

# Codford War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



6859 PRIVATE

**JAMES THOMAS WILLIAMS**

16TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

18TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 29

*IN LOVING MEMORY*

*OF OUR SON*

*RIP*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte James Thomas Williams is located in Main Front Row (Right hand side) Grave Plot # 5 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)*

*(CWGC Reference - Grave # 89 )*

James Thomas Williams was born at Toodyay, near Goomalling, Western Australia in 1888, to parents John Margurite & Elizabeth Mary Williams (nee Slater). He was a 28 year old, single farmer from Goomalling, Western Australia when he enlisted on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1916 with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 22<sup>nd</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6859 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – John W. Williams of Goomalling, Western Australia.

Pte James Thomas Williams embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Pte Williams was marched in to 4<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Codford on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Pte Williams was admitted to Military Hospital at Sutton Veny on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 with influenza.

Pte James Thomas Williams died at 1.45 p.m. on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 at Military Hospital at Sutton Veny of Influenza and Cardiac Failure.

A death for James T Williams, aged 28, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

From the burial report of Pte James Thomas Williams – he was buried on 22<sup>nd</sup> February at Codford Cemetery, Grave No. 89.

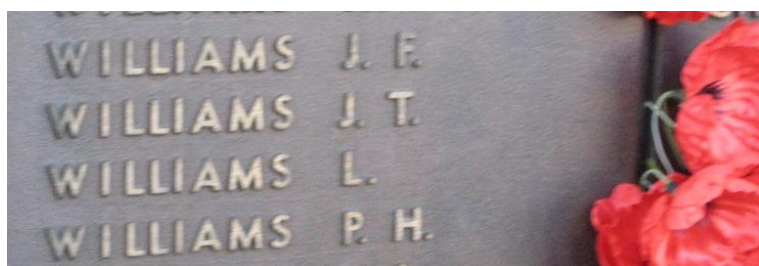
The Red Cross Missing & Wounded File for Pte Williams has a request from the Secretary of Red Cross to the Officer Commanding Sutton Veny Military Hospital asking for further details of the illness, death and burial of Pte J. T. Williams 6859 on behalf of his relatives. A reply from Matron of Sutton Veny Hospital reads:

*I received your letter in reference to the late Pte J. T. Williams A.I.F., who died at this Hospital on 18-2-17. The sister who nursed him wrote to his Mother when he was ill (to the address he gave) and again after his death, telling her about him. No. 2290 Pte Kelly 4/48 A.I.F. (His friend) also was with Pte Williams when he died, and I think wrote to his friends. With regard to the burial of Australians, we have no knowledge. Their station is Codford, some distance from here, and their Headquarters there arrange everything after a death, so that we do not know anything about the burial or burial places. Sister Aileen Moore, gave me the following particulars about Pte Williams. He was conscious to the last and very peaceful. He sent his love to his mother. Sister says he was so patient and very good, during the ten days or so, of his illness. I hope by this time his mother may have received the letters as they would be just a little comfort to her. We have a rule here, that when an Australian passes away the Sister who has charge of him, writes to his mother or wife, or sister, and I think it is always observed.*

Private J. T. Williams is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 81.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*



*(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)*

Pte James Thomas Williams 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 Pte Williams' father – Mr J. M. Williams (February 1922 & December, 1921)

(54 pages of Pte James Thomas Williams' Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).



*Studio portrait of Pte James Thomas Williams C1915  
(Aust War Memorial – copyright expired)*

*Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*

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\*\* A War Pension was applied for by Mary Elizabeth Williams of Kalguddering, the mother of the late Pte James Thomas Williams. This was rejected on the basis that Mrs Williams was not dependent on the deceased soldier during 12 months prior to enlistment.

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## Newspaper Reports

ANSWERED THE CALL

Today's Enlistments - FIT

J. T. Williams, Kalguddering, via Goomalling

(*The Daily News*, Perth, Western Australia, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August, 1916)

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## WAR CASUALTIES

Mrs J. M. Williams of Goomalling, has been informed by the military authorities that her son, Private J. T. Williams, of the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, died in a military hospital in England on February 18 last from influenza and cardiac failure.

*(The West Australian, Perth, Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 1917)*

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## THE ROLL OF HONOUR

### 277<sup>th</sup> Casualty List

#### DEATHS

J. T. Williams (Goomalling), died of illness

*(Western Mail, Perth, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 1917)*

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## DECEASED PERSONS' ESTATES

The following probates have been granted by the Supreme Court:

James Thomas Williams, late of Goomalling, to Ernest John Williams, £633

*(Kalgoorlie Miner, Western Australia, Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1917)*

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### 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 Codford 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)*

Pte James Thomas Williams does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte James Thomas Williams' Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery



*(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*