

# Compton Chamberlayne War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



**2998 PRIVATE**

**S. H. TURNER**

**51<sup>st</sup> BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**25<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 Age 35**

*TILL WE MEET AGAIN*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte S H Turner is located in Back Row*

*Grave Plot # 3 of Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery*

Sidney Harold Turner was born in Picton, NSW in 1884 to parents Henry & Annie Turner. He was a Druggist's assistant, single & aged 33 from 176 Goderich Street, Perth, Western Australia when he enlisted on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 1916 with the 51<sup>st</sup> Infantry Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army. 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.

Pte Turner embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

Pte Turner was sent to the 13<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire. He was admitted to the Group Clearing Hospital at Codford on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 with influenza & discharged 9 days later. He was again admitted to the same hospital with influenza on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 & discharged 13 days later.

Pte Turner proceeded overseas from Folkestone, England to Etaples, France on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 1917 for active service.

Pte Sidney Turner was wounded in action on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 1917 with a shrapnel wound (mild) to his left shoulder & was transported back to England for convalescence.

On 7<sup>th</sup> May, 1918 Pte Turner was reclassified by the Medical Board as "permanently unfit for General Service but fit for Home Service" as was posted to No 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Pte Turner was admitted to hospital at Hurdcott on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 suffering from bronchitis. He was transferred to the Military Hospital at Fovant on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 1918 with Broncho-pneumonia.

Pte Sidney Harold Turner died at 11.55 p.m. on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 at the Military Hospital at Fovant 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).

A letter by the Matron of Military Hospital, Fovant – explaining the death of Pte S H Turner (2998)

*Pte S H Turner of the 51<sup>st</sup> Battn. A.I.F. was admitted into this Hospital on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 1918; he was very ill, suffering from Broncho-pneumonia and Heart trouble. He passed peacefully away at 11.30 on the 25<sup>th</sup> 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.*

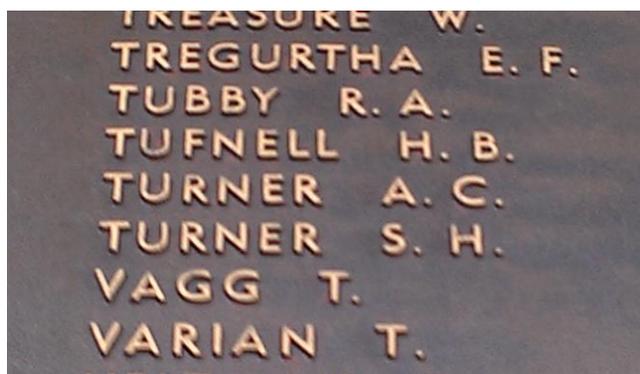
Pte Turner was buried at 3 p.m. on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1918 at Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery. From the burial report of Pte Turner– Coffin was Polished Elm with Brass Mounts –

*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.*

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

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



*(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)*



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

Pte S H Turner was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll (December, 1921) & Memorial Plaque ( November, 1922) were sent to Pte Turner's mother as his father had since deceased – Mrs Annie Turner of 1 Boreham St, Cottesloe, Western Australia.

(83 pages of Pte S H 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*

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

\*\* Brothers – Pte Sidney Harold Turner & Pte Henry Newton Turner are both remembered on their father's headstone – Henry Turner who died 18<sup>th</sup> 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.



(Photo from Australian Cemeteries Index)

## **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 17<sup>th</sup> November, 1917) & (Western Argus, Kalgoorlie, W.A. – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1917)

## **AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION**

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

***The following is the 448<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 1918) & (The Daily News Perth, WA – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 1918)

## **IN MEMORIAM**

*TURNER – In proud and loving memory of our two dear sons Sidney Turner of the 51<sup>st</sup> 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.), 51<sup>st</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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)*

Pte Turner does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte S H Turner's Headstone at Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery



Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey