Tidworth Military Cemetery, Tidworth, Wiltshire War Graves



World War 1



H. J. F. PETERS SERVED AS

7522 PRIVATE

H. E. MURRAY

1ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

16TH DECEMBER, 1918 Age 39

Henry Edward MURRAY

(real name Heinrich Johannes Friedrich PETERS)

Heinrich Johannes Friedrich Peters was born on 29th May, 1879 in Hamburg, Deutschland (Germany) to Henning and Johanna Margaretha Peters.

[Note: The Parliament of New South Wales has recorded that Mr Henry John Frederick Peters (Heinrich Johannes Friedrich Peters) was born on 1st January, 1881 at Wagga Wagga, New South Wales]

Henning and Johanna Margaretha Peters & family arrived in New South Wales, Australia on Ship Erlangen in 1890.

Henning Peters, Miner, aged 52 years, father of Heinrich Johannes Friedrich Peters, received his Certificate of Naturalisation on 26th April, 1901, having resided in New South Wales for 10 years.

According to information by Parliament of New South Wales:

Henry Peters was educated at Temora; left school at a young age; worked as a compositor on the Temora Star and Temora Independent; owned and edited Grenfell Vedette from 1904 - 1906 which failed. He became a Justice of Peace in 1908 & was a member of the Australian Labour Party (ALP), member of central executive from 1909-1910. He became a bankrupt in 1914; acted as secretary to J.C Watson, G.A Burgess and W.A Holman; with his brother owned a mine in the Gundagai district.

Parliamentary Service:

Position	Start	End	Period
Member of the NSW Legislative Assembly	10 Sep 1907	22 Sep 1914	7 years 13 days
Member for Deniliquin	10 Sep 1907	14 Sep 1910	3 years 5 days
Member for Deniliquin	14 Oct 1910	06 Nov 1913	3 years 24 days
Member for Canterbury	06 Dec 1913	22 Sep 1914	9 months 17 days
Operations of the Australian Jockey Club Committee No.8	13 Jun 1911	01 Aug 1911	1 month 20 days
Totalisator Bill Committee No.19	31 Oct 1911	28 Mar 1912	4 months 28 days
The Governor's Opening Speech Committee No.1	23 Jul 1912	23 Jul 1912	1 day
The Governor's Opening Speech Committee No.1	23 Jul 1913	23 Jul 1913	1 day
The Governor's Opening Speech Committee No. 1	03 Mar 1914	03 Mar 1914	1 day

The 1903 – 1904 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Cootamundra, subdivision of Temora, NSW recorded Henry Peters, Compositor, of Temora. Henning Peters, his father, was listed as a Miner from Temora.

Henry J. F. Peters married Winifred Wallis on 3rd May, 1905 in the Methodist Church, Temora, NSW.

Births were registered for the following children: Sylvia Winifred Peters in 1906 in the district of Temora, NSW (born 14 March, 1906); William Edward Murray Peters in 1911 in the district of Chatswood, NSW (born 30th August, 1911) & Roy Henry Milton Peters in 1914 in the district of Chatswood, NSW (born 28th August, 1914).

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Ryde, subdivision of Eastwood, NSW recorded Henry John Frederick Peters, M.L.A., & his wife Winifred Peters, domestic duties, of Woniora Street, Pennant Hills.

From the New South Wales Police Gazette - 30 August, 1916:

Temora – A warrant has been issued by the Temora Bench for the arrest of Henry John Frederick Peters, charged with disobeying a magisterial order for the support of his wife (£20 due). He is about 37 years of age, 6 feet, fair complexion and hair, long features; an ex M.L.A.

According to information by Parliament of New South Wales – Henry Peters tried to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force on 16th August, 1916 but was rejected on the grounds of unfitness due to deficient eyesight.

Henry Peters enlisted under the name of "*Henry Edward Murray*" & stated he was born at Wagga, New South Wales & was a 36 year old, single, Labourer from Ourimbah, NSW when he enlisted at Newcastle, NSW on 18th April, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 7522 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his friend – Mr D. Cowell, Narara, NSW.

Henry Edward Murray's description on Attestation Papers: 36 years of age; 6 feet ½ inches tall; Fair complexion; Blue Eyes & Fair Hair.

Private Henry Edward Murray was posted to R.A.S. (Royal Agricultural Showgrounds), Sydney, NSW on 18th April, 1917 for recruit training. He was transferred to 25th Reinforcements of 1st Battalion on 1st May, 1917.

Private Henry Edward Murray embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Marathon (A74)* on 10th May, 1917 with the 1st Infantry Battalion, 25th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 20th July, 1917.

Private Henry Edward Murray was marched in to 1st Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire, England from Australia on 20th July, 1917.

Private Henry Edward Murray was marched in to 1st Training Battalion at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 18th November, 1917 from Isolation Hospital.

Private Henry Edward Murray proceeded overseas to France via Southampton, England on 21st December, 1917 from No. 4 Camp, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

Private Henry Edward Murray was posted to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, Franc eon 5th December, 1917. He proceeded from 1st A.D.B.D. on 7th December, 1917 to join his Unit & was taken on strength of 1st Battalion on 10th December, 1917 from Reinforcements.

Private Henry Edward Murray was wounded in action on 17th April, 1918. He was admitted to 1st Australian Field Ambulance on 17th April, 1918 with a wound to hand then transferred to 15th Casualty Clearing Station. Private Murray was transferred to Ambulance Train 38 on 17th April, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Left Hand. He was admitted to 1st Canadian General Hospital at Etaples, France on 184th April, 1918. Private Murray embarked for England on 21st April, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Ville de Leige*.

1st Battalion

The 1st Battalion was the first infantry unit recruited for the AIF in New South Wales during the First World War.....

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli in December 1915, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 1st Battalion

Moolenacker - 17th April, 1918:

5.15 am - Relief complete at 5.15 am

9.45 – Our S.O.S. signals sent up on left front. Artillery barrage put down immediately. Enemy barrage commenced at 9.50 am on front of right & centre Coys. Enemy attack launched.

10.30 am – One platoon of A Coy moved to X19B83 in support of left Coy.

11.30 am - Reports received enemy massing for attack at Sq F1 A & B

11.45 - One platoon of A Coy sent forward to reinforce right Coy. Amm sent up.

11.50 - Repeated attacks by enemy on right & centre Coys repulsed.

12.45 – One of our planes brought down in flames at X20 Central

3.30 pm – Area heavily shelled by enemy with 5.9 & 77 m's. During the night protective patrols patrolled front. Enemy quiet. Lt HUMPHREYS reported killed.

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18th April, 1918:

Weather bright & clear. Enemy attitude quiet. Our planes were much in evidence during the day. Enemy shelling very spasmodic. A Coy in support relieved. C Coy in right of line. Relief complete 11.45 pm. Lts HUNT & TRAIL evacuated wounded. Bn Strength 36 Off 592 ORanks.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Henry Edward Murray was admitted to Kitchener Military Hospital, Brighton, England on 21st April, 1918 with shrapnel wound(/s) to left hand – slight. He was transferred to 1st Auxiliary Hospital on 24th April, 1918. Private Murray was discharged to furlo from 21st May, 1918 until 4th June, 1918 & was then to report to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny.

Mr C. McDonald, Narara, NSW was advised by Base Records on 30th April, 1918 that Private H. E. Murray had been wounded. (Note: Private Murray listed Mr D. Cowell, of Narara, NSW as his friend/next of kin)

Mr D. Cowell, Narara, NSW was advised by Base Records on 14th May, 1918 that Private H. E. Murray had been admitted to Kitchener Military Hospital, Brighton, England on 21st April, 1918 suffering from a gunshot wound to left hand – mild.

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 & Dorset. Later training & convalescing units were combined under the one Command Depot.

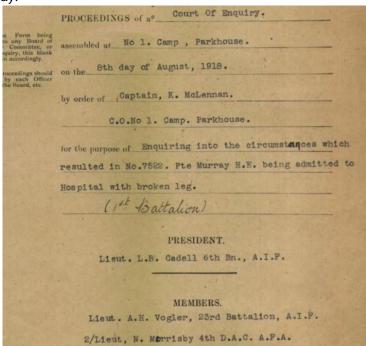
Private Henry Edward Murray was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 5th June, 1918 & medically classified as B1 A2 (fit for overseas training camp in 3 – 4 weeks).

Private Henry Edward Murray was sent sick then admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 10th July, 1918 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). He was discharged to Convalescent Training Depot at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 12th July, 1918. Total V.D. period – 3 days.

Private Henry Edward Murray was marched in to Convalescent Training Depot at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 12th July, 1918.

Private Henry Edward Murray was sent sick to Delhi Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 7th August, 1918 from Convalescent Training Depot. He was transferred to Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire on the same day.

A Court of Enquiry was held on 8th August, 1918 at No. Camp Parkhouse enquiring into the injuries received by Private Henry Edward Murray.



EVIDENCE

1st WITNESS. No. 7451. Pte. Bradshaw J.O. 7th Bn., duly sworn states:-

I was on Fatigue duty at the N.A.C.B. at 10.a.m. on th morning of the 7th of August leading a hand cart in company with Pte Murray and three other men. Waggon drawn by 2 horses ran into the cart and swung it round. When the waggon had passed I saw Murray lying on the ground, he said I am sure my leg is broken.

(Sgd) J.O. Bradshaw.

The handle of the hand cart was facing near the side of the road.

(Sgd). J.O. Bradshaw.

No. 3265 Pte. Wright. H. 3rd Bn., Duly sworn states:-2nd WITNESS.

> I was on fatigue daty on the morning of the 7th August at the N.A.C.B. I was stacking articles on a hand cart while Pte Murray was holding the pole. A.G.S. Waggon approached at a smart walking pace. I thought the waggon would stop as it wasn't possible to pass the hand cart without hitting it. The swingle bar caught the back of the hand cart and swung it round. The pole of the hand ca struck Murray just above the ankle knocking him down.
>
> No effect was made to shift the hand cart on the

approach of the Waggon.

(Sgd) H. Wright.

3rd WITNESS. No.14899 Dvr. Foster H.I. A.A.S.C.T.D. duly sworn states:-

On Wednesday 7th August at about 10.a.m. I was driving a sanitory waggon with pair of heavy draft horses through No.3 Camp approaching N.A.C.B. bulk stores. At about a distance of 30 yards I saw a hand cart pulled on roadway with the pole towards the gutter. Pte Murray was holding the pole. Anybody in charge of the hand cart could plainly see me approaching at a distance of about 30 yards.

They made no effort to take the hand cart off the road and left it there causing an obstruction. Every other morning whenever a hand cart was being used a man in charge always shifted it so as to give more room for passing of waggon. I attemped to drive between hand cart and off side of road, but the hook on the swingle trees caught the extreme end of handcart and swung it round.

The impact was so slight that no articles on the hand

cart were displaced.

(Sgd) H.L. Foster.

4th WITNESS. No.14735 Pte. Christey . R. A.A.S.C.T.D. duly sworn states

On Wednesday the 7th August at about 10 .a.m. I was holding my horses heads about 5 yards distant from a hand cart loaded with provisions for No.1. Camp Parkhouse outside N.A.C.B. No 3 Camp. I saw Foster approaching about 25 yards distant. No attampt was made to move the hand cart off the road way.

Foster attmepted to pass between the hand cart and the off: side of the road, but just as he was passing his near side front wheel slipped which caused the hook of the

12) swingle bar to hit the hand cart. The impact was very ight and none of the load on the hand cart was disturbed. (Sgd) R. Christy. 5th WITNESS. Capt. F.C. De Crespigny A.A.M.C. duly sworn states:-I was called to see Pte Murray about 10.a.m. this morning. He was lying on a stretcher outside Regimental Institute No. 3. Camp. On examination I found his right leg was fractured about three inches above the ankle. (Sgd) F.C. De Crespigny. 7.8.18. The Court find that No. 7522. Pte. H.E. Murray 1st Bn., A.T.B. was injured as the result of an accident for which he was in no way to blame.

The Court find that the Driver Nc.14899. Dvr H.L. Foster A.A.S.C.T.D. was guilty of an error of judgement in attempting to pass between the building and the hand cart. L.B. Cadell 6th Bn. A.I.F. PRESIDENT. A.H. Vogler Lieut. 23rd Bn., A.I.F. MEMBERS. N. MORRISBY 2/Lieut 4th D.A.C. A.F.A. I concur. (Sgd) K. McLennan. Capt. C.O. Convalescent Training Depot. CERTIFIED TRUE COPY 24 SEP-18 Munning Capt.

FINDING:

The Court find that the Accident occurred owing to "Error of Judgement" on the part of No 14899 Dvr R.L. Foster who was driving G.S. which collided with handcart. Pte H. E. Murray was not to blame (sgd) Lt L. B. Cadell, President. I concur (sgd) A. McLennan Capt.

Private Henry Edward Murray was reported to be dangerously ill at Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire on 15th December, 1918.

Private Henry Edward Murray died at 20.50 hrs on 16th December, 1918 at Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England. A Post Mortem was held & the cause of death was Acute Atrophy Liver.

A death for Henry E. Murray, aged 37, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Andover, Hampshire, England.

Private Henry Edward Murray was buried at 11 am on 21st December, 1918 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C.353A. and now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

From the burial report of Private Henry Edward Murray - Coffin was Elm with brass mounts. Deceased was buried with full Military honors the coffin draped with the Australian flag being carried to the graveside on a Gun-carriage preceded by a Firing Party and Band from the Australian Machine Gun Training Depot. Six Australians supported the Pall. The funeral was attended by Two Officers and about 80 N.C.O.'s and Men of the A.I.F. Headquarters, A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom was represented at the funeral.

Private Henry Edward Murray requested in his Will dated 2nd May, 1917 that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects be given to his friends Mr Henning Peters of Temora, NSW, or in the event of his prior death to his wife Margareth of the same address.

Base Records contacted Mr D. Cowell, Narara, NSW on 20th May, 1921 stating he was registered as the next of kin of the late No. 7522 Private H. E. Murray, 1st Battalion but requested to know if there were any blood relatives alive so that the War Medals & Mementoes could be disposed of.

Mr Cowell, Narara, NSW wrote to Base Records on 22nd August, 1921 with the following: "Referring to yours of 23rd July regarding No. 7522 Private H. E. Murray, 1st Battalion. He was known to be as H. E. Peters I understood from him that he did not wish his people to know that he had enlisted that may account for him taking another name. His parents are living at Temora, NSW who may wish to attend to matters in connection with their sons grave as I think they would if not I will."

Base Records wrote to District Finance Officer, 2nd Military District on 8th December, 1922 asking "whether any claim has been received for the War Gratuity of the late No. 7522 Private H. E. Murray, 1st Battalion, and if so, does your file disclose the present address of deceased's widow, of any blood relation?"

A reply was sent from District Finance Officer on 15th December, 1922 stating that the Gratuity was paid to his widow Mrs W. Peters, Temora.

Base Records wrote to The Deputy Commissioner of Pensions, Sydney, NSW on 23rd May, 923 asking if a pension was "being paid to Mrs Winifred Peters, on account of the service of her husband, the late No. 7522 Private Henry Edward MURRAY, 1st Battalion, if so, do your records disclose any later address for the lady than: - Temora, New South Wales, which is the last known in this office, but to which communications so addressed have been returned unclaimed....The favour of early attention is requested I order that the deceased soldier's war medals, etc., may be disposed of as early as possible."

The Deputy Commissioner of Pensions, Sydney, NSW replied to Base Records on 28th May, 1923 stating that Mrs Winfred Peters was receiving a pension which was "paid at the Petersham Post Office. No record of any specific address is available."

Base Records wrote to The Postmaster, Post Office, Petersham, NSW on 7th June, 1923 with the following: "I understand that Mrs W. Peters is receiving a pension at the undermentioned Post Office on account of the service of her husband, the late No. 7522 Private H. E. MURRAY, 1st Battalion, and I shall be much obliged if you can furnish me with her present address......"

An address was received on 14th June, 1923 for Mrs W. Peters – 73 Victoria St, Lewisham, NSW.

Base Records wrote to Mrs W. Peters, 73 Victoria St, Lewisham, NSW on 19th June, 1923 asking if communications addressed as such would reach her so that the War Medals, etc issuable on account of the service of the late No. 7522 Private H. E. Murray, 1st Battalion, could be sent.

Winifred Peters replied to Base Records on 8th July, 1923 advising that the address was correct and all communications will be received safely if directed to her at that address.

Base Records wrote to Mr Clement Peters, Temora, NSW on 30th August, 1924 with the following "It is understood that the late No. 7522 Private H. E. Murray, 1st Battalion, was your son, and if this is so I should be obliged of your would embody such fact in the form of a Statutory Declaration, also stating the soldier's correct name, and forward same to this office as soon as possible in order that the records may be brought up to date. A form of Declaration is attached hereto."

[Note: blank Statutory Declarations forms & incomplete forms for the Roll of Honour & Inscriptions on War Graves were located in Private Murray's Service Record file]

Private Henry Edward Murray was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also to be sent to Private Murray's next of kin. (Note: the last page of the Service Record file where the information relating to the Memorial Scroll & Plaque are recorded have not been scanned.)

Professor R. N. Spann, The University of Sydney, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 28th July, 1959, requesting information on "Private Henry Edward Murray, who died on 16th December, 1918 at the Military Hospital, South Tedworth, England. It is recorded at Parliament House that a man by the name of Henry John Frederick Peters, changed his surname to Murray and died of wounds received in war at Tidworth Hospital, England, December, 1918. We have also established that Henry Edward Murray died at the Military Hospital on 16th December."

Base Records replied to Professor Spann on 11th August, 1959 stating "Records are held at this office of 7522 Private Henry Edward Murray, who was a member of the 1st Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, during the 1914-18 War. Private Murray died of illness on 17th December, 1918, at the Military Hospital, Tidworth, England, and would appear to be the subject of your enquiry..... Subsequent correspondence revealed that the deceased's widow was Mrs Winifred Peters residing in 1823 at 73 Victoria St., Lewisham, NSW and that his correct name was apparently H.J.M. Peters. In this respect, if further information is required, it is suggested that you contact the Deputy Commissioner, Repatriation Department, Box 3994, G.P.O., Sydney, NSW."

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Heinrich Johannes Friedrich Peters – service number 7522, of 1st Battalion, Australian Infantry. Served as Henry Edward MURRAY. He was the son of Henning and Johanna Margaretha Peters; husband of Winifred Peters, of Lewisham, New South Wales, Australia.

A separate entry is listed for Private Henry Edward Murray(alias) – service number 7522 by Commonwealth War Graves Commission with additional information – "See Heinrich Johannes Friedrich PETERS, the true family name."

Private H. E. Peters (also know as Henry Edward Murray) is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 30.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(84 pages of H. J. F. Peters who served as Private H. E. 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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Mr Henry John Frederick Peters

(Photo from Parliament of New South Wales)

Newspaper Notices

Mr H. J. F. Peters, M.L.A.

A PERSONAL SKETCH

Under the heading, 'About People,' we excerpt the following from the "Town and Country Journal" :—

The youngest member of the Legislative Assembly is Mr H. J. F. Peters, whom the electors of Deniliquin have chosen as their representative. And of that choice it may at once be said that it was a good one. Deniliquin is represented by an earnest and thoughtful young man who has an abundance of youth's enthusiasm in his work, and a constitution hardened by a by no means luxurious youth, which should stand to him through tedious all-night sittings and the continual nerve strain which comes as the heritage of political life. His school days were passed at Temora, and from that period up to near the twenties he was engaged in manual labor, in mining, and general bush work. Before he reached his twentieth year— he is now 28- he joined the staff of the "Temora. Star," and it was not long before he won his way to the editor's chair. He was also with the "Temora Independent" for a period; and after he owned and edited the "Grenfell Vedette."

In political affairs he did a deal of organising work, and filled the position of secretary to Mr J. C. Watson. M P., from that gentleman's second campaign until just before the last election. He also organised the Macquarie and part of the Darling electorates. But although taking a keen interest in politics, he was never ambitious to enter Parliament. Indeed, about a month was spent in persuading him to stand for Deniliquin. But when he did consent, he went to work with a will.

As a speaker, Mr Peters comes into the House as a distinct change from many there. He speaks slowly; the majority of members rattle along at a much faster rate. His journalistic training has taught him conciseness, construction, and completeness. There are some speakers who start all right, proceed some distance without losing their way, but who presently forget the end they had in view, and finish the sentence anyhow, to the bewilderment, of the listener and the confusion of those unfortunates who have to write his words. Mr Peters looks ahead as he speaks, considers his words before uttering them, and confuses neither his subject-matter nor his audience. He has made a special study of land matters. A member of the Labor Party, he is not as strong on industrial Labor matters as some of his fellow-members, especially those who represent metropolitan constituencies. But he is keen on the interests of the man on the land, is a strong advocate of closer settlement, and of fairer terms for those who have gone to till the earth.

Knowing by experience what labor means, he makes a good Labor representative. While at school he won a partial bursary. His parents, however, were not then in a position to make up the required portion, and young Peters, at the age of 13, went into the bush and developed muscle. But he did not neglect his studies. With his brother he afterwards worked a mine at Gundagai, which they owned in partnership. It was in that district that a thrilling incident occurred in connection with the working of the mine. A fuse was fired by Mr Peters' brother, who then clambered out of the shaft. But the rocks at the mouth were slippery, and the unfortunate young man fell back on top of the shot. Mr Peters' action was prompt and heroic. He unhesitatingly jumped after his brother, put him into the cask, and with him was pulled up before the shot fired. Mr Peters' brother escaped with unbroken bones; but; it is painful to add, lost his life a few weeks later through being struck by a falling tree in a paddock in which he and Mr Peters were.

(The Independent, Deniliquin, NSW – 13 December, 1907)

MEN AND WOMEN

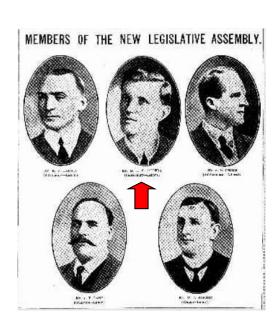
SOME PERSONAL PORTRAITS



Mr. H. J. F. Peters is the youngest member of the New South Wales Parliament, being only 28 when at the last election he was returned as the Labor member for Deniliquin. That was his first Parliamentary campaign, and a strenuous one it proved. During the contest Mr. Peters travelled over 2000 miles by bicycle, and, although the electorate had never previously been contested by the Labor party, he won the seat by a large majority. In his boyhood Mr. Peters engaged in manual labor of all kinds in the country districts, and spent several years at gold mining. Latterly, however, he has been identified with the country press, and about four years ago he owned and edited the Grenfell "Vedette."

(The Star, Sydney, NSW – 10 July, 1909)

MEMBERS OF THE NEW LEGASLATIVE ASSEMBLY





(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 15 December, 1913)

N.S.W. Casualties

Lists Nos. 400 and 401

Wounded

Pte H. E. MURRAY (Narrara)

(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW - 22 May, 1918)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

The 456th official casualty list was released for publication by the military authorities to-day....

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private H. E. Murray (Narara), 17/12/18, previously reported wounded

(Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate, NSW – 30 January, 1919)

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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 23rd July, 1921, to Mr D. Cowell, Narara, NSW, (listed as friend/ next-of-kin) advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of the late No. 7522 Private H. E. Murray, 1st Battalion had not been answered & another blank and addressed envelope was being enclosed. "The information is urgently needed to enable the work on connexion with the Tidworth Cemetery to be completed. At present it is suspended on account of the lack of the above particulars. The non-receipt of your reply within the next 21 days will, it is regretted, have to be accepted as indicating that you do not desire any further action taken."

H. J. F. Peters who served as Private H. E. Murray does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Tidworth Military Cemetery, which contains burials of both wars, was directly connected with training grounds on, or near, Salisbury Plain.

During the First World War, the cemetery was used for burials from Tidworth and Fargo Military Hospitals and the 417 graves, many of them of Australian or New Zealand servicemen, are scattered throughout the cemetery.

There are 106 Second World War graves in the cemetery, two substantial groups of which can be found in sections F and D. The rest are scattered.

The cemetery also contains 40 war graves of other nationalities, many of them Polish.

(Information from CWGC)



The AIF Tidworth cemetery under snow. – March 1919.

Identified graves marked by a cross and headstone in the foreground

Front row: 50727 Private Rowland James Dickson, Australian Machine Gun Corps, died 14 October 1918.

Second row, left to right: 18282 Driver John Thalma Jackson, Details Australian Engineers, died 30 October 1917; 17445 Pte Roland Travers Woodville, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 13 September 1917; 31712 Gunner John Alexander McDonald, 15th Field Artillery Brigade, Australian Field Artillery, died 30 July 1917, aged 37, at Tidworth Military Hospital; 3062 Pte Even Thomas Kennedy, 3rd Australian Pioneers, died 7 August 1917.

Note Gunner McDonald has a large headstone which reads in part 'erected by his sorrowing comrades of the Australian Field Artillery. His duty done.'

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Tidworth Military Cemetery (Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo courtesy of John Prestidge)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo by Chris Talbot 2009)



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers – Kevin)

Photo of H. J. F. Peters who served as Private H. E. Murray's New Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Kevin – Portsmouth Remembers 2021)

Private H. E. Murray's previous Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England. (Photo taken 2012)



(Photo from Find a Grave – Soilsister 2012)

