

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



5898 PRIVATE

P. McELHENNEY

27TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

11TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 42

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte P. McElhenney is located in Grave Plot # 194
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Patrick McELHENNEY

Patrick McElhenney was born in 1873 at Stanley, Victoria to parents Neil & Mary McElhenney. He was a 42 year old, single, Miner from Bamboo Creek, Marble Bar, Western Australia when he enlisted on 25th May, 1916 with the 27th Infantry Battalion, 16th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 5898 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Neil McElhenney from Stanley via Beechworth, Victoria.

Pte Patrick McElhenney embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Port Melbourne (A16)* on 30th October, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 28th 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 Patrick McElhenney was marched in to 7th Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire from Australia on 29th December, 1916.

Private Patrick McElhenney was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 13th January, 1917 with Influenza, later reported with Bronchitis severe. Notification was sent to Pte McElhenney's father.

Private Patrick McElhenney died at 12.55 a.m. on 11th February, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Otitis Media.

A death for Patrick McElhenney, aged 43, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Patrick McElhenney was buried on 16th February, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 194 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private P. McElhenney is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 110.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

P. McElhenny is remembered on the Stanley State School Honour Roll for First World War located at the Stanley Primary School, Main Road, Stanley, Victoria.



Stanley State School Honour Roll WW1 (Photo from Victorian War Heritage Inventory)

P. McElhenney is also remembered on the Beechworth Shire Honour Roll located at Ford St, Beechworth, Victoria. (3rd Column, 10th name)



Beechworth Shire Honour Roll WW1 (Photo from Victorian War Heritage Inventory)

Pte Patrick McElhenney 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 McElhenney's father – Mr N. McElhenney (sent December 1921 & July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Patrick McElhenney – service number 5898 as being 42 years old & served with 27th Battalion Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

A War Pension was granted to Mr Neil McElhenney, widower & father of the late Pte Patrick McElhenney, in the sum of 25/- per fortnight from 17th April, 1917.

Patrick McElhenney is also remembered on a headstone located in Stanley Cemetery, Victoria, along with his parents – Mary McElhenney (died 21st October, 1900, aged 63) & Neil McElhenney (died 7th October, 1921, aged 90).



McElhenney Headstone located in Stanley Cemetery , Victoria

(42 pages of Pte Patrick McElhenney'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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Newspaper Reports

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ROLL OF HONOUR – 274th CASUALTY LIST

ILL

P. McElhenney (Stanley, V.)

(The West Australian, Perth – Tuesday 27th February, 1917)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

274th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

P. McElhenney (Stanley, V.), previously reported seriously ill.

(Western Mail, Perth – Friday 2nd March, 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)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 25th July, 1921, to Mr N. McElhenney of Stanley via Beechworth, Victoria, advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of the late Pte P. McElhenney 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.

Pte P. McElhenney does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte P. McElhenney's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)