

**St. Mary's New Churchyard,
Codford, Wiltshire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1588 PRIVATE

T. W. CHILTON

53RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

30TH MARCH, 1918 Age 29

*HE DIED THAT WE MIGHT LIVE
EVER REMEMBERED
BY HIS LOVING UNCLE,
AUNT AND COUSINS*

Thomas William CHILTON

Thomas William Chilton was born near the town of Darlington, Durham, England** around 1888.

**From the information supplied for the Roll of Honour, by his Uncle – William Auton, - Thomas William Chilton's place of birth was Ripon, Yorkshire, England, yet the Attestation papers Thomas Chilton stated he was born near the town of Darlington, Durham, England.

* A search for births under the name of Thomas William Chilton between 1887 & 1889 comes up with no matches. A search for births under the name of John William Auton between 1887 & 1889 comes up with a result – Birth registered in March quarter of 1888 at Ripon.

According to information supplied by his uncle – William Auton for the Roll of Honour – Thomas William Chilton came to Australia when he was 22 years old.

Thomas William Chilton was a 28 year old, single, Farm Labourer from Coolamon, NSW when he enlisted in Sydney on 9th October, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1588 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his Uncle – W. Auton, Langley Moor, Durham, England.

From the Attestation Papers, Thomas William Chilton had previously served with the 1st Battalion of Australian Infantry Forces for 1 year & 317 days with a service number of 1529. He had been discharged on account of wounds. His old Attestation papers show that Thomas William Chilton had enlisted on 18th September, 1914 at the age of 26. He had joined the 1st Battalion in early May, 1915 at the Gallipoli Peninsula. He was wounded in action at Gallipoli on 19th May, 1915 & admitted to Hospital in Alexandria with a compound fracture to Jaw & was transferred to England per H.S. "Wandilla" on 20th July, 1915. He was then admitted to Hospital at Wandsworth, London on 31st July, 1915. Private Chilton then sailed from Portland, England to Australia per "Ascanius" on 17th March, 1916.

A report into Private Chilton's injury reads:

He was struck on the chin just below the mouth by a bullet. It emerged just behind the right ear. It fractured the lower jaw and injured the tongue. Fragments of bone were removed from the lower jaw and an operation was performed in the area of the exit wound for draining.

A report dated 13th March, 1916 stated that since the injury, Pte Chilton received severe headaches in occipital region that were almost constantly present & he was unable to chew solid food.

Private Chilton had been discharged on 30th July, 1916 due to medical unfitness. He was medically marked as Fit for Home Service in Australia, light duty. Private Chilton was eligible for a War Pension due to his injuries of £3 per fortnight from 31st July, 1916, but this was cancelled when he re-enlisted.

Private Thomas William Chilton embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Benalla* (A24) on 9th November, 1916 with the Light Trench Mortar Battery, 4th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 9th January, 1917.

Private Thomas William Chilton was marched into No. 6 & 7 Camp at Perham Downs on 10th January, 1917. He was then transferred to 53rd Battalion on 6th February, 1917. He proceeded to France from 14th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, via Folkestone on 25th April, 1917 & was then taken on strength at Etaples, France on 30th April, 1917.

Private Thomas William Chilton was wounded in action in the field on 12th May, 1917 & on 18th May, 1917 he was invalided back to England via 22nd General Hospital Carriers with Gunshot wounds to his feet, side & face. Another entry dated 19th May, 1917 shows Pte Chilton was admitted to 3rd General Hospital with a gunshot wounds to chest & back. Private Chilton was transferred to several hospitals back in England from 19th May, 1917 until he was given furlough from 10th August – 24th August, 1917.

Private Thomas William Chilton was absent without leave for 25 hours from 24th August, 1917 until 25th August, 1917 & was forfeited 2 days pay.

Private Thomas William Chilton was reclassified mid September, 1917. He was admitted back to Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire mid-late November, 1917 with gastritis. From there he was discharged to No.1 Command Depot on 9th December, 1917 & then transferred to Overseas Training Brigade on 6th January, 1918 at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire.

On 23rd January, 1918 Private Chilton was marched into 3rd Training Brigade at Codford, Wiltshire where he was attached to 14th Training Battalion for course of Instruction in Signalling.

On 19th March, 1918 Private Chilton was admitted sick to Group Clearing Hospital at Codford. He was transferred on 22nd March, 1918 to 3rd New Zealand General Hospital at Codford.

Private Thomas William Chilton died at 8.20 p.m. on 30th March, 1918 at the 3rd New Zealand Hospital, Codford, Wiltshire. A Post Mortem examination was performed on 31st March, 1918 & the cause of death was determined to be Purulent bronchitis, with septicaemia and pleurisy. Hospital records mark Private Chilton as having died from Lobar Pneumonia.

A death for Thomas W. Chilton, aged 30, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Thomas William Chilton was buried in St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England Grave no. 95 on 3rd April, 1918. From the burial report - *The condition of the coffin was first class and of polished oak. The deceased soldier's brother was in attendance. All personal property in the possession of the deceased at the time of his death was forwarded to A.I.F. Kit Store, Greyhound Road, London.*

A letter in the Red Cross Missing and Wounded file for Private Chilton reads:

Died 30-3-18 T. Chilton 1588

Re the deceased of the above named, I have to inform you that the burial took place on 3-4-18, and was attended with full military honours. Pte Chilton now lies on the Australian Portion of the Soldier's Cemetery, Codford, St Mary. Pte Chilton was admitted to this Hospital on March 17th suffering from a bad cough and on the 25th it was found necessary to notify Australian Headquarters that he was seriously ill. His condition became worse and on the 29th March he was placed on the list of patients Dangerously Ill, and Australian Hqrs were informed accordingly. On the day following the Patient died from Heart Failure resulting Pneumonia.

Letter from :- O.C. No. 3 N.Z. General Hospital

Private Thomas W. Chilton stated on 24th April, 1917, that his Will was lodged with Mr Edwin Auton of 5 Raby Terrace, Darlington, Durham, England. A copy of his Will was included in his Service Record & he appointed Private Ewden Auton as his Executor. Private Chilton left £100 to Mrs Sarah Ellen Auton of Gilling Grange Cottage, Richmond, Yorkshire, England. (CWGC information shows this is Private Chilton's mother) & £100 & what money had been paid into his Bank account to Private Ewden Auton of 5 Raby Terrace, Darlington, Durham, England.

Private Thomas William Chilton was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private T. W. Chilton's mother – Mrs Sarah Eellen Auton in England in October 1922.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Thomas William Chilton – service number 1588, aged 29, of 53rd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Mrs Sarah Ellen Chilton.

** The second last paper in Private Thomas William Chilton's Service Record file is stamped "*More than One Period of Service*" & lists his details as:

A. 1529. Pte, Chilton, Thomas William 1st Battn

B. 1588. Pte Chilton, T.W. 53rd Battn

Above this, written in red is "Stated to be AUTON, John William". There is nothing else in Private Chilton's records that indicate the name John William Auton other than this one piece of paper.

Private T. W. Chilton (also known as John William Auton) is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 156.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



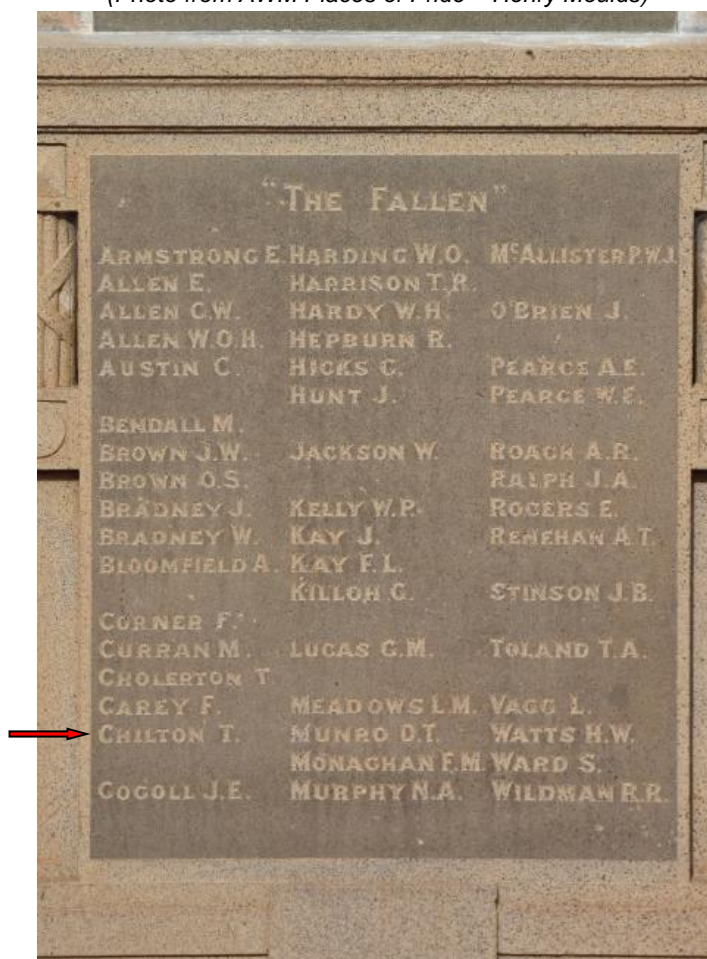
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

T. Chilton is also remembered on the Coolamon War Memorial, Cowabbie Street, Coolamon, NSW.

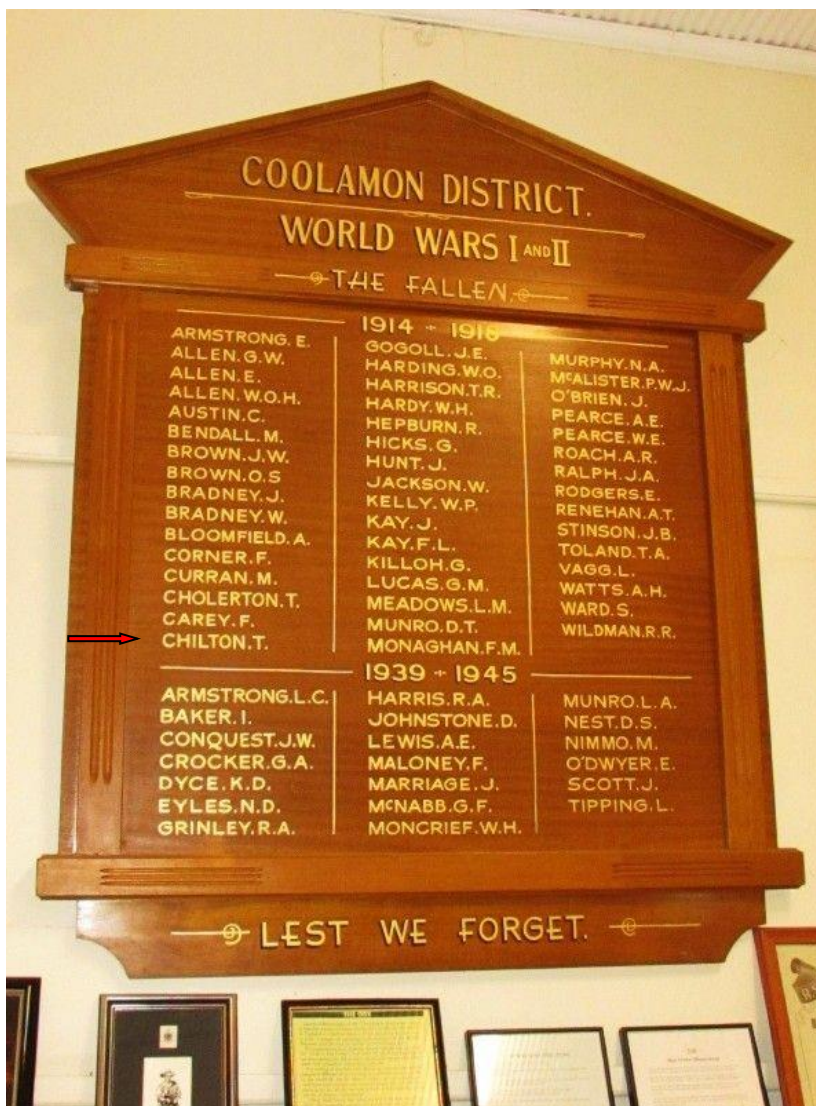


Coolamon War Memorial

(Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



T. Chilton is also remembered on the Coolamon District Honour Roll located inside Coolamon RSL Hall, Loughnan Street, Coolamon.



Coolamon District Honour Roll (Photo by Sandra Brown – Monument Australia)

(101 pages of Private Thomas William Chilton's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Newspaper Reports

398th CASUALTY LIST

New South Wales

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte. Thos. Wm. Chilton, England, 30/3/'18

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Tuesday 16th April, 1918)

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES, - Probate Jurisdiction – In the Estate of THOMAS WILLIAM CHILTON, late of Coolamon, in the State of New South Wales, and of the Australian Imperial Forces on active service, deceased. – Application will be made after fourteen days from the publication hereof, that administration with the Will annexed of the Estate of the abovenamed deceased may be granted to the PUBLIC TRUSTEE; and all persons having claims against the said Estate must render same in detail to the Public Trustee, on or before the 28th day of November, 1918. T. W. GARRETT, Public Trustee, Culwulla –chambers, Castlereagh –street, Sydney.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Saturday 26th October, 1918)

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 Codford 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)

Private T. W. Chilton does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

HE DIED THAT WE MIGHT LIVE

EVER REMEMBERED

BY HIS LOVING UNCLE,

AUNT AND COUSINS

St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England

The New Zealand Command Depot was established at Codford in June 1916 and the No 3 New Zealand General Hospital followed in July. The New Churchyard was established by deed of gift as the "Military Burial Ground," with a small part reserved for future burials from the parish. The war graves plot contains 98 burials, mostly of New Zealand and Australian forces. There is only one burial of the Second World War in the New Churchyard.

(Information from CWGC)

There are 31 WW1 Australian War Graves & 66 WW1 New Zealand War Graves located here. There is one WW1 British Royal Army Medical Corp Grave & one WW2 Welsh Guards grave located in this Churchyard.



St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford *(Photos courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*





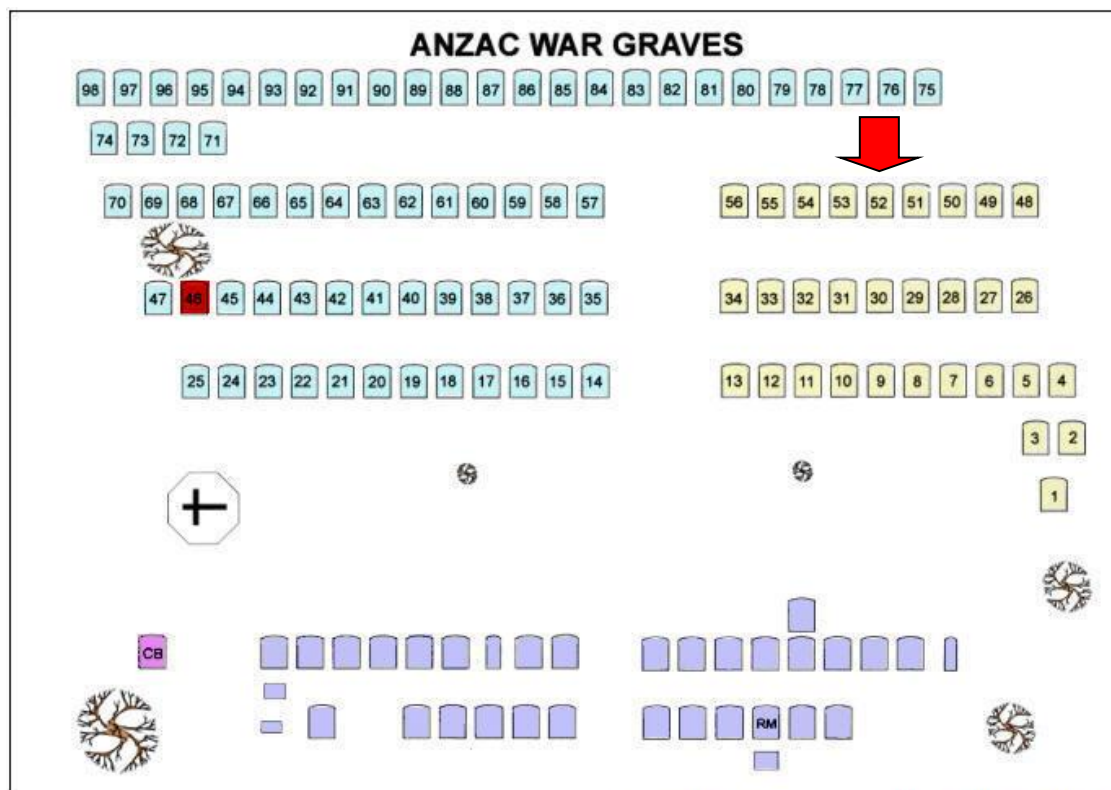
New Zealand Section of Codford Anzac War Graves Cemetery *(Photo by Romy Wyeth 2013)*

Photo of Private T. W. Chilton's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England. Also known as Codford Anzac War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)

Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Private T. W. Chilton is located in Main Third Row (Right Hand Side)
Grave Plot # 52 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (CWGC Reference - Grave # 95)



Codford War Graves map adapted from Brian Marshall
courtesy of Romy Wyeth