Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



7205 PRIVATE

D. A. ALLISON

11TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

16TH DECEMBER, 1917 Age 45

God Taketh Our Loved Ones

From Our Homes

But Never From Our Hearts

David Andrew ALLISON

David Andrew Allison was born at Murphy's Creek, near Toowoomba, Queensland on 3rd December, 1872 to parents David Samuel & Elizabeth Allison (nee Irvine).

David Andrew Allison married Elizabeth Rachel Waterhouse in 1896 in Busselton, Western Australia.

A son, David Samuel Allison, was born at Bunbury, Western Australia on 8th January, 1898.

A son, Leslie Irvine Allison was born at Perth, Western Australia in 1905.

The 1903 & 1906 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Perth, Melbourne Road Polling Place, Western Australia, recorded David Andrew Allison, Police Constable, & his wife Elizabeth Rachel Allison, Home Duties, living at Dudley Street.

The 1906 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Kalgoorlie, Boulder Polling Place, Western Australia, recorded David Andrew Allison, Police Constable, & his wife Elizabeth Rachel Allison, Home Duties, living at 455 Piesse Street.

The 1909 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Fremantle, Western Australia, David Andrew Allison, Constable, & his wife Elizabeth Rachel Allison, living at Police Quarters, Henderson Street.

David Andrew Allison's mother - Elizabeth Allison died on 8th August, 1909 in Brisbane, Queensland.

The 1912 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Sawn, subdivision of Collie, Western Australia, recorded David Andrew Allison, Teamster, of Lucknow.

A son, Robert Arthur Allison, was born at Fremantle, Western Australia in 1912.

The 1913 & 1914 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Sawn, subdivision of Forrest, Western Australia, recorded David Andrew Allison, Teamster, & his wife Elizabeth Rachel Allison, Home Duties, living at Dwellingup.

The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Perth, subdivision of Subiaco, Western Australia, recorded David Andrew Allison, Teamster, & his wife Elizabeth Rachel Allison, Home Duties, living at 328 Perth Street.

David Andrew Allison was a 42 year old, married with 3 children, Teamster from Subiaco, Western Australia when he enlisted at Blackboy Hill, Western Australia on 24th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Presbyterian & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs E. R. Allison, 328 Perth Street, Subiaco (address as per Embarkation Roll. Address on Attestation Papers was listed at Fremantle), Western Australia. David Allison stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 8 years with Western Australian Police Force & had resigned in August, 1909. David Andrew Allison listed his postal address as No. 1 Mill, Manjimup.

Private David Andrew Allison was posted to 28th Depot on 8th September, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 3rd Depot Squadron of Light Horse on 16th September, 1915.

A daughter, Lila Ethel Allison, was born on 14th October, 1915 at Fremantle, Western Australia.

Private David Andrew Allison was discharged from Australian Imperial Force on 14th October, 1915 at his own request.

David Andrew Allison was a 44 year old, married with 4 children, Teamster from Subiaco, Western Australia when he re-enlisted at Fremantle, Western Australia on 10th November, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 7205 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs E. R. Allison, 328 Perth Street, Subiaco, Western Australia.

Private David Andrew Allison was posted to 94 Depot on 14th November, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 24th Reinforcements of 11th Battalion on 30th December, 1916. Private Allison was written up for an Offence on 16th January, 917 while posted at Black Boy Hill – Refusing duty when ordered. He was fined 10/-.

Private David Andrew Allison embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Miltiades (A28)* on 29th January, 1917 with the 11th Infantry Battalion, 24th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 27th March, 1917.

11th Battalion

The 11th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. It was the first battalion recruited in Western Australia, and with the 9th, 10th and 12th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

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.

Private David Andrew Allison was marched in to 3rd Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire on 28th March, 1917.

Private David Andrew Allison was transferred from 3rd Training Battalion at Durrington (11th Battalion) to 17th Field Ambulance at Windmill Hill on 3rd July, 1917. He was transferred back to 3rd Training Battalion at Durrington (11th Battalion) on 9th July, 1917.

A Medical Report was completed on Private David Andrew Allison on 3rd August, 1917 at 3rd Training Battalion, Larkhill, Wiltshire, England. His disability was listed as "Old fracture left Leg Age 45." The disability had occurred prior to enlistment in Australia – "whilst on Police Force West Australia had his left leg fractured (Tibia & Fibula). After leaving hospital leg was shorter & he resigned & was compensated & bought a team of horses. Can not do route march or jumping of trenches. Knee is getting worse." Private Allison's present condition was listed as "Left leg 1½ inches shorter than right. Badly united fracture of Tibia & fibula. Knee only partial flexion on thigh & harsh crepitations on movement. Would like transfer to AASC as Driver of horses." The Officer in charge of the case did not recommend Private Allison be discharged as permanently unfit. The Medical Board found that Private Allison was permanently unfit for General Service but fit for Home Service.

Private David Andrew Allison was medically classified as C1 (permanently unfit for General Service but fit for Home Service) on 16th August, 1917.

Private David Andrew Allison was marched in to 2nd Training Battalion at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 7th November, 1917 from 3rd Training Battalion.

Private David Andrew Allison was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset, England on 23rd November, 1917 from 2nd Training Battalion at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

Private David Andrew Allison was sent sick to Hospital at Weymouth, Dorset on 14th December, 1917.

Private David Andrew Allison died at 2 am on 16th December, 1917 at Royal Hospital, Weymouth, Dorset, England from Inflammation, connective tissue, Pleurisy & Pericarditis. (It was originally recorded that Private Allison had died as a result of Pneumonia, but this was revised on 31st December, 1917).

A death for David Allison, aged 45, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Weymouth, Dorset, England.

Private David Andrew Allison was buried on 18th December, 1917 in Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England – Plot number II. C. 3111 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Allison - Coffin was Elm with brass fittings. The Chaplain was with the deceased till just before his death and found him calm and contented. The grave is in a well kept cemetery. Trees and shrubs in plenty grow around, and the sun shines upon it.

Elizabeth Rachel Allison, 27 Lawler St, Subiaco, widow of the late Private David Andrew Allison, wrote to Base Records on 29th December, 1917 requesting two death certificates for her husband. She wrote to Base Records on 30th December, 1917 "On enquiring at my late Husband's friendly society I find they need a death certificate which will not be returned to me. Would you kindly enclose two, instead of one which I have already written for."

Elizabeth R. Allison contacted Base Records again on 16th January, 1918, requesting two copies of the death certificate for her husband. "....I need one for pension office and one for his lodge ..."

A War Pension was granted to Elizabeth Rachel Allison, widow of the late Private David Andrew Allison, in the sum of 40/- fortnight granted from 20th February, 1918. Pensions were also granted to the following children of the late Private Allison – Leslie Irvine Allison 20/-; Robert Arthur Allison 15/- & Lila Ethel Allison 10/-.

E. R. Allison, 27 Lawler St, Subiaco, widow of the late Private David Andrew Allison, wrote to Base Records on 9th June, 1918 stating "...I have not received any of his belongings up to date yesterday. I received a letter from the Matron telling me that the reverend F. C. Bremer, Methodist Chaplain who was with my Husband at the last, sent some of his belonging to me. Well I had a letter from the chaplain over two months ago but he never said in his letter that he sent any thing will you kindly advise me weather there is any thing belong to my Husband at you Office or weather that Minister did send them to me. I was under the impression that all their things came through the military to their next of kin. It is very gratifying to receive them after lossing all that is dear to us. Trusting you will look in to the matter for me and let me know at your earliest.."

Base Records replied to Mrs Allison on 18th June, 1918 stating "...any personal effects recovered belonging to your husband....would be forwarded through the A.I.F. Kit Store, London, to this office for transmission to you, or in accordance with other testamentary instructions. There is unavoidable delay in having the personal belonging s of deceased members of the A.I.F., transferred to Australia owing to the lack of shipping accommodation. Anything coming to hand however, will be expeditiously dealt with."

E. R. Allison, 27 Lawler St, Subiaco, widow of the late Private David Andrew Allison, wrote to Base Records on 22nd November, 1918 stating "I received the package containing personal affects of my late Husband 7205 Private D. A. Allison 11th Batt who died in Weymouth Hospital England. I am sorry to say their was a pipe & tobacco pouch that was not sent to me. I received a pipe in the package, but it was not the one I gave my Husband. I received a letter from the matron and she told me my late Husband died with his pipe and a bundle of my letters clasped in his hands. I fail to see that this should be any bother consirning a Soldier personal effects when he died in Hospital, they are of no value to any one but are treasured by the ones left behind. The package had not been tampered with."

A copy of the Will of "Frederick James Allison, 7205, 16th Battalion" is included in the Service Record file for Private David Andrew Allison. Frederick James Allison bequeathed all his personal estate to his mother – Anna Maria Caroline Neatfield, Attfield St, Maddington, Western Australia. Frederick James Allison, a 23 year old, single, Miner, enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 1st November, 1916 & embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT Miltiades (A28) on 29th January, 1917 as service number 7205, with the 16th Battalion, 24th Reinforcements – same date & ship as Private David Andrew Allison.

A package containing the personal effects of the late "7205 Allison, D.A. 11th Battalion, A.I.F." was listed as being sent to Legatee – Mother – Mrs A.M.C. Neatfield, Maddington, Western Australia. The Wife - Mrs R. E. Allison was listed with address of 328 Perth St, Subiaco, Western Australia. It is unknown if the items – Paybook, Letters & Postcards, Penknife, Pipe, 2 Identity Discs, Ring, 2 Brooches, Pencil & £7.15.6 actually belonged to Private David Andrew Allison or if they belonged to Private Frederick James Allison.

Private David Andrew Allison 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 Private Allison's widow – Mrs E. R. Allison, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1922 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private David Andrew Allison – service number 7205, aged 45, of 11th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of David Samuel and Elizabeth Allison; husband of Elizabeth Rachel Allison, of 27 Lawler St., Subiaco, Western Australia.

Private D. A. Allison is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 61.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

D. Allison is remembered on the Jarrahdale Roll of Honour, located in Bruno Gianetti Memorial Hall, Munro Street, Jarrahdale, Western Australia.



Jarrahdale Roll of Honour (Photo from Birtwistlewiki)

D. A. Allison is remembered on the Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial, located in Rankin Gardens, Rokeby & Hamersley Roads, Subiaco, Western Australia.



Subiaco Fallen Soldiers' Memorial (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Richard Diggins)



(Photo by Gordon Stuart)

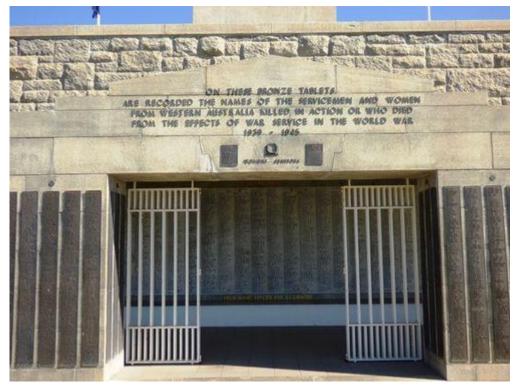
D. A. Allison is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)
& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)





11th Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

D. A. Allison is remembered with a Memorial Plaque (M 415) on the Kings Park Honour Avenues. At the base of each commemorative tree is a plaque inscribed with details of the deceased: name, age, unit in which they served, nature of death, place of death, and who dedicated the plaque. Honour Avenue memorials commemorate service personnel who are listed at the State War Memorial, Kings Park. These soldiers enlisted in Western Australia, died overseas on active service, and were either buried overseas or have no known graves.



(Photos from Kings Park Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority)

(99 pages of Private David Andrew Allison'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



(Army Museum of Western Australia)

Connected to Private David Andrew Allison

Son – David Samuel Allison – Enlisted in Australian Imperial Force on 18th October, 1915 as an 18 year old Labourer from Kalgoorlie.

Embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on 16th February, 1916 on HMAT Warilda (A69) with 3rd Light Horse Brigade, 10th Light Horse Regiment, 14th Reinforcements with Service number of 1991.

Transferred to 4th Divisional Ammunition Column as Gunner on 7th April, 1916. Transferred to 4th Division Medium & Heavy Trench Mortar Battery on 12th August, 1916.

Wounded in action in France on 3rd May, 1917. - G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Thigh. Proceeded back to France from England (after recovery) on 18th September, 1917.

Returned to Australia from England on 15th September, 1918 for discharge due to family reasons. Disembarked in Australia on 10th November, 1918.

Entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.

David Samuel Allison died on 20th July, 1965 at Subiaco, Western Australia. Crematorium Rose Gardens - Wall P-0071, Karrakatta Cemetery and Crematorium, Nedlands City, Western Australia.



(Sunday Times, Perth, Western Australia – 15 July, 1917)

Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

W.A. ROLL OF HONOUR

LIST 378

WEST AUSTRALIA

DIED OF ILLNESS

David Andrew Allison, Subiaco

(Kalgoorlie Miner, Western Australia - 12 January, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

ALLISON – Of pneumonia, in hospital, England, David Andrew Allison, A.I.F., of Subiaco, Western Australia, youngest son of Samuel Allison, Irvine, Broadway street, Brisbane, late of Murphy's Creek, 16th December, 1917.

(*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Queensland – 9 January, 1918) & (*Daily Standard*, Brisbane, Queensland – 9 January, 1918) & (*The Brisbane Courier*, Brisbane, Queensland – 9 January, 1918) & (*The Week*, Brisbane, Queensland – 11 January, 1918) & (*The Queensland*, Brisbane, Queensland – 19 January, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

ALLISON – In sad but loving memory of our dear husband and father, Private David Andrew Allison, who died of pneumonia on December 16, 1917, aged 45 years.

Oh, little I thought when I said good-bye

It would be the last parting between him and I.

We loved him in life, he is dear to us still,

And although a hard blow it was God's holy will.

But now, dear husband, your pains are o'er;

In England you lie at rest,

But aching hearts you've left behind;

No one but God knows best.

Nearer, my God, to Thee.

Inserted by his sorrowing wife and children, David (returned), Leslie, Robert, and little Lyla. Queensland papers please copy.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia - 16 December, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

ALLISON – In sad but loving memory of our dear husband and father, Private David A. Allison, who died of pneumonia in England on December 16, 1917.

In many homes to-day

There's a vacant chair, there's a husband away

There are falling tears and hearts that yearn

For the husband and father who will never return

Could I have raised your dying head,

Or heard your last farewell,

The blow would lot have been so hard

To the ones who loved your well.

Inserted by his loving wife and children, David (late A.I.F.), Leslie, Robert, and Lyla, and daughter-in-law, Lydia.

ALLISON – In loving memory of our dear father, Private D. Allison, 11th Battalion, who died of illness in England, December 16, 1917.

Nearer my God to Thee.

Inserted by his loving son and daughter-in-law, D. and L. Allison

ALLISON – In loving memory of our dear friend Dave, who died of illness in England on December 16, 1917. Sadly missed.

Inserted by his loving friends, M. and W. Wheeler, Amherst-road, West Midland.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 16 December, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

ALLISON – In loving memory of our dear husband and father, Private D. A. Allison, who died of pneumonia in England, December 16, 1917.

He shall sleep, but not for ever;

There shall be a glorious dawn

When the darkness all is over,

On the resurrection morn.

Nearer my God to Thee.

Inserted by his loving wife and family.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia - 17 December, 1920)

^{**}Newspaper Notices were also placed in 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933 & 1934

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. 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)

Private D. A. Allison does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

God Taketh Our Loved Ones From Our Homes But Never From Our Hearts



Original Grave marker for Private D. A. Allison

Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England

Weymouth became a depot for Australian forces in 1916 and 83 of the 147 First World War burials in Melcome Regis Cemetery are of Australian servicemen; most of these graves are scattered in the old part. The 36 Second World War burials are in the extension. The cemetery also contains seven war graves of other nationalties and one non-war burial.

(Information from CWGC)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL D00333

Australian graves in the cemetery at Melcombe Regis. March 1919

Identified, front row, left to right: unidentified; Butler; 5917 Private Edgar Allan Thornell, 22nd Battalion (Bn), died 9 August 1918; 1207 Corporal Jesse Adams Davis, 12th Bn, died 15 November 1918.

Back row: 5329 Private Frederick Albert Archer, Anzac Provost Company, died 6 November 1918; 5990 Private Albert Robert Blackmore, 12th Bn, died 2 November 1918; 11099 Driver Matthew Charles Percival Nettle, 6th Australian Field Artillery Brigade, died 22 October 1918; 3942 Private Walter Alick Weckman, 51st Bn, died 9 November 1918.

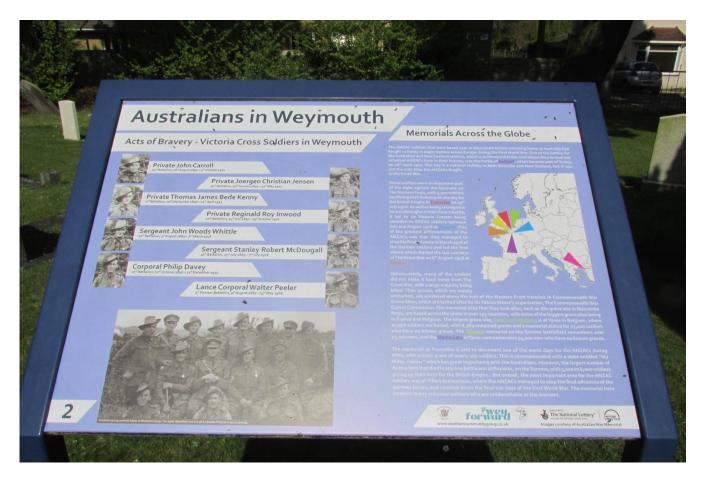


Some of the Australian graves in the cemetery at Melcombe Regis. March 1919

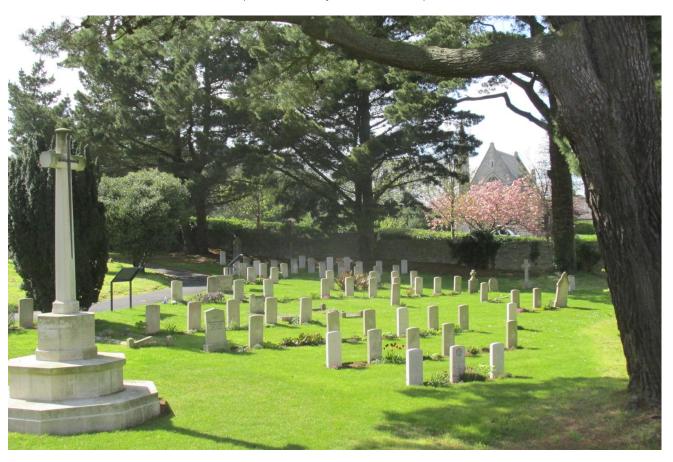
Identified, left to right: Captain Francis Arthur Deravin, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 8 July 1917 aged 41 years (large headstone); 138 Private Louis Nelson Matthews, 27th Battalion, 4 July 1917; 5082 Private Victor George Smith, 21st Battalion, died 13 November 1918.



(Photo courtesy of Steve Stewart)

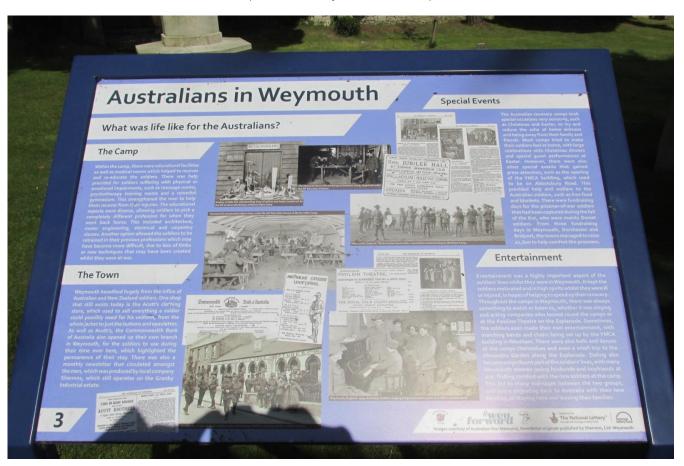


(Photos courtesy of Steve Stewart)





(Photos courtesy of Steve Stewart)





(Photos courtesy of Steve Stewart)

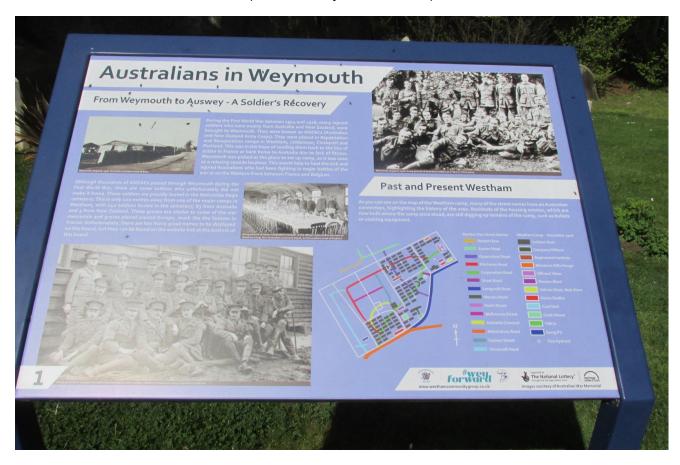


Photo of Private D. A. Allison's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Melcombe Regis Cemetery, Weymouth, Dorset, England.



(Photo courtesy of Allan Wood)



(Find a Grave – Janice Dennis – 2016)