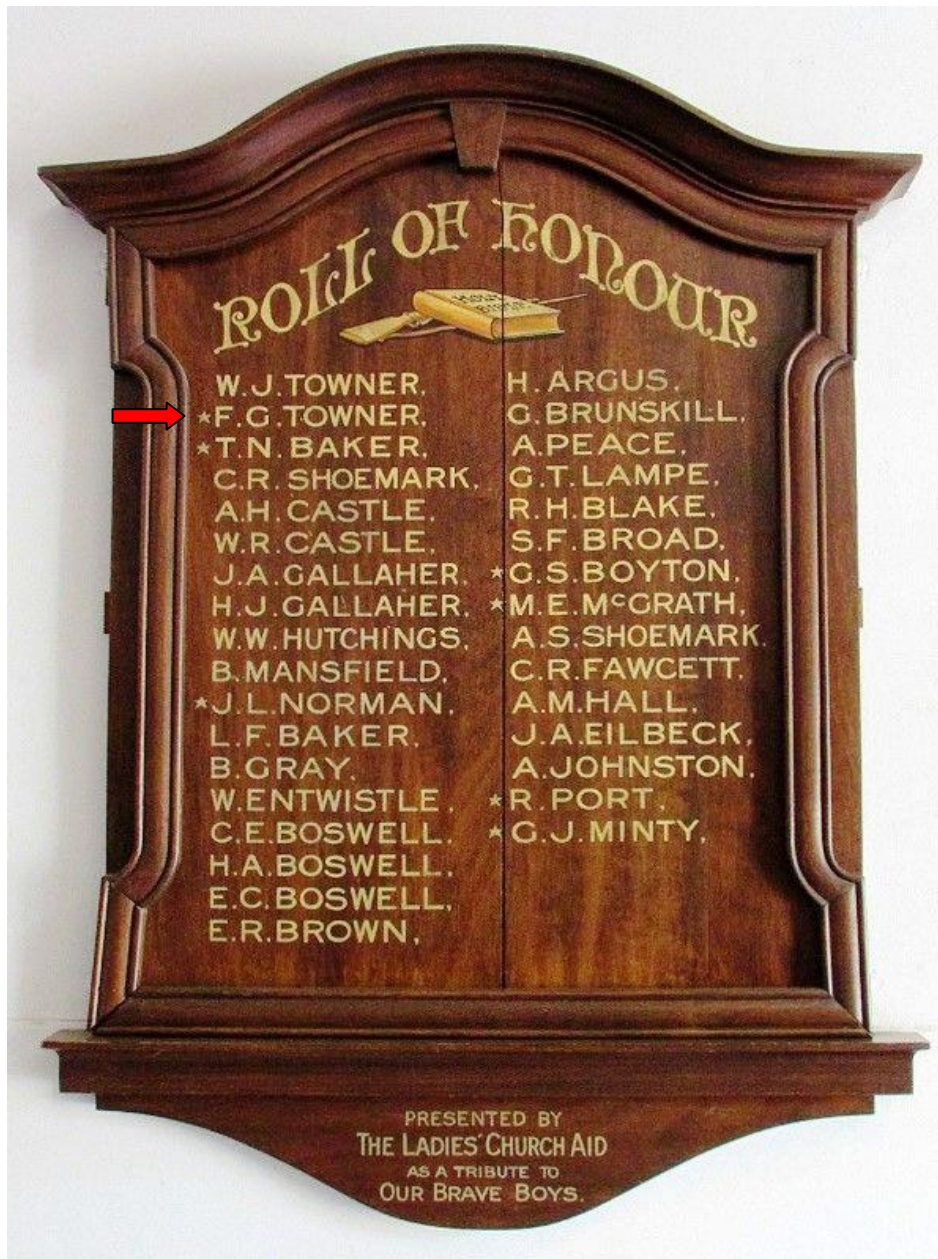


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



Wagga Wagga and District War Memorial Cenotaph

F. G. Towner is remembered on the Methodist Church Roll of Honour, located in Wesley Uniting Church, Wagga Wagga War Memorial Youth Centre, Johnston & Tarcutta Streets, Wagga Wagga, NSW.



Wagga Wagga Methodist Church Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

F. G. Towner is remembered on the Wagga Wagga War Victory Memorial Arch, located in Victory Memorial Gardens, Baylis & Morrow Streets, Wagga Wagga, NSW.



Wagga Wagga War Victory Memorial Arch (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)

1914		FOR GOD KING AND COUNTRY				1919			
HARDING W.J.	HILTON B.A.	JACKSON A.R.	LYOYD C.	MCCRATH W.G.F.	MORGAN B.J.	PURNELL F.	RUSHTON F.W.	STINSON A.H.	WASLIN A.
HARDING R.C.	HILTON C.	JACKSON L.A.	LYONS E.T.	MCGRATH C.R.	MOONEY J.	PAYNE H.B.	RUDD N.	STINSON J.B.	WASLIN W.
HARROLD C.E.	HILTON V.C.	JACKSON J.P.	LYONS E.T.	MC MULLAN A.	MOONEY M.	PALMER J.C.	RYAN C.T.V.	STANLEY F.	WASLIN T.
HARPER E.J.	HILTON W.G.	JELLY A.E.	LOUREY P.	MC MULLAN W.J.	MOORE J.B.	PAGE F.E.	RYAN S.W.	STANLEY R.	WASLIN C.
HARDACRE G.	HILTON J.H.	JENKINS F.	LOUGHLIN J.	MC NEIL W.H.	MOORE F.	PENDRICK W.R.	RYAN J.	STEARMAN A.O.	WALKER L.W.
HARDY C.	HINTON O.	JENKINS A.R.S.	LOWRY J.L.	MC SULLEA R.E.	MORR H.O.	PENDRICK B.	RYAN F.	STEARMAN A.	WALKER R.
HARGREAVES M.	HIND C.E.	JONES M.J.	LOVELL C.	MC CEE E.E.	MONTGOMERY H.	PERCIVAL C.H.	SMITH L.S.	STEARMAN A.	WALTON R.F.
HARRIDEN R.R.	HILL R.A.	JOHNSTONE N.	LUCYON J.D.	MC ENTYRE K.C.	MONTGOMERY J.R.	PERCIVAL H.K.	SEARLE W.T.	STEARMAN E.	WEBB E.
HART A.	HOGAN E.	JOHNSON J.	LUCAS S.	MC ENTYRE R.	MORRIS F.J.	PERRINAN F.J.	SEARS G.	STEPHENSON A.	WEBBER W.J.
HASLER W.	HOGAN J.J.	JONES V.E.	LUCK A.	MC ENICKLE W.R.	MORRIS F.	PEACHEY P.A.	SANDSROOK C.L.	STEVENS A.	WEST T.
HAWKES C.	HOGAN A.D.	JONES J.	LUGSDIN G.	MC ENICKLE J.A.	MORRIS R.J.	PELAN M.P.	SCHWIND F.	STEVENS W.C.	WHEELER W.J.
HAWKES F.	HOLLOWAY E.J.	JOHNSON J.	LYNE C.K.	MC GILVRAY W.	MOLONEY T.E.	PHELAN H.P.	SCHWIND B.	STOKES A.E.	WHEELER W.J.
HAY S.	HOLLOWAY L.A.	KELLY A.	LYONS H.M.	MC GILVRAY A.V.	MONTAGUE T.	PHELAN M.J.	SCHWIND M.	STONE C.L.	WHITFORD A.
HAY T.W.	HOLMES D.G.	KELLER E.B.	LYONS E.T.	MC CLURE S.V.	MOSS C.C.	PHILLIPS C.	SCHADEL J.F.	STONE C.L.	WHITFORD A.
HAY H.T.	HOPKINS F.M.	KELLY L.	MC CRUDDEN H.	MC CRUDDEN T.	MOLLOY S.W.	PHILLIPS H.H.	SCHANDEL W.G.	SULLIVAN E.M.	WHITFORD C.E.
HARTLAND R.	HOPKINS A.	KENNY D.	MC CRUDDEN J.	MC CRUDDEN J.	MURPHY J.J.	PHILLIPS M.O.	SCHREMMER G.	SULLIVAN E.M.	WHARTON F.E.
HAMILTON A.	HORWOOD F.J.	KENNY S.	MC CRUDDEN J.	MC CRUDDEN J.	MURPHY J.J.	PIDDICK W.T.	SCRIBNER W.H.	SWANSLAND T.	WHITLOCK R.W.
HAMILTON C.	HOVE T.J.	KELLY P.E.	MC ALISTER P.W.J.	MC DARRA J.	MURPHY N.H.	PLUMMER W.	SECKOLD P.F.	SWANSLAND T.	WHITE L.A.
HAMILTON D.	HOBSON W.M.	KELLY L.	MC DARRA J.	MC DARRA J.	MURPHY N.H.	PLUMMER T.	SEPPINGS F.E.H.	SIMPSONS E.E.	WHITE P.J.
HARRIS N.	HODGE A.	KELLAHER J.	MC GRATH M.E.	MC GRATH M.E.	MURRAY V.V.	PLUNKETT C.F.	SEPPINGS F.E.H.	TAYLOR A.J.	WINTERBOTTOM W.S.
HAWKES W.C.	HODGE A.V.	KEATING W.	MC MULLEN J.A.	MC MULLEN J.A.	MURRAY P.G.	PORT R.	SHANNON H.L.	TAYLOR A.H.	WINTERBOTTOM T.J.
HAWKES J.	HODGE E.	KENDALL V.H.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	MURRAY P.G.	PORTER W.H.	SHANNON E.	TARTE M.K.	WILD R.H.
HAWKES F.W.	HODGE C.	KING F.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	MULLHOLLAND J.A.	PODMORE P.	SHARP D.	TAPSCOTT R.P.	WILD S.J.
HARDACRE G.	HODGE V.	KING F.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	MULLHOLLAND J.J.	PRATT E.	SHELDON N.	TENNANT R.	WILD W.
HALL A.M.	HODGES H.C.	KING F.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	MULLHOLLAND J.J.	PRATT C.H.	SHELDON H.V.	TEASDALE P.H.J.	WILLIAMSON R.
HALL H.J.	HODGES S.R.	KING C.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	MURPHY N.A.	PRATT G.H.	SHOEMARK C.R.	TEMPLE W.J.	WILLIS S.F.
HEAP J.	HODGES J.R.	KING C.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	NAUGHTON J.F.	PRATT J.A.	SHEATHER C.E.	THRELKELD J.B.	WILLIS W.E.
HEAP E.T.	HOGAN J.H.E.	KING C.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	NASH P.J.	PRETTY A.E.	SHEATHER B.R.	THWAITES A.	WILSON C.
HEAP H.L.	HOLLIDAY A.M.	LATON V.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	NATTADESS D.J.	PURKIS W.L.	SHERRIE N.H.	THOMSON L.E.	WILSON A.
HEATH C.P.	HOLLIDAY A.M.	LATHAM W.H.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	NELSON G.	QUICK L.	SHAW L.H.	THOMSON N.W.	WILSON E.H.
HEATHWOOD T.R.	HUTCHINSON D.	LATHAM W.H.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	NELSON G.	QUINNELL J.R.	SHEPPARD L.D.	TILDEN L.A.	WILSON E.H.D.
HEATHWOOD S.	HUGHES W.	LAWRENCE W.J.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	NICHOLAS W.	RAKE P.H.	SHEPPARD E.	TILDEN J.F.C.	WILSON R.A.
HEADLEY E.A.	HUGHES F.	LANSLEY H.J.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	NORMAN J.	RAE T.J.	SINCLAIR J.E.	TILDEN C.	WIESENER H.
HEADLEY L.S.	HUGHES J.	LANSLEY E.F.A.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	NORMAN J.	REDHEAD J.W.	SINCLAIR J.E.	TOWNER F.C.	WIESENER C.
HELEY C.	HUXTABLE H.	LANSLEY P.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	NUTT, R.R.	REDHEAD F.A.	SIMPSONS D.J.	TOWNER W.J.	WITHERS W.
HELEY N.	HURST R.	LAMPRELL C.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	OHLEN W.	REDHEAD M.	SIMPSONS W.C.	TOPSON H.	WILLIAMS J.
HENNINGHAM H.M.	HUTTON H.M.	LAYH C.K.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	OSMOND C.	RESSO R.W.	SIMPSONS G.H.	TOLAND T.A.	WOLLEY A.A.
HENNINGHAM H.W.	HUTCHINGS W.W.	LEFON L.C.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	OSMOND C.	REID J.	SMITH C.L.	TRIM J.	WORTH W.
HERMAN H.	HUSSEY T.	LEWELL W.C.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	OSMOND C.	REID D.J.	SMITH L.	TRIST E.	WUNSCHE R.
HESLEY G.	HUSSEY C.	LEWIS R.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	O'DONNELL F.	REINEKER T.J.	SMITH L.	TURNER W.H.	WUNSCHE C.
HENRY G.L.	HURST R.V.	LEWIS A.T.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	O'DONNELL E.W.	REDDEN C.W.B.	SMITH E.H.	TURNER W.H.	WUNSCHE A.L.
HENNESSY L.	HURST R.V.	LEWIS H.A.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	O'DONNELL A.I.	RICH W.E.L.	SMITH D.	TREFFREY H.W.	WYNNE H.
MC EWANE J.	HURST R.V.	LEWIS R.J.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	O'NEIL J.	RICHARDS W.	SNODGRASS J.H.	VINCENT H.L.	WYLDE N.
MC WOOD R.E.	HURST R.V.	LEWIS W.H.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	O'NEIL J.	RILEY A.B.	SPRING C.	VINCENT J.	
MC WOOD R.E.	HURST R.V.	LEWIS R.J.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	O'NEIL J.	RIDLEY J.C.	SPOKES W.E.	VANDERTAR W.H.	
MC WOOD R.E.	HURST R.V.	LEWIS R.J.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	O'NEIL J.	RICHARDSON R.W.	SPINK W.S.	TUCK A.	
MC WOOD R.E.	HURST R.V.	LEWIS R.J.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	O'NEIL J.	ROSENBERG S.	SPIKE R.	WALSH J.P.	NURSES.
MC WOOD R.E.	HURST R.V.	LEWIS R.J.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	O'NEIL J.	ROBINSON A.D.	SQUIRES A.J.	WATSON C.V.E.	
MC WOOD R.E.	HURST R.V.	LEWIS R.J.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	O'NEIL J.	ROBINSON A.D.	STEINER J.H.	WATSON W.C.	NASH M.
MC WOOD R.E.	HURST R.V.	LEWIS R.J.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	O'NEIL J.	ROBINSON P.	STEWART D.	WADDUPS F.	PROCTOR S.J.
MC WOOD R.E.	HURST R.V.	LEWIS R.J.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	O'NEIL J.	ROACH F.	STEWART D.	WAITE C.	CAMERON E.
MC WOOD R.E.	HURST R.V.	LEWIS R.J.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	O'NEIL J.	ROSS J.	STEWART R.	WAKEN S.J.	
MC WOOD R.E.	HURST R.V.	LEWIS R.J.	MC WATERS J.	MC WATERS J.	O'NEIL J.	RUSKIN E.H.	STEEL J.	WAKEFORD W.H.	

(42 pages of Gunner Frederick George Towner'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

PERSONAL

Mr S. J. Towner, of Morgan-street, has been officially advised that his son, Gunner F. G. Towner, has been wounded in France, Gunner Towner sailed from Australia in September, 1915.

(Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, NSW – 24 August, 1917)

CASUALTIES

TWO MORE LISTS

The 336th casualty list....

WOUNDED

Gnr F. G. TOWNER, Wagga

(Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, NSW – 11 September, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOR

TOWNER – On 19th September, 1917, at Birmingham Hospital, England, Gunner Frederick George Towner, the result of wounds received in action in France; aged 23 years.

Now the laborer's task is o'er,

 Now the battle day if past;

Now upon the farther shore,

 Lands the voyager at last.

Father in Thy gracious keeping,

Leave we now Thy servant sleeping.

-Inserted by his sorrowing family.

(Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, NSW – 1 October, 1917)

Wagga

Gunner Frederick George Towner, son of Mr S. J. Towner, died of wounds in the Birmingham Hospital, England, on September 19. He would have been 23 years of age on the following day.

(Cootamundra Herald, NSW – 3 October, 1917)

AT THE FRONT AND AT HOME

MILITARY NEWS OF THE WEEK

A telegram received a few days ago by the Rev. H. Pennington of Wagga from Colonel Sandford, conveyed the sad intimation of the death of Gunner Frederick George Towner, son of Mr S. J. Towner of Wagga. Later information showed that Gunner Towner who was attached to the Y.I.A. Trench Mortar Battery, late 1st Divisional Ammunition Column, died of wounds in the Birmingham Hospital, England, on September 19.

(The Albury Banner and Wodonga Express, NSW – 5 October, 1917)

WAGGA WAGGA

(From Our Own Correspondent)

Tuesday, October 2.

The Rev. Pennington received the news of the death of Gunner Frederick George Towner, son of Mr S. J. Towner, Morgan-street, Wagga. Gunner Towner was attached to the Y.I.A. Trench Mortar Battery, late 1st Divisional Ammunition Column, and died of wounds in the Birmingham Hospital, England.

(The Albury Banner and Wodonga Express, NSW – 5 October, 1917)

PERSONAL

It will be recollected that Gunner F. G. Towner, son of Mr S. J. Towner, of Morgan-street, Wagga, was reported to have died of wounds received while in action in France. Recently Mr Towner has received several letters giving full particulars of the young soldier's end. Sister G. M. Jenkins, writing from 1st Southern Hospital, Stonebridge, Worcestershire, England, on September 20, states Gunner Towner was admitted to that hospital about 18 days previously, suffering from wounds in the chest and back. On the night of September 10, he passed peacefully away at 11.30. "I know he was quite happy here," added the sister, "as it so happened he met two men here who came from Wagga."

The funeral was to take place on the following Monday afternoon. The patients, she said, had given sufficient money to put a cross on the grave and when that was done she promised to send a photograph of it. Everything was done for the dead soldier that could be done. The chaplain attached to the same hospital wrote on September 25 expressing his sincere sympathy with Mr Towner and family and stating he had officiated at the burial, which took place in the Stonebridge Cemetery on the afternoon of September 24. "He was a brave soldier and we all loved him, and would have given anything to be able to save him," says Chaplain O'Shea. "He always had a smile on his face and bore his weakness with patience and fortitude. He was a son of whom any father might well be proud and has died nobly in the great cause of righteousness, which is the cause of God. He was laid to rest with full military honors."

(Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, NSW – 4 December, 1917)

THE CATHOLIC HONOR ROLL

Heroes of the Battlefield

Gunner F. G. Towner, son of Mr S. J. Towner, of Morgan-street, Wagga, was recently reported to have died of wounds received while in action in France. Recently Mr Towner has received several letters giving full particulars of the young soldier's end. Sister G. M. Jenkins, writing from 1st Southern Hospital, Stonebridge, Worcestershire, England, on September 20, states Gunner Towner was admitted to that hospital about eighteen days previously, suffering from wounds in the chest and back. On the night of September 19 he passed peacefully away. The patients, she said, had given sufficient money to put a cross on the grave, and when that was done she promised to send a photograph of it. The chaplain attached to the same hospital wrote on September 25, expressing his sincere

sympathy with Mr Towner and family, and stating he had officiated at the burial. "He was a brave soldier, and we all loved him and would have given anything to be able to save him," says Captain Chaplain O'Shea. "He always had a smile on his face, and bore his weakness with patience and fortitude. He was a son of whom any father might well be proud, and has died nobly in the great cause of righteousness, which is the cause of God. He was laid to rest with full military honours."

(Freeman's Journal, Sydney, NSW – 13 December, 1917)

FUNERAL

The funeral of the late Mr William Cox took place on Saturday afternoon moving from his late residence in Albury-street. It was largely attended, relatives and friends being present from Illabo, Junee Reefs. Wagga and the surrounding district. The pallbearers were Messrs J. T. and W. Cox, sons, W. J. Jackson, son in law, William and Albert Towner, grandsons, and E. Moore. Among the many floral tributes was a wreath sent by the employees of the Murrumbidgee Milling Company. The burial took place in the Presbyterian portion of the Wagga Cemetery, the Rev. W. Towner reading the service. The late Mrs T. Towner, of Murray-street, Wagga, was a daughter of the deceased, and one grandson, Gunner Frederick George Towner was recently killed in France. The funeral arrangements were conducted by Messrs McIntosh Bros., of Bayliss street.

(Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, NSW – 24 December, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOR

TOWNER – In sad and loving memory of No. 5542, Gunner Fred Towner, Y.1A Trench Mortar Battery, A.I.F., who died of wounds at Stourbridge Hospital, England, on September 19, 1917; aged 23 years.

For God and Country.

-Inserted by his parents, brother, grandmother, aunts and uncles.

(Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, NSW – 19 September, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

TOWNER – In loving memory of Pte F. Towner, who was killed in France, September 19, 1917.

His heart was good, his spirit brave;

His resting place a hero's grave.

-Inserted by his loving uncle and aunt (Maggie and Will Cox).

(Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, NSW – 19 September, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOR

TOWNER – In loving memory of Gunner Fred Towner, who died of wounds at Stourbridge, England, September 19, 1917; enlisted July, 1915, aged 23 years.

For God, King and Country.

-Inserted by his parents and brother (Will, Albert and Bert)

(Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, NSW – 19 September, 1924)

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)

Gunner F. G. Towner does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*For God
King And Country*

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.”*

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)



Stourbridge Cemetery Overseas Soldiers Sarcophagus/Memorial
(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 *(Photos courtesy of Margaret Carter)*



Photo of Gunner F. G. Towner's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Stourbridge Cemetery, Stourbridge, West Midlands, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett – Private Collection)