

# Baverstock War Graves



*Lest We Forget*

## World War 1



**2897 PRIVATE**

**S. H. ELPHICK**

**55TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**1st FEBRUARY, 1917    Age 23**

*To Live In Hearts*

*We Leave Behind*

*Is Not To Die*

## Stephen Henry ELPHICK

Stephen Henry Elphick was born at Tumut, New South Wales to parents Stephen H. & Elizabeth C. Elphick (nee Foster). His birth was registered in 1894 as Henry S. Elphick.

Stephen Henry Elphick was a 22 year old, single, Linesman from Tumut, NSW when he enlisted on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 1916 with the 55<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2897 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his Father – S. Elphick of Tumut, NSW.

Pte Stephen Henry Elphick embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Ascanius* (A11) on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1916. Pte Elphick had been admitted to the Ship's Hospital twice with influenza on the voyage over to England from 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November for 3 days and from 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> December, 1916 for 4 days.

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.

Private Stephen Henry Elphick was admitted sick to Hospital on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 from "C" Company, 14<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion, No. 11 & 12 Camps, Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Private Stephen Henry Elphick died at 4.30 p.m. on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1917 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire from Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Henry S. Elphick, aged 23, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Private Stephen Henry Elphick was buried in the churchyard of St. Edith's at Baverstock, Wiltshire on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

Private S. H. Elphick is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 160.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte Stephen Henry Elphick was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Elphick's father – Mr S. H. Elphick (January, 1922 & July, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Stephen Henry Elphick – service number 2897, as being 23 years old & served with 55th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Stephen Henry and Elizabeth Caroline Elphick, of Sydney Street, Newtown, Tumut, New South Wales.

A War Pension was granted to Mrs Elizabeth Caroline Elphick, mother of the late Pte Henry Stephen Elphick in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 13<sup>th</sup> April, 1917, amended to £1-10-0 per fortnight from 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 1918.

(44 pages of Pte Stephen Henry Elphick'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) & National Archives*



**Studio Portrait of Pte Stephen Henry Elphick**

## Newspaper Reports

### CHIEFLY PERSONAL

The friends of Trooper S. H. Elphick tendered him a send-off at the residence of his grandmother, Stony Creek, Tumut on the evening of the 1st October. About 80 guests were present for the occasion. Trooper Elphick was presented with a wristlet watch on behalf of the tennis players, a safety razor from his uncle, Mr Foster, a set of military brushes from his Newtown friends, and a neat prayer book from his grand-mother, Mrs Foster. Refreshments were supplied by the ladies. Trooper Elphick takes his departure to-day.

*(The Tumut Advocate and Farmers & Settlers' Adviser, NSW – Tuesday 3 October, 1916)*

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### SOUTHERN CASUALTIES

The 273<sup>rd</sup> casualty list issued yesterday contains the following southern names:-

Pte S. H. Elphick (Tumut), died of illness.

*(Young Witness, NSW – Tuesday 20 February, 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 St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock. 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 28<sup>th</sup> June, 1921, to Mr S. H. Elphick, Tumut, NSW advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription for the headstone of the late Pte \_\_\_\_\_ 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 S. H. Elphick does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*To Live In Hearts We Leave Behind Is Not To Die*

Photo of Pte S. H. Elphick's CWGC Headstone at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire.



*(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)*





**St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire.**

*(Photo from CWGC)*