

**St. Laurence Churchyard,
Winslow, Buckinghamshire**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



A. B. TURNER

AUSTRALIAN MUNITION WORKER

14TH MARCH, 1919

Rest In Peace

Archibald Beresford TURNER

Archibald Beresford Turner was born in 1890 at Macorna, Victoria to parents Montresor Beresford Turner & Ann Turner (nee Townsend).

The 1913 & 1914 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Echuca, subdivision of Kyabram, Victoria listed Archibald Beresford Turner, Carpenter, of Kyabram.

Archibald Beresford Turner was a 25 year old, single, Carpenter from Bendigo, Victoria when he enlisted on 3rd December, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) at King Island, Tasmania. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs M. B. Turner, of Kyabram, Victoria. Archibald Turner stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with Victorian Rangers.

Archibald Beresford Turner was discharged from the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) on 9th January, 1915.

Archibald Beresford Turner was a 25 year old, single, Carpenter from Bendigo, Victoria when he re-enlisted on 7th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1530 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Montresor B. Turner, of 40 Abbot Street, Bendigo, Victoria. Archibald Turner stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected as unfit from His Majesty's Services on account of his teeth.

Private Archibald Beresford Turner was posted to "B" Coy at Flemington Depot on 16th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to "D" Coy, 31st Battalion on 12th August, 1915. Pte Turner was transferred to 12th Reinforcements of 8th Light Horse Regiment on 2nd October, 1915.

Acting Corporal Archibald Beresford Turner embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on SS *Hawkes Bay* on 21st October, 1915 with the 3rd Light Horse Brigade, 8th Light Horse Regiment, 12th Reinforcements.

Acting Corporal Archibald Beresford Turner reported for Duty on 26th December, 1915 with 8th Light Horse Regiment at Heliopolis. He reverted to ranks on 26th December, 1915 on joining his Unit at Heliopolis from Reinforcements.

Private Archibald Beresford Turner was appointed Lance Corporal on 18th January, 1916.

Lance Corporal Archibald Beresford Turner was sent sick to Hospital on 19th February, 1916. He was admitted to No. 3 Auxiliary Hospital at Heliopolis on 19th February, 1916 with Gastritis & Influenza. He returned to duty on 25th February, 1916.

Lance Corporal Archibald Beresford Turner was sent sick to Hospital at Serapeum on 4th March, 1916. He was admitted to No. 4 Auxiliary Hospital at Abbassia on 12th March, 1916 with Mumps. He was discharged on 30th March, 1916 & returned to duty at Railhead on 3rd April, 1916.

Lance Corporal Archibald Beresford Turner was admitted to 8th Australian Field Ambulance at Canal Zone on 13th April, 1916 with Renal Colic. He was admitted to No. 1 Australian Stationary Hospital at Ismalia on 20th April, 1916 – cause – N.Y.D. (not yet determined). L/Cpl. Turner was admitted from train to No. 3 Auxiliary Hospital at Heliopolis on 23rd April, 1916. He was transferred & admitted to No. 3 Australian General Hospital at Abbassia on 4th May, 1916 with kidney issues. L/Cpl. Turner was transferred from Ras-el-Tin C.C. on 29th May, 1916 with Pyelonephritis. He was again admitted to No. 3 Australian General Hospital at Abbassia on 30th June, 1916 & discharged for embarkation to England on 7th July, 1916. L/Cpl. Turner embarked on Hospital Ship *Galeka* from Alexandria on 7th July, 1916.

Lance Corporal Archibald Beresford Turner was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, England on 19th July, 1916 with Nephritis. He was discharged from Hospital on 1st August, 1916 to A.I.F. Training Centre at Bhurtpore Barracks, Tidworth, Wiltshire.

Lance Corporal Archibald Beresford Turner was detached for duty with 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital Harefield on 28th August, 1916.

Lance Corporal Archibald Beresford Turner was sent sick to Hospital on 8th January, 1917 suffering from Influenza. He was admitted to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield on 9th January, 1917.

A Medical Report was completed on Lance Corporal Archibald Beresford Turner on 29th January, 1917 while a patient at No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield regarding his disability – Nephritis (inflammation of kidneys). The Nephritis was recorded as originating on 8th February, 1916 at Harefield. He had a previous attack about 6 years prior & another attack in Egypt & was in Hospital for 6 months. He was sent to England on 19th July, 1916 & has “done no duty since February, 1916.” The disability was caused from Exposure while on Active Service. The Medical Board recommended Lance Corporal Archibald Beresford Turner be discharged as permanently unfit for General Service & unfit for Home Service for 6 months.

Lance Corporal Archibald Beresford Turner was discharged on 22nd February, 1917 from Staff - No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield for Return to Australia.

Lance Corporal Archibald Beresford Turner was marched out from attached duty from 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield on 4th March, 1917.

Lance Corporal Archibald Beresford Turner returned to Australia from Devonport, England on *Beltana* on 17th March, 1917 & disembarked in Australia on 12th May, 1917 where he was transferred to 6th Australian General Hospital.

Lance Corporal Archibald Beresford Turner was discharged from the Australian Imperial Force on 25th June, 1917.

A War Pension was granted to Archibald Beresford Turner, of 5 Canterbury Rd, Albert Park, 1530 Pte., 8th Light Horse, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 26th June, 1917.

A War Pension was granted to Louisa Sear Turner, of 47 Union Street, Newport, Pagnell, Bucks, wife of Archibald Beresford Turner, 1530 Pte., 8th Light Horse, in the sum of £1 per fortnight from 26th June, 1917.

According to a newspaper item in April, 1918 by the Bendigo Newspapers, Archibald Beresford Turner had volunteered as an Australian Muniton Worker. He had returned to England 2 months prior to take up the position. His Muniton file was not open at the time of researching.

Australian Muniton Worker Archibald Beresford Turner was admitted to Military Hospital, Bedford, Bedfordshire, England on 9th March, 1919 with Broncho Pneumonia (tuberculosis). He had been admitted extremely ill, with Temp 100 and pulse 120, very weak & had been ill for about a month. Australian Muniton Worker Archibald Beresford Turner was reported as much worse on 13th March, 1919 & had collapsed that morning. He was in great respiratory distress.

Australian Muniton Worker Archibald Beresford Turner died at 6.30 am on 14th March, 1919 at Military Hospital, Bedford, Bedfordshire, England from Pneumonia.

A death for Archibald B. Turner, aged 28, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Bedford, Bedfordshire, England.

Australian Muniton Worker Archibald Beresford Turner was buried on 19th March, 1919 in St. Laurence Churchyard, Winslow, Buckinghamshire, England, – Near south boundary & has a Commonwealth War Graves headstone. From the Burial Report – *Coffin was Elm & Brass fittings. The deceased soldier was interred privately by relatives residing in Winslow, Bucks. The coffin was conveyed to the graveside, surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent from:- Wife, Mother, Brother-in-law, 2 Sisters-in-law, 2 Aunts, 2 Cousins. The burial service was conducted by the Rev: Wiggan of Winslow, and the A.I.F. Headquarters were represented at the funeral.*

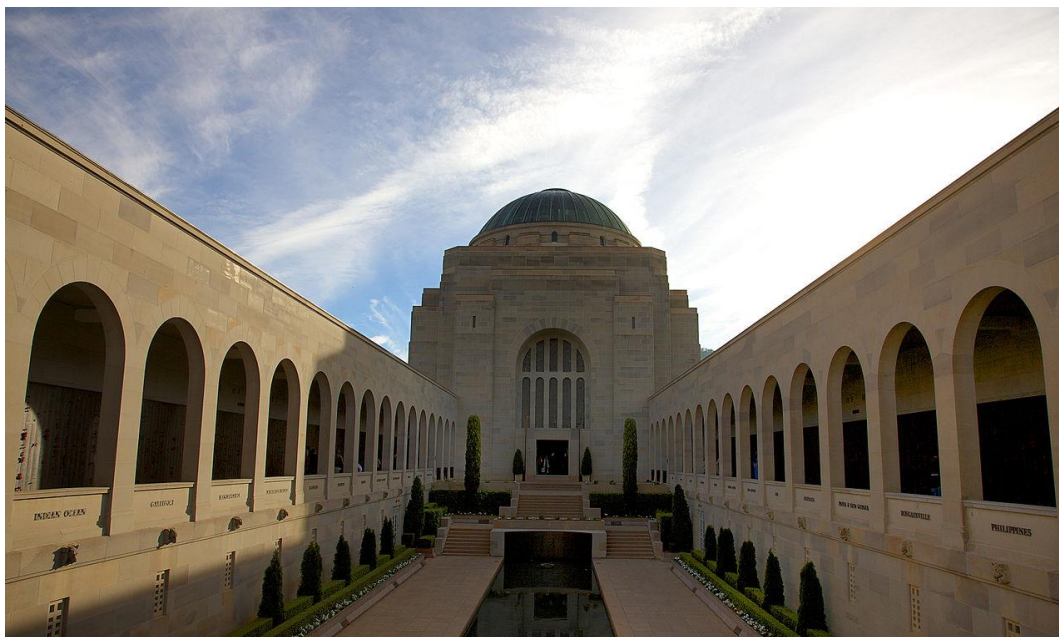
Names of relatives & friends present at the funeral - Wife, Mother, Brother-in-law, 2 Sisters-in-law, 2 Aunts, 2 Cousins.

Lance Corporal A. B. Turner had written his Will on 4th December, 1916 where he stated that in the event of his death he gives the whole of his property and effects to his wife – Mrs L. L. Turner, of 6 Park Lane, Harefield, Middlesex, England.

Archibald Beresford Turner was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal on account of his service with the Australian Imperial Force.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Archibald Beresford Turner, Australian Munition Worker , formerly (1530) 8th Australian Light Horse. He was the son of Mr and Mrs M. B. Turner; husband of Louise Leah Horsler (formerly Turner), of 6 Piccadilly, Winslow, Bucks.

Australian Munitions Worker (Lance Corporal) Archibald Beresford Turner is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (*Capital Photographer*)

Australian Munitions Workers

Men enlisted under a joint Australian Commonwealth - Imperial Government scheme for providing skilled Australian workers to British war industries during the First World War. Under this scheme the volunteers would receive free passage to Great Britain, an allowance for travel time, a special allowance for the duration of service, and eventual repatriation to Australia. Married men also received a separation allowance, but were required to allot a portion of all their earnings to dependants. The men were expected to work in whatever industries they were directed to by the British Board of Trade, and under the prevailing conditions and wages for the duration of hostilities.

Government newspaper adverts appeared in August, 1916, and the first party of 76 workers departed Australia in September. Groups continued to be recruited and sent at intervals, with the eventual number of workers under the

scheme totalling just over 5,000. Almost 1,000 of these had already been working in Britain under private agreements with large firms such as Vickers, and were brought under the conditions of the scheme. An additional 200 former AIF soldiers were also recruited in Britain. Initially only skilled workers were sought, however at the request of the British Government later groups included large numbers of navvies for general labouring.

These men were not members of the Australian Imperial Forces and did not serve in combat units, but were recruited to meet the shortfall in skilled labour that threatened many of Britain's key wartime industries including munitions.

(Source: Australian War Memorial)



*** Note – The Service Record file for Archibald Beresford Turner, Australian Mmunition Worker had not been purchased at the time of researching from National Archives, Australia. Once the file is purchased it is then open for all to view on-line.*

(69 pages of Pte Archibald Beresford Turner's Army Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives

Newspaper Notices

The newspapers at the time were encouraged not to report munition explosions or deaths through TNT poisoning as it would affect the morale of the civilian population and so reports in newspapers are virtually non existant. When the war ended the Australians returned home and life moved on.

MUNITION WORKERS

AUSTRALIANS IN GREAT BRITAIN

Melbourne, Thursday.

The Minister for Defence (Senator Pearce) announces that during the period from the inception of the schemes for the despatch of munition workers and navvies to Great Britain up to June 30 last, 2662 munition workers had been disembarked in England for employment on munition and war work. There had also been enrolled under the munition workers' scheme 124 men who had been discharged from the A.I.F. in England for that purpose, and two discharged A.I.F. men had enrolled under the navvies' agreement, making the total number of men engaged in work in Great Britain under both these schemes 4,998. Of this number 384 men had returned to Australia – the majority on account of ill-health. There had been 23 deaths. The agreement of 38 men had been cancelled for disciplinary and other reasons. Six of the men had enlisted in the A.I.F., in England, five men had enlisted in the Royal Navy, and nine men had enlisted in the British Army, leaving the total number of men still in England under the Commonwealth agreement as 4,533. In addition these men were registered on the index held in Australia House 674 Australian munition workers who proceeded to Great Britain under private contract prior to the inauguration of the Commonwealth scheme. Of the men still in England on June 30, 1918, 87 were waiting return up to that date, 152 men had proceeded to France to engage in special work, and 107 of them had returned again to England. Australian munition workers were employed at 409 different firms or centres, and navvies at 192, and the value of the output produced by the labour of these men was estimated at £6,000,000.

Provision for the payment of munition workers and navvies who proceeded to Great Britain on war work under the agreement with the Commonwealth Government is made in an amendment to the war financial regulations issued today. Munition workers and navvies are to be provided with a free passage from Australia to Great Britain and back. In the case of munition workers a dependants' allowance of 25s a week, with allowances for children, will be made for the first eight weeks after embarkation. Subsequently the allowance will be 20s. Separation allowances equal to that paid in the case of a private in the A.I.F. will be paid to dependants.

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – 30 August, 1918)

THE NEW SOLDIERS

The following passed the medical test last week at the Bendigo recruiting office, and will leave for camp in due course, most of them this week:-Archibald Beresford Turner, Carpenter, Abbott-street, Bendigo;.....

(Bendigonian, Bendigo, Victoria – 15 July, 1915)

AUSTRALIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

THE CASUALTY LISTS

BENDIGO AND NORTHERN DISTRICT MEN

IN HOSPITAL

Cairo – 4th Aux. H. – L.-Cpl. A. B. Turner, Bendigo

(Bendigonian, Bendigo, Victoria – 6 April, 1916)

RETURNED SOLDIER

Lance-Corporal A. B. Turner, of 43 Garsed-street, Bendigo, returned home from the front on Monday last, after two years abroad. He was a member of the famous 8th Light Horse, and saw service at the Tripoli, Sinai and Palestine fronts. He was wounded in Tripoli, and invalided to England, afterwards going to France, where his health broke down, and he had to be sent home. Lance-Corporal Turner while ill in Sinai was attended by the late Lieut.-Colonel (Dr.) Williams, of Bendigo, and he speaks very highly of his self-sacrificing labors. He never seemed to tire in attending to sick and wounded, and his ever smiling face was better than all the medicine put together. His death caused great gloom amongst all the boys at the front who had come in contact with him.

(Bendigo Advertiser, Bendigo, Victoria – 18 May, 1917)

AFTER MANY DAYS

When Corporal A. B. Turner, of the 8th Light Horse, was six days from Melbourne on 2nd November, 1915, he dropped a bottle overboard from the transport containing a message written by himself and another written by Trooper W. Brewer, of the 8th Light Horse. Corporal Turner's message was as follows:—"2/11/15. At sea six days from Melbourne, on way to war, doing well. Finder please forward this to Mrs. M. B. Turner, Victoria House, M'Laren-street, Bendigo. Farewell. From Corporal A. B. Turner, 12th reinforcements, 8th Light Horse." Trooper Brewer's message asked the finder to communicate with him as they would like to know if the bottle was found, and where. Corporal Turner was wounded at Pozieres, and afterwards invalided to Australia, and discharged. After ten months in Australia he went to England two months ago to engage in munition making. A few days ago Mrs. Turner, his mother, who now resides in Garsed-street, received both messages, and on the back of the one from her son were the words:—"Found at Brewer Bay (east of Albany, Western Australia), on 12th March, 1918, by John Wellstead, while out hunting cattle. Trusting the original writer is O.K., and doing good work for our country, I remain.—Yours truly, J. Wellstead, sheep farmer, 12/3/18."

(Bendigo Advertiser, Bendigo, Victoria – 9 April, 1918) & (Bendigonian, Bendigo, Victoria – 11 April, 1918)

DEATHS

On Active Service

TURNER – On the 14th March, in the Bedford Military Hospital, England, Archibald Beresford Turner, late 8th Light Horse, only beloved son of Mr and Mrs M. B. Turner, and brother of Lynda, Ruth (Mrs Walker) and Gladys, aged 29 years.

He went, hoping to return,
Along with his comrades brave;
But with many a hero he is sleeping
In a soldier's honoured grave.
No mother was there to soothe his brow,
No father to say good-bye,
No sister to take him by the hand
When death was drawing nigh.

-Inserted by his sorrowing parents and sisters.

TURNER – On 14th March, at the Bedford Military Hospital, England, Archibald Beresford, 8th Light Horse, late of Kyabram, loving brother of Ruth, Lynda and Gladys, grandson of Col. Sir C. B. Turner, and only son of M. B. and A. Turner.

He did what he could.

-Inserted by F. Walker, 309 Auburn-road, Auburn.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 26 May, 1919)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) honours the 1,700,000 men and women of the forces of the Commonwealth who died in the two world wars and ensures that their memory is never forgotten. The applicable periods of consideration are 4 August 1914 to 31 August 1921 for the First World War and 3 September 1939 to 31 December 1947 for the Second World War.

The Commission's principles:

- Each of the dead should be commemorated by name on the headstone or memorial
- Headstones and memorials should be permanent
- Headstones should be uniform
- There should be no distinction made on account of military or civil rank, race or creed

During both WW1 (& WW2) a number of Commonwealth civilian organisations were accepted by the military as qualifying for war grave status.

Members of the Recognised Civilian Organisations had to meet two additional criteria not required by military casualties.

1. Their death had to be caused by war actions or the increased threat caused by war and
2. They had to be on duty at the time of their death - being posted overseas counted as 'being on duty'.

The Australian government deemed that their War and Munitions Workers (men and women) qualified for war grave treatment as they were recruited as a body and were posted overseas for the war effort. Some of their CWGC entries show a 'service number' indicating that they were an organised body. All but one of these casualties are buried in the UK - the other being in France.

Inscription

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)

Australian Muniton Worker A. B. Turner does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Rest In Peace

St. Laurence Churchyard, Winslow, Buckinghamshire, England

St. Laurence Churchyard, Winslow contains 6 Commonwealth War Graves – 5 from World War 1 & 1 from World War 2.



St. Laurence Church, Winslow (Photo above by FamilyHistoryAddict – Find a Grave; below Nigel Cox)



Photo of Australian Munition Worker A. B. Turner's Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone in St. Laurence Churchyard, Winslow, Buckinghamshire, England.

