

Compton Chamberlayne War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



2736 LANCE SERJT

H. W. McCARTHY

27th BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

8th MAY, 1918 Age 27

ASLEEP IN JESUS

Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Lance Sergeant H. W. McCarthy is located in Back Row Grave Plot # 11 of Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery

Horace William McCarthy was born at Yatala, South Australia on 15th September, 1890, to parents William James McCarthy & Melissa Harriett McCarthy (nee Johns). He was a Clerk, single & aged 24 years & 10 months from Eden Hills, South Australia when he enlisted on 26th July, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 27th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements of the Australian Army. His service number was 2736 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Melissa Harriett McCarthy, Hawker, South Australia.

Horace William McCarthy married Elsie Mary Lyne in the district of Adelaide in 1915.

Marriages

McCARTHY-LYNE – On the 15th September, at the Parkside Methodist Church, by the Rev. V. Roberts, Private Horace William McCarthy of Mitcham Camp, eldest son of Mr W. J. McCarthy, of Hawker, to Elsie Mary, second daughter of Mr H. Lyne, Helston, Young Street, Parkside, and granddaughter of the late G. W. Cole, of North Adelaide.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – Saturday 23rd October, 1915)

Pte Horace William McCarthy embarked from Adelaide on HMAT *Benalla* (A24) on 27th October, 1915 & disembarked at Egypt.

Pte McCarthy was promoted to T/Cpl on 1st April, 1916 whilst in England.

T/Cpl McCarthy was promoted to Corporal on 24th January, 1917 at Tidworth & then to Acting Lance/ Sergeant on 21st February, 1917 at Rollestone (both in Wiltshire, England).

On 21st November, 1917 McCarthy was attached to “Perm Cadre” of 6th Training Battalion at Fovant. He was then transferred to the 5th Training Battalion at Fovant on 22nd April, 1918.

L/Sgt Horace William McCarthy was admitted to the Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire on 8th May 1918.

L/Sgt McCarthy died at 7.55 p.m. on 8th May, 1918 of Phthisis at Military Hospital, Fovant. A death for Horace W McCarthy, aged 27, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire. (Fovant was a parish in the district of Wilton).

L/Sgt McCarthy was buried on 11th May, 1918 at Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery. From the burial report of L/Sgt McCarthy – Coffin was good, Polished Elm with Brass Mountings – *Deceased was buried with full Military Honour. There was a large attendance at the funeral which was preceded by a band of a Training Brigade. The Firing Party was supplied from a Training Battalion, six Warrant Officers acting as pallbearers. Lieut. E. C. Norris, C.o. and Lieut A. K. Paul with a company of D. C. O.'s and men attended the funeral. Wreaths from the Sgts Mess, Q.M. and Staff and the Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the Training Battalion were placed on the grave. The late soldier was most popular with all ranks in the Battalion and always proved himself a good soldier and true comrade. His loss is very keenly felt by Officers and men.*

Sgt Horace William McCarthy's (2736) Will, dated 12th July, 1917, had no one nominated. The back of the form states "I have made a Will and it is in the custody of Mrs H W McCarthy, Eden Hills, South Australia."

Lance Sergeant H W McCarthy is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 110.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Lance Sergeant H W McCarthy is also remembered on the Roll of Honour board at Unley Town Hall, South Australia.



Lance Sergeant H W McCarthy was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll (October, 1921) & Memorial Plaque (December, 1922) were sent to L/Sgt 's widow – Mrs Elsie May McCarthy, Eden Hills, South Australia.

(49 pages of Lance Sergeant H W McCarthy'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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**Mrs Elsie McCarthy, wife of deceased L/Sgt Horace William McCarthy, wrote to the AIF on 22nd September, 1919 stating that it had been eighteen months since the death of her late husband & that she had neither heard about or seen his personal effects.

A reply was sent 26th September, 1919 from Officer in Charge of Base Records advising that "a package containing your husband's property... was included in a consignment shipped from England per S.S. *Barunga* of which vessel was lost at sea with all cargo on its way to Australia, as the result of enemy action. No hope can be entertained of the recovery of the articles so lost."

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Information from the Australian Red Cross Society Missing & Wounded File -enquiries were received by several people enquiring into details of the death of Lance Sergeant Horace William McCarthy – 2736, namely Pte W G Nicholls 3446 50th Battalion, Percy A Parsons of Marsh Barn Farm, Horsington, Templecombe, Somerset, England.

Reply from the O.C. Military Hospital, Fovant

“Died of Disease 8/5/18 Re Sgt McCarthy, he was admitted into Hospital on the 8/5/18, he did not appear very seriously ill. He was seen by the Medical Officer who prescribed treatment. He changed suddenly about 7 o’clock and died at 7.55 same day of failure of the heart muscle. He was buried at Compton Chamberlayne. As he was in such a short time I regret I am unable to give you any more details.”

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DEATHS – For King And Country

McCarthy- on the 8th May, at Alexandra Hospital, of phthisis, Lce-Sgt Horace William, dearly loved husband of Elsie M McCarthy (nee Lyne), of Parkside and Eden Hills, and eldest son of W. J. McCarthy, Esq, of George Street, Hindmarsh, aged 27 years. “Until the day break, and the shadows flee away.”

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia - Thursday 16th May, 1918)

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

McCarthy- on the 8th May, at Alexander Hospital, of phthisis, Lance-Sergeant Horace William McCarthy, late of Good, Durrant & Co, dearly beloved eldest son of W. J. McCarthy, railway-station master, Bowden, late of Hawker and husband of Elsie M McCarthy, Eden Hills, aged 27 years. Safe in the arms of Jesus.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – Thursday 23rd May, 1918)

Our Fallen Heroes - THE AUSTRALIANS

Biographical

LATE LCE.-SGT. H. W. McCARTHY

The late Lce.-Sgt. Horace William McCarthy was the eldest son of Mr W. J. McCarthy, stationmaster, and was born at Yatala in 1890. With his parents he moved to Farina in 1903, and in 1910 obtained employment as clerk with Messrs. Goode, Durrant, & Co. Of Adelaide, with whom he continued to work until he enlisted in July, 1915. After 13 weeks’ training, he left with the 6th Reinforcements of the 27th Battalion for Egypt, but was put to office work with the 7th Training Battalion, with which he sailed for England in June, 1916. Later, as a result of recognition from France for duties faithfully accomplished, he was promoted to the rank of lance-sergeant, and during re-organization in November, 1917, was transferred to the 6th

Training Battalion. On May 8 Lce.-Sgt. McCarthy died of phthisis at the Alexander Fovant Hospital. The news came as a shock to his many friends, as no notification of his illness had been received. He was interested in the work of the Parkside Methodist Church and Sunday school, and was a member of the tennis club connected with the Sunday school. For some years he was a member of the Jubilee Tent, I. O. R. In September, 1915, he married Elsie, daughter of Mr H. Lyne, then of Parkside, and now of Eden Hills. A brother, Pte H. H. McCarthy, is with the 14th Australian General Hospital in Egypt.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – Saturday 8th June, 1918) & (The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – Wednesday 12th June, 1918)

Concerning People

The following probates and letters of administration are notified in the weekly gazette of the Mercantile Trade Protection Association –

Horace William McCarthy, Parkside, £350;

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – Monday 28th October, 1918)

IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE

McCARTHY (Lyne) – On the 8th May, 1918, at Alexander Fovant Military Hospital, England, of phthisis and heart failure. Lce.-Sgt. Horace William (27th Battn), dearly loved husband of Elsie M. McCarthy (nee Lyne), of Parkside and Eden Hills.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – Thursday 8th May, 1919)

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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 Compton Chamberlayne 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)

Lance Sgt McCarthy does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Lance Sergeant H W McCarthy 's Headstone at Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery



Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey