

Compton Chamberlayne War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



2772 PRIVATE

I. J. TURNBULL

60th BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

27th APRIL, 1917

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte I J Turnbull is located in Middle Row
Grave Plot # 7 of Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery*

Isaac James Turnbull was born at Horsham, Victoria in 1894 to parents George & Jane Turnbull. He was a Storeman, single & aged 21 years from Horsham, Victoria when he enlisted on 14th January, 1916 with the 73rd Infantry of the Australian Army. (He had served for 4 years with the 73rd Infantry Militia, Horsham). His service number was 2772 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Jane Turnbull of Green Park, Horsham, Victoria.

Pte Turnbull embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Nestor* (A71) on 2nd October, 1916 with the 59th Battalion, 6th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 16th November, 1916.

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.

Pte Turnbull joined the 15th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire & was transferred from 59th Bn to 60th Bn on 21st November, 1916.

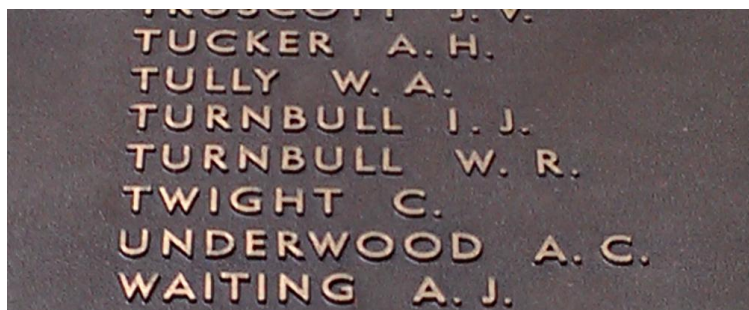
Pte Turnbull was admitted to hospital on 20th December, 1916 & discharged on 5th February, 1917 where he was marched into 15th Training Battalion at Perham Downs. Pte Turnbull was a member of the 15th Training Battalion Band.

On 17th April, 1917 Pte Turnbull was again admitted sick to Fovant Hospital.

Pte Isaac James Turnbull died at 8.20 p.m. on 27th April, 1917 at the Military Hospital at Fovant from pneumonia. A death for Isaac Turnbull, aged 23, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire. (Fovant was a parish in the district of Wilton).

Pte Turnbull was buried on 30th April, 1917 at Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery. From the burial report of Pte Turnbull he was given a Military Funeral – Coffin was Oaken with polished brass mounts and name plate.

Private I J Turnbull is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 171.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A War Pension was granted to Pte Turnbull's mother -Jane Turnbull, in the amount of £2 per fortnight as from 4/7/1917.

Mrs Turnbull wrote a letter in November, 1917 to the Officer in Charge of Base Records, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne –

Please enclosed you will find receipt for Private I J Turnbull kit which I received with very great sorrow and I will now ask you please make inquiry about my son's cornet also a ladies ring which he was wearing. The reason I enquire for (?) is that my son had exchanged rings with his sweetheart which they were to return to one another when they met again. The young woman would give me my son's ring on returning hers so please try and find it for me. I am sure he would never part with it he was in the 15th Battalion Training Band, Salisbury Plains, Hurdcott, England.

Pte I J Turnbull was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll (December, 1921) & Memorial Plaque (August, 1922) were sent to Pte Turnbull's mother – Mrs Jane Turnbull.

(52 pages of Pte I J Turnbull'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

** Pte Isaac James Turnbull's older brother – Joseph Charles Turnbull had enlisted with the A.I.F. on 18th September, 1914 – service number 1186. Pte Joseph Charles Turnbull was wounded at Anzac in August, 1915 & appointed to Driver in May, 1916. Driver Joseph Charles TURNBULL, 57th Bn, was discharged 31st January, 1919 & was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.

** Pte Isaac James Turnbull's younger brother – Thomas Stephen Turnbull had enlisted with the A.I.F. on 2nd July, 1916 – service no 48764. He was discharged by Medical Board on 11th August, 1916 with Chronic Rheumatism & unfit for active service.

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*****Pte Turnbull (2772) embarked from Melbourne on HMAT Nestor (A71) on 2nd October, 1916 & died on 27th April, 1917 of pneumonia.**

Pte Haywood (2675) (real surname Amoore) also embarked from Melbourne on HMAT Nestor (A71) on 2nd October, 1916 & died on 3rd February, 1917 from pneumonia.

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BEREAVEMENT NOTICE

MRS TURNBULL and Family desire to sincerely thank their numerous friends for their messages of consolation to them in the loss of her soldier son, Private I.J. Turnbull, who died in England, and also to the Rev. C.W. Meredith for his kindly sympathy in delivering the message.

(The Horsham Times, Victoria – Tuesday 29th May, 1917)

Late Private I. Turnbull

MOTHER RECEIVES LETTER FROM A COMRADE

Mrs Jane Turnbull, of Green Park, has received the following letter telling her of the death and burial of her son, Ike, whose death was reported some time ago:- Salisbury Plains, Hurdcott Camp, 30/4/17: Dear Mrs Turnbull: It is with the deepest sympathy that I write these few lines to you to let you know that I have posted all your dear boy's most treasured belongings that I could gather together. All that he had with him at the hospital will be forwarded to you from headquarters. I tried to get the rest of his things, but they would not break the rules. I hope and trust you will receive all safely. The poor lad's illness was very short. He took bad on the 15th of April, and passed away at a quarter to eight on the evening of the 27th. He was loved and respected by all. I can assure you that everything that was possible was done for Ike. On the morning of the 30th he was laid to rest with full military honors in the Compton Chamberlain

cemetery, about one mile from the camp where we are training. The members of his band were at the graveside, and the pall-bearers were Ptes. E. Rissmann, Barnett and Martin of Horsham, and one of his company mates from Kew (F.J. Williams). I have several photos of Ike, taken with myself and other mates that I will forward as soon as possible. A member of the band took several photos of the funeral, which when finished, I will also send to you, as we thought you would like them. You will also hear from the bandmaster. A letter came from Joe from somewhere in France, but, as I have not got his address, I cannot answer it. I will give your address to the sister of the hospital, and ask her to write to you. I cannot write any more, but you can guess just how I feel, as we were such pals. Needless to say, we all miss him very much. Please accept my most sincere sympathy. From one of your dear boy's most loving chums, A.E.(Bert) Morrison.

(The Horsham Times, Victoria – Friday 29th June, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

TURNBULL – In sad and loving remembrance of my dear son, Ikey, who died in England on April 27, 1917, aged 23 years.

In England's lonely graveyard,

Beneath the lonely sod,

There lies my dear son, Ike,

Resting in peace with God.

You are not forgotten, dear son,

For true love never dies;

The dearest spot on earth to me

Is where dear Ike lies.

Sadly missed.

-Inserted by his loving mother, brother and sisters.

TURNBULL – In loving memory of my dear friend, I.J. Turnbull, who died 27th April, 1917

I think of you in silence, Ike,

When no eyes can see me weep;

For many a silent tear I shed

While others are asleep.

Gone is the one we loved so dear,

Silent the voice we long to hear,

Anchored by love death cannot sever,

We miss him sadly, and will forever.

Remembered in the grave.

-Inserted by his loving friend, Olive Bailey, Hopetoun.

(The Horsham Times, Victoria – Friday 26th April, 1918)

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)

Pte Turnbull does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte I J Turnbull's Headstone at Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery



Photo Courtesy of Andrew Stacey