

Baverstock War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2974 PRIVATE

P. REIDY

served as

P. WILSON

58TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

2nd FEBRUARY, 1918 Age 36

Patrick REIDY (served as Patrick Wilson)

Patrick Reidy was born at Buninyong, near Ballarat, Victoria on 16th September, 1883 to parents Andrew & Mary Reidy (nee Breen).

Patrick Reidy was a 31 year old, single, Labourer when he enlisted on 2nd March, 1915 at Liverpool, New South Wales with the 19th Battalion of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his brother – Thomas Reidy of Leigh Creek Post Office, Ballarat, Victoria (Both parents were deceased). Patrick Reidy was discharged on 6th April, 1915 as Medically unfit. He had served 41 days in Camp with “D” Company, 19th Battalion.

Patrick Reidy re-enlisted on 17th July, 1915 with the 30th Battalion at Liverpool, NSW. He gave his birthplace as Greville, Ballarat, Victoria. Patrick did list that he had previously served with 19th Battalion but was discharged as medically unfit. Pte P. Reidy was discharged “Unlikely to become an efficient soldier”. He had served 65 days in Camp with the 1st Reinforcements 30th Battalion.

Patrick Reidy re-enlisted again on 1st November, 1915 at Cootamundra, NSW. He stated he was born at Ballarat on 16th September, 1883. Patrick Reidy was discharged on 8th December, 1915 “Unlikely to become an efficient soldier”.

Patrick re-enlisted again on 5th September, 1916 at Moore Park, NSW but this time as Patrick Wilson, aged 31 years & 11 months, born at Ballarat. His next of kin was listed as his sister Annie Hayes. He was attached to 58th Battalion, 7th Reinforcements. His service number of 39652 was changed to 2974.

Pte Patrick Wilson embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Afric (A19)* on 3rd November, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th January, 1917. Pte Wilson was written up for being Absent without Leave whilst on Troopship (stopover) from 11 p.m. on 27th November, 1916 until 2.30 a.m. on 29th November, 1916 for drunkenness. He was awarded 10 day detention & fined a total of 13 days pay plus 5/-.

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 Patrick Wilson was marched in to 15th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire from Australia on 10th January, 1917. He proceeded overseas to France from 15th Training Battalion, via Folkestone on 20th March, 1917 & was taken on strength In the Field in France from 5th D. B. D. on 26th March, 1917.

Pte Patrick Wilson was Wounded in Action on 12th May, 1917 at Bullecourt in France with a gunshot wound to right leg (calf & muscle wound) & left shoulder. He embarked from Calais, France on H.S. (Hospital Ship) *Newhaven* for England on 18th May, 1917 & admitted to Horton County of London War Hospital at Epsom. On 6th September, 1917 Pte Wilson was transferred to Gorton War Hospital at Epsom.

Pte Wilson was granted furlo from 20th September, 1917 until 4th October, 1917. Pte Wilson was marched in from Admin. Headquarters, London to No. 4 Command Depot at Weymouth on 4th October, 1917. He was transferred to No. 2 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 19th November, 1917.

Private Patrick Wilson was sent sick with Influenza on 16th January, 1918 & admitted to Fovant Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 17th January, 1918, seriously ill with Pneumonia.

Private Patrick Wilson died on 2nd February, 1918 at Military Hospital, Fovant Wiltshire from Pneumonia.

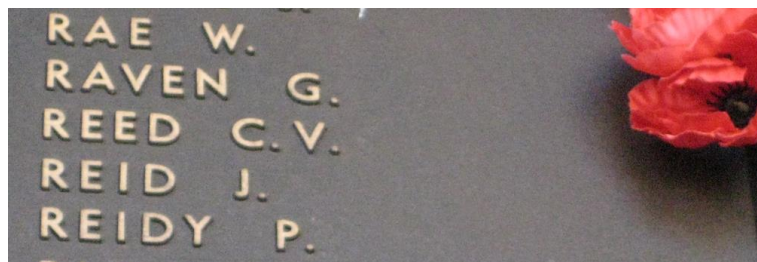
Private Patrick Wilson was buried in the churchyard of St. Edith's at Baverstock, Wiltshire on 5th February, 1918 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

From the burial report of Pte P. Wilson – “*The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, the coffin being of polished elm, Chaplain J. Fahey D.S.O. officiating.*”

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Pte Patrick Wilson 2974 (Pte Patrick Reidy) contains the following letter from Military Hospital at Fovant:

“Re: Pte P. Wilson. I can give you the following particulars. He was admitted into this Hospital on the 16-1-18 with Pneumonia. He was complaining of pain in the chest and had a most distressing cough. On the 22nd the patient became delirious and exhausted remaining in this condition for 3 days. On the 25th he appeared to improve, but on the 27th he became worse and died on the 2-2-18 at 1 a.m. in the early morning. Everything possible was done for him but without avail.”

Private P. Reidy, who served as Pte P. Wilson, is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 166 under his real name.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

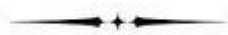
According to Communications dated 23rd August, 1921, between Base Records, Melbourne & District Finance Office the late Pte Wilson had “nominated Mr W. Cutcheon (friend) of 229 Barcom Avenue, Darlinghurst, NSW as Next-of-kin. The balance of military moneys due to his estate was paid to Miss A. Reidy (sister) on 6th January, 1919. A Claim for War Gratuity by Miss Reidy was rejected. All letters held here written by the late soldier were forwarded to Messrs Pearson & Mann, Solicitors, Ballarat Victoria on 23rd December, 1918.” Mr W. McCutcheon received the personal effects of the late Pte Wilson. He had also enquired as to the location of a Will.

Pte Patrick Wilson was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Wilson's sister – Annie Reidy (sent November, 1921 & August, 1922). On his Attestation Papers for his last enlistment Pte Wilson had nominated his sister “Annie Hayes” as his next-of-kin. A letter by Miss Annie Reidy explains that at the time of her brother enlisting she was engaged to be married & her brother thought that if he died his sister would have been married – hence the use of Annie Hayes but unfortunately the engagement was ended so she was still Annie Reidy. Annie Reidy did explain in a letter dated 28th September, 1921 that there was an older sister – Mary McDonald who had married & moved to Western Australia before Patrick was born & had told Annie that she would leave all Patrick's belongings to Annie & not to bother her as she had a family of thirteen children, was in bad health, had five sons at the War & her husband had died.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Patrick Reidy (served as WILSON) – service number 2974, as being 36 years old & served with 58th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Andrew and Mary Reidy. Born at Bungaree, Victoria.

(132 pages of Pte Patrick Wilson'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

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

Private P. Wilson has been reported as a casualty. Letters concerning him addressed to Mr. McCutcheon, 42 Flinders-street. Darlinghurst, having been returned unclaimed to the military authorities, he is requested to communicate with Mr. Bruncker, Victoria Barracks, Paddington.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Tuesday 19 February, 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 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 W. McCutcheon (listed as next-of-kin friend) advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription for the headstone of the late Pte P. Wilson 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. Mr McCutcheon, in a letter dated 21st June, 1921, advised Base Records that he was not a blood relative to the late Pte P. Wilson.

Pte P. Reidy served as P. Wilson does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte P. Reidy served as P. Wilson'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)