

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



7100 PRIVATE

P. McCREGHAN

12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

22ND MARCH, 1917 Age 34

In The Bloom Of His Life

God Claimed Him

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte P. McCreghan is located in Grave Plot # 224
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Patrick McCREGHAN

Patrick McCreghan was born in 1882 at Forth, Tasmania to parents James & Mary McCreghan. He was a 34 year old, single, Farm Labourer from Forth, Tasmania when he enlisted on 13th October, 1916 with the 12th Infantry Battalion, 23rd Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 7100 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. McCreghan of Lower Barrington, Tasmania. Patrick McCreghan made his mark (X) when completing his Attestation Papers & was witnessed.

Pte Patrick McCreghan* embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Persic (A34)* on 22nd December, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 3rd March, 1917. (*Patrick McCreghan is listed as McCreaghan for the Embarkation Roll & his Service Record file is also under the surname of McCreaghan).

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Patrick McCreghan was marched in from Australia to 3rd Training Battalion, Durrington, Wiltshire on 3rd March, 1917.

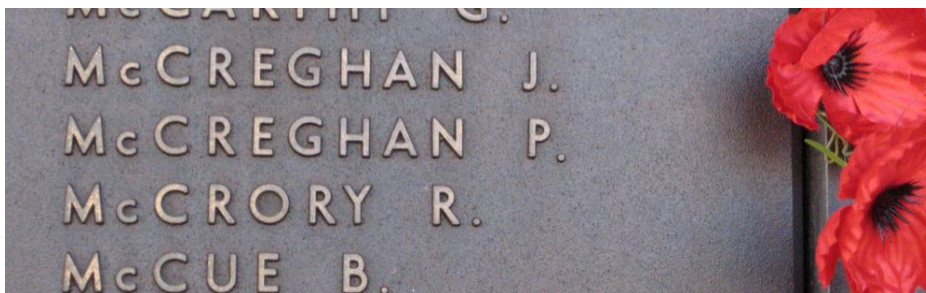
Private Patrick McCreghan was sent sick to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 9th March, 1917 & reported seriously ill with Broncho Pneumonia on 18th March, 1917.

Private Patrick McCreghan died at 4.35 am. on 22nd March, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital from Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Patrick McCreaghan, aged 30, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Patrick McCreghan was buried on 24th March, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 224 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Patrick McCreghan - *Coffin was polished wood with brass furniture.*

Private P. McCreghan (along with his brother J. McCreghan) is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 66.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Both P. McCreghan & his brother, J. McCreghan, are remembered on the Lower Barrington Hall Honour Board.

Pte Patrick McCreghan was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were inscribed with the spelling of "McCreghan" & a letter was sent from Base Records, dated 18th October, 1922, asking if Mr J. McCreghan would accept the Memorial items in the present form as there was some doubt as to the spelling of the surname. If they had been embossed incorrectly it would be necessary for a new Plaque to be completed, which would take some considerable time. Another letter was sent from Base Records, dated 27th March, 1923. No reply is included in the Service Record file for Pte Patrick McCreghan. The Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque "sent details" are not completed.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Patrick McCreghan – service number 7100 as being 34 years old & served with 12th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of James and Mary McCreghan of Lower Barrington, Tasmania. Born at Forth, Tasmania.

(52 pages of Pte Patrick McCreghan's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives

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Connected to Pte Patrick McCreghan:

Younger Brother – Pte James McCreghan, 6501, 12th Battalion – Killed in action between 6th – 10th April, 1917. He is remembered on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France. Both brothers are remembered together on Panel 66 of the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia.

Newspaper Reports

ROLL OF HONOUR – 285th LIST

DIED – OTHER CAUSES

P. McCreaghan, Lower Barrington, illness

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

TASMANIAN VOLUNTEERS

Sincere sympathy is felt for Mr. and Mrs. J. McCreghan and family of Lower Barrington, who have recently been notified by the Ven. Archdeacon Beechinor of the death of their son Patrick, who died of broncho-pneumonia in Fargo Military Hospital. Private McCreghan was 36 years of age, and a popular young man, and highly respected. He was a member of the 12th Battalion. There is also another son in France at the present time.

(*Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania – Saturday 5 May, 1917)

INFORMATION BUREAU

The sad news was conveyed to Mr. and Mrs. McCreghan, of Lower Barrington, by a telegram from Father Dowling, of the death of their son James, who made the supreme sacrifice in France on April 9. Private McCreghan was 26 years of age, and was a popular young man. Much sympathy is felt for the bereaved family, who were only a few days ago informed of the death of their other son, Patrick, in the Fargo Military Hospital.

(*Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania – Saturday 5 May, 1917)

LOWER BARRINGTON

In the Baptist Church on Sunday afternoon the pastor (Mr. Heaven) conducted a service in memory of the three local lads who lately laid down their lives for the Empire. The church was draped with black and purple and a roll of honour, on which was printed the three names - Oscar Medcraft, James McCreaghan, and Patrick McCreaghan was suspended over a large Union Jack. Mr. Heaven preached from St. John, viii.25~26. He touched on the different phases of the war up to the present, and dwelt on the self-sacrifice of the lads who had laid down their lives freely for King and country. Hymns suitable to the occasion were sung by the choir. After the Benediction had been pronounced, the National Anthem was sung, and the "Dead March in Saul" was played by the organist (Miss Cocker).

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – Wednesday 6 June, 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 Durrington 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 P. McCreghan does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In The Bloom Of His Life God Claimed Him

Photo of Pte P. McCreghan's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)