

Codford War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



6607 PRIVATE

G. McILROY

15TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

19TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 39

BORN CHARTERS TOWERS

1878

R. I. P.

Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte G. McIlroy is located in Main Front Row (Right hand side)

Grave Plot # 6 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)

(CWGC Reference - Grave #88)

Gabriel Joseph Mcllroy was born at Charters Towers, Queensland in 1878, to parents Patrick & Ann Christina Mcllroy. He was a 37 year old, single Labourer (Roll of Honour information records his occupation as (Gold) Miner) from Charters Towers, Queensland when he enlisted on 3rd January, 1916 with the 4th Infantry Brigade, 15th Infantry Battalion, 21st Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6607 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Ann Christina Mcllroy, Mexican Street, Charters Towers, Queensland.

Pte Gabriel Mcllroy embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Boonah* (A36) on 21st October, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 10th 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 Gabriel Mcllroy was marched in to 4th Training Battalion at Codford on 10th January, 1917.

Pte Gabriel Mcllroy was written up for “Overstaying leave from midnight 2.2.17 till 8 a.m. 4.2.17”. He was awarded 48 hours detention, in custody awaiting trial 2 days. He was forfeited 6 days pay.

Pte Gabriel Mcllroy was admitted sick to Military Hospital at Sutton Veny on 17th February, 1917 with mumps.

Pte Gabriel Mcllroy died at 3.25 a.m. on 19th February, 1917 at the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, England of Acute Bronchitis (Cardiac Failure).

A death for Gabriel Mcllroy, aged 38, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

From the burial report of Pte Gabriel Mcllroy – he was buried on 22nd February, 1917 at Codford Cemetery, Grave No. 88.

Private G. Mcllroy 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. Mcllroy were all from 15th Battalion & are all buried in Anzac Cemetery at Codford St. Mary, Codford, England. Privates Mcllroy & McGregor both embarked on the same ship.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte Gabriel Mcllroy 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 Mcllroy's mother as his father was deceased – Mrs A. C. Mcllroy (April, 1923 & May, 1922).

(44 pages of Pte Gabriel Mcllroy'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) & National Archives

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Newspaper Reports

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES – LIST No. 277

DIED (Other Causes)

Queensland – G. Mcllroy

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria, Friday 9th March, 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 G. McIlroy does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte G. McIlroy's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery (below)



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)