

Codford War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



6019 PRIVATE

T. M. GORMAN

15TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

14TH MARCH, 1917 Age 25

Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte T. M. Gorman is located in Main Front Row

Grave Plot #11 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)

(CWGC Reference - Grave # 83)

Thomas Michael Gorman was born at Rawal Pindi, India* in 1890, to parents Patrick John & Mary Gorman. He was a 25 year old, single, Mechanic when he enlisted on 9th March, 1916 at Rockhampton, Queensland with the 19th Reinforcements, 15th Battalion of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6019 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary Gorman, Government House, Brisbane, Queensland.

(*Information for the Roll of Honour for Pte Thomas Michael Gorman, completed by his brother – Peter Gorman, stated that Thomas was born in Australia at Petrie Terrace, Brisbane, Queensland.)

Pte Thomas Michael Gorman embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Itonus* (A50) on 8th August, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 18th October, 1916.

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 Gorman was admitted to Fovant Military Hospital on 7th November, 1916.

Pte Gorman was admitted to Fovant Military Hospital with jaundice on 31st December, 1916.

Pte Gorman was marched in from Hospital to 4th Training Battalion at Codford on 29th January, 1917.

Pte Gorman was marched in to 4th Training Battalion at Codford on 12th February, 1917, from Fovant Hospital. Pte Gorman was charged with several crimes on 12th February, 1917, being absent without leave for 4 hours and drunk in lines. He was awarded 14 days detention & was placed in custody awaiting trial for 1 day. He forfeited 15 days pay as a result of his crimes.

On 23rd February, 1917 Pte Gorman was admitted sick with jaundice to Group Hospital at Codford. He was then admitted to Military Hospital at Sutton Veny on 24th February, 1917.

Pte Thomas Michael Gorman died on 14th March, 1917 at Sutton Veny Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, England of jaundice.

A death for Thomas M Gorman, aged 24, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

From the burial report of Pte Thomas Michael Gorman – he was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery Codford in Grave No. 83 on 17th March, 1917. *Coffin was satisfactory & good. This soldier was buried with full Military Honours. The body was brought by road from Sutton Veny to Codford on a Gun- Carriage. The Band was in attendance. The Officers and men of the Company to which deceased belonged followed the body to the grave.*

Private T. M. Gorman is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 76.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)

A War Pension was awarded to Mary Gorman, widowed mother of Pte Thomas Michael Gorman in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 17/5/1917.

Pte Thomas Michael Gorman was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Gorman's eldest brother – Patrick Gorman of Woollowin, Brisbane, as their mother had died in December, 1921. (Scroll sent May, 1922 & Plaque - March, 1922)

(37 pages of Pte Thomas Michael Gorman'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) & National Archives

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Newspaper Reports

AUSTRALIAN ROLL OF HONOUR

The Queensland Casualty list was as follows:-

DIED, CAUSE NOT STATED

Private T. M. Gorman, Brisbane, 14/3/17

(The Brisbane Courier, Qld, Tuesday 27th March, 1917 & The Northern Miner, Queensland, Wednesday 28th March, 1917)

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 T. M. Gorman does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte T. M. Gorman's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery (below)



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)