

Baverstock War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4364 PRIVATE

ROBERT HUGH GREY

30TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

2nd MARCH, 1917 Age 30

I AND MY FATHER ARE ONE

JOHN 10.30

Robert Hugh GREY

Robert Hugh Grey was born on 31st October, 1886 at Glenmurray, Berry near Kangaroo Valley, NSW to parents Robert G. & Elizabeth Stuart McPherson Grey (nee Carter). He was a 29 year old, single, Farmer from Sherwood Creek, South Grafton, NSW when he enlisted on 18th August, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 30th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 4364 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Robert Grey of Sherwood Creek, South Grafton, NSW.

Pte Robert Hugh Grey embarked from Sydney on SS *Port Napier* on 17th November, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 29th January, 1917. Pte Grey had been admitted to the Ship's Hospital twice on the voyage over to England. He was admitted from 25th November – 6th December, 1916 with Measles & again from 21st – 23rd December, 1916 with Fevers & Cold.

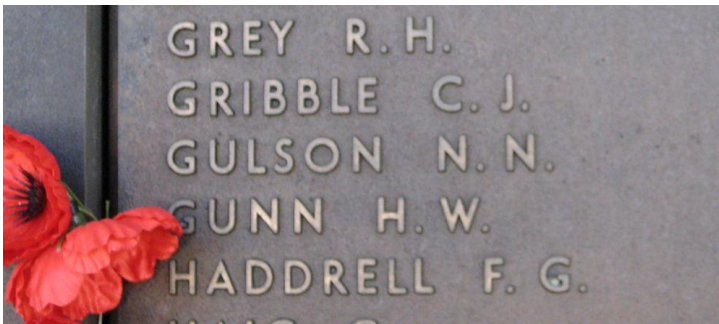
Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Robert Hugh Grey was admitted to Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire on 15th February, 1917, seriously ill with Influenza, from "C" Company, 8th Training Battalion, Hurdcott.

Private Robert Hugh Grey died at 10 p.m. on 2nd March, 1917 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire from Broncho-Pneumonia.

Private Robert Hugh Grey was buried in the churchyard of St. Edith's at Baverstock, Wiltshire on 6th March, 1917 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

Private R. H. Grey is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 117.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte Robert H. Grey is also remembered on the South Grafton Cenotaph which is located in a park at the corner of Skinner & Through Sts, South Grafton, NSW.



South Grafton Cenotaph

(Photo from Register of War Memorials NSW – Peter Hay, Clarence Valley Council)

Pte Robert Hugh Grey was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Grey's father – Mr Robert Grey (January, 1922 & August, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Robert Hugh Grey – service number 4364, as being 30 years old & served with 30th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Robert and Elizabeth Stuart McPherson Grey, of Sherwood Creek, Halfway Creek, South Grafton, New South Wales. Born at Kangaroo Valley, New South Wales.

A War Pension was granted to Eliz. Stuart M. Grey, mother of late Pte R. H. Grey in the sum of £2 per fortnight, granted from 8th May, 1917.

A letter dated 8th April, 1918 to Base Records from Robert Grey, father of late Pte R. H. Grey, in reply to receiving a photo of his son's grave, thanks those concerned in sending the photos "of my son's grave who was buried in Baverstock Churchyard in France. How nicely the grave is kept, and such beautiful flowers there are on itit has troubled me to think that my son died so far away from his home and also buried in a strange country."

(58 pages of Pte Robert Hugh Grey'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



Newspaper Reports

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES – 280th LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

R. H. Grey, South Grafton, NSW 2/3/17

(*The Queenslander*, Brisbane – Saturday 24 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 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 28th June, 1921, to Mr R. Grey advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription for the headstone of the late Pte R. H. Grey 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. A previous letter from Base Records had indicated that the inscription that had been chosen exceeded the limit imposed by the Imperial War Graves Commission.

Pte Robert Hugh Grey does have a personal inscription on his headstone, however he does not have the Christian Cross.

I And My Father Are One. John 10. 30



St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire. (*Photo from CWGC*)

Photo of Pte Robert Hugh Grey's CWGC Headstone at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)