

Codford War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1

13132 RIFLEMAN

T. TELFORD

N.Z. RIFLE BRIGADE

2ND FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 44



Thomas TELFORD

Thomas Telford's birth was registered in 1874 in Bacchus Marsh, Victoria, Australia, the son of James & Mary Telford (nee Rodgers). His date of birth on his New Zealand Attestation Papers was stated to be 31st July, 1873.

Thomas Telford stated he was a 42 year old, single, Bushman from Wanganui, New Zealand when he enlisted on 18th January, 1916 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His service number was 13132 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Mr W. Telford of Bacchus Marsh, Victoria, Australia.

Rifleman Thomas Telford embarked with 3rd Reinforcements to 3rd Battalion, G. Company of New Zealand Rifle Brigade from Wellington, New Zealand on 6th May, 1916 on HMNZT (53) *Navua*. Three ships had embarked that day carrying a total of 2,557 men. He disembarked at Suez on 22nd June, 1916.

Rifleman Thomas Telford embarked on the *Ivernia* for Overseas from Alexandria, Egypt on 26th July, 1916. He disembarked at Southampton, England on 7th August, 1916.

On 20th August, 1916 Rifleman Telford left Sling Army Camp, Wiltshire, England for France. He was marched in at Etaples, France on 21st August, 1916 & posted to B Company of 3/3 New Zealand Rifle Brigade in the Field on 14th September, 1916. Rifleman Telford was wounded in action the next day – 15th September, 1916. Rifleman Telford was admitted to 3rd Northern Field Ambulance on 23rd September with Gunshot & shrapnel wounds to left leg & then transferred the same day to 13th Casualty Clearing Station.

Rifleman Thomas Telford embarked for England from Rouen, France on 28th September, 1916 on *Panama*.

Rifleman Thomas Telford was admitted to 3rd Southern General Hospital, England on 30th September, 1916. He was transferred to the Hospital at Hornchurch on 8th December, 1916.

Rifleman Telford was on Leave from 16th January, 1917 until 31st January, 1917.

Rifleman Telford was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire on 1st February, 1917 with Pneumonia – seriously ill.

Rifleman Thomas Telford died on 2nd February, 1917 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire of Pneumonia.

A death for Thomas Telford, aged 43, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Rifleman Thomas Telford was buried at St. Mary's New Cemetery, Codford on 6th February, 1917.

Rifleman Thomas Telford was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal as he had entered a Theatre of War – Western Europe 1916. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Rifleman Telford's brother – Mr William Telford (October, 1921 & February, 1922).

The CWGC lists Rifleman Thomas Telford, 13132, as the son of James & Mary Telford of Bacchus Marsh, Victoria, Australia.

(19 pages of Rifleman Thomas Telford's Service records are available for On Line viewing at Archives New Zealand website).

Information obtained from the Archives New Zealand, Auckland War Memorial Museum, Commonwealth War Graves Commission & PapersPast, National Library of New Zealand.



Newspaper Reports

DOMINION HEROES

DIED OF DISEASE

Telford, Thomas, Rifle Brigade, Feb. 2 – W. Telford, Victoria (brother)

(Auckland Star, New Zealand, Volume XLVIII , Issue 33, 7 February, 1917)

DEATHS – On Active Service

Telford – On 2nd Feb., at 3rd Southern General Hospital, England, from effects of wounds and pneumonia, Thomas, beloved brother of Mrs P. Pigott, Mrs B. Pigott, William and Eileen. R.I.P.

(The Bacchus Marsh Express, Victoria, Australia – Saturday 10 February, 1917)

Rifleman Thomas Telford has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone. None of the New Zealand CWGC headstones at Codford have a personal inscription.

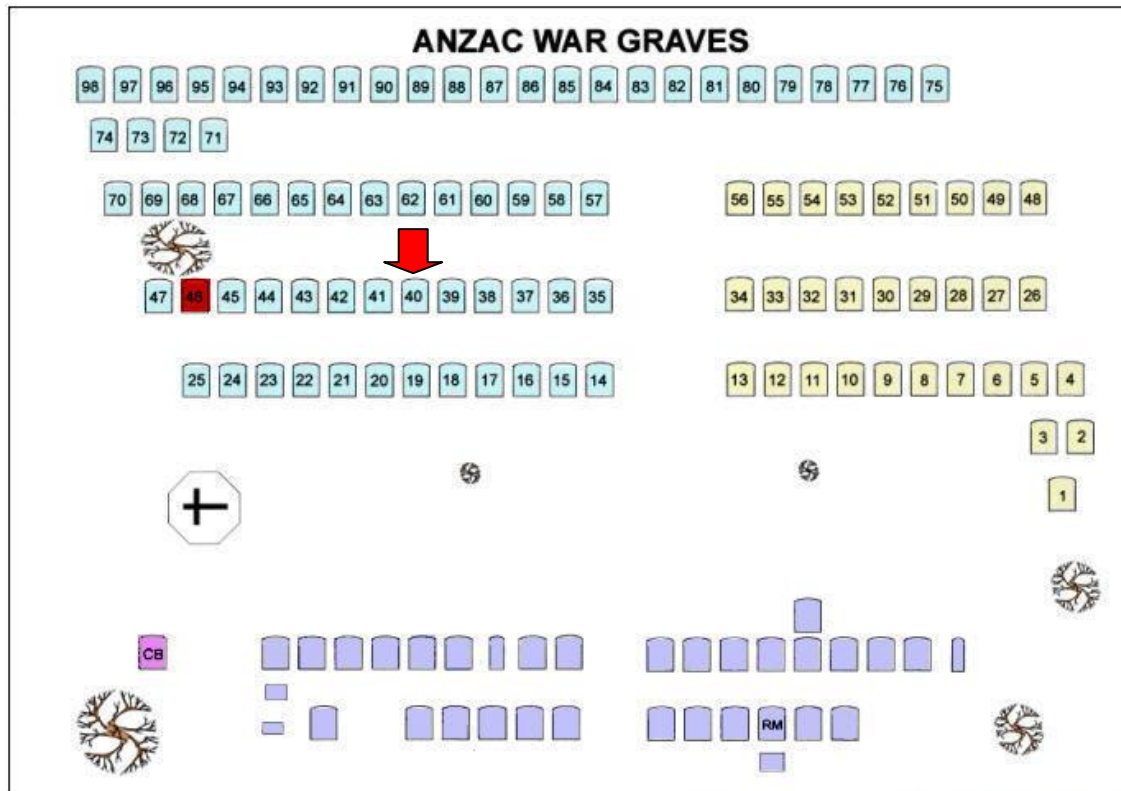
Photos of Rifleman T. Telford's Headstone at Codford Anzac War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Headstone Photos courtesy of Romy Wyeth)



Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Rifleman T. Telford is located in Second Row (Left Hand Side) Grave Plot # 40 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (CWGC Reference - Grave # 32)



- Australian Soldiers
- Welsh Soldier
- New Zealand Soldiers
- UK Soldier
- Local Burials

Codford War Graves map adapted from Brian Marshall courtesy of Romy Wyeth



New Zealand Section of Codford Anzac War Graves Cemetery (Photo by Romy Wyeth 2013)