

Compton Chamberlayne War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



2249 PRIVATE

W. C. SNELL

60th BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

16th MARCH, 1917 Age 40

SADLY MISSED

Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte W C Snell is located in Middle Row

Grave Plot # 11 of Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery

William Charles Snell was born in 1877 at Eaglehawk, near Bendigo, Victoria to parents Richard May & Maria Snell. He was a Miner / Labourer, married & aged 39 years & 3 months from Eaglehawk, Victoria when he enlisted on 5th April, 1916 with the 15th Infantry Brigade, 60th Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements of the Australian Army. His service number was 2249 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Julia May Snell of High St, Eaglehawk, Victoria.

Pte Snell embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Orsova* (A67) on 1st August, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 14th September, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain area in the county of Wiltshire.

Pte Snell joined the 15th Training Battalion on the Salisbury Plain area & was admitted to hospital on 16th October, 1916. He rejoined his unit on 19th December, 1916.

Pte Snell was admitted to the Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire on 4th February, 1917 with indigestion. From 10th March, 1917 Pte Snell was treated for Tubercle of Lung.

Pte William Charles Snell died at 6.20 a.m. on 16th March, 1917 of Tubercle of the lung at the Military Hospital at Fovant. A death for William C Snell, aged 40, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire. (Fovant was a parish in the district of Wilton).

Pte Snell was buried on 19th March, 1917 at Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery. From the burial report – coffin was oak with metal mounts & name plate. Pte Snell was given a Military Funeral.

Julia May Snell, widow of Pte William Charles Snell, applied for the War Pension & was granted £2 per fortnight from 23/5/1917. The War Pension was also granted to Pte Snell's 2 daughters – Elina May Snell received 20/- per fortnight & Dedia Grace Snell received 15/- per fortnight.

Private W C Snell is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 171.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte W C Snell was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll (May, 1922) & Memorial Plaque (July, 1922) were sent to Pte Snell's widow who had remarried – Mrs Julia May Convery of 24 McCormick St, Port Melbourne.

(47 pages of Pte Snell'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



Pte W C Snell (c July, 1916 Copyright expired)

*** Pte William Charles Snell of the 60th Battalion, A.I.F. died at 6.20 a.m. on 16th March, 1917 at the Military Hospital at Fovant.

Pte Charles Tull of the 57th Battallion, A.I.F. died at 5.50 a.m. on 16th March, 1917 at the Military Hospital at Fovant.

They were both buried at Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery on 19th March, 1917. They are buried next to each other in Middle Row – plots 10 & 11.

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ROLL OF HONOUR

285th Casualty List - Died – Other Causes

VICTORIA

W. C. Snell, South Melbourne, illness

(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – Saturday 7th April, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

Australian Casualties

VICTORIA – *Died of Illness*

W. C. Snell, South Melbourne, 16/3/17

(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Qld – Saturday 14th April, 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 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)

Pte Snell does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

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Photo of Pte W C Snell's Headstone at Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery



Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey