

**St. Mary's Churchyard,
Bentley, Hampshire
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



SECOND LIEUTENANT

R. G. TURNER

ROYAL FLYING CORPS

4TH MAY, 1917

Richard George TURNER

Richard George Turner was born 30th January, 1894 at Jamestown, South Australia to parents Sydney Morris Turner & Louisa Turner (nee Booth).

Richard George Turner was educated at Jamestown High School, South Australia.

Richard George Turner was a 20 year old, single, Bank Clerk (Union Bank) from care of S. M. Turner, Ayr Street, Jamestown, South Australia when he enlisted at Randwick, Sydney, NSW on 17th August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 106 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as Sidney M. Turner, Ayr Street, Jamestown, South Australia. Richard Turner stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served for 3 years with School Cadets, 8 months with 18th Infantry & 6 months with Area 74 A in South Australia.

Private Richard George Turner was posted to 2nd Battalion on 25th September, 1914 for recruit training.

Private Richard George Turner embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Suffolk* (A23) on 18th October, 1914 with the 2nd Infantry Battalion "A" Company.

Private Richard George Turner was transferred to Mustapha Base on 7th May, 1915.

Private Richard George Turner was wounded in action at the Dardanelles (no date recorded, however a letter in the service record file written by his sister states he was wounded on 26th April, 1915) with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to right leg. He was transferred to Hospital Ship *Ionian* then admitted to 17th General Hospital at Alexandria on 1st May, 1915 with gunshot wounds to right thigh - severe. Pte Turner was transferred to Convalescent Depot at Mustapha on 7th May, 1915 then transferred to Ship *Franconia* from Alexandria on 14th May, 1915 & rejoined his Unit on 18th May, 1915.

Private Richard George Turner was transferred to Stretcher Bearers from 18th July, 1915.

Private Richard George Turner disembarked at Alexandria on 28th December, 1915 from Troopship *Hunstgreen* after evacuation of Gallipoli.

Private Richard George Turner was attached to Ordnance at Serapeum on 4th March, 1916 then attached to D.A.D.O.S. (Deputy Assistant Director Ordnance Services), 1st Australian Division on 5th March, 1916 at Serapeum for clerical duties.

Private Richard George Turner rejoined 2nd Battalion at Serapeum on 21st March, 1916.

Private Richard George Turner embarked for overseas from Alexandria on 22nd March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 28th March, 1916.

2nd Battalion

The 2nd Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 3rd and 4th Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these battalions, formed the 1st Brigade.

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 was led by Lieutenant Colonel G. F. Braund, who was killed in action nine days later. On 6 August, the 1st Brigade led the charge at Lone Pine. Among the dead was the commander of the 2nd Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel R. Scobie, killed during a Turkish counter-attack. The battalion served at ANZAC until the evacuation in December 1915.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Richard George Turner was transferred to D.A.D.O.S. (Deputy Assistant Director Ordnance Services), Ordnance Corps, 1st Australian Divisional Headquarters on 18th April, 1916. He was promoted to Corporal on 18th April, 1916.

Corporal Richard George Turner ceased to be attached to Headquarters 2nd Infantry Brigade on 6th September, 1916 & was attached to 1st Australian Divisional Headquarters.

Corporal Richard George Turner was on command at Royal Flying Corps, England from 8th November, 1916.

Corporal/Cadet Richard George Turner as attached to R.F.C. Cadet Battalion, Denham from 16th November, 1916 then transferred to School of Aeronautics, Brasenose College at Oxford from 26th January, 1917.

Corporal Richard George Turner was discharged from the Australian Imperial Force in England on 16th March, 1917 having been granted a Commission in Imperial Army as Second Lieutenant. He had served abroad for 2 years & 212 days.

Second Lieutenant Richard George Turner joined Royal Flying Corps – Special Reserve. His contact person to be informed of in case of casualty was Miss Hazell, Castle St, Farnham, Surrey.

The Royal Flying Corps

The Royal Flying Corps (RFC) was the air arm of the British Army before and during the First World War, until it merged with the Royal Naval Air Service on 1st April, 1918 to form the Royal Air Force. During the early part of the war, the RFC supported the British Army, by artillery co-operation and photographic reconnaissance. This work gradually led RFC pilots into aerial battles with German pilots and later in the war included the strafing of enemy infantry and emplacements, the bombing of German military airfields and later the strategic bombing of German industrial and transportation facilities.

From the Supplement to The London Gazette – 11 April, 1917:

SPECIAL RESERVE OF OFFICERS

The undermentioned, from an Officer Cadet Unit, to be 2nd Lts. (on prob.) 17th Mar, 1917:-

Royal Flying Corps

Mil. Wing

Richard George Turner

Second Lieutenant Richard George Turner was attached to No. 47 Reserve Squadron, R.F.C. at Waddington, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, England from 20th March, 1917 then attached to No. 37 Training Squadron, R.F.C., Scampton, near Lincoln, Lincolnshire, England from 18th April, 1917 on being appointed Flying Officer.

Second Lieutenant Richard George Turner was flying a Royal Aircraft Factory RE8 Serial number A3497 on 4th May, 1917 from R.F.C. Scampton, near Lincoln when his plane crashed.

Second Lieutenant Richard George Turner died on 4th May, 1917 at Scampton, near Lincoln, Lincolnshire, England as a result of an aeroplane accident.

A death for Richard G. Turner aged 23, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Lincoln, Lincolnshire, England.

A Court of Inquiry stated the cause of the accident was lack of judgement on the part of the pilot in causing the machine to get into a spinning nose dive on a turn.

Newspaper item – *The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 11 May, 1917:

AN AVIATOR KILLED

JAMESTOWN, May 9 – Mr S. M. Turner, solicitor, received on Monday a cable message from England stating that his only surviving son, Richard George Turner, of the Royal Flying Corps, had been accidentally killed in England. The deceased was 23 years of age. He was educated at the high school, and on leaving joined the Union Bank. He volunteered in 1914, and sailed with the first contingent in October, 1914. He was at the memorable landing of the Anzacs on Gallipoli, and served there until the evacuation. Subsequently he went to France, and about seven months ago applied for and received enrolment to serve in the Royal Flying Corps. He went to England to qualify as an aviator, and had completed his training for a commission when he was killed. He was a good athlete, and was liked by all who knew him. On April 2 his only brother, Pte. Harold M. Turner, was killed in action in France.

Second Lieutenant Richard George Turner was buried in St. Mary's Churchyard, Bentley, Hampshire, England (north of church) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Second Lieutenant Richard George Turner was entitled to 1914/15 Star (issued by Australian Department of Defence), British War Medal & the Victory Medal (the British & Victory Medals to be issued through the Air Ministry, England).

Mrs E. Bartley, 4/11 Dudley Ave, Daw Park, South Australia, wrote to Central Army Records Office, Melbourne, Victoria, in March, 1989 to apply for the Anza Commemoration Medallion in regards to the service of her brother – Private Richard George Turner.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Second Lieutenant R. G. Turner, 37th Reserve Sqdn, Royal Flying Corps – formerly (Cpl 106), Australian Army Ordnance Corps. No family details are listed.

Second Lieutenant Richard George Turner is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (*Capital Photographer*)



Australian War Memorial

R. G. Turner & his brother H. M. Turner are 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.

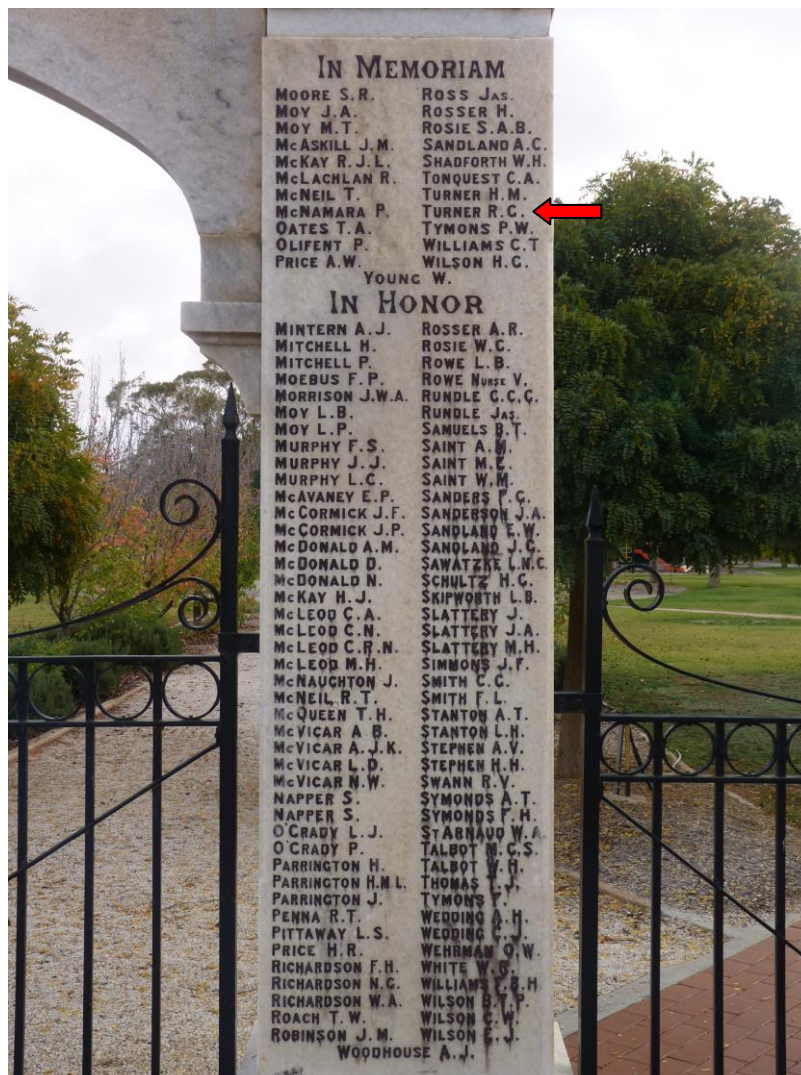


National War Memorial – Adelaide *(Photos by Bilby)*

R. G. Turner & his brother H. M. Turner are remembered on the Jamestown Memorial Gateway, located at Irvine Street, Jamestown, South Australia.



Jamestown Memorial Gateway (Photos by Henry Moulds)



Richard George Turner & his brother Harold Morris Turner are remembered with a white marble Memorial Cross of Sacrifice which is located in St. James the Great Anglican Church, Kilmarnock Terrace & Irvine Streets, Jamestown, South Australia. Their father – Mr Sydney Morris Turner was a lay preacher & warden at St. James Church for many years.



Memorial Cross of Sacrifice for Harold & Richard Turner (Photos from Virtual War Memorial Australia)

(61 pages of Second Lieutenant Richard George Turner's A.I.F. 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



[Connected to Second Lieutenant Richard George Turner:](#)

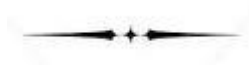
Younger brother – Private Harold Morris Turner, 4895. Enlisted 26th August, 1915 as an 18 year old Bank Clerk from Jamestown, South Australia. He embarked from Adelaide on 9th March, 1916 with 10th Infantry Battalion, 15th Reinforcements. Transferred to 13th Machine Gun Company. Killed in action on 2nd April, 1917.

Buried Cagnicourt British Cemetery, France.





Second Lieutenant Richard George Turner



Newspaper Notices

FOR KING AND COUNTRY

TURNER – On the 4th May, killed in aeroplane accident in Lincoln, England, Richard George, dearly beloved elder son of Sydney M. and L. Turner, Jamestown, aged 23 years and 3 months.

(The Journal, Adelaide, South Australia – 8 May, 1917)

FOR KING AND COUNTRY

TURNER – On the 2nd April, killed in action, in France, Harold Morris, dearly beloved younger son of Sydney M. and L. Turner, Jamestown, aged 19 years and 10 months.

TURNER – On the 4th May, killed in aeroplane accident in Lincoln, England, Richard George, dearly beloved elder son of Sydney M. and L. Turner, Jamestown, aged 23 years and 3 months.

(The Journal, Adelaide, South Australia – 9 May, 1917) & (The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 9 May, 1917) &

(The Express and Telegraph, Adelaide, South Australia – 9 May, 1917) & (Observer, Adelaide, South Australia – 12 May, 1917) &

(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 12 May, 1917)

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)

Second Lieutenant R. G. Turner does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

St. Mary's Church, Bentley, Hampshire, England

St. Mary's Churchyard, Bentley has just two Commonwealth War Graves – both from World War 1.



St. Mary's Church, Bentley (Photo by Steve Johnson – Find a Grave)



St. Mary's Church, Bentley (Photo by Bikeboy)

Photo of Second Lieutenant R. G. Turner's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary's Churchyard, Bentley, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by Mal & Ali Jurgs)





St. Mary's Churchyard, Bentley *(Photo by Simon Burchell)*