

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



891 PRIVATE

M. MONTGOMERY

40TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

27TH JANUARY, 1917

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte M. Montgomery is located in Grave Plot # 164
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Michael MONTGOMERY

Michael Montgomery was born at Runnymede, Tasmania around 1888 to parents Hugh and Bridget Montgomery. He was a 28 year old, single Farmer from Buckland, Tasmania when he enlisted on 7th January, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Brigade, 40th Infantry Battalion, "D" Company of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 891 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his brother- Joseph Montgomery of Buckland, Tasmania.

Pte Michael Montgomery embarked from Hobart on HMAT *Berrima* (A35) on 1st July, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 22nd August, 1916.

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.

Private Michael Montgomery was admitted to 1st A.D. Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 13th November, 1916. He was admitted to Military Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire on 26th January, 1916 with Tuberculosis.

Private Michael Montgomery died at 5.45 p.m. on 27th January, 1916 at Military Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire from (1) Syphilis Tubercular, (2) Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Michael Montgomery, aged 28, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Michael Montgomery was buried on 29th January, 1916 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 164 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private M. Montgomery is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 133.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte Michael Montgomery 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 Montgomery's eldest brother – Mr Joseph Montgomery (sent August, 1922 & September, 1922) as both parents were deceased. A letter had previously been sent to Mr Joseph Montgomery, from Base Records, dated 1st August, 1922, stating that they had previously written asking for the name & address of the eldest surviving brother & no reply had been received. The matter was being held open for 21 days & if no reply had still not been received the War Medal etc. belonging to Late Pte Montgomery would be sent to Untraceables section. Mr Joseph Montgomery replied a fortnight later stating he had previously replied & that he was the eldest surviving brother.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Michael Montgomery – service number 891as having served with 40th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Hugh and Bridget Montgomery. Born at Runnymede, Tasmania.

(43 pages of Pte Michael Montgomery'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

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Newspaper Reports

ROLL OF HONOUR – CASUALTY LIST – No. 271

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

Died (Cause Not Stated)

Pte M. Montgomery (Buckland) 27/1/17

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – Friday 9 February, 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 Durrington 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 M. Montgomery does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte M. Montgomery's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)