# **Codford War Graves**



### World War II

2732759 LANCE SERJEANT

## C. T. BROWN

WELSH GUARDS

8TH APRIL, 1942 Age 33

Always Remembered

By Dorís, Warren and Davíd



Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Lance Serjeant C. T. Brown is located near Cross of Sacrifice, beneath a large Beech Tree, in Codford ANZAC - War Graves Cemetery.

© Wiltshire OPC Project/Cathy Sedgwick/2013

Christopher Thomas Brown was born on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 1909, to parents William Telford & Elizabeth Brown. His birth was registered in the December quarter 1909, in the district of Teesdale, Durham.

The 1911 Census recorded Christopher Brown as a 1 year old, living with his family at Gainford, Darlington, Durham in a 2 roomed dwelling. Christopher's parents were recorded as William Brown (Mason's Labourer, aged 42, born Gainford) & Elizabeth Brown (aged 31, born Melsonby). William & Elizabeth had been married for 10 years, having had 6 children, with one children deceased. Five children were recorded in the Census – Edith May (aged 10, born Gainford), Jack (aged 8, born Gainford), Henry Telford (aged 6, born Gainford), Nora (aged 3, born Middlesbrough) & the last child listed was Christopher – born Gainford.

Christopher Brown enlisted at Middlesborough in 1928. From 1929-30 he served in Egypt & transferred to the Reserves 2 years later. He was recalled to regular service in 1939, promoted to Lance Corporal on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 1940 & to Lance Serjeant three months later. Christopher Brown served with 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of Welsh Guards & his service number was 2732759. The number block allocation for the Welsh Guards was between 2730001 – 2744000.

A marriage was registered in the September quarter of 1933, in the district of Marylebone, London between Christopher T. Brown & Elizabeth D. Warren.

The Welsh Guards Regiment was increased to three Battalions during the Second World War. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion fought in Boulogne, France in 1940. The main body of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Welsh Guards moved to Codford in September, 1941 – April, 1943, along with the 6<sup>th</sup> Guards Amoured Brigade which consisted of 4<sup>th</sup> Grenadiers, 4<sup>th</sup> Coldstream & 3<sup>rd</sup> Scots Guards.

Lance Serjeant Christopher Brown was found dead of gunshot wounds to the head in the room adjoining the Serjeants' Mess on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 1942. His head was laid on a kit bag & there was a rifle by his side. According to the newspapers 'A witness stated that the deceased appeared in good spirits on the day of the incident. The Coroner recorded a verdict that the deceased was found with gunshot wounds from which he died.........." He left a widow, Elizabeth Doris & two sons.

A death for Christopher T Brown, aged 33, was registered in the June quarter, 1942 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Lance Serjeant Christopher Thomas Brown was buried at St. Mary's New Churchyard Cemetery (ANZAC Cemetery), Codford. He is the only soldier buried there from World War 2 of the 99 War Grave burials.

Lance Serjeant C. T. Brown's death was recognised by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission & as such has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone. According to CWGC Lance Serjeant Christopher Thomas Brown was the son of William Telford Brown & Elizabeth Brown; husband of Elizabeth Doris Brown of Penberth, Cornwall. Lance Serjeant Christopher T. Brown is remembered on the World War 2 section of St. Buryan's War Memorial in Cornwall.



St Buryan's Church, Cornwall with War Memorial in foreground.

(Photo by Derek Harper – 2005)

The St Buryan memorial is on the right hand side of the churchyard wall and sits in a recess with a Saxon Cross. The World War 1 inscriptions are to be found on a plaque at the foot of the cross and on the ledge is an additional plaque to those who died in World War 2.

(Photo by Elizabeth Scott - 2010)



#### Inscriptions on the St Buryan Memorial, Cornwall





#### 0000000

With thanks to Romy Wyeth – "The Men of St Mary's & The ANZAC War Graves" for information, photo & map.

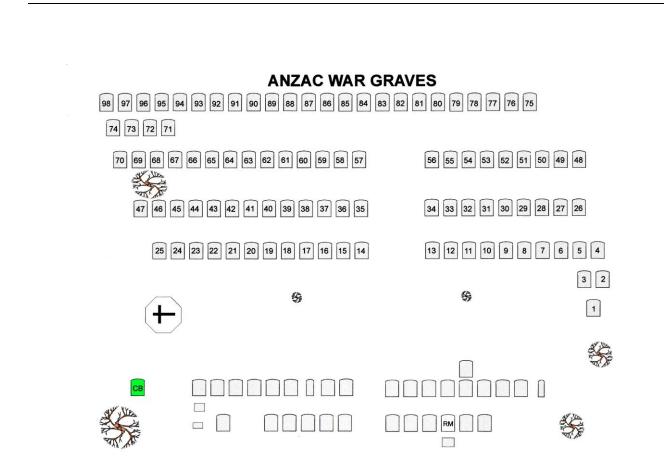
#### A Soldier with a similar background to Lance Serjeant Christopher Thomas Brown:

L/Sgt William Frederick Dixon - Welsh Guards (d.29th June 1942)

William Dixon enlisted in the Welsh Guards in 1928, for 7 years and 5 years on reserve. He served in London and Egypt in 1929. At the outbreak of war in 1939 he was recalled to the colours. Due to his previous service he was classed as a trained soldier at that time. He was at Dunkirk & survived.

In 1941, a training camp at Codford St Mary, Wiltshire was set up, he was sent there in October 1941. It was close to Weston Super Mare. Soldiers were billeted there from Codford St Mary, whilst on courses. On the night of 29th June 1942, Weston Super Mare was severely damaged by German bombs. Over 100 people were killed that night, L/Sgt William Frederick Dixon, at the age of 36.

(Story told on War Time Memories Project)



St. Mary's New Churchyard Cemetery, also known as ANZAC Cemetery, Codford.

**CB** shows the location of headstone of Lance Serjeant Christopher Brown.

(Map by Brian Marshall - courtesy of Romy Wyeth)

Photo of Lance Serjeant C. T. Brown's Headstone at St. Mary's New Churchyard (ANZAC) Cemetery, Codford. The inscription on his headstone reads "Always Remembered by Doris, Warren and David". Doris was Lance Serjeant's wife & Warren & David were his sons.



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)



(Photo by Andrea Charlesworth 2012)