

# Durrington War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



4574 PRIVATE

**W. WADDINGHAM**

28TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

3RD SEPTEMBER, 1916 Age 20

*God Takes The Loved Ones*

*From Our Homes*

*But Never From Our Hearts*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte W. Waddingham is located in Grave Plot # 103  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## Wilfred WADDINGHAM

Wilfred Waddingham was born at Bunbury, Western Australia in 1895 to parents George & Caroline Waddingham (nee Wilkes). He was a 20 year old, single, Farmer from Bunbury, Western Australia when he enlisted on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 1916 with the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 4574 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – George Waddingham of Capel, Western Australia. As Wilfred Waddingham was under the age of 21 years, both parents – George & Caroline Waddingham signed & consented for their son to enlist for Active Service Abroad.

Pte Wilfred Waddingham embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Shropshire (A9)* on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1916 & disembarked at Egypt (date not recorded). Pte Waddingham embarked on HMT *Minnetonka* from Alexandria, Egypt on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 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 Wilfred Waddingham was attached to 7<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire.

Private Wilfred Waddingham was found dead in his tent at Rollestone – Camp 13, Wiltshire on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 1916. Medical Officer Captain Cullen, attached to 7<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion, was called on to attend to Pte Waddingham. On arrival at 7.05 am, Captain Cullen found that Pte Waddingham was dead in his tent, death having apparently occurred during the night. The cause was unknown & a Post Mortem found no cause of death. Syncope was listed as reason for death.

A death for Wilfrid Waddingham, aged 21, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Wilfred Waddingham was buried on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 103 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Pte Wilfred Waddingham contains a request from the Red Cross, on behalf of Pte Waddingham's family, into any details regarding his death & burial. A reply from Lt. Col. J. S. Knox reads:

*"No. 4574, Private Waddingham, W. 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion died in his tent at No. 13 Camp, Salisbury Plain. He was found by the inmates of his tent at 7.15 a.m. on Sunday 3-9-1916, who immediately summoned the Medical Officer, and on his arrival, he found life to be extinct. The body was conveyed to Fargo Hospital where the necessary enquiry was held, the result of which found that death was due to natural causes. Private Waddingham was buried with full military honours at Durrington Cemetery. No. of his grave being 103."*

A Board of Enquiry was held on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 at No. 7 Training Battalion, Rollestone for the purpose of enquiring and reporting on the cause of death of Pte Waddingham. The Court found there was no

evidence of any suspicious circumstances & death occurred between 6.15 am & 7.15 am on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 1916.

1st WITNESS: No.968 Cpl S.S. WOODS, 27th Battalion, A.I.F., states:-

On the 3rd September 1916, I was Orderly Corporal of "D" Coy 7th Training Battalion, to which the deceased No.4574 Pte W. Waddingham, was attached. At about 7-15 a.m. it was reported to me that the deceased was very seriously ill or dead. I immediately ascertained that the Medical Officer had been sent for and informed the Company Commander. About 10 minutes later the Doctor came across, and found that Pte WADDINGHAM was dead. I was in the Company Orderly Room at the time the information was given to me. The deceased at the time was sleeping in the canvas tents. The man who gave me the information about the illness of Waddingham (Pte Blackburn, R., No.620, 26th Bn) has since proceeded overseas. Pte Blackburn told me that the deceased had been called twice, one at Reveille, viz., 6 a.m., and again about a quarter of an hour later. He was observed lying covered up in his rugs, and when called the second time, turned over and groaned. The deceased had not been on Sick Parade for some considerable time before. I am sure of this as at the time I turned up the Sick Reports to see if I could get any information about the state of his health.

S.S.Woods, Cpl.

2nd EVIDENCE: Capt. A. E. CULLEN, A.M.C., states:-

I am the Medical Officer of the 7th Training Battalion, Rolleston. On the morning of the 3rd Sept 1916 at a little after 7 o'clock in the morning, I was called to visit Pte Waddingham of "D" Coy. I proceeded to the Coy's lines, and found Pte Waddingham to be dead. When I first saw him he was wrapped up in his blankets and had apparently died during sleep. On examination I found that he had only been dead a short time, his temperature being 96 deg. I could not say without a post mortem what was the cause of death. Steps were taken to have a post mortem conducted which took place at Fargo Hospital I believe. I was advised on the 7th Sept by the A.D.M.S., A.I.F., Tidworth in a Memo 862/16 containing a report of the Medical Officer holding the post mortem that in his opinion the man died from Syncope - cause unknown. When I examined the deceased there was no evidence of any suspicious circumstances or foul play. I had not previously seen this man on the Sick Parade.

A.E.Cullen, Capt.

3rd EVIDENCE: Lieut E. S. GOULD, 27th Battalion, states:-

I am the Adjutant of the 7th Training Battalion, Rolleston. I produce herewith certified copy of the Memo from the A.D.M.S., A.I.F., Tidworth which I read and the attached is a certified true copy of the contents of same, relating to the death of 4575 Pte WADDINGHAM W., "D" Coy, 7th Training Battalion.

Elwyn S. Gould, Lieut.,  
Adjt. 7th Training Bn.

FINDING.

FINDING:

The COURT having carefully considered the evidence, finds:-

1. That No.4575 Pte WADDINGHAM W., 11/28th Bn., attached to "D" Coy, 7th Training Battalion, Rolleston, died between the hours of 6.15 a.m. and 7.15 a.m., on the 3rd September 1916 in his tent at Rolleston.
2. That the cause of death was Syncope.
3. That deceased was apparently in the best of health on the previous day.
4. That there is no evidence of any suspicious circumstances which might lead to death or foul play.

A.M.P.Montgomery, Capt.,	28th Bn	PRÉSIDENT.
A.J.M.Fargie,	Capt	Member
E.W.Cleary,	2/Lieut,	Member.
	25th Bn.	

Private W. Waddingham is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 114.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



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



W. Waddingham is also remembered on the Capel War Memorial located on Forrest Road, Capel, Western Australia.



Capel War Memorial (Photos from Anzac - Western Australia Remembers)

Pte Wilfred Waddingham 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 Waddingham's father – Mr G. Waddingham (sent December, 1921 & July, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Wilfred Waddingham – service number 4574 as being 20 years old & served with 28th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of George and Caroline Waddingham, of Capel, Western Australia. Born at Bunbury, Western Australia.

(52 pages of Pte Wilfred Waddingham'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

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## Newspaper Reports

### OUR BOYS - CASUALTIES

Private Wilfred Waddingham is reported dead in his tent at the Tidworth camp in England.

*(Bunbury Herald, Western Australia – Saturday 16 September, 1916)*

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### W.A. CASUALTIES

#### 224TH & 225TH OFFICIAL LISTS

Died, Cause Not Stated

W. Waddingham (Capel)

*(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – Saturday 30 September, 1916)*

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### IN MEMORIAM

#### Anzac Heroes

WADDINGHAM – A loving tribute to the memory of my dear cousin, Private Wilfred Waddingham, who died in England on September 3, 1916.

One of the noblest of men.

Inserted by his loving cousin, Masie T. Summers

*(The West Australian, Perth – Monday 3 September, 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*)

Pte W. Waddingham does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*God Takes the Loved Ones From Our Homes But Never From Our Hearts*

Photo of Pte W. Waddingham's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)