

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3502 PRIVATE

T. H. W. WHITE

59TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

25TH MARCH, 1917 Age 21

*MOTHER LOVED YOU DEAR TOM
A HEART
THAT NEVER SHALL FORGET YOU
MOTHER*

Thomas Henry William WHITE

Thomas Henry William White was born at Balaclava, Victoria in 1894 to parents Thomas & Sophia White.

Thomas Henry William White attended All Saints Grammar School, Victoria.

Thomas Henry William White was a 21 year old, single, Brassmoulder but working as a Tram Conductor, from St Kilda, Melbourne, Victoria when he enlisted on 7th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force. His service number was 3502 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Thomas White of 70 Inkerman Street, St Kilda, Melbourne, Victoria.

Private Thomas Henry William White was posted to 8th Depot Battalion on 14th July, 1915 for recruit training.

Private Thomas Henry William White was transferred to 11th Reinforcements of 6th Battalion on 16th September, 1915.

Private Thomas Henry William White embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Nestor* (A71) on 11th October, 1915 with the 6th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements & disembarked in Egypt.

Private Thomas Henry William White was admitted to Hospital at Abbassia on 8th December, 1915 & was discharged to his Unit on 18th December, 1915.

Private Thomas Henry William White was admitted to 1st Auxiliary Hospital on 21st December, 1915 with a hernia.

Private Thomas Henry William White embarked on 20th January, 1916 from the Suez to return to Australia on Hospital Ship *Karoola* – not fit for duty due to a hernia. His medical report stated that the Hernia developed about 3 weeks after enlisting, from playing football – nothing to do with Military duty. An operation was advised but was declined. Private White disembarked at Melbourne on the 21st February, 1916.

Private Thomas Henry William White was admitted to No. 5 Australian General Hospital, Victoria on 28th February, 1916 with an inguinal hernia (right side). He was operated on 3rd March, 1916 & was reported as fit for duty on 10th May, 1916.

Private Thomas Henry William White returned to duty on 6th June, 1916 as he had been certified fit for duty.

Private Thomas Henry William White was posted to 18th Reinforcements of 6th Battalion at Broadmeadows, Victoria on 12th June, 1916. He was transferred to 19th Reinforcements of 6th Battalion on 6th July, 1916.

Private Thomas Henry William White was written up for 1. breaking Isolation & 2. AWL (absent without leave) from 7 pm on 15th July to 4 pm on 17th July, 1916 while at Isolation Hospital, Broadmeadows. He was fined 10/-.

Private Thomas Henry William White was sent to Langwarrin on 18th July, 1916.

Private Thomas Henry William White was written up on 6th August, 1916 for “*Conduct to the prejudice of good order & military discipline*”. He was given 3 days detention.

Private Thomas Henry William White was AWL (absent without leave) from 3 pm on 2nd September, 1916 till 10.30 am on 3rd September, 1916. He was given 7 days detention.

Private Thomas Henry William White was transferred to Broadmeadows on 9th September, 1916 with 21st Reinforcements of 6th Battalion.

Private Thomas Henry William White was AWL (absent without leave) from 13th September till 17th September, 1915 while posted at Broadmeadows. He was given 3 days detention.

Private Thomas Henry William White was written up on 21st November, 1916 for 1. Drunk 2. Conduct to the prejudice of good order & military discipline & 3. Interfering with a Sentry. He was given 14 days Detention.

Private Thomas Henry William White was transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 59th Battalion on 30th November, 1916.

Private Thomas Henry William White embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 16th December, 1916 with 8th Reinforcements of 59th Battalion & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 18th February, 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 Thomas Henry William White was marched into 15th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 18th February, 1917 from Australia.

Private Thomas Henry William White was admitted to the Military Hospital at Fovant with Bronchitis on 14th March, 1917.

Private Thomas Henry William White died at 12.10 p.m. on 25th March, 1917 at the Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire, England from Broncho-pneumonia.

A death for Thomas H. W. White, aged 22, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Private Thomas Henry William White was buried on 28th March, 1917 in Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England - Middle Row, Grave Plot #8. From the burial report of Private White – he was buried with full military honours and the coffin provided was of oak with metal mounts and name plate.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Thomas Henry William White contains a letter, dated 19th September, 1916 from the Matron of the Military Hospital at Fovant explaining the details of Pte T. H. W. White's death from enquiries from his family which reads : *"Pte T. H. White was admitted into hospital on the 14th March suffering from Broncho-pneumonia. His progress was very slow and everything that could be done for him was done, but he died on the 25th March at 12.10 p.m. He was buried with military honours at Compton Chamberlain."*

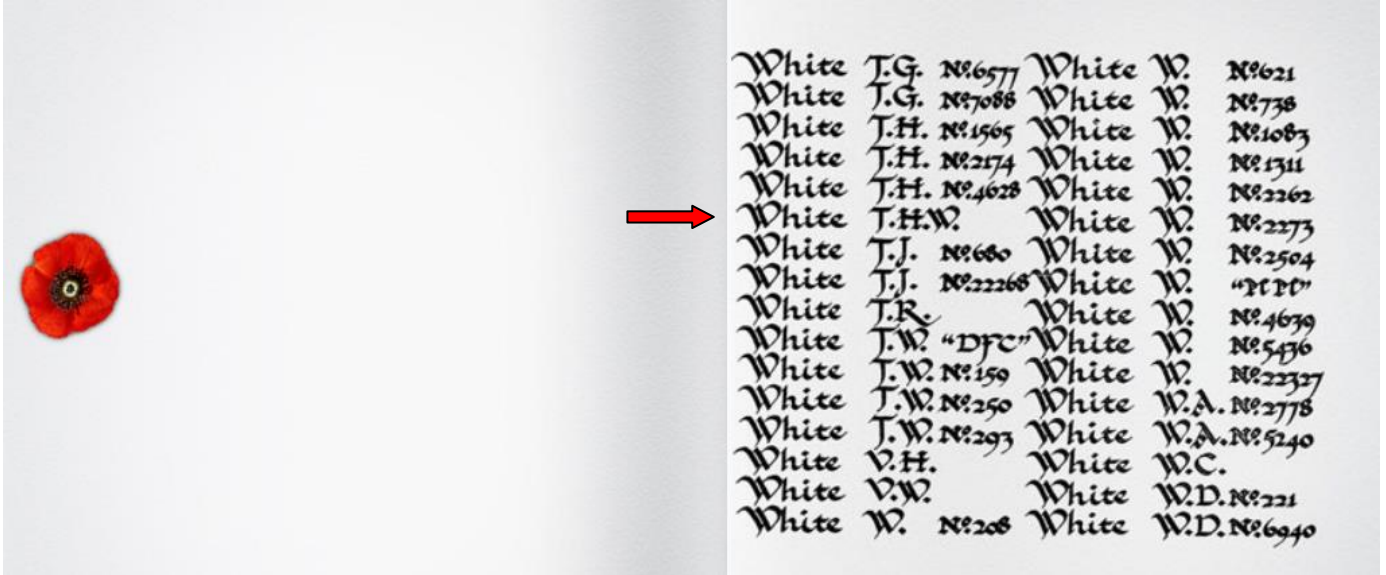
Another letter to the family, dated 12th October, 1918 includes a photo of Private T. H. W. White's grave. The letter reads: *"Photo taken by Pte T. Berry 6127 – 60th Battn at Compton Chamberlain Cemetery, Hurdcott, about 12 months ago. On the Cross is the name Pte T. H. White – 59th Battn. Berry knew White in Melbourne, but not his people. White's father was a senior constable at St Kilda. Berry live at Brighton, but his Australia address is – The Hill, Birregurra, Victoria. Berry knew nothing of the soldier shown on photo"*

Private Thomas Henry William White was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll (October, 1921) & Memorial Plaque (September, 1922) were sent to Pte White's father – Mr Thomas White, Police Station at Oakleigh.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Thomas Henry William White – service number 3502, aged 21, of 59th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Thomas and Sophia White, of Oakleigh, Victoria.

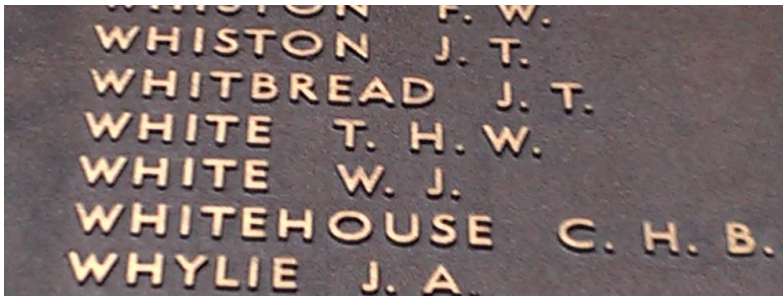
T. H. W. White is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.





Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne

Private T. H. W. White is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 169.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(119 pages of Private Thomas Henry William White'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



**Stanley White, younger brother of Pte Thomas Henry William White, enlisted with the A.I.F. on 19th February, 1917 at the age of 18 ½ years. He had his mother's consent to be sent abroad before his 19th birthday – this was later withdrawn (April, 1917) as his mother was seriously ill & his older brother had died. Stanley White was discharged for Family Reasons on 18th September, 1917.



***Pte Thomas Henry William White embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 16th December, 1916 & died 25th March, 1917

Pte Charles Tull (3245) embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 16th December, 1916 & died 16th March, 1917.

Pte James Howard (3164) also embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 16th December, 1916 & died 18th March, 1917.

Pte Howard & Pte Tull & Pte White are buried next to each other in Middle Row – plots 8, 9 & 10 of Compton Chamberlayne War Cemetery.



Newspaper Reports

ON THE FIELD OF HONOUR

286th Official List

DIED OF ILLNESS – VICTORIA

Pte White, T. H. W., St Kilda

(*The Ballarat Courier*, Victoria – Tuesday 10th April, 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 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 T. H. W. White does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*MOTHER LOVED YOU DEAR TOM
A HEART
THAT NEVER SHALL FORGET YOU
MOTHER*

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)



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 T. H. W. White'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	
<i>Public</i>	1		Oliver	1			1	
<i>Public</i>	2		Knowles	2		<i>Public</i>	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
<i>Public</i>			<i>Public</i>				13	
<i>Public</i>			<i>Public</i>				14	
<i>Public</i>						Walsh	15	
							16	
						Hooper	17	
							18	
						Larkin	19	



Compton Chamberlayne War Graves (Photo from CWGC)