

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



35 PRIVATE

D. H. MURRAY

37TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

21ST DECEMBER, 1916 Age 27

In Loving Memory

Of Our Brave Son

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte D. H. Murray is located in Grave Plot # 131
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Donald Hector MURRAY

Donald Hector Murray was born at Lake Bolac, Victoria. His birth was registered in 1890 to parents Alexr. & Katie Murray (nee McLeod). He was a 26 year old, single Farmer from Lake Bolac, Victoria when he enlisted on 17th April, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Brigade, 37th Infantry Battalion, Headquarters of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 35 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Alexander Murray of Lake Bolac, Victoria.

Donald Hector Murray, farmer o Lake Bolac, was listed on the 1914 Electoral Roll for the division of Corangamite, subdivision of Willaura, Victoria.

Pte Donald Hector Murray embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Persic (A34)* on 3rd June, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 25th July, 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 Donald Hector Murray was assigned as a Batman attached to Headquarters, 37th Battalion. ("A batman was in British Army parlance an officer's uniformed servant or orderly, supposedly taken on as a voluntary extra duty, for which the officer paid for the service. In addition to his normal duties, the batman was responsible for the officers clothing and kit and also in preparing and serving meals. The duties varied depending on the officer's rank and role and whether he was serving in barracks, on training or on operations. In the trenches, a batman carried his personal weapon and often acted as a bodyguard, while the officer carried out his duties as a platoon, company or battalion commander. Senior officers on the staff and in command positions were entitled to a personal staff, including a batman. It was usual to seek a volunteer from the senior officer's regiment who was detached from the regiment and posted to the senior officer's headquarters or unit. ")

Pte Donald Hector Murray was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 2nd September, 1916 with Influenza.

Pte Donald Hector Murray was reported as serious with Paratyphoid in Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 30th November, 1916. A telegram to Pte Murray's father was sent on 6th December, 1916 advising that their son was seriously ill in Fargo Military Hospital.

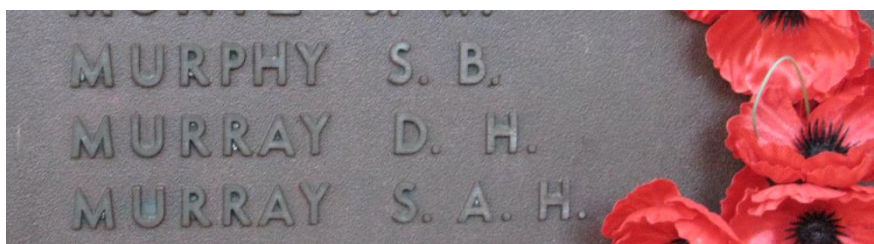
Private Donald Hector Murray died at 10.30 a.m. on 21st December, 1916 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Tubercular Pleurisy.

A death for Donald H. Murray, aged 26, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Donald Hector Murray was buried on 23rd December, 1916 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 131 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Pte Donald Hector Murray 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 Murray's father – Mr A. Murray (sent March, 1922 & July, 1922)

Private D. H. Murray is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 128.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)

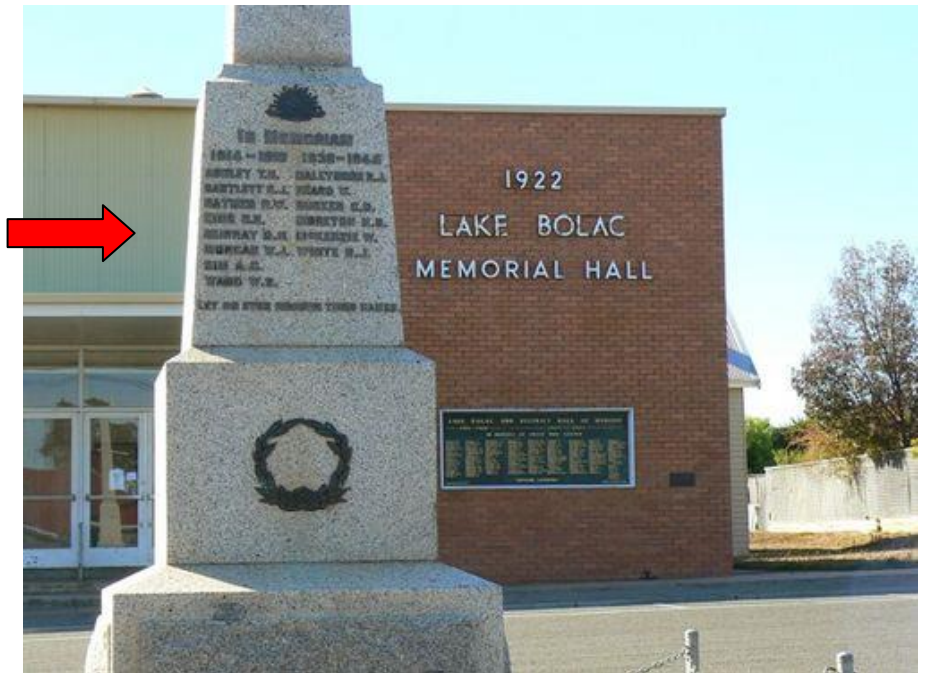


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

D. H. Murray is also remembered on the Lake Bolac War Memorial located on Murray Valley Highway & Lalbert Road, Lake Bolac, Victoria.

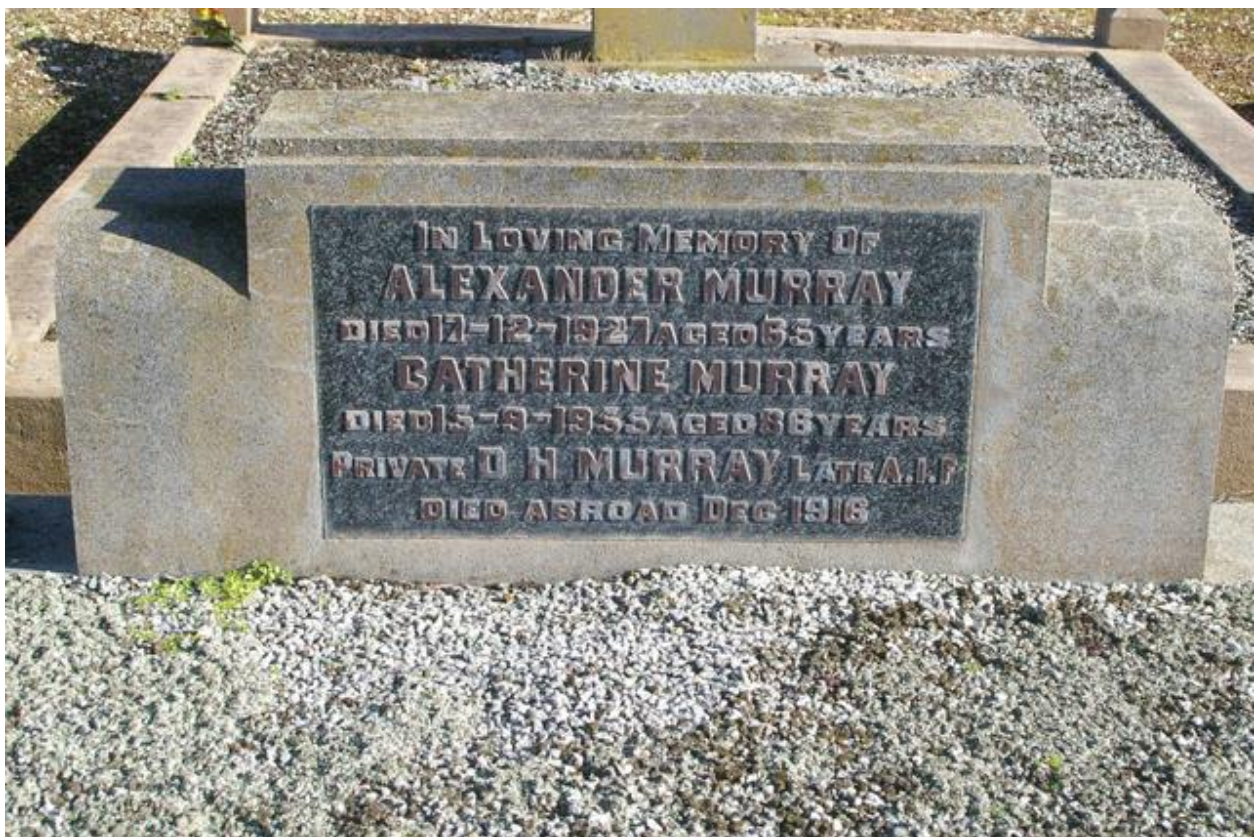


Lake Bolac War Memorial



(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson)

Private D. H. Murray is also remembered on his parent's headstone at Lake Bolac Cemetery.



(Photo courtesy of Carol's Headstone [Photographs](#))

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Donald Hector Murray – service number 35 as being 27 years old & served with 37th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Alex. And Cathrine Murray of Lake Bolac, Victoria.

(40 pages of Pte Donald Hector Murray'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

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Newspaper Reports

AUSTRALIANS IN WAR – 231st CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte D. H. Murray, Lake Bolac

(Hamilton Spectator, Victoria – Saturday 6 January, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

MURRAY – A tribute to the memory of my dear friend Private Donald H. Murray. Died of illness in Fargo Military Hospital, England, on the 21st December, 1916. Aged 27 years.

One of the best.

Ever Remembered.

Inserted by his loving fiancée Grace Holdsworth, Bolac Plains, Woorndoo.

(Mortlake Dispatch, Victoria – Saturday 22 December, 1917 & The Argus, Melbourne – Monday 24 December, 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 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 D. H. Murray does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Loving Memory Of Our Brave Son

Photo of Pte D. H. Murray's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)