

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



5822 PRIVATE

W. M. MAGUIRE

15TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

8TH DECEMBER, 1916 Age 29

He Gave His Life

That Others Might Live

In Freedom

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte W. M. Maguire is located in Grave Plot # 126
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

William Murray MAGUIRE

William Murray Maguire was born around 1887 in England. According to information he supplied on his Attestation Papers he was born at Southampton. According to information supplied by his older brother – Charles, William was born at Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

The 1891 Census for England listed William M. Maguire as a 4 year old living with his widowed mother – Margaret Maguire (aged 44, Living on own means, born Scotland) & older brother – Charles M. Maguire (aged 6) at Woodbine Villa, Andover, Southampton, Hampshire. Both Charles & William were listed as being born at Lowestoft, Suffolk, England.

The 1901 Census for England listed William Maguire as a 14 year old living with his widowed mother – Margaret Maguire (aged 54, Living on own Means) & older brother – Charles Maguire (aged 16, Pupil Teacher). The family were living at 3 Ordance Rd, Southampton, Hampshire.

William Maguire attended King Edward VI Grammar School at Southampton, England. He was employed by White Starline prior to him leaving for Australia.

William Murray Maguire was a single, 29 year old, in the Farming industry from c/- Mrs Sherwin, The Springs, Yaamba, N.C. Line, Queensland when he enlisted at Rockhampton, Queensland on 17th February, 1916 with the 4th Infantry Brigade, 15th Infantry Battalion, 18th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 5822 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Mr C. M. Maguire of 67 Lewis Road, Newhaven, Sussex, England.

Pte William Murray Maguire embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Seang Choon (A49)* on 4th May, 1916 & disembarked at Suez on 25th June, 1916.

Pte William Maguire embarked from Alexandria with British Expeditionary Forces on H.M.T. *Megantic* on 6th 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 William Murray Maguire was admitted to Military Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 18th August, 1916 with Bronchitis.

Pte Maguire was marched into 4th Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire on 2nd September, 1916.

Pte Maguire was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital on 22nd November, 1916 with Asthma. He was reported seriously ill on 30th November, 1916.

Private William Murray Maguire died at 9.35 a.m. on 8th December, 1916 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Acute Meningitis/ Acute Bronchitis*. (Some records state Acute Meningitis, other records state Acute Bronchitis – unfortunately there is no Hospital Admission form contained in Pte Maguire's file – which would have the accurate cause of death, although one form completed by a Medical Officer states cause of death as Bronchitis (acute)).

A death for William M. McGuire, aged 29, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private William Murray Maguire was buried on 11th December, 1916 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 126 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

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



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte William Murray Maguire 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 Maguire's brother – Mr C. M. Maguire, England (March, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Murray Maguire – service number 5822 as being 29 years old & served with 15th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Charles William and Margaret Murray Maguire. Born at Salisbury, Wilts, England.

(30 pages of Pte William Murray Maguire'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*

Newspaper Reports

A BRISBANE MYSTERY

SUPPOSED ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

Brisbane, May 22

Two young men, W. M. Maguire and Ernest William Atkins, engaged a room at the People's Palace last night. Groans were heard this morning emanating from their room, and on an entrance being effected Atkins was found lying on the bed deeply gashed in the wrist and arm. A razor was by his side, and the bed clothes were saturated with blood; Maguire was found suffering from the effects of chlorodyne, and four empty chlorodyne bottles have been found in the room. Maguire was conveyed to the watchhouse, and Atkins was removed to the hospital. He is not expected to recover.

Enquiries show that Atkins came to Queensland from New Zealand. He purchased a farm at Min Kin, on the northcoast line and took Maguire into partnership. The business prospered for a time, but eventually they were beset with financial difficulties. Then Atkins recently received word of the death of his sweetheart in New Zealand. They purchased four bottles of chlorodyne yesterday, apparently with the object of ending their lives.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, Sth Australia – Friday 23 May, 1913)

The People's Palace Incident.

Ernest Williams Atkins, who, as reported in yesterday's "Courier", was found in a serious condition at the People's Palace on Thursday morning, was reported on inquiry at the General Hospital last night to be improving. As a sequel to the incident William Murray Maguire (26, grazier) was charged in the Central Police Court yesterday, before Mr E Eglinton, P. M., with having attempted to kill himself. Evidence of arrest was given by Sergeant Bell, and the case was adjourned for a week.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – Saturday 24 May, 1913)

FINANCIAL WORRIES

TWO ATTEMPTED SUICIDES

Brisbane, Friday – Wm. Maguire and Ernest Atkins, two young men, have attempted suicide, owing to financial worries. Atkins gashed his wrist and arm with a razor, and Maguire swallowed a quantity of chlorodyne. Both are in a precarious condition.

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania – Saturday 24 May, 1913)

POLICE COURTS

William Murray Maguire, on remand, was charged with having attempted to commit suicide on or about May 21, and was further remanded till Thursday next.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – Saturday 31 May, 1913)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR – CASUALTY LIST NO. 251

QUEENSLAND –ILL

W. M. Maguire, England (ser.)

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – Saturday 16 December, 1916)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES – LIST NO. 252 AND 253

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private W. M. Maguire, D.S.B. Greenbury (Glen Vale)

(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Queensland – Tuesday 19 December, 1916)

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 W. M. Maguire does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

He Gave His Life That Others Might Live In Freedom

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



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)