

# Codford War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



*AT REST*

*Sacred*

*To the Memory of*

**2782 Pte. THOMAS E. OSBORNE**

**45<sup>TH</sup> BATTN. A.I.F.**

**WHO DIED DEC. 10<sup>TH</sup> 1916. AGED 33 YEARS**

**ERECTED BY HIS COMRADES**

**A COMPANY 12<sup>TH</sup> TRAINING BATTN. A.I.F.**

*Headstone for Pte Thomas E. Osborne is located in Main Middle Row (Right hand side)*

*Grave Plot # 28 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)*

*(CWGC Reference - Grave # 45)*

*\*\*Service Number of 2782 is incorrect – should be 2696*

Thomas Ernest Osborne was born at Cardiff in 1882. He was a 33 year old, married Smelter from Wollongong when he enlisted on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 1916 with the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2696 & his religion was Methodist\* (Attestation Paper shows religion as Church of England). His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Florence Gillas Osborne of Barella Street, Wollongong. Thomas Osborne had married Florence McLean in 1903 in Orange, NSW. Florence & Thomas had 4 children up to 1912 (limit of searches for births in NSW) – Doris F. M. M., born 1903; Gladys O. H., born 1907; Ernest R. R., Born 1909 & Jean, born 1912 & died 1912. Information in Pte Osborne’s Service Record shows a letter addressed to The Camp Commandant, Military Camp, Kiama, NSW from Capt. R. Vowell, Wollongong Recruiting Area, dated 12<sup>th</sup> June, 1916:

*“The man named below has been given a railway warrant and instructed to report to you on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 1916. Thomas Ernest Osborne.”*

Pte Thomas Ernest Osborne embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1916.

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 Osborne was marched in to 12<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Codford on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1916.

Pte Osborne was admitted to Military Hospital at Sutton Veny on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 1916

Pte Thomas Ernest Osborne died at 7.50 a.m. on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 1916 at Sutton Veny Military Hospital of Capillary Bronchitis Pneumonia.

A death for Thomas E. Osborne, aged 33, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

From the burial report of Pte Thomas Ernest Osborne – he was buried at Codford Cemetery, Grave No. 45. No date has been given in any of the forms within Pte Osborne’s Service Record.

Private T. E Osborne is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 140.



*(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)*



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

Pte Thomas Ernest Osborne is also remembered on the War Memorial Arch at MacCabe Park, Wollongong, NSW.



*(Photo by Peter Liebeskind)*



(Photo by Neil Whitfield 2012)

Pte Thomas Ernest Osborne 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 Osborne's widow – Mrs Florence Johnson of 105 Eveleigh St, Redfern, NSW. Pte Osborne's widow had remarried on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 1918 to Victor N Johnson. The Memorial Scroll was sent to in September, 1921 & returned & readdressed in February, 1922. The Memorial Plaque was received by Pte Osborne's remarried widow in April, 1923.

War Pensions were granted in respect of the death of Pte Thomas Ernest Osborne to the following – as of 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 & the amounts show were payments per fortnight: Thomas Ernest Reuben Osborne, child, 15/-; Gladys Olive H Osborne, child, 10/-; Ernest Reginald Robert Osborne, child, 10/-; Percival Bartholomew Osborne, child, 10/-; Florence Gillis Osborne, widow, £2; Doris Florence Mary May Osborne, child, £1.

(52 pages of Pte Thomas Ernest Osborne'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*

oooOOOooo

## Newspaper Reports

### WAR CASUALTIES

#### KILLED IN ACTION

PTE T. E. OSBORNE

Private T. E. Osborne, of Wollongong, has been killed in France. His wife and five children reside in Wollongong.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December, 1916)*

\*Note – Pte Osborne was not killed in action in France – he died at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England.

---

### THE ROLL OF HONOUR

#### AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES – NSW

DIED OF ILLNESS – T. E. Osbourne, Wollongong, 10/12/16;

*(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1916)*

---

#### 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 Thomas E. Osborne does not have a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone. His headstone was erected by “His Comrades A Company 12<sup>th</sup> Training Battn. A.I.F.”

\* Pte Michael Smith also has a similar headstone erected by “His Comrades A Company 12<sup>th</sup> Training Battn. A.I.F.” Pte Smith died on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 1916, Pte Osborne on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 1916. They are buried next to each other in plots 27 & 28 (using Map by Brian Marshall).

Photo of Pte Thomas E. Osborne's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery

**\*\*Note: Pte Osborne's Service number was 2696. The Service number 2782 on his headstone is incorrect & belonged to Pte Michael Smith who is buried next to Pte Osborne. Both men had their headstones erected by their Training Battalion – 12th 'A' Company.**



*(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*