

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



In

Memory of

JAMES PAUL DONOVAN

DIED MAY 4TH 1917*

AGED 24 YEARS

ERECTED BY HIS BROTHER AND

COMRADES OF THE

24 RIENFS. 11TH BATT. A.I.F.

(* date should be 3rd May, 1917)

*Private Headstone for Pte J. P. Donovan is located in Grave Plot # 241
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

James Paul DONOVAN

James Paul Donovan was born in 1893 at Waueia, Victoria (Father – John Donovan). He was a 23 year old, married, Horse Driver from Subiaco, Western Australia when he enlisted on 13th November, 1916 with the 11th Infantry Battalion, 24th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 7239 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Annie Donovan of 369 Barker Rd, Subiaco, Western Australia. James' older brother – Sydney Albert Donovan also enlisted the same day & was given the service number of 7240.

Whilst in Camp at Blackboy Hill, Western Australia, Pte James Paul Donovan was written up for being absent without leave from Tattoo on 5th December, 1916 – this was later admonished. He was also absent without leave from Reveille on 22nd January to Reveille on 23rd January, 1917. He was forfeited one day's pay & reprimanded.

Pte James Paul Donovan embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Miltiades* (A28) on 29th January, 1917 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 27th March, 1917.

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

Pte James Paul Donovan was marched in to 3rd Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire from Australia on 28th March, 1917.

Pte James Paul Donovan was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital on 24th April, 1917 suffering from Influenza & Pneumonia.

Pte James Paul Donovan died of Broncho-pneumonia at Fargo Military Hospital on 3rd May, 1917 at 3.30 p.m.

A death for James P. Donovan, aged 24, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

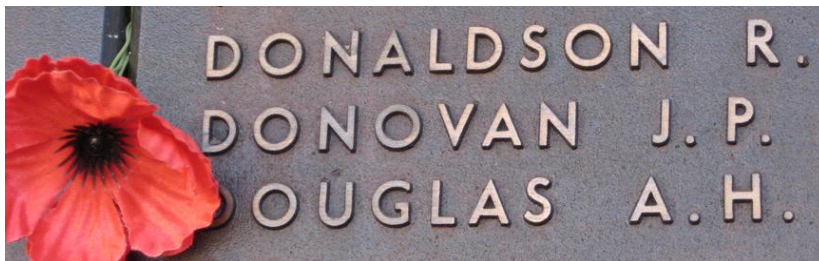
The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Pte James Paul Donovan contains a letter written by the Assistant Matron of Fargo Military Hospital which reads:

"Pte J. B. Donovan died of Broncho-pneumonia on 3.5.17 he was buried on 7.5.17 in grave number 241 on right hand side of cemetery path at Durrington, Wilts. Pte Donovan made a hard fight against the disease, but when the lads who have been used to Australian climate get Broncho-pneumonia it goes very hardly with them. Pte Donovan's brother was with him most of the last few days, he was also in hospital but was convalescent. The sister-in-charge wrote to Australia directly after Pte Donovan's death, but the letter cannot have reached its destination yet."

Pte James Paul Donovan was buried in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire on 7th May, 1917- plot number 241. From the burial report of Pte Donovan - *Coffin was Polished wood with Brass Furniture.*

A War Pension was granted to Annie Donovan, widow of late Pte James Paul Donovan, in the sum of 40/- per fortnight granted from 7th July, 1917.

Private J. P. Donovan is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 62.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. P Donovan is also remembered on the Subiaco Fallen Soldiers Memorial located on the corner of Rokeby and Hamersley Roads, Subiaco. Known as “The Clock Tower”. (3rd Column)



(Photos by Purple Wurm)

Pte James Paul Donovan was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Donovan’s widow – Mrs Annie Donovan Mount Bryan East, Near Hallett, South Australia (September, 1922 & August, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private James Paul Donovan – service number 7239 as being 24 years old & served with 11th Battalion Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

(59 pages of Pte James Paul Donovan’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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives

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Newspaper Reports

ANSWERED THE CALL – Voluntary Enlistment

The following men were examined to-day, with the results as indicated:-

FIT

B. A. Donovan, 34 Salvado-road, Subiaco

J. P. Donovan, 34 Salvado-road, Subiaco

(*The Daily News*, Perth, Western Australia Tuesday 17 October, 1916)

W. A. CASUALTIES – 301st Official List

DIED OF ILLNESS

PRIVATE J. P. DONOVAN, Subiaco.

(*The Daily News*, Perth, Western Australia Monday 21 May, 1917)

DEATHS

DONOVAN – On May 4, 1917, of bronchial pneumonia (suddenly), in England, Private James Paul, 24th Reinforcements, 11th Battalion, dearly loved husband of Annie Donovan, 369 Barker-road, Subiaco. Though lost to sight, to memory dear.

DONOVAN – On May 4, 1917, of bronchial pneumonia (suddenly), in England, Private James Paul, 24th Reinforcements, 11th Battalion, beloved son of J. and E. Donovan, 34 Salvado-road, Subiaco, and brother of Sydney Donovan (now in England, also on active service) and Muriel and Frank. Deeply regretted.

(*Western Mail*, Perth, Western Australia Friday 18 May, 1917)

BEREAVEMENT NOTICE

Mr. and Mrs. J. and E. Donovan and Family, 34- Salvado-road, Subiaco, and Mrs. J P. Donovan, 369 Barker-road, desire to THANK all friends for letters, telegrams, and cards and personal expressions of sympathy in their late sad bereavement, the death of their dearly beloved son, brother, and husband, Private James Paul Donovan, of 24th Reinforcements 11th Battalion, died May 3, Fargo Military Hospital, England.

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Western Australia Tuesday 12 June, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

DONOVAN.-In fond memory of Private James Paul Donovan, died at Fargo Military Hospital on May 4, 1917, son of J. F. and E. J. Donovan, Subiaco, brother of Muriel, Frank, and Syd. (returned). Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia Monday 5 May, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

DONOVAN. — Sacred to the memory of my dearly loved husband, Private James Paul Donovan, who died May 4, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Durrington.

Gone dear loved one, how sadly I miss you,

Gone from this world of sorrow and pain;

Gone from the one that loved you dearly,

Never on earth to meet again.

His memory is stamped where it never can perish

Nor fade from my memory in silence away.

Inserted by his true and loving wife, Annie E. Donovan.

DONOVAN. — In ever loving memory of my dear brother-in-law, Private James Paul Donovan, who died in Fargo Military Hospital, May 4, 1917, aged 24 years.

Loved in Life

Honoured in death,

Cherished in memory.

Inserted by his loving sister-in-law, Olive Williams.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia Tuesday 6 May, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

DONOVAN. — In sad but loving memory of my dear husband, Private J. P. Donovan, who died at Fargo Military Hospital, Durrington, England. May 4, 1917.

M____of the world can never know,
 ___ thoughts of sadness that are mine;
And with the years I'll older grow,
 My heart for him will ever pine.
Sadly missed by his loving wife, Annie Donovan.

DONOVAN. — In fond memory of Private James Paul Donovan, died at Fargo Military Hospital on May 4, 1917, son of J. F. and E. J. Donovan, and brother of Muriel, Frank and Syd.,(returned).

DONOVAN. — In loving memory of my brother, Private James Paul Donovan, who died on active service May 4, 1917.

Inserted by his brother Syd, and sister-in-law Hilda.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia Wednesday 4 May, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

DONOVAN. — In loving memory of my dear husband, Private James Paul Donovan, who died at Fargo Military Hospital, Durrington, England. May 4, 1917.

I keep in my memory our love of the past,
 With me it is as bright as of old;
For deep in my heart it was planted to last,
 In absence to never grow cold.
Inserted by his loving wife, Annie Donovan.

DONOVAN. — In fond memory of Private James Paul Donovan, died at Fargo Military Hospital on May 4, 1917, son of J. F. and E. J. Donovan, and brother of Muriel, Frank and Syd.,(returned).

DONOVAN. — To the memory of my brother, Private James Paul Donovan, died on active service May 4, 1917.

Inserted by his brother Syd, and sister-in-law Hilda.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia Thursday 4 May, 1922)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

DONOVAN. — In loving memory of my dear husband, Private James Paul Donovan, who died at Fargo Military Hospital, Durrington, England, May 4, 1917.

Tenderly on earth I loved him,

And dearly love him still;

With remembrance I deeply mourn him,

And bow to God's own will.

Inserted by his loving wife, Annie Donovan.

DONOVAN. — In loving memory of Private James Paul Donovan, died on active service May 4, 1917, son of T. F. and E. J. Donovan, and brother of Syd., Muriel, and Frank.

DONOVAN. — In loving memory of our dear brother, Private James Paul Donovan, 11th Battalion, died on active service May 4, 1917, aged 24 years.

Inserted by his brother Syd, and sister-in-law Hilda.

DONOVAN. — In loving memory of our dear brother, James Donovan, who died at Fargo Military Hospital on May 4, 1917.

Inserted by his loving sister Muriel and brother-in-law, Alex.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia Friday 4 May, 1923)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

DONOVAN. — In fond memory of Private James Paul Donovan, 11th Battalion, died on active service, May 4, 1917. Son of J. F. and E. J. Donovan, Subiaco; brother of Muriel, Frank and Syd (returned).

DONOVAN. — To the memory of my dear brother, Private James Paul Donovan, 11th Battalion, died on active service May 4, 1917.

Inserted by his brother Syd., and sister-in-law Hilda.

DONOVAN. — In loving memory of our dear brother and brother-in-law, who died at Fargo Military Hospital, May 4, 1917.

Inserted by his loving sister, Muriel and brother-in-law, Alex.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia Monday 5 May, 1924)

Pte James Paul Donovan does not have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone. His headstone was privately erected by "his brother and Comrades of the 24 Reinf. 11th Batt. A.I.F." prior to the CWGC headstones being erected for all soldiers.

Photo of Pte James Paul Donovan's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)