

# Durrington War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



**2632 PRIVATE**

**H. T. PANTLIN**

**37TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**11TH FEBRUARY, 1917**

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte H. T. Pantlin is located in  
Grave Plot # 195 of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## Henry Thomas PANTLIN

Henry Thomas Pantlin was born in 1874 to parents Henry & Drusilla Pantlin (nee Wilson).

Henry Thomas Pantlin married Isabella F. Bradley in 1900 in Sydney, NSW. A birth was registered in Sydney in 1900 for William R. Pantlin – parents Henry T. & Isabella F. Pantlin. A birth was registered in Sydney in 1910 for Judith M. Pantlin – only mother was listed – Isabella F. Pantlin.

Henry Thomas Pantlin was a 41 year Labourer (not married) from Sydney when he enlisted on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 1916. On his Attestation Papers, Henry Pantlin listed William Reeves Pantlin\*, his son, of Kensington, Sydney as his next of kin. Pte Henry Thomas Pantlin was discharged at Bathurst, NSW on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 1916 “Unlikely to become an efficient soldier”.

Henry Thomas Pantlin was a 42 year old, Labourer (Widowed) from Pymont, Sydney, NSW when he re-enlisted on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 with the 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 37<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2632 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Darius Pantlin of 38 Comber Street, Paddington, NSW. (Henry’s father had died in 1882 & his mother had died in 1907).

Pte Henry Thomas Pantlin embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Benalla* (A24) on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

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 Henry Thomas Pantlin was marched in to 10<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion in the county of Wiltshire, England on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Pte Henry Thomas Pantlin was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 with Bunions. The Hospital admissions form does not mention bunions as the reason for being admitted – “Taken ill 7.2.17. Cough & tightness of chest. Admitted to hospital \_\_\_ rapid respiration....”

Private Henry Thomas Pantlin died at 7.45 p.m. on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital from Acute Bronchitis.

A death for Henry T. Pantlin, aged 42, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Henry Thomas Pantlin was buried on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 195 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Pte Henry Thomas Pantlin 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 Pte Pantlin’s widow – Mrs Isabella Frances Pantlin – (December, 1921 & June, 1922). However, the personal effects of late Pte H. T. Pantlin had been received by his stated next of kin – D. Pantlin (Brother) on 11 September, 1917. Mr D. Pantlin was also the receiver of a photograph of his brother’s grave.

Private H. T. Pantlin is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 128.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Henry Thomas Pantlin – service number 2632 as being 42 years old & served with 37<sup>th</sup> Battalion Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

(54 pages of Pte Henry Thomas Pantlin'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*

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\*William Reeves Pantlin – son of Henry Thomas Pantlin was a Private – 2967 with 53<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements. He enlisted on 4<sup>th</sup> June, 1916 & embarked from Sydney on board HMAT *Ascanius* on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 1916. Pte William Reeves Pantlin was killed in action on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 1917 & is remembered on the Villers-Bretonneux memorial on France as he has no known grave.

## Newspaper Reports

### CASUALTIES – 275<sup>th</sup> LIST

#### NEW SOUTH WALES

##### Died of Illness

Pte H. T. Pantlin, Paddington

*(The Land, Sydney, Friday 2 March, 1917)*

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### 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)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 27<sup>th</sup> July, 1921, to Mrs I. F. Pantlin\* of Randwick, Sydney advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of the late Pte H. T. Pantlin had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

(\* Henry Thomas Pantlin had stated on his re-enlistment that he was a widower – Mrs I. F. Pantlin was his wife/ex-wife & was still living)

Pte H. T. Pantlin does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte H. T. Pantlin's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)