

Ditcheat, Somerset

War Memorial Plaque



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1859 PRIVATE

T. L. WARD

11TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

10TH AUGUST, 1915 Age 25

Thomas Leonard WARD

Thomas Leonard Ward was born at Euston, London, England on 28th March, 1890 to parents Henry Walter and Mary Anne Elizabeth Ward (nee Barrett). Thomas was baptised on 25th May, 1890 at St. Stephen's Church, Canonbury Road, Islington. His father was listed as an Optician & the family lived at 8 Charles Street, Euston.

The 1891 England Census recorded Thomas L. Ward (born St. Pancras, London) as a 1 year old living with his family at 13 Murray Street, Kentish Town, St. Pancras, London in a 2 roomed dwelling. Three households were listed at the address. Thomas' parents were listed as Henry W. Ward (Optician, aged 24, born Islington, London) & Mary A. Ward (aged 23, born Ditcheat, Somerset).

Thomas Leonard Ward attended Camden Town National School & Ditcheat Council School.

A death was registered in the June quarter, 1897 in the district of Pancras, London for Henry Walter Ward, aged 29.

The 1901 England Census recorded Thomas L. Ward as an 11 year old living at the Post Office, Ditcheat, Somerset. Mary Bartlett, his widowed grandmother, was listed as head of the household (Sub Postmistress, aged 65). Thomas's widowed mother – Mary A. E. Ward (aged 33) was listed as Assistant to Sub Postmistress. Also listed was Thomas' sister Mary E. Ward (aged 7, born Camden Town, London).

The 1911 England Census recorded Thomas Leonard Ward as a 21 year old Postman, grandson of head of the house – Mary Bartlett (widowed Draper, Grocer and Postmistress, aged 75). His mother was listed as Mary Ann Elizabeth Ward (widow, Assisting in the business, aged 43). Also listed was Thomas' sister – Mary Estelle Ward (Student, aged 17).

According to information provided by his mother – Mary A. E. Ward, Thomas Leonard Ward came to Australia when he was 21 years old. A "Thomas Ward" arrived from London at Fremantle, Western Australia on *Astralind* in November, 1911.

Thomas Leonard Ward was a 25 year old, single, Farmer from Narrogin, Western Australia when he enlisted on 23rd January, 1915 with the 11th Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1859 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary Ward, of P.O., Ditcheat, Bath, England.

Private Thomas Leonard Ward was posted to Depot Company on 23rd January, 1915. He was transferred to 4th Reinforcements, 11th Battalion on 16th February, 1915.

Private Thomas Leonard Ward embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 19th April, 1915.

Private Thomas Leonard Ward was taken on strength from 4th Reinforcements with 11th Battalion "D" Company at Gallipoli Peninsula on 4th June, 1915.

Private Thomas Leonard Ward was wounded in action at Gallipoli on 1st August, 1915. He was taken to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station with a bullet wound in his back. He was transferred to Hospital Ship *Rewa* & disembarked at Alexandria.

Private Thomas Leonard Ward was admitted to 19th General Hospital, Alexandria, Egypt on 6th August, 1915 with gunshot wound to back.

Private Thomas Leonard Ward died on 10th August, 1915 at 19th General Hospital, Alexandria, Egypt from wounds received in action – gun shot wound in back.

A death was registered in the Municipality of Alexandria for T. L. Ward, on 10th August, 1915.

Private Thomas Leonard Ward was buried in Chatby Military and War Memorial Cemetery, Alexandria, Egypt – Plot number J. 129 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

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.

The battalion was raised within weeks of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked for overseas after just two weeks of preliminary training. It arrived in Egypt to continue its training in early December. The 3rd Brigade was the covering force for the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 and so was the first ashore at around 4:30 am. Ten days after the landing, a company from the 11th Battalion mounted the AIF's first raid of the war against Turkish positions at Gaba Tepe. Subsequently, the battalion was heavily involved in defending the front line of the ANZAC beachhead. In August, it made preparatory attacks at the southern end of the ANZAC position before the battle of Lone Pine. The 11th Battalion continued to serve at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

(Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Pte Thomas Leonard Ward requested in his Will that the whole of his property & effects be given to Mrs M. A. E. Ward (mother), Post Office, Ditcheat, Bath, England.

Private Thomas Leonard Ward was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Ward's mother in England - Mrs M. A. E. Ward, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent February, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Thomas Leonard Ward – service number 1859, aged 25, of 11th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Henry Walter and Mary Anne Elizabeth Ward, of Ditcheat, Bath, England.

Private T. L. Ward is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 64.

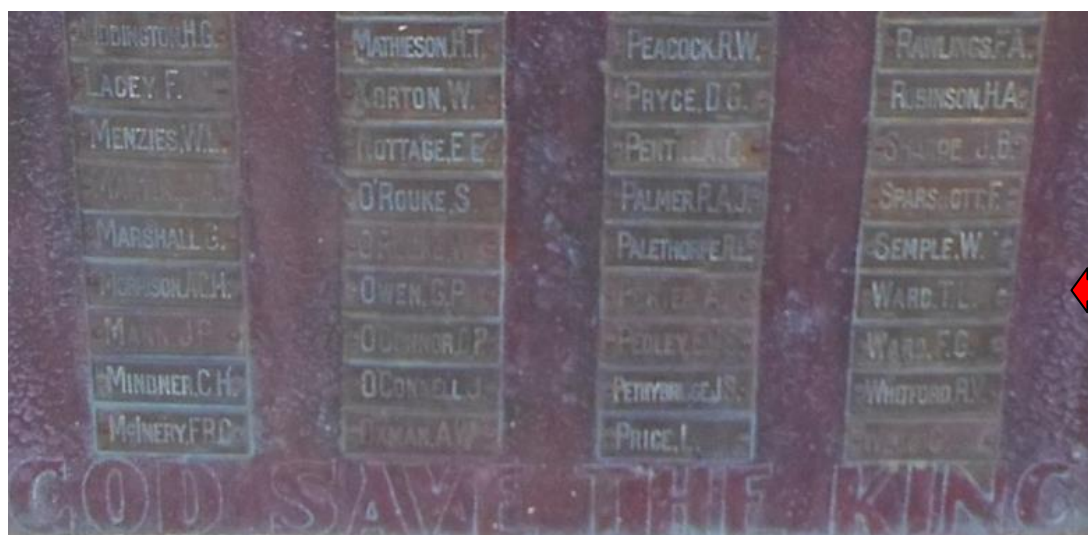


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

T. L. Ward is remembered on the Narrogin War Memorial Pavilion, Narrogin, Western Australia.



Narrogin War Memorial Pavilion



T. L. Ward is remembered on the War Memorial Plaque for 1914-1918 located inside the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Ditcheat, Somerset.



Ditcheat War Memorial Plaque (Photo by Michael Day)

T. L. Ward is remembered by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers – Roll of Honour Great War Casualties for the Ditcheat Tower, Bath & Wells Diocesan.



The War Memorial (no individual names) in the Churchyard of St. Mary Magdalene, Ditcheat

(Photo by Michael Day)

Thomas Leonard Ward is remembered in De Rivigny's Roll of Honour 1914 – 1919 (Volume 1).

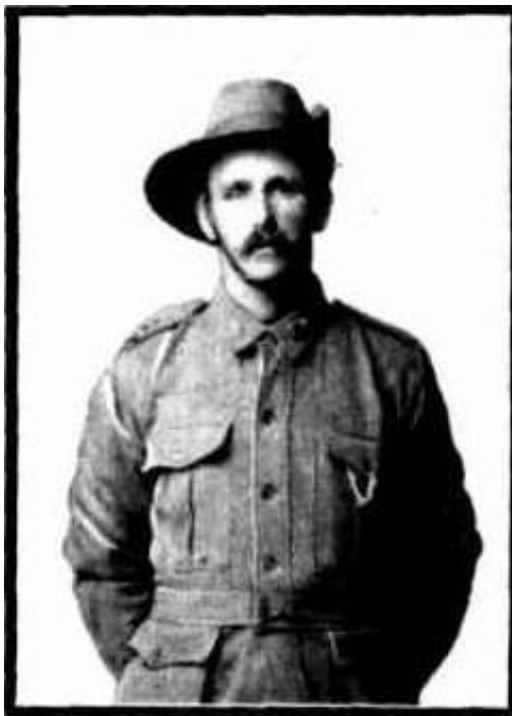
WARD, THOMAS LEONARD, Private, No. 1859, 11th Battn, Australian Imperial Force, only s. of the late Henry Walter Ward, of 34, St. Paul's Road, Camden Town, N., for many years an optician with Adam Hilger, Stanhope Street, N.W., by his wife, May Ann Elizabeth, dau. of William Bartlett; b. London, 28 March, 1890; educ. Camden Town National School and Ditchet Council School; went to Australia, 28 Oct, 1911; bought property in Narrogin, W.A.; joined the 11th Battn. Jan 1914; sailed for Egypt with the fourth reinforcements; proceeded to the Dardanelles, 25 May, 1915, and died in the Military Hospital, Alexandria, 10 Aug. following, of wounds received in action at Shell Green, Anzac, on or about 5 Aug. Buried in Chatby Cemetery, Alexandria, Grave No. 1240; unm. A comrade wrote: "Tom's first thought was for his comrades; he even went so far as sharing his water allowance at a time when every drop was a luxury." Another wrote: "His fearlessness was noticeable even among 'our set.' He died the death he chose – one of many heroes."



(43 pages of Private Thomas Leonard Ward'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





PRIVATE T. L. WARD,
11th Battalion,
(Wounded.)

(*Western Mail*, Perth, W.A. – 10 September, 1915)



Newspaper Notices

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

SIXTY-SEVENTH CASUALTY LIST

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

In Hospital, Heliopolis

11th Battalion (wounded) -..... T. L. Ward, 4th reinforcements

(*The West Australian*, Perth, WA – 21 August, 1915)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

SEVENTY-FIFTH CASUALTY LIST

CORRECTED REPORTS

Casualty List No. 71, in place of "5th Military District, T. L. Word, 11th Battalion, 4th reinforcements (England), died of wounds, previously reported wounded," read "Private T. L. Ward," etc., etc

(*The West Australian*, Perth, WA – 9 September, 1915)

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)

Pte T. L. Ward does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Chatby Military and War Memorial Cemetery, Alexandria, Egypt

Chatby Military and War Memorial Cemetery (originally the Garrison cemetery) was used for burials until April 1916, when a new cemetery was opened at Hadra. Thereafter, burials at Chatby were infrequent, although some graves were brought into the cemetery after the war from other burial grounds in the area.

During the Second World War, Alexandria was again an important hospital centre, taking casualties from campaigns in the Western Desert, Greece, Crete, the Aegean Islands and the Mediterranean. Rest camps and hostels were also established there together with a powerful anti-aircraft base. Alexandria was also the communications centre for the middle and near east and became the headquarters of the Military Police.

There are now 2,259 First World War burials in the cemetery and 503 from the Second World War. The cemetery also contains war graves of other nationalities and many non-war and military graves, some of which date from 1882.

The CHATBY MEMORIAL stands at the eastern end of the cemetery and commemorates almost 1,000 Commonwealth servicemen who died during the First World War and have no other grave but the sea. Many of them were lost when hospital ships or transports were sunk in the Mediterranean, sailing to or from Alexandria. Others died of wounds or sickness while aboard such vessels and were buried at sea.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Chatby Military and War Memorial Cemetery, Alexandria



