

# Durrington War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



2412 PRIVATE

**A. V. WHEATLEY**

40TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

11TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 24

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte A. V. Wheatley is located in Grave Plot # 190  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## Albert Victor WHEATLEY

Albert Victor Wheatley was born at Brighton, Tasmania on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 1892 to parents Hiram Charles Wheatley & Jane Wheatley (nee Paine). He was a 24 year old, single, Labourer from Brighton, Tasmania when he enlisted on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1916 with the 40<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2412 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs J. Wheatley, Brighton, Tasmania (father deceased).

Pte Albert Victor Wheatley embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Port Melbourne (A16)* on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1916. Pte Wheatley had been admitted to Ship's Hospital on the voyage to England on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 & had been discharged on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 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.

Pte Albert Victor Wheatley was marched in to 10<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion, Durrington, Wiltshire from Australia on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1916.

Pte Albert Victor Wheatley was sent sick to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 4<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 & was admitted the same day seriously ill with Influenza.

Private Albert Victor Wheatley died on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Influenza. Private Cyril Edwin Halse Ley also died on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Bronchitis.

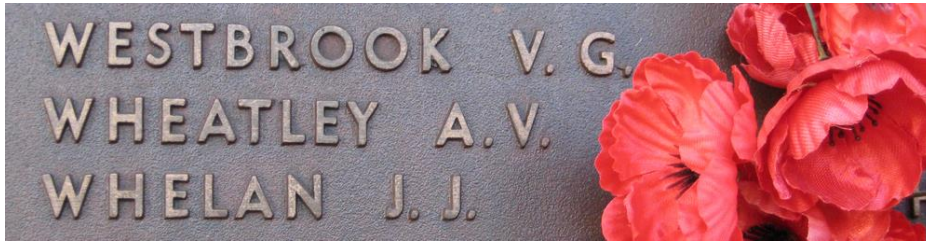
A death for Albert V. Wheatly, aged 25, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Albert Victor Wheatley was buried on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 190 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Pte A. V. Wheatley contains a request from the Red Cross, on behalf of the family of the late Pte Wheatley, into the suffering, death & place of burial. A reply from the Matron in Charge, Fargo Military Hospital reads:

*“The Sister in charge had already written to the nearest relatives of 2412 Pte A. P. Wheatley giving all particulars of his death. We always make it a rule in this hospital to write at once unofficially to the relatives of deceased patients if none of them were able to be present at the time of their death. Pte A. P. Wheatley is buried at Durrington Church, Wilts. Grave No. 190 right hand side of cemetery path. Pte Wheatley came into hospital very ill with pneumonia and was unconscious towards the end of his illness and I am sure it will be some comfort to those who loved him to know that he was not conscious of his sufferings although he was too ill to leave any messages. He died 11.2.17.”*

Private A. V. Wheatley is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 133.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



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

A. V. Wheatley & his brother P. Wheatley are both remembered on the Brighton Municipality War Memorial located on Midland Highway, Pontville, Tasmania.



**Municipality of Brighton War Memorial** (Photo from Monument Australia –Diane Watson)

A. Wheatley and his brother P. Wheatley are both remembered on the St. Mark's Anglican Church Roll of Honour located at St. Mark's Church, Pontville, Tasmania.



St. Mark's Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

Albert & Percy Wheatley are both remembered together on a headstone at St. Mark's Cemetery Pontville, Tasmania. Their mother was also included on the headstone when she died in 1925.



Headstone of Percy, Albert & their mother Jane Wheatley

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

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Albert Victor Wheatley – service number 2412 as being 24 years old & served with 40th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Jane and the late H. C. Wheatley. Born at Brighton, Tasmania.

(40 pages of Pte Albert Victor Wheatley'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*

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[Connected to Pte Albert Victor Wheatley:](#)

\*\*Brother – Pte Percy Alfred Wheatley – 1104, 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Died 5<sup>th</sup> May, 1915 on board H.M.T. Dongala of Wounds received at Gallipoli. Buried at Sea between Gaba Tepe and Alexandria. Remembered on Lone Pine Memorial – Panel 50, Turkey. Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.



**Lone Pine Cemetery & Memorial** *(Photo from CWGC)*

## Newspaper Reports

### DEATHS

WHEATLEY- Killed in action at the Dardanelles on May 10, Private Percy Wheatley, dearly loved son of Jane and the late Hiram Wheatley of Brighton Junction, in his 27<sup>th</sup> year.

*(The Mercury, Tasmania – Wednesday 26 May 1915)*

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### ROLL OF HONOUR

#### CASUALTY LIST – No. 275

#### TASMANIA – DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte A. V. Wheatley, Brighton, 11/2/17 (Previously reported seriously ill).

*(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – Tuesday 27 February, 1917)*

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### BEREAVEMENT NOTICES

Mrs Wheatley and Family of Brighton Junction, desire to return their sincere thanks for the many kind expressions of sympathy, also telegrams, letters and cards received during their sad bereavement in the death of their beloved son and brother, Private Albert Wheatley, died of pneumonia in England on February 11, 1917.

*(The Mercury, Tasmania – Friday 16 March 1917)*

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### ROLL OF HONOUR

WHEATLEY- In February, 1917, at Fargo Military Hospital, England of pneumonia, Private Albert Victor Wheatley, dearly beloved youngest son of Jane and the late Hiram Wheatley of Brighton Junction, aged 24.

*(The Mercury, Tasmania – Friday 23 February 1917)*

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### IN MEMORIAM

WHEATLEY – In loving memory of Private Albert Victor Wheatley, who died of pneumonia at Fargo Military Hospital, England, on February 11, 1917. “Until the day breaks” Inserted by his loving mother, sister and brother.

*(The Mercury, Tasmania – Tuesday 11 February 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 Durrington War Graves 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 A. V. Wheatley does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte A. V. Wheatley's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)