

# Durrington Cemetery

## War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

### World War I



**2899 PRIVATE**

**T. DEVLIN**

**ROYAL IRISH REGIMENT**

**1st NOVEMBER, 1918**

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte T. Devlin is located in Grave Plot # 330  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## **Thomas DEVLIN**

Thomas Devlin was born around 1883 in Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny to parents James & Eliza Devlin (nee Foley).

The 1901 Census for Ireland listed Thomas Devlin as a 19 year old, General Labourer living with his family at Donaguile (Castlecomer, Kilkenny). His parents were recorded as James Devlin (Agricultural Labourer, aged 50) & Lizzie Devlin (aged 40). There were 9 children recorded – Thomas being the 3<sup>rd</sup> eldest – Joseph (General Labourer, aged 22), James (General Labourer, aged 20), then Thomas, Mary (General Labourer, aged 17), Ellen (aged 14), Laurence (aged 11), Patrick (aged 9), John (aged 7) & Richard (aged 5). Also listed was Laurence Foley, Father-in-law of James – Lizzie's father (Agricultural Labourer, aged 60, married).

Thomas Devlin enlisted with Royal Irish Regiment Militia at Kilkenny, on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 1903, aged 22 years.

Thomas Devlin re-engaged with Royal Irish Regiment – Special Reservists at Tipperary on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 1908, for 6 years Service & was given the service number of 2899.

The 1911 Census for Ireland recorded Thomas Devlin as a 29 year old, General Labourer living with his grandfather & brother at Donaguile (Castlecomer, Kilkenny). Laurence Foley, grandfather of Thomas Devlin, was recorded as a 76 year old, married, General Labourer. Joseph Devlin, brother of Thomas was recorded as a 29 year old, General Labourer. All 3 men were recorded as Roman Catholic.

Pte Thomas Devlin's Medal Index Card shows he entered a Theatre of War – France on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 1915.

Pte Thomas Devlin received a Gunshot wound to head & eye on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 1915 while in France. He was transferred to the Hospital in Rouen, France. He was later transferred to Woolwich Hospital, England on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 1915 with the Loss of sight in Right eye. Pte Devlin was granted leave to Ballyhemon, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland from 29<sup>th</sup> October, 1915 to 7<sup>th</sup> November, 1915.

Pte Thomas Devlin was transferred to Labour Corps & given a new service number of 229697. He was posted to 659 Home Service Employment Company on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 1917. Pte Devlin was posted to 542 Home Service (H.S.) Employment Coy., Spike Island on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 1918. From there Pte Devlin was transferred to 628 H.S. Emp. Coy, Durrington, Wiltshire on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 1918. On 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1918 Pte Devlin was posted to 635 H.S. Employ, Coy. at Larkhill, Wiltshire.

Pte Thomas Devlin was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 suffering from Influenza.

Private Thomas Devlin died at 11.55 a.m. on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1918 from Influenza & Septic Pneumonia in Fargo Military Hospital. Pte Thomas Devlin had served a total of 10 years & 99 days.

A death for Thomas Devlin, aged 37, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire, England.

Private Thomas Devlin was buried in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire in Grave /Plot Number 330 on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1918. His death is acknowledged by Commonwealth War Graves Commission & as such he has a CWGC headstone but he does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Thomas Devlin 2899, as being attached to Royal Irish Regiment, transferred to Labour Corps, 229697. He was the son of James and Eliza Devlin of Ballyhemon, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny.

Private Thomas Devlin was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War & Victory Medals.



Private Thomas Devlin is remembered in Ireland's Memorial Records (an 8 volume set compiled by The Committee of the Irish National War Memorial, originally published in 1923. These volumes provide information on over 49,000 Irish men and women who died in the Great War) with the following details:

*Devlin, Thomas. Reg. No. 229697. Rank, Private, Labour Corps formerly Royal Irish Regiment; died, home, November 1, 1918; born Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny.*

(3 Separate Service Record Files still exist for Pte Thomas Devlin – 2899 / 22967. 4 pages, 16 pages & 32 pages)

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Photo of Private T. Devlin's Headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



*(Photo by Ian King- 2010)*