Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire

War Graves

Lest We Forget

World War 1

1424 PRIVATE

S. TREGURTHA

11TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

22ND AUGUST, 1915 Age 25

© Cathy Sedgwick 2016
Speedwell TREGURTHA

Thomas Fabian Speedwell Tregurtha was born at Ballarat East, Victoria in 1888 to parents Thomas & Madeline Tregurtha (nee Daniel). Apparently the name “Speedwell” came from the Speedwell gold mine that Thomas Tregurtha used to manage in the 1880’s.

A death was registered in 1905 for Madeline Tregurtha, mother of Thomas Fabian Speedwell Tregurtha. Madeline Tregurtha died on 22nd September, 1905.

Speedwell Tregurtha attended Golden Point State School & Ballarat College.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Kalgoorlie, subdivision of Boulder recorded Thomas Fabian Speedwell Tregurtha, Miner, of 7 Dwyer St.

Speedwell Tregurtha was a 25 year old, single, Miner when he enlisted at Black Boy Camp, Western Australia on 16th November, 1914 with the 11th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1424 & his religion was Wesleyan. His next of kin was listed as his father - Thomas Tregurtha, of Dunn Street, Golden Point, Ballarat, Victoria.

Private Speedwell Tregurtha was posted to Depot Company from 16th November, 1914 to 1st January, 1915.

Private Speedwell Tregurtha embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT Itonus (A50) on 22nd February, 1915.

Private Speedwell Tregurtha was taken on strength with 11th Battalion from Reinforcements on 28th April, 1915 at the Dardanelles.

11th Australian Infantry Battalion

The 11th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. It was the first battalion recruited in Western Australia, and with the 9th, 10th and 12th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade.

The battalion was raised within weeks of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked for overseas after just two weeks of preliminary training. It arrived in Egypt to continue its training in early December. The 3rd Brigade was the covering force for the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 and so was the first ashore at around 4:30 am. Ten days after the landing, a company from the 11th Battalion mounted the AIF’s first raid of the war against Turkish positions at Gaba Tepe. Subsequently, the battalion was heavily involved in defending the front line of the ANZAC beachhead. In August, it made preparatory attacks at the southern end of the ANZAC position before the battle of Lone Pine. The 11th Battalion continued to serve at ANZAC until the evacuation in December.

(Information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Speedwell Tregurtha was wounded in action on 14th May, 1915. He was admitted to the Hospital Ship Gascon with a gunshot wound to right leg & compound fracture of femur. Pte Tregurtha was admitted to 15th General Hospital at Alexandria on 20th May, 1915. Pte Tregurtha’s Casualty Form – Active Service also records he was admitted to Reception Hospital at Mustapha on 20th May, 1915 & also admitted to 17th General Hospital at Alexandria on 20th May, 1915. Pte Tregurtha was invalided to England on 18th June, 1915 on Hospital Ship Nevasa.

Private Speedwell Tregurtha died on 22nd August, 1915 at East Manchester Royal Infirmary, England from wounds received in action at Gallipoli Peninsula – shrapnel wound to thigh.

A death for Speedwell Tregathe, aged 25, was registered in the September quarter, 1915 in the district of Chorlton, Lancashire, England.
Private Speedwell Tregurtha was buried on 25th August, 1915 in Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England – Plot number 391.

A letter was sent to Mr T. Tregurtha, of North Creswick, Victoria, dated 29th May which reads:

“With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your son, the late No. 1424, Private S. Tregurtha, 11th Battalion, I am now in receipt of advice from Australian Imperial Force Headquarters, London, dated 21st February, 1919, as follows:-

- “In the Southern Cemetery at Manchester there were buried in common graves nine deceased members of the Australian Imperial Force. The remains of these have now been exhumed from the common graves and in each case have been re-interred in separate single graves in virgin soil in a site specially set aside as an Australian plot. The work was successfully carried out last week under the supervision of a senior Non-commissioned Officer from these Headquarters, and the new graves have since been marked by the provision of the standard oak cross enamelled white with black lettering. Photographs of the new graves will be taken at an early date and sent to you for transmission to the next-of-kin."

Your son is now buried in Grave No. 175, Section Q.”

Pte S. Tregurtha requested in his Will that in the event of his death “I give the whole of property and effects to T. Tregurtha, Summ St., Ballarat” – his father.

A War Pension was granted to Thomas Tregurtha (C/- Mrs Floyd, 8 Dunn St., Ballarat), father of the late Pte Thomas Fabian Speedwell Tregurtha, No. 1424, 2nd Reinforcements, 11th Battalion, in the sum of £26 per annum from 2nd August, 1915. This amount was reduced from £ to 15/- per fortnight from 26th April, 1917.

Pte Speedwell Tregurtha was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Tregurtha's father – Mr Thomas Tregurtha, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent February, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Speedwell Tregurtha – service number 1424, aged 25, of 11th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Thomas and Madeline Tregurtha, of “Zennor”, Mervyn St., Chilwell, Geelong, Victoria, Australia. Born at Ballarat East.

Mr Mark Victor Tregurtha, of 32 Hotham Street, Preston, Melbourne, Victoria, brother of late Speedwell Tregurtha, wrote to Central Army Records Office in June, 1967 to apply for the Gallipoli Commemorative Medal and Lapel Badge in respect of his brother’s service & who was wounded at Gallipoli. Mr M. V. Tregurtha stated he was the only living relative.

Private S. Tregurtha is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 64.
T. F. Tregurtha & his brother M. V. Tregurtha, are both named on the Ballarat Memorial Wall & Rotunda located at Sturt Street and Learmonth Avenue, Ballarat, Victoria.
T. F. S. Tregurtha is also remembered on the Ballarat Avenue of Honour (1917-1919) where almost 4,000 trees were planted to represent the number of men and women from the Ballarat district who served in World War 1. The trees were planted at intervals of 12 metres along 22 kms of the Ballarat-Burrembbeet Road. Tree No. 2607 is in memory of T. F. S. Tregurtha. It was planted on 20th July, 1918 by Cr. F. Stapley, Lord Mayor. Tree No. 2609 was planted for M. V. Tregurtha, his brother, of 5th Pioneers, on the same day by Ald. W. W. Cabena.

Ballarat Avenue of Honour - Panel with names in alphabetical order

(Photos courtesy of Carol's Headstones/War Memorials)

© Cathy Sedgwick 2016
Ballarat Avenue of Honour - Panel with names in tree order
S. F. T. Tregurtha is named on the Magpie State School Honour Roll for the First World War which is located at Magpie Public School, 61 Dowcra Street, Magpie, Ballarat City, Victoria.

Magpie State School Honour Roll  *(Photo from Monument Australia – Tim Fitzgerald)*

(60 pages of Pte Speedwell Tregurtha’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 Notices

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

58th CASUALTY LIST

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WOUNDED

S. Tregurtha

(Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria – 2 August, 1915)

DEATHS

On Active Service

TREGURTHA – Died in the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, England of wounds received at the Dardanelles, Private Thomas Fabian Speedwell Tregurtha, elder son of Thomas Tregurtha, Ballarat; only brother of Mark Victor Tregurtha, military training camp, Seymour; grandson of Mrs Mark Daniel, Geelong; nephew of Emily Eltis, Chewton; loved cousin of Madeline Archbold and Mervyn Eltis; aged 27.

Our brave “Speed.”

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 August, 1915)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

SEVENTY-FIRST CASUALTY LIST

DEATHS

S. Tregurtha, 11th Battalion (Ballarat, Victoria), died of wounds at Manchester Royal Infirmary, previously reported wounded.

(Western Mail, Perth, W.A. – 3 September, 1915)

KILLED IN ACTION

TREGURTHA – Private Thomas Fabian Speedwell Tregurtha, of 2nd Reinforcements, 11th Battalion, 3rd Brigade (Western Australia), A.I.F., died at Royal Infirmary, Manchester, in August, 1915, from wounds received at Dardanelles on May 9, 1915; elder son of Thomas Tregurtha, Ballarat; only brother of Mark Victor Tregurtha, military training camp, Seymour; grandson of Mrs Mark Daniel, Geelong; nephew of Emily Eltis, Chewton; loved cousin of Madeline B. C. Archbold (Chewton) and Mervyn Eltis.

Our brave “Speed.”

His was the will to do, the soul to dare

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 4 September, 1915)
Pte T. F. Speedwell Tregurtha is remembered on the family headstone in Geelong Eastern Cemetery, East Geelong, Victoria. The headstone is of his maternal grandparents – Mark & Jane Daniel, their daughter & Speedwell’s mother – Madeline Tregurtha (nee Daniel), then Speedwell Tregurtha & Thomas Tregurtha his father.

And Our Loved Son

**Pte. T. F. Speedwll Tregurtha**

11th Batt. A.I.F.

*Died of Wounds received at Gallipoli.*

22nd August 1915

Aged 27 Years
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. 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)*

Pte S. Tregurtha does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England

During the First World War, Manchester contained between thirty and forty war hospitals, including the 2nd Western General Hospital and the Nell Lane Military Hospital for prisoners of war. Many of those buried in the cemeteries and churchyards of the city died in these hospitals. During the Second World War, there was a Royal Air Force Station at Heaton Park, Manchester.

Manchester Southern Cemetery contains burials of both wars, the majority of them scattered. There are also separate plots for First and Second World War burials, but in neither case are the graves marked individually; instead, each plot has a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried there. Each plot has a Cross of Sacrifice. In all, 803 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War, including 1 unidentified, and 475 from the Second World War, including 3 unidentified, are now commemorated in the cemetery; there is also 1 non-war service grave.

The Screen Wall in the Second World War plot also bears the names of 177 servicemen and women whose remains were cremated. Further memorials in this plot commemorate 17 Polish servicemen buried there, and a number of casualties of both wars buried in other cemeteries and churchyards in the Manchester area whose graves could no longer be maintained.

Casualties buried in the following cemeteries and churchyards are now alternatively commemorated on Screen Wall Memorials in Manchester Southern Cemetery:

Ashton-under-Lyne (St Michael) Churchyard Extension
Birch-in-Rusholme (St James) Churchyard
Bury (Brunswick) United Methodist Cemetery
Cheetham Hill (St Luke) Churchyard
Eccles (St Mary) Churchyard
Eccleston (St Thomas) Churchyard Extension
Edgeworth Congregational Chapelyard
Hey (or Lees) (St. John the Baptist) Churchyard Extension
Manchester General Cemetery
Newton Heath (All Saints) Church Cemetery
 Openshaw (St Barnabas) Churchyard
Swinton Unitarian Chapelyard.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*
Southern Cemetery, Manchester – showing the 14 Australian War Graves from WW1

© Cathy Sedgwick 2016

(© Cathy Sedgwick 2016)
Southern Cemetery, Manchester (Australian War Graves Group marked with arrow)