

# Codford War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



*In Loving Memory*

- Of -

**PTE. EDWIN BEATTIE**

**47TH BATTN. A.I.F.**

**WHO DIED JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup>, 1917**

**AGED 22 YEARS.**

*“Rest in peace”*

*The Headstone for Pte Edwin Beattie is located in Main Second Row (Right hand side)*

*Grave Plot #30 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)*

*(CWGC Reference - Grave # 43)*

Edwin Beattie was born in Coomera, Queensland in 1894 to parents John & Mary Elizabeth Beattie (nee Harding). He was a farmer from Coomera, Queensland, aged 22, when he enlisted on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 1916 with the 47<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army. His service number was 2389 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his mother, Mrs Mary Elizabeth Beattie, Coomera, Queensland. Edwin's older brother George Beattie had enlisted the same day. He was aged 27 & also a farmer & his service number was 2388.

Pte Edwin Beattie & his brother both embarked from Brisbane on the *Seang Choon (A49)* on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 1916.

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

Pte Beattie was admitted to Devonport Hospital from HMAT *Seang Choon* on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 1916 – sick (slight) - mumps. He was transferred to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 1916 with the diagnosis of influenza. He developed apparent signs of pneumonia on 24<sup>th</sup> December, 1916.

Pte Edwin Beattie died of pneumonia at 7.55 p.m. on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1917 at the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

From the burial report of Pte Edwin Beattie, he was buried at 2 p.m. on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 1917 in Codford Cemetery Grave no 43.

Private E. Beattie is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 143.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



*(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)*

Pte Beattie is also remembered on the Upper Coomera War Memorial, Queensland (along with his brother George)



*(Photo by Diane Watson)*



And also the Coomera Shire Council Honour Board located in the Coomera CWA Memorial Hall.



Pte Edwin Beattie & his brother, Pte George Beattie are both remembered on their father's headstone located at Lower Coomera Cemetery, Queensland.





Pte Edwin Beattie 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 Beattie's father – John Beattie (May, 1922 & August, 1922).

( 43 pages of Pte Edwin Beattie's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).



Studio portrait of 2389 Private Edwin Beattie c 1916 (AWM)

*Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives*

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\*\* Pte Edwin Beattie's brother – George Beattie was killed in action on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 1918 in France, aged 29. He is remembered on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial in France as he has no known grave.



Studio portrait of Private George Beattie c 1916 (AWM)

## Newspaper Reports

### QUEENSLAND

#### DIED OF ILLNESS

E. Beattie, Coomera 1/1/17

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January, 1917)

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### ROLL OF HONOUR

**BEATTIE** – On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1917, at Military Hospital, Sutton, England, Edwin Beattie, aged 22 years, youngest son of Mr and Mrs John Beattie, Coomera. (By cable).

(*The Queenslander*, Brisbane, Qld, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January, 1917)

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Pte Edwin Beattie does not have a Commonwealth War Graves headstone.

The inscription on his headstone reads “Rest in peace.”

Photo of Pte Edwin Beattie’s Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery (below)



*(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*