

Codford War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



2628 PRIVATE

H. V. BROOKS

47TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

5TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 19

Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte H. V. Brooks is located in Main Second Row

(Right hand side)

Grave Plot #33 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)

(CWGC Reference - Grave # 40)

Harold Vincent Brooks was born at Ipswich, Queensland in 1895, to parents William and Mary Brooks. He was a 21 year old labourer from Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted on 26th September, 1916 with the 47th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2628 & his religion was Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary Brooks, Peak Crossing, Ipswich, Queensland.

Pte Harold Vincent Brooks embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Marathon (A74)* on 27th October, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th January, 1917.

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

Pte Harold Brooks was marched into 12th Training Battalion from Australia on 10th January, 1917 & on 24th January, 1917 he was admitted sick to Hospital- No 14 Camp at Codford. On 30th January, 1917 Pte Brooks was transferred to Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

Pte Harold Vincent Brooks died of pneumonia at 5.40 a.m. on 5th February, 1917 at Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

A death for Harold V Brooks, aged 21, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

From the burial report of Pte Brooks, he was buried on 8th February, 1917 in Codford Cemetery, Grave no. 40.

Private H. V. Brooks 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 H. V. Brooks is also remembered on two Roll of Honour Boards at Peak Crossing, 28 kms south of Ipswich, Queensland.



(Brooks H.V. – first name top left)



(H.V. Brooks – fifth name on left)

Pte H. V. Brooks 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 Brooks' father - Wm. Brooks (June, 1922 & August, 1922)

(38 pages of Pte Harold Vincent Brooks' 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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Newspaper Reports

Personal Notes

Mr and Mrs W. Brooks, of Peak Crossing, near Ipswich, have received a cablegram to the effect that their son, Private Harold Brooks, has died in Sutton Hospital, England. No further details are available.

(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Queensland, Saturday 17th 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 Codford 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 H. V. Brooks does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte H. V. Brooks' Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery (below)



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)