

Baverstock War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2582 LANCE CORPORAL

T. ROACH

36TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

21st JANUARY, 1918 Age 30

Rest In Peace

Thomas ROACH

Thomas Roach was born at Myalla, near Cooma, New South Wales in 1887 to parents Thomas & Mary A. Roach (nee Mulhern). A marriage was registered in the district of Temora in 1911 between Thomas Roach & Ida M. Hillard. A birth was registered in the district of Lockhart, NSW in 1912 for Vera M. Roach – parents Thomas & Ida M. Roach.

Thomas was a 29 year old, married Railway Fittler from Culcairn, NSW when he enlisted at Cootamundra on 3rd August, 1916 with the 36th Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2582 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Ida May Roach of Culcairn.

Pte Thomas Roach embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Benalla* (A24) on 9th November, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 9th January, 1917.

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 Thomas Roach was marched in to 9th Training Battalion at Durrington Camp, Wiltshire from Australia on 9th January, 1917.

Pte Thomas Roach was admitted sick to Fargo Hospital on 26th January, 1917 from 9th Training Battalion at Durrington Camp & discharged from Fargo Hospital on 12th February, 1917.

Pte Thomas Roach proceeded from Folkestone for Overseas to France on 28th March, 1917.

Pte Thomas Roach was marched in to Etaples on 29th March, 1917 & marched out to his unit on 31st March, 1917.

Pte Thomas Roach was detached to A. P. M. (traffic control) on 26th May, 1917 & rejoined his unit in Belgium from Police Duty on 12th June, 1917.

Pte Thomas Roach was sent sick to Hospital in Belgium on 25th June, 1917 & admitted on 26th June, 1917 with a cut finger. He was discharged to duty on 4th July, 1917 & rejoined his Unit in Belgium on 6th July, 1917.

Pte Thomas Roach was admitted to Hospital with Influenza on 26th July, 1917 & rejoined his Unit on 30th July, 1918.

Pte Thomas Roach of 36th Battalion was promoted to Lance Corporal on 21st August, 1917.

Lance Cpl. Thomas Roach was Wounded in Action in Belgium with a Gunshot wound to left thigh on 1st October, 1917. He was transferred through several Clearing Stations & Hospitals before being invalided back to England on 5th October, 1917 on Hospital Ship *St. Denis*. He was admitted to Whipps Cross Hospital at Leytonstone.

Lance Cpl. Thomas Roach was granted furlo from 28th November, 1917 to 12th December, 1917 where he was to report to No. 3 Command Depot.

Lance Cpl. Thomas Roach was admitted to Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire seriously ill on 16th January, 1918.

Lance Cpl. Thomas Roach died at 3.30 p.m. on 21st January, 1918 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire from Pneumonia.

A death for Thomas Roach, aged 30, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Lance Cpl. Thomas Roach was buried on 24th January, 1918 in the churchyard of St. Edith's at Baverstock, Wiltshire and has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

From the burial report of Lance Cpl Thomas Roach – *The deceased soldier was buried with Military Honours. The Coffin was of polished Elm.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Pte T. Roach contains the following letter regarding his death from Military Hospital, Fovant:

“Re Pte Roach. I beg to say I wrote to his friends just after his death – giving them what particulars I could. He was admitted into hospital on the 15.1.18 complaining of pain in the chest and head, he was very ill on admission and from the first we had little hope of his recovery. He died on the 21st Jan. of Pneumonia.”

Lance Cpl. Thomas Roach was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Cpl. Roach's widow – Mrs Ida M. Roach (sent December, 1921 & October, 1922)

Ida May Roach remarried in 1923 to William C. Lilford. The marriage was registered in the district of Holbrook, NSW.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Thomas Roach – service number 2582, as being 30 years old & served with 36th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Thomas and Mary Roach; husband of Ida May Roach, of Culcairn, New South Wales. Born at Myalla, New South Wales.

A War Pension was granted to Ida May Roach, widow of late Lance Cpl. Thomas Roach in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 24th March, 1918. A War Pension was also granted to Vera May Roach, daughter of late Lance Cpl. Thomas Roach in the sum of £1 per fortnight from 24th March, 1918.

Lance Cpl T. Roach is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 127.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Thomas Roach is also remembered at the Cooma Monaghan Hayes Place Memorial located at corner of Massie & Vale Sts, Cooma, New South Wales – on the John Mack Memorial Wall.



Cooma Monaghan Hayes Place Memorial

Top – Monaghan Hayes Memorial Place

Left – John Mack memorial Wall where Brothers William & Thomas Roach are remembered

(59 pages of Lance Cpl. Thomas Roach'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



****Brothers of Lance Cpl. Thomas Roach - Matthew & William Roach both died of wounds.**

Gunner William Roach 28176 – 5th Brigade Australian Field Artillery died 9th October, 1918 & is buried in Tincourt New British Cemetery, France.

Corporal Matthew Roach 494 – 25th Battalion A.I.F. died 4th August, 1916. Buried in Puchevillers British Cemetery, France.



Newspaper Reports

LATE DISTRICT NEWS – CULCAIRN

.... A social evening and presentation was tendered Lance-Corporal R. Lowe and Private T. Roach at the residence of Mr B. G. Odewahn. Both were on final leave. Mr H. J. Moss presided, and presented R. Lowe with a shaving set and pocket wallet and T. Roach with a case of pipes and a pouch. A very pleasant evening was spent. Mr H. Prescott acted as organiser.

(Albury Banner and Wodonga Express, NSW – Friday 17 February, 1916)

WAR CASUALTIES

NEW SOUTH WALES LOSSES – 382nd LIST

Died of Illness

Pte T. Roach (Culcairn) 21/1/1918

(Evening News, Sydney, NSW – Saturday 9 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)

Lance Cpl. T. Roach does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Rest In Peace



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

Photo of Lance Cpl. T. Roach's CWGC Headstone at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)