

**Compton Chamberlayne  
War Graves Cemetery,  
Wiltshire, England**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2998 PRIVATE**

**S. H. TURNER**

**51ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**25TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 35**

*TILL WE MEET AGAIN*

## Sidney Harold TURNER

Sidney Harold Turner was born in Picton, NSW in 1884 to parents Henry & Annie Turner.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Perth, Western Australia listed Sidney Harold Turner, Druggist's Assistant, from 222 St. George's Terrace.

Sidney Harold Turner was a 33 year old, single, Druggist's assistant from 176 Goderich Street, Perth, Western Australia when he enlisted on 10th June, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). Sidney Turner was employed by Faulding & Co, Manufacturing Chemists, Perth, Western Australia. His service number was 2998 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Henry Turner of Marmion Street, Cottesloe, Western Australia.

Private Sidney Harold Turner was posted to 77th Depot on 10th July, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 51st Battalion on 1st August, 1916. Private Turner was transferred to 7th Reinforcements of 51st Battalion on 4th September, 1916.

Private Sidney Harold Turner embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 9th November, 1916 with the 51st Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 10th January, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain area in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Sidney Harold Turner was marched in to the 13th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire from Australia on 10th January, 1917.

Private Sidney Harold Turner was written up for an Offence at Codford, Wiltshire on 5th February, 1917 – Overstaying leave from 1 am on 3rd February, 1917 to 10 pm on 3rd February, 1917. He was awarded 5 days confined to Camp & forfeited 1 days' pay.

Private Sidney Harold Turner was admitted to the Group Clearing Hospital at Codford on 11th February, 1917 with influenza & discharged 9 days later. He was again admitted to the same hospital with influenza on 8th March, 1917 & discharged 13 days later. Private Turner was marched in to 13th Training Battalion from Hospital on 21st March, 1917.

Private Sidney Harold Turner proceeded overseas via Folkestone, England to Etaples, France on 10th April, 1917 for active service. He was marched in to 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 11th April, 1917. Private Turner proceeded to join his Unit from 4th A.D.B.D. on 30th April, 1917 & was taken on strength of 51st Battalion in the Field on 1st May, 1917.

Private Sidney Harold Turner was wounded in action on 26th September, 1917. He was admitted to Casualty Clearing Bureau on 26th September, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to left shoulder then transferred the same day to 10th Casualty Clearing Station. Private Turner was transferred & admitted to 54th General Hospital on 27th September, 1917. He embarked for England on 2nd October, 1917 on Hospital Ship *Port Elizabeth*.

### 51st Battalion

The 51st Battalion was raised in Egypt in the first week of March 1916, as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 11th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 11th, the 51st was predominantly composed of men from Western Australia. The battalion became part of the 13th Brigade of the newly-formed 4th Australian Division.

.....Early in 1917, the battalion participated in the advance that followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line. On 2 April it attacked at Noreuil, a village which had been fortified to delay the Australian advance. Later in the year, the focus of the AIF's operations moved to the Ypres sector in Belgium. There the battalion fought in the

battle of Messines between 7 and 12 June and the battle of Polygon Wood between 26 and 27 September. Another winter of trench routine followed.

*(Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

### War Diary – 51st Battalion

*26th September, 1917*

*1.30 am – Bn moved from WESTHOEK RIDGE and deployed on taped line ready for attack vide Bn Order No. 40. Copy attached marked VIII*

*5.50 – Zero time – advance commenced. Objective gained at 8 am and consolidation commenced. Casualties very slight.*

.....

*Casualties, 24th to 30th September 1917 were:-*

	<i>Killed</i>	<i>Wounded</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Officers</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Other Ranks</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>110</i>	<i><u>138</u></i>
			<i>143</i>

*(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Sidney Harold Turner was admitted to 5th Southern General Hospital at Porstmouth, England on 2nd October, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to should – slight. He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, England on 10th December, 1917 & discharged to furlo on 17th December, 1917 to 31st December, 1917 & was then to report to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott.

Private Sidney Harold Turner was reported as AWL (absent without leave) from Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 31st December, 1917. He returned from AWL on 11th January, 1918. Headquarters at Tidworth, Wiltshire dismissed Private Turner's case for being AWL.

A Medical Report was completed on Private Sidney Harold Turner on 4th April, 1918 at No. 4 Command Depot. His disability occurred in France around August 1917 & his present condition was listed as - He had lost weight, has tremor of hand, subject to dizziness, easily exhausted The Medical Board found that Private Turner was not improving & he was "permanently unfit for General Service but fit for Home Service".

Private Sidney Harold Turner was marched out from No. 4 Command Depot, Hurdcott on 3rd August, 1918 & marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott on 5th August, 1918.

Private Sidney Harold Turner was marched out from No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott on 12th September, 1918 for duty with Group Clearing Hospital. He was attached to No. 2 Group Clearing Hospital from 51st Battalion for duty on 15th September, 1918.

Private Sidney Harold Turner was admitted to No. 2 Group Clearing Hospital at Hurdcott on 20th October, 1918 suffering from bronchitis. He was transferred to the Military Hospital at Fovant on 22nd October, 1918 with Broncho-pneumonia.

Private Sidney Harold Turner died at 11.55 p.m. on 25th October, 1918 at the Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire from heart failure due to Broncho-pneumonia.

A death for Sidney H Turner, aged 34, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire. (Fovant was a parish in the district of Wilton).

Private Sidney Harold Turner was buried at 3 p.m. on 31st October, 1918 in Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Back Row, Grave Plot # 3. From the burial report of Private Turner– Coffin was Polished Elm with Brass Mounts – *Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a gun carriage, preceded by a Firing Party and Band from No 4 Australian Command Depot. Six of deceased's late comrades supported the Pall. 3 Officers and about 100 N.C.O.'s and Men from No. 4 Command Depot followed the remains to the graveside.*

*A large wreath from Officers N.C.O.'s and Men of No. 4 Command Depot was placed on the grave. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

*Mrs L. S. Lewis, a friend from Hurdcott Farm, Barford St Martin, Salisbury, also attended the funeral.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Sidney Harold Turner contains a letter from the Matron of Military Hospital, Fovant – explaining the death of Pte S. H. Turner (2998):

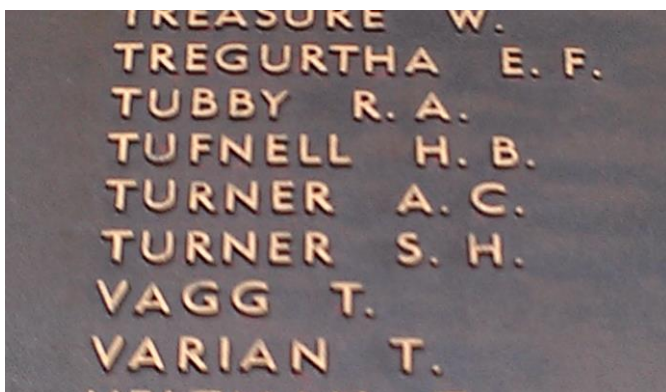
*"Pte S. H. Turner of the 51st Battn. A.I.F. was admitted into this Hospital on the 22nd October, 1918; he was very ill, suffering from Broncho-pneumonia and Heart trouble. He passed peacefully away at 11.30 on the 25th October. He was buried at Compton Chamberlayne with full Military Honours. I have written to his father who was his next of kin in Australia."*

Private Sidney Harold Turner requested in his Will, dated 4th June, 1917 that he bequeathed his personal estate to Annie Turner, Mother of Main Parade, West Guildford, Western Australia.

Private Sidney Harold Turner was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Turner's mother – Mrs A. Turner, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Sidney Harold Turner – service number 2998, aged 35, of 51st Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Annie Turner, of Cottesloe, Western Australia and the late H. Turner.

Private S. H. Turner is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 154.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

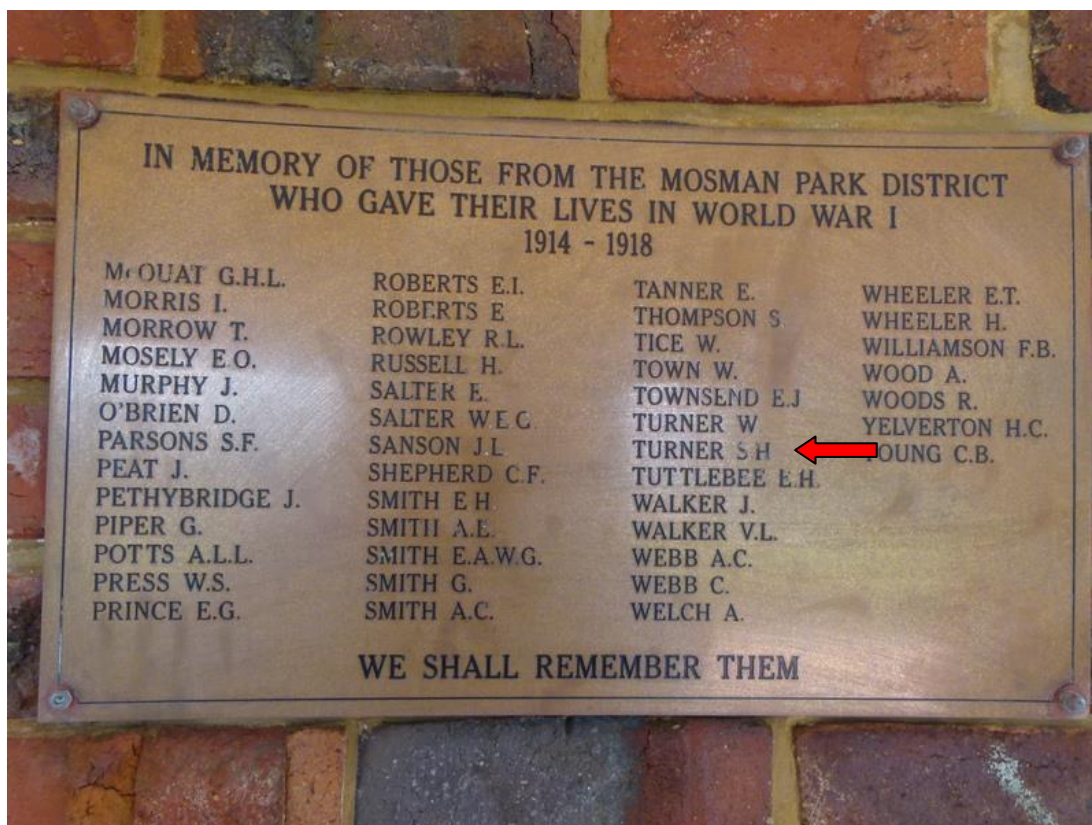
(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



S. H. Turner is remembered on the Memorial Park Rotunda, located in Mosman Park Memorial Park, Palmerston Street, Mosman Park, Western Australia.



Mosman Park Memorial Park Rotunda (Photos from VWMA)



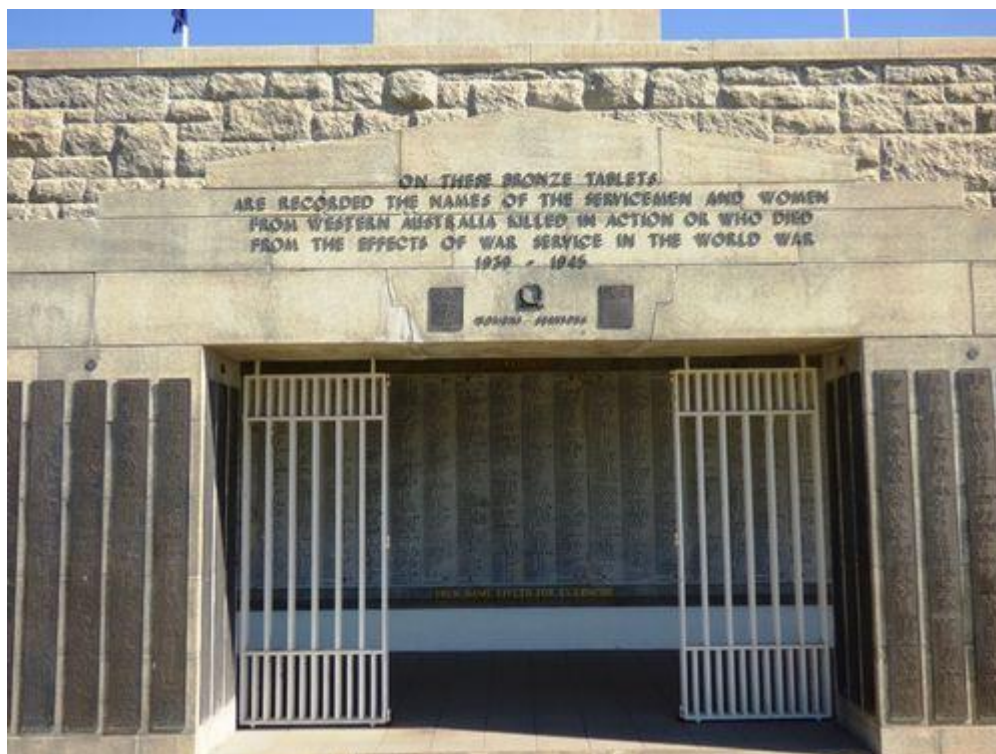
S. H. Turner is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a 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)*







51st Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

(83 pages of Private Sidney Harold Turner's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives

\*\* Private Sidney Turner's younger brother – Private Henry Newton Turner -7494 of 44th Battalion A.I.F was killed in action at Hamel in France on 4th July, 1918, aged 26. He was buried at Daours Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.

Private Sidney Harold Turner & his brother - Private Henry Newton Turner are both remembered on their father's headstone in Karrakatta Cemetery, Western Australia. Henry Turner, father of Sidney & Henry, died on 18th February, 1920. His headstone is one of the headstones that have been moved from their original location at Karrakatta Cemetery, Claremont, mostly from portion OC, in preparation for the re-use of the portion as a lawn cemetery. At this stage it is not known what will happen to these monuments.



Turner Headstone in Karrakatta Cemetery (Photo from Australian Cemeteries Index)



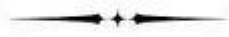




**Private Sid Turner**

Late of Faulding and Co. Died of pneumonia in England, October 25

*(Sunday Times, Perth, Western Australia 29 December 1918)*



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION**

#### **W.A. Roll of Honour**

**The following is the 353rd list of casualties among West Australians in the A.I.F.**

#### **WOUNDED**

Sidney Harold Turner, W. Guildford

*(The Daily News, Perth, WA – Saturday 17th November, 1917) & (Western Argus, Kalgoorlie, W.A. – Tuesday 20th November, 1917)*

## AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

### W.A. Roll of Honour

The following is the 448th list of casualties among West Australians in the A.I.F.

Died, Other Causes

Sidney Harold Turner, W. Guildford, illness, previously reported wounded.

(*Western Argus*, Kalgoorlie, W.A. – Tuesday 3rd December, 1918) & (*The Daily News*, Perth, WA – Saturday 30th November, 1918)

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### IN MEMORIAM

TURNER – In proud and loving memory of our two dear sons Sidney Turner of the 51st Battalion, died in England October 25, 1918 also New Turner, died on the battlefield in France July 4, 1918.

The strife is over the victory won,

Just gone a little while before.

Inserted by his sorrowing parents.

TURNER – In sad memory of Private Sidney Harold Turner (late Faulding and Co.), 51st Battalion, died of pneumonia, Fovant Military Hospital, England, October 25, 1918 (wounded Passchendaele, September 25, 1917): also Henry Newton Turner, killed in action, Hamel, July 4, 1918.

Lest we forget

Inserted by their brother and sister-in-law Bert and Hilda and nephews, Douglas and Leslie, Cottesloe.

(*The West Australian*, Perth – Saturday 25th October, 1919)

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### 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 at Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery. 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 Turner does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

**TILL WE MEET AGAIN**

## Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery contains 34 Commonwealth War Graves all from World War 1. Of these 28 are of Australian Soldiers.



*(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)*



**Compton Chamberlayne War Graves** *(Photo from CWGC)*





**Left & right of Cemetery with central Plinth** (Photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)



**Photo taken from back of Cemetery looking towards the Entrance** (Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)



Photo of Private S. H. Turner's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)*



*(Photo taken c March, 1919)*

Graves of Australian soldiers in the cemetery at Compton-Chamberlyne, each marked by a cross.

*Back row, left to right:* 55821 Private (Pte) Alfred Alwin Dreckow, 32nd Battalion (Bn), died 19 October 1918; 3712 Pte Thomas Cass, 10th Bn, died 17 August 1918; 3764 Pte William Joseph Arnold, 31st Bn, died 2 July 1918; Captain Roy Allan Sillar, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 30 June 1918; 1993A Pte Sydney Ross, 18th Bn, died 31 May 1918.

*Front row:* 1666 Sergeant Percy Robert Knowles, 9th Australian Light TM Battery, died 30 January 1918; 1995 Pte Thomas James Skipper, 51st Bn, died Fovant Military Hospital 7 January 1918; 687 Pte John Thomas Wehrmann, 32nd Bn, died 3 November 1917; 3462 Pte William Joseph Park, 60th Bn, died 23rd September 1917; 1725 Pte William Ernest Riley, 60th Bn, died 22 May 1917.



## Compton Chamberlayne War Grave Locations



British Soldier



Irish Soldier



Australian Soldier

Front Row	Grave		Middle Row	Grave		Back Row	Grave
	Public	1	Oliver	1			1
	Public	2	Knowles	2		Public	2
	Haywood	3	Skipper	3		Turner	3
	Gilbert	4	Wehrmann	4		Evans	4
	Le Tisser	5	Park	5		Dreckow	5
	Jones	6	Riley	6		Cass	6
	Cook	7	Turnbull	7		Arnold	7
	Pairman	8	White	8		Sillar	8
		9	Howard	9		Ross	9
	Norris	10	Tull	10		Finn	10
	Lintott	11	Snell	11		McCarthy	11
	Redman	12	Ferrow	12		Trengove	12
	Public		Public				13
	Public		Public				14
	Public					Walsh	15
							16
						Hooper	17
							18
						Larkin	19