

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



6836 PRIVATE

G. WETMORE

5TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

14TH JANUARY, 1917

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte G. Wetmore is located in Grave Plot # 153
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

George WETMORE

George Wetmore was born at Bungil, near Wodonga, Victoria in 1884 to parents Henry Jones Wetmore & Margaret Wetmore. He was a 32 year old, single, Labourer from Talgarno, Victoria when he enlisted on 12th September, 1916 with the 5th Infantry Battalion, 22nd Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6836 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father- Mr H. J. Wetmore of Willow Grove via Moe, Victoria.

Pte George Wetmore embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Ulysses (A38)* on 25th October, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 28th December, 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 George Wetmore was sent sick to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from 2nd Training Battalion, No. 5 & 6 Camps, Durrington, Wiltshire on 11th January, 1917. He was admitted with pneumonia the same day & reported seriously ill.

Private George Wetmore died on 14th January, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from pneumonia.

A death for George Wetmore, aged 30, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

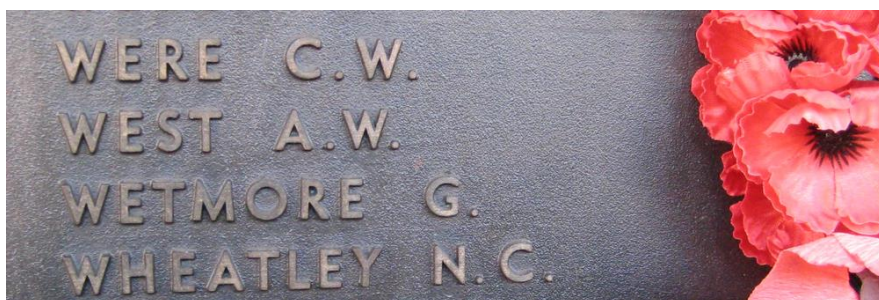
Private George Wetmore was buried on 16th January, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 153 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Pte G. Wetmore contains a request from the Red Cross, on behalf of the family of Pte Wetmore, for any details of his illness, death and burial. A reply from The Matron, Fargo Military Hospital reads:

“He was admitted to Hospital 10.11.17 very ill and died on the 14.1.1917. Was buried 16.1.1917 in Durrington Cemetery grave number 153 on right hand side of path. He was desperately ill when sent in from the camp. Every care and attention was given but with no avail. The Winter has been very severe and the Australian troops have suffered terribly. The sister of the ward always writes to the relatives if possible so I hope by now they will have heard from her.”

Pte George Wetmore 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 Wetmore’s father – Mr H. J. Wetmore (both sent December, 1921).

Private G. Wetmore is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 45.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private George Wetmore – service number 6836 as having served with 5th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Henry Jones Wetmore & Margaret Wetmore of Willow Grove, Victoria. Born at Bungil, Upper Murray.

A War Pension claim for Henry Wetmore of Talgarno, Victoria, brother of late Pte George Wetmore, was rejected on the grounds that “the claimant was not dependant on the deceased soldier for 12 months prior to enlistment.”

(42 pages of Pte George Wetmore’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 George Wetmore:](#)

**Brother - Pte William Wetmore -2824, 24th Battalion, Wounded in Action in France 24th July, 1917 but returned to service after recovery. Discharged at disembarked at Melbourne 14th May, 1919. Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.

Newspaper Reports

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

268TH CASUALTY LIST

DIED FROM ILLNESS

Pte G. Wetmore, Talgarno, 14.1.17

(Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria – Thursday 25 January, 1917)

DIED ON SERVICE

WETMORE – A tribute to the memory of my esteemed friend, Private G. Wetmore, officially reported died of pneumonia at Military Hospital, Fargo, on 14th January, 1917. – (Inserted by his friend, E. Haw).

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – Thursday 1 February, 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 G. Wetmore does not have a personal inscription on his headstone. Nor does he have the Christian Cross as many of the other Australian soldiers have.

Photo of Pte G. Wetmore's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)