

# Codford War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



**6621 PRIVATE**

**D. E. McGREGOR**

**15TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**23RD JANUARY, 1917 Age 36**

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte D. E McGregor is located in Main Middle Row (Right hand side) Grave Plot # 32 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)*

*(CWGC Reference - Grave # 41)*

David Edward McGregor was born at Brogo, near Bega, New South Wales in 1880, to parents John & Isabella McGregor (nee Brown). He was a 36 year old, single Cheesemaker from Toowoomba, Queensland when he enlisted at Toowoomba on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 1916 with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 21<sup>st</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6621 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Isabella McGregor of Bega Street, Bega, New South Wales.

Pte David Edward McGregor embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Boonah* (A36) on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 10<sup>th</sup> 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 McGregor was marched in to 4<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Codford on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Pte McGregor was admitted sick to Group Hospital on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 1917.

Pte David Edward McGregor died at 3.30 p.m. on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1917 No. 3 New Zealand Hospital, Codford of Broncho pneumonia.

A death for David E McGregor, aged 36, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

From the burial report of Pte David Edward McGregor – he was buried on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 at St. Mary's Cemetery, Codford, Grave No. 41.

Private D. E. McGregor is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 76.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)

\*3 Soldiers (Above) - J.C.P. McGrath, D.E. McGregor & G. McIlroy were all from 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion & are all buried in Anzac Cemetery at Codford St. Mary, Codford, England. Privates McIlroy & McGregor both embarked on the same ship.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

Pte David Edward McGregor was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte McGregor's mother – Mrs I. McGregor (December, 1921 & April, 1922)

A War Pension was awarded to Pte McGregor's mother – Isabella McGregor in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 18/4/1918.

(33 pages of Pte David Edward McGregor's 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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*

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\*\* According to the Information supplied the Roll of Honour, by Ada M. McGregor, sister of Pte David Edward McGregor – 2 other brothers also served with the A. I. F.

- Lieut. A. S. McGregor of 121 Light Horse – Mentioned in Despatches
- Sgt. Major Wallace McGregor of 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion – Military Medal

## Newspaper Reports

### ROLL OF HONOUR

McGREGOR – January 23, at St Mary's Hospital Codford, England, Private David E., much loved brother of Ada McGregor, Bega-street, Bega, and Lach. and Wallace (on active service).

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February, 1917)*

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### ROLL OF HONOUR – Casualty List

#### DIED OF ILLNESS

Private D. E. McGregor, Bega

*(Townsville Daily Bulletin (Queensland, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 1917)*

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#### 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 D. E. McGregor does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte D. E. McGregor's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery



*(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*