

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

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3013A PRIVATE

F. G. WHITE

31ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

7TH DECEMBER, 1916 Age 22

*In Memory
Of The Loved Son
Of Mr & Mrs A. White
Townsville*

Frederick George WHITE

Frederick George White was born at Townsville, Queensland on 1st February, 1893 to parents Alfred & Mary Sophia Victoria White (nee Parker).

Frederick George White was a 23 year old, single, Labourer from Aitken Vale, Townsville, Queensland when he enlisted on 3rd January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Methodist & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Sulphy (name as per Embarkation Roll) White, of Aitken Vale, Townsville, Queensland.

Private Frederick George White was posted to No. 11 Depot Battalion on 7th January, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 16th Reinforcements of 5th Battalion on 3rd February, 1916. Private White was transferred to Reserve Company on 5th April, 1916 then transferred on 12th April, 1916 to 6th Reinforcements of 31st Battalion.

Private Fredrick George White (name as per Embarkation Roll), Service number 2042 (later 3013A), embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMT *Ceramic (A40)* on 14th April, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 31st Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements & disembarked at Port Said on 16th May, 1916.

Private Frederick George White embarked from Alexandria on HMT *Franconia* on 6th June, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 16th June, 1916.

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 Frederick George White was examined on 21st August, 1916 at Camp 28 Lark Hill, Salisbury Plain & was fit for active service.

Private Frederick George White embarked from 8th Training Battalion, England on 5th September, 1916 for overseas. He was marched in to 5th Divisional Base Depot at Etaples, France on 6th September, 1916. Private White proceeded from 5th Divisional Base Depot on 19th September, 1916 & was taken on strength of 31st Battalion on 21st September, 1916 from Reinforcements. His Regimental number was changed to 3013A.

Private Frederick George White reported sick on 19th September, 1916 (date as per Casualty Form – Active Service) & was admitted to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station in France on 23rd September, 1916 with a Tumour of Sternum. He was transferred to Hospital Barge on 26th September, 1916 & was admitted to 7th General Hospital at St. Omer on 27th September, 1916. Private White embarked from Boulogne, France on 14th October, 1916 for England on Hospital Ship *St Denis*.

31st Battalion

The 31st Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Enoggera, on the outskirts of Brisbane, in August 1915. Some of the battalion's companies, however, were also raised at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Frederick George White was admitted to Leicester Royal Infirmary, Leicester, England on 14th October, 1916 with a Tumour. He was transferred to Weymouth on 30th October, 1916.

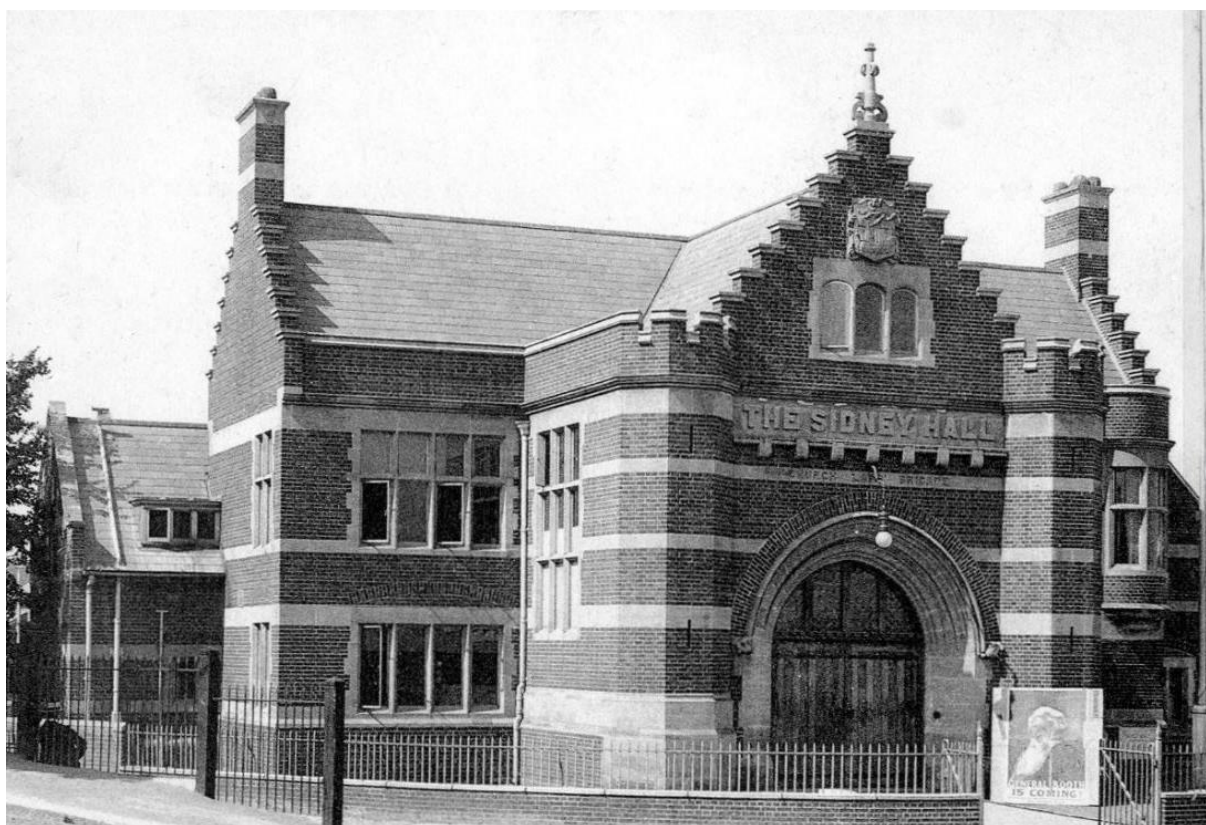
Mrs S. White, Aitken Vale, Townsville, Queensland was advised on 30th October, 1916 by Base Records that No. 2402/3013A Private F. G. White had been admitted to the Royal Infirmary, Leicester on 14th October, 1916 suffering from Tumour (mild).

A Medical Report was completed on Private Frederick George White on 1st November, 1916 at No. 2 Command Depot, Weymouth, Dorset, England. His disability was listed as Tumour of Sternum which had originated on 16th August, 1916 while at Lark Hill, Salisbury. "On 16 Aug 1916 first noticed a small hard lump in front of sternum which has grown steadily until now it is a large tumour about the size of an orange extending over sternum and left side. It has a simplified consistency and causes no pain." Private White's present condition was reported as "He has lost over a stone in weight in two months and feels weak and short of breath. There is a dullness extending over front of left chest to mid auxiliary line of left side. No pain felt. X. Ray Report – Screen shows solid mass extending nearly over the whole of middle and left chest." The Officer in charge of the medical case recommended that Private White

be permanently discharged as unfit & be returned to Australia. The Medical Board found that Private Frederick George White was permanently unfit for general service & permanently unfit for home service.

Private Frederick George White died at 4.35 pm on 7th December, 1916 at Sydney Hall Military Hospital, Weymouth, Dorset, England from Tumour on Chest. The Report of Death of a Soldier (Army form B. 2090) reported that Private Frederick George White died from Sarcoma of Sternum.

A death for Frederick G. White, aged 23, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Weymouth, Dorset, England.



The Sidney Hall Military Hospital

Private Frederick George White was buried on 11th December, 1916 in Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England – Plot number 2767 Section C. This is now recorded by CWGC as Plot III. C. 2767 and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Base Records contacted Mrs S. White, Aitken Vale, Townsville, Queensland on 20th December, 1921 stating she was noted as the registered next-of-kin of the late No. 3013A Private F. G. White, 31st Battalion, but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & was specifically asked if his father was still alive due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Mrs S. White replied to Base Records on 3rd March, 1922 advising that Private F. G. White's father – was Alfred White, Aitkenvale, Townsville. *"I must apologise for not writing sooner the reason was I was seriously ill & quite unable to write."*

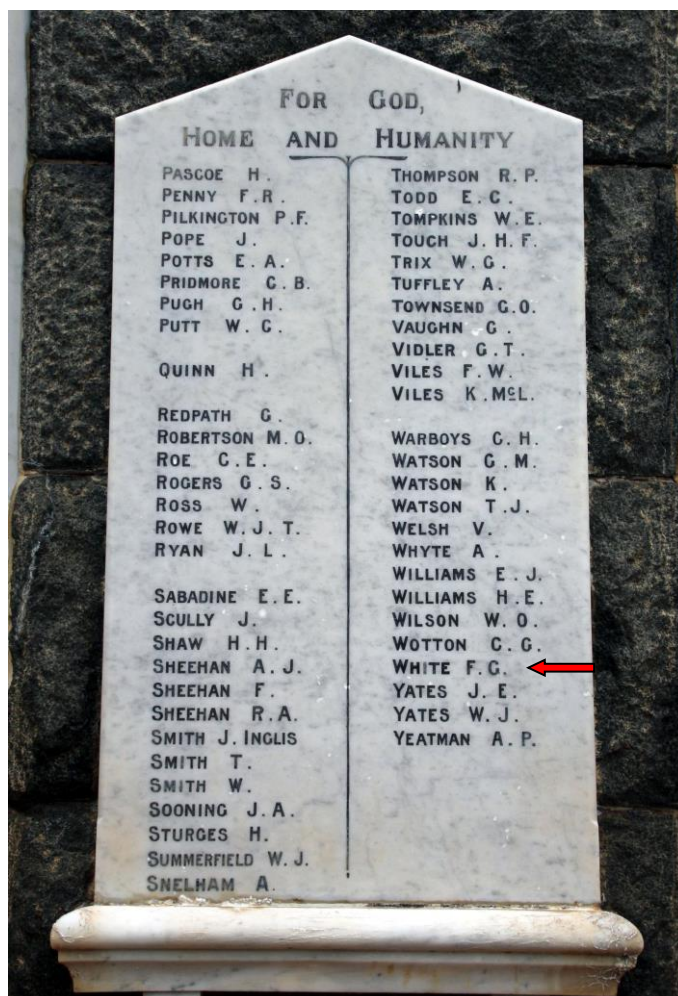
Private Frederick George White was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private White's father – Mr A. White, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent Mya, 1922 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Frederick George White – service number 3013A, aged 22, of 31st Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Alfred & Sophy White, of Aitkenvale, Townsville, Queensland.

F. G. White is remembered on the Townsville War Memorial, located at The Strand, Townsville City, Queensland.



Townsville War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Brian Rowe)



F. G. White is remembered on the Townsville No. 37 Magnetic Lodge P.A.F.S.O.A. Honor Board, located at Jezzine Barracks, Mitchell Street, Townsville, Queensland.



Townsville No. 37 Magnetic Lodge P.A.F.S.O.A. Honor Board

(Photo from VWMA – Tony Ledger)

Private F. G. White is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 119.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(64 pages of Private Frederick George White'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



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P05301.260

Private Frederick George White



Private Frederick George White



Newspaper Notices

NORTHERN VOLUNTEERS

With the end of the holiday season, a fresh spirit in volunteering is apparent. 42 men leaving from the Townsville centre on Monday night for Enoggera. The names and districts of the volunteers are as follow:-

Townsville -Frederick George White...

(Townsville Daily Bulletin, Queensland – 4 January, 1916)

Roll of Honour

The 241st list of Australian casualties....

ILL

Pte F. G. White, Townsville

(The Week, Townsville, Queensland – 10 November, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

Casualty lists Nos 255 and 256 were issued to-day...

Died of Illness

Private F. G. White (Townsville)

(*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Queensland – 30 December, 1916)

MAGNETIC LODGE ROLL OF HONOR

WHITE – In Hospital, England, after fighting in France, Private F. G. White, Aitkenvale, aged 22. He laid down his life for his Friends.

(*Townsville Daily Bulletin*, Queensland – 13 January, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOR

WHITE – In loving Memory of our dear brother and brother-in-law, Private Frederick George White, 31st Battalion, A.I.F., who died at Sydney Hall Military Hospital on 7th December, 1916. Buried in Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, England.

His King called and he answered.

(Inserted by his Sister and Brother-in-law, C. and A. E. Lane)

WHITE – In loving Memory of our dear son, brother and brother-in-law, Private Frederick George White, 31st Battalion, A.I.F., who died in Sydney Hall Hospital, December 7th, 1917, after seeing service in France, buried in Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, England.

The midnight stars are gleaming,

O'er a grave I cannot see;

Where sleeping without dreaming

Lies one so dear to me.

He never shunned his country's call,

But gladly gave his life – his all;

He died the helpless to defend,

An Australian soldier's noble end.

(Inserted by his loving Father, Mother, Brother, Sisters, and brothers-in-law.)

(*Townsville Daily Bulletin*, Queensland – 4 December, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOR

WHITE.—In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private F. G. White, late 31st Battalion, A.I.F., who died on 7th December, 1916, after ten months' service. Aged 23 years and 10 months.

He sleeps not in his native land,

But under foreign skies.

Far from those who loved him,

In a soldier's grave he lies.

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Inserted by his sorrowing parents, A. and S. White and family.

WHITE.—In loving memory of our dear brother and brother-in-law, Private F. G. White, late 31st Battalion, A.I.F., who died on December 7th, 1916. Aged 23 years and 10 months.

He never shirked his country's call,
 But gladly gave his life, his all;
He died the helpless to defend.
 An Australian soldier's noble end.

Inserted by his sorrowing sister and brother-in-law, Clara and Jack Lane.

WHITE.—In loving memory of our dear brother and brother-in-law, Private F. G. White, late 31st Battalion, A.I.F., who died December 7th 1916. Aged 23 years and 10 months.

Just as life was brightest,
 Just as his hopes were best,
The Empire called, he answered.
 In God's own hands he rests.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, K. and J. Powell.

(Townsville Daily Bulletin, Queensland – 7 December, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOR

WHITE.—In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private F. G. White, late 31st Battalion, A.I.F., who died on December 7th, 1916, after ten months' active service. Aged 22 years and 10 months.

Just as his life was brightest,
 Just as his hopes were best,
The Empire called, he answered,
 In God's own hands he rests.

(Inserted by his sorrowing parents, sisters and brother, A. and S. White and family.)

WHITE.-In loving memory of our dear brother and brother-in-law, Private F. G. White, 31st Battalion, A.I.F., who died on December 7th 1916, after ten months' service, aged 22 years and 10 months.

Days of sadness still come o'er us,
 Hidden secret tears still flow,
For memory keeps our dear one nearer
 Though he died three years ago.

(Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, C. and J. Lane.)

WHITE.-In loving memory of our dear brother and brother-in-law, Private F. G. White, late 31st Battalion, A.I.F., who died on December 8th, 1916, after 10 months' service, aged 22 years and 10 months.

He sleeps not in his native land,
 But under foreign skies,
Far from those who loved him,
 In a soldier's grave he lies.

(Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, K. and J. Powell.)

(Townsville Daily Bulletin, Queensland – 8 December, 1919)

**** Notices were also placed in 1920, 1921, 1922, 1924,

Sophy White, Aitkenvale, Townsville, mother of the late Private Frederick George White, wrote to Major McLean (Base Records) on 13th August, 1917 with the following: "*Received letter of advice giving details of my sons death & place of burial (late Pte F. G. White) I thank you & the Department for your courtesy. I want to know who will I have to apply for permission to erect a tombstone & railing round his grave. His sisters are anxious to have it done. I was thinking of writing to the Chaplain who buried him to see if he could tell me, but I will wait until I hear from you. Hoping I am not putting you to too much trouble.*"

Base Records replied to Mrs S. White on 23rd August, 1917 advising her to contact The Director of Graves, Registration & Enquiries, War Office, Winchester House, London, S.E. England.

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 F. G. White does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Memory Of The Loved Son
Of Mr & Mrs A. White Townsville*

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

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.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00333

Australian graves in the cemetery at Melcombe Regis. March 1919



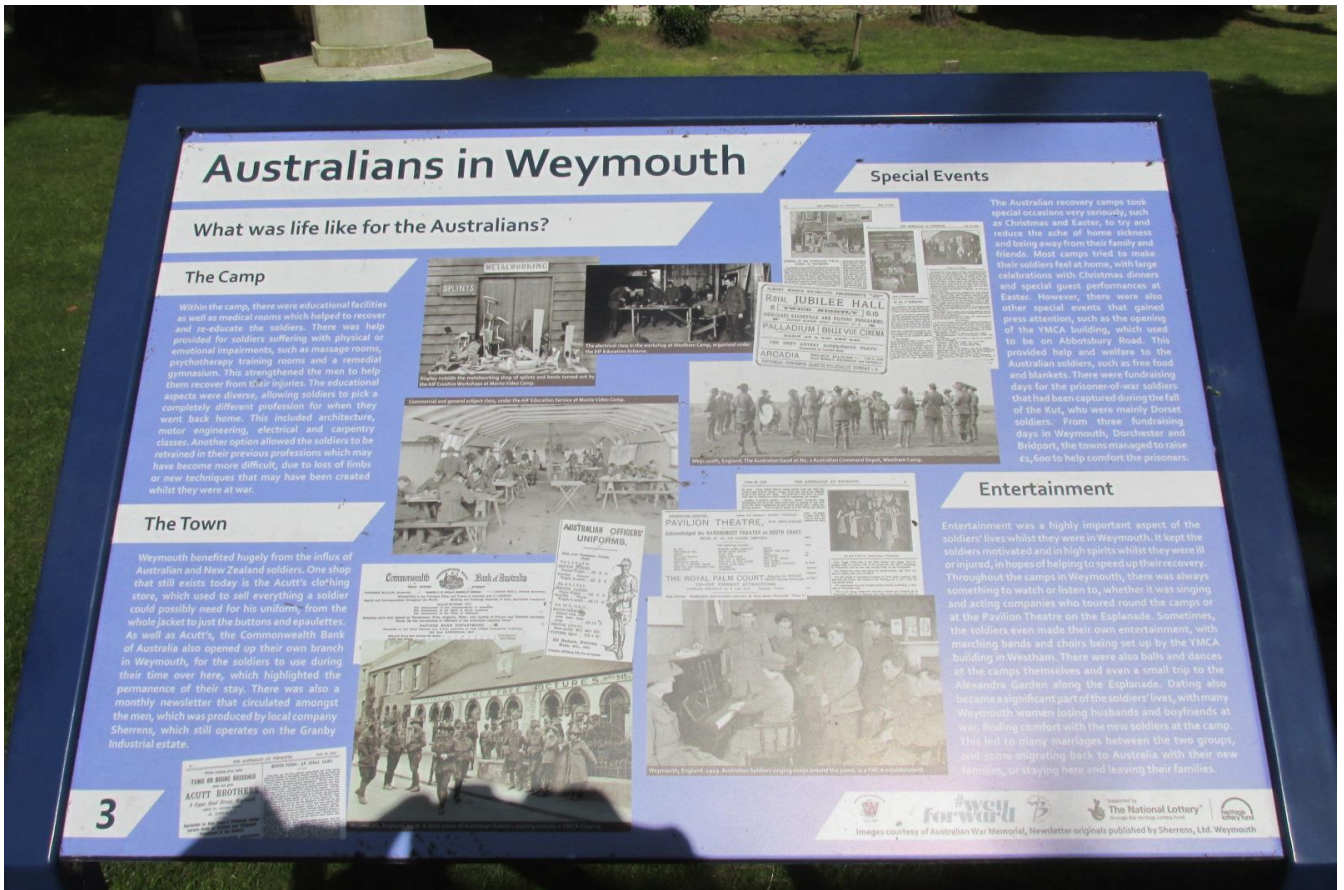
(Photos courtesy of Steve Stewart)





(Photos courtesy of Steve Stewart)





(Photos courtesy of Steve Stewart)



Photo of Private F. G. White's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Janice Dennis)

Australians in Weymouth

From Weymouth to Auswey - A Soldier's Recovery



Weymouth, England, 1918. Australian and New Zealand Army.

During the First World War between 1914 and 1918, many injured soldiers who were mainly 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 Recuperation camps in Westham, Littlehamor, Chickwell 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.



Weymouth, England, 1918. Group portrait of Australian soldiers at RFA, R.C. France camp.

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 300 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 the board.



Weymouth, England, 1918. Mess hall at the RFA, R.C. France camp.

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.



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Weymouth, England, 1918. Group portrait of Australian soldiers at RFA, R.C. France camp.



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maple Day Street Names Orchard Close Sunley Road Queensford Road Kirkcaldy Road Coronation Road Short Road Lungston Road Wessex Road Port Street Melbourne Street Adelaide Crescent Abbotsbury Road Sydney Street Shirecroft Road | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Westham Camp - December 1918 Soldiers Huts Company Officers Regimental Institute Infantry Rifle Storage Officer Mess Shower Block Medical Store, Mud Store Home Shelter Coal Pond Cook House YMCA Bung Pit Fire Hydrant |
|---|--|

#weh forwrd
www.westhamcommunity.gov.co.uk

The National Lottery
Images courtesy of Australian War Memorial