

Durrington War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



5970 PRIVATE

A. S. ATKINS

3RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

27TH DECEMBER, 1916 Age 24

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte A. S. Atkins is located in Grave Plot # 138
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Alfred Stanley ATKINS

Alfred Stanley Atkins was born at Newry, near Urunga, New South Wales to parents John & Elizabeth Atkins (nee Freeman). His birth was registered in 1891.

Alfred Stanley Atkins was a 24 year old, single Labourer from Urunga, New South Wales when he enlisted on 3rd January, 1916 with the 3rd Infantry Battalion, 19th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 5970 (A) & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Joseph Atkins of Urunga, N.S.W. Alfred had served 2 years in Colonial Forces (Volunteers).

Pte Alfred Stanley Atkins embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Wiltshire (A18)* on 22nd August, 1916 & transferred to the Isolation Ward at Sea. He disembarked at Fremantle, Western Australia on 30th August, 1916 & was admitted to Hospital with mumps. He re-embarked from Fremantle on 10th October, 1916 on *Suffolk* & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 2nd 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 Alfred Stanley Atkins was taken on strength with 21/11th Battalion then transferred to 3rd Training Battalion at No. 3 Camp Durrington, Wiltshire on 18th December, 1916.

On 23rd December, 1916 Pte Atkins was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital – dangerously ill with Broncho-pneumonia.

Pte Alfred Stanley Atkins died of Broncho-pneumonia on 27th December, 1916 at 1.10 a.m.

A death for Alfred S. Atkins, aged 25, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Pte Alfred Stanley Atkins was buried on 29th December, 1916 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 138.

Private A. S. Atkins is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 35.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte Alfred Stanley Atkins is also remembered on the Urunga War Memorial, New South Wales.



Urunga War Memorial (Photos by Norman Cheeseman)

Pte Alfred Stanley Atkins was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Atkins' next of kin – his brother - Mr J. J. Atkins, as both parents were deceased. (July, 1921 & November, 1921)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Alfred Stanley Atkins – service number 5970 as the son of John and Elizabeth Atkins. Born at Wyong, New South Wales.

(41 pages of Pte Alfred Stanley Atkins' 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) & National Archives



Newspaper Reports

CASUALTIES – 262nd List Issued

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte. A. S. ATKINS, Urunga

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Friday 12 January, 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 A. S. Atkins does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire *(Photo by Dave Healing 2013)*

Photo of Pte A. S. Atkins' Headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)