

Compton Chamberlayne War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



3164 PRIVATE

J. HOWARD

59th BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

18th MARCH, 1917 Age 18

Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte J Howard is located in Middle Row

Grave Plot # 9 of Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery

James Howard was born at Scott's Creek, Victoria in 1897 to parents Robert & Mary Howard. He was a labourer, single & aged 19 years from Scott's Creek, via Timboon, Victoria when he enlisted on 20th October, 1916 with the 59th Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements of the Australian Army. His service number was 3164 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary Howard of Scott's Creek, Victoria.

Pte Howard embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 16th December, 1916 & was admitted to the Ship's hospital on 10th January, 1917 for a period of 13 days with measles. He disembarked at Plymouth, England on 18th February, 1917.

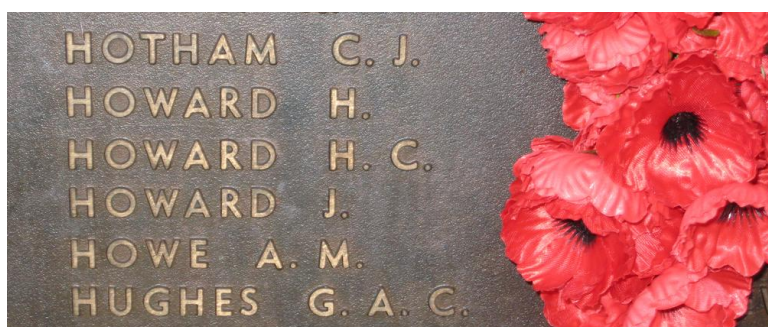
Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain area in the county of Wiltshire.

Pte Howard was marched into the 15th Training Bn at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 18th February, 1917. He was admitted to Fovant Hospital on 1st March, 1917 with influenza.

Pte J Howard died at 11 p.m. on 18th March, 1917 of Broncho Pneumonia at the Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire. A death for a James Howard, aged 19, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire. (Fovant was a parish in the district of Wilton).

Pte J Howard was buried at Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery on 22nd March, 1917. From the burial report of Pte J Howard – Coffin was oak with black metal fittings & name plate. Pte Howard was given a Military Funeral.

Private J Howard is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 167.





Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte J Howard was entitled to British War Medal only as he did not enter a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque (August, 1922) were sent to Pte Howard's parents – Mr & Mrs Howard at Scott's Creek, Victoria.

(49 pages of Pte J Howard'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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***** Pte Charles Tull (3245) embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 16th December, 1916 & died 16th March, 1917.**

Pte James Howard (3164) also embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 16th December, 1916 & died 18th March, 1917.

Pte Thomas Henry William White also embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 16th December, 1916 & died 25th March, 1917

Pte Howard & Pte Tull & Pte White are buried next to each other in Middle Row – plots 8, 9 & 10.

On The Field Of Honour – Died Of Illness

Pte Howard, J. Scott's Creek

(The Ballarat Courier, Victoria – Saturday 31st March, 1917)

Message From The Sea

Whilst at Apollo Bay last week Messrs Nicholas & List picked up a bottle on the beach about a couple of miles distant from the jetty. The bottle was covered with barnacles, and bore evidence of having been in the water for some considerable time. Upon being opened it was found to contain a letter, which read as follows: - "Dear Friends, - I am at sea living well, so don't worry; I'll be back to Australia some day (D.V.). If anybody picks up this letter send it to Mrs Robert Howard, Victoria, via Timboon, Scott's Creek. From Private Jas. Howard." The letter was forwarded to Mrs Howard as the writer requested, and a reply has been received from her by Mr J Fairbairn, of Apollo Bay, thanking them for sending the letter to her. She gives details concerning the writer, the sad part of which is that he paid the supreme sacrifice having died of pneumonia in a military hospital. It is somewhat singular that the bottle should have been washed ashore at a point on the Victorian coastline so near to Scott's Creek, the home of the writer. Apollo Bay.

(Warrnambool Standard, Victoria – Thursday 5th 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 Compton Chamberlayne 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 Howard does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte J Howard's Headstone at Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery



Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey