# Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire, England - War Graves World War 1



Lest We Forget



891 PRIVATE

M. MONTGOMERY

**40TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.** 

**27TH JANUARY, 1917** 

Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte M. Montgomery is located in Grave Plot # 164
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery

# Michael MONTGOMERY

Michael Montgomery was born at Runnymede, Tasmania on 30th July, 1887 to parents Hugh and Catherine Montgomery (nee McCarthy). His birth was registered in Richmond, Tasmania.

Hugh Montgomery, father of Michael Montgomery, died on 21st September, 1901 at Sorell, Tasmania, aged 58.

Catherine Montgomery, mother of Michael Montgomery, died on 11th February, 1913 at Richmond, Tasmania, aged 75. Both parents were buried in St. John's Church Cemetery, Richmond, Tasmania.

Michael Montgomery was a 28 year old, single, Farmer from Buckland, Tasmania when he enlisted on 7th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his brother - Joseph Montgomery of Buckland, Tasmania.

Private Michael Montgomery, Service number 891, embarked from Hobart, Tasmania on HMAT *Berrima (A35)* on 1st July, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Brigade, 40th Infantry Battalion, "D" Company & disembarked at Devonport, England on 22nd August, 1916.

# 40th Battalion

The 3rd Division was raised in Australia early in 1916. The 40th Battalion was Tasmania's contribution to the strength of the division and it joined the Victorian-raised 37th, 38th and 39th Battalions to form the 10th Brigade.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

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 Michael Montgomery was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 13th November, 1916. He was admitted to Military Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire on 26th January, 1916 with Tuberculosis.

Private Michael Montgomery died at 5.45 p.m. on 27th January, 1916 at Military Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire from (1) Syphilis Tubercular, (2) Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Michael Montgomery, aged 28, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire, England.

Private Michael Montgomery was buried on 29th January, 1916 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number 164 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Michael Montgomery 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 Private Montgomery's eldest brother – Mr Joseph Montgomery (sent August, 1922 & September, 1922) as both parents were deceased.

A letter had previously been sent to Mr Joseph Montgomery, from Base Records, dated 1st August, 1922, stating that they had previously written asking for the name & address of the eldest surviving brother & no reply had been received. The matter was being held open for 21 days & if no reply had still not been received the War Medal etc. belonging to Late Private Montgomery would be sent to Untraceables section. Mr Joseph Montgomery replied a fortnight later stating he had previously replied & that he was the eldest surviving brother.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Michael Montgomery – service number 891, of 40th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Hugh and Bridget Montgomery. Born at Runnymede, Tasmania.

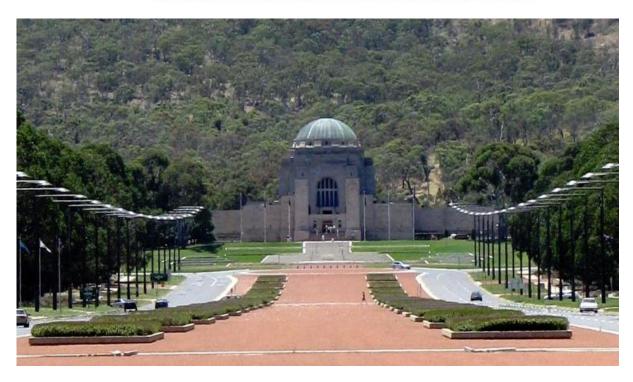
Private M. Montgomery is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 133.



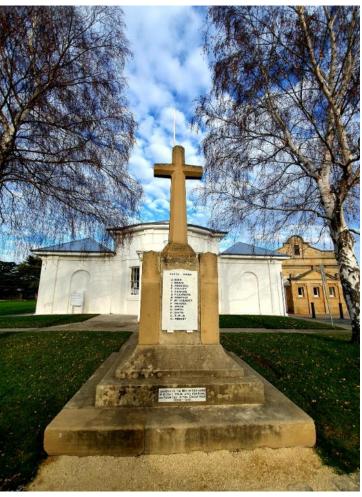
(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



M. Montgomery is remembered on the Richmond War Memorial, located in front of the Old Town Hall, Bridge Street, Richmond, Tasmania.



Richmond War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride: Greg Scott (above) & Arthur Garland (below)



M. Montgomery is remembered on the Municipality of Richmond Roll of Honour, located in Old Richmond Town Hall, Bridge Street, Richmond, Tasmania.



Municipality of Richmond Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

Michael Montgomery is remembered on the Wall of Remembrance, at the War Memorial, Cecilia Street, St. Helens, Tasmania. The Wall of Remembrance commemorates those from Tasmania who died in service or were killed in action in World War One.

# **Front Inscription**

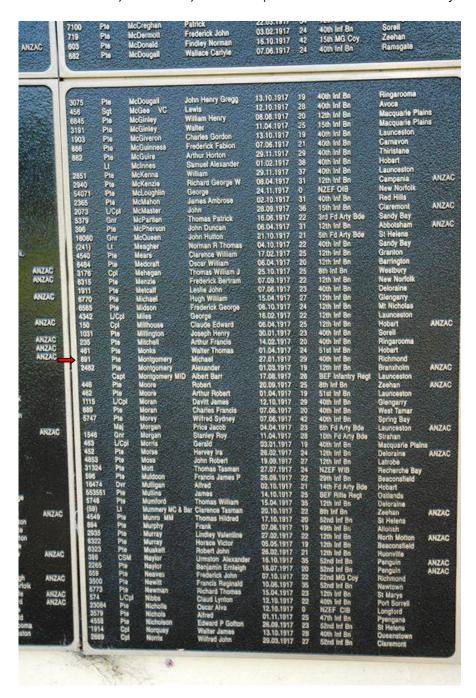
Tasmania's World War One Roll of Honour, 1914 - 1918

The names of 3165 soldiers, sailors and airmen who were Tasmanian by birth or residence and died from their service in WW1 are commemorated on these walls. Their names appear alphabetically, grouped by the year of death. These men served with Australian, New Zealand and British units.

"What these men did nothing can alter now. The good and the bad, the greatness and the smallness of their story will stand. Whatever of glory it contains nothing now can lessen. It rises, as it will always rise, above the mists of ages, a monument to great hearted men; and for their nation, a possession forever."



Wall of Remembrance, St. Helens, Tasmania (Photo from Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



(43 pages of Private Michael Montgomery'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



# **Newspaper Reports**

**ROLL OF HONOUR - CASUALTY LIST - No. 271** 

**TASMANIAN CASUALTIES** 

Died (Cause Not Stated)

Pte M. Montgomery (Buckland) 27/1/17

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – Friday 9 February, 1917)

# **TASMANIAN CASUALTIES**

In the 272nd casualty list published last Thursday, appeared the name of Private M. Montgomery, followed by the sad intelligence that he had died of illness on January 27. Private Montgomery was a native of Runnymede, and joined the A.I.F. early last year, leaving Tasmania on July 2. He was a prominent member of the Runnymede Football Club in Hodgson trophy matches, and an athlete of no mean order. He also played for the local club in the White trophy competition. On July 31, 1909, against Nugent, for the Hodgson trophy, he played a great game, and, during the last quarter is one of the best football contests ever witnessed on the Runnymede recreation ground, was one of the most prominent men on the field. As an athlete his best performance was at the Runnymede Athletic Club's sports meeting on March 19, 1910, when he won the Sheffield Handicap (130yds.), and District race (180yds.), was second in the quarter-mile and Dr. Clark's Handicap (130 yds.), and tied for second place, in the high jump.

(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – 21 February, 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)

Private M. Montgomery does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

© Cathy Sedgwick 2014

# **Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire, England**

Durrington Cemetery contains burials of both wars. The 204 First World War burials were mostly from nearby Larkhill Camp. Many of the graves are of Australian servicemen and there is a separate Australian memorial in the cemetery. The Second World War burials number 22. In addition to the war graves, there are a number of post-war service graves in the cemetery, mostly of the Royal Air Force.

(Information from CWGC)



**Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire** (Photo by Dave Healing 2013; below from CWGC)



Photo of Private M. Montgomery's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo © lan King - with permission)