



763 Private Cyril Claud Mashford

Cyril Claud Mashford was born at 38 Sutherland Street, Neutral Bay, Sydney, New South Wales in 1893 to parents Thomas & Sarah Mashford (nee Wood). He was a 22 year old, single, plumber from Sutherland Street, Neutral Bay, Sydney, New South Wales when he enlisted on 22nd August, 1914 with the 2nd Infantry Battalion "G" Company of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 763 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs. T. Mashford of Sutherland Street, Neutral Bay, Sydney, New South Wales. Cyril had previously served with Neutral Bay School Cadets.

He embarked from Sydney on H.M.A.T Suffolk (A23) on 18th October, 1914 & disembarked at Egypt on 8th December, 1914. Pte. Mashford was wounded in action at Dardanelles, Gallipoli. He received a shrapnel wound to back of right leg on 19th May, 1915. He was transported to Malta on 24th May, 1915 & admitted to Hospital. On 7th July, 1915 Pte. Mashford embarked on "Rewa" for England from Malta. Pte. Mashford was Absent without Leave for 7 days on 17th September, 1915 & awarded 7 days confined to barracks & forfeited 7 days pay.

Cyril embarked from Devonport, England on "Andania" with No. 10 Draft bound for active service. He rejoined his Unit on Gallipoli Peninsula on 20th November, 1915. A letter was sent to Mrs. Mashford advising her that her son Pte. C. C. Mashford had returned to duty in Egypt. Pte. Mashford disembarked at Alexandria on 28th December, 1915. He embarked for Overseas from Alexandria on 22nd March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseille, France on 28th March, 1916. He was sent to Trench Mortar School of Instruction at Reuescure from 5th April, 1916 & rejoined the 2nd Battalion on 12th April, 1916. Pte. Mashford was transferred from 2nd Battalion to Light Trench Mortar Battalion on 12th April, 1916 in France.

He was wounded in action in France on 25th July, 1916 & reported Missing. Pte. Mashford was admitted with Shell shock to No. 2 Field Ambulance in France on 27th July, 1916 then transferred to No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station & on 28th July, 1916 admitted to No. 22 General Hospital. On 2nd August, 1916 Pte. Mashford was transferred to No. 6 Convalescent Depot at Etaples still suffering from Shell Shock. He was discharged to duty on 8th August, 1916 to 1st Australian Division Base Depot. The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for 763 Private Cyril Claud Mashford – 8th Battalion contains a letter written from Pte. A. J. Keane (4024) from Boulogne, France dated 22nd August, 1916 regarding 3 soldiers: Mashford, C. C. 763, Crown, A. 3712, Cashman, C. L. 3726.

If you write to Captain F. E. Page, officer Commanding 1st Light T.M. Bty., you will learn all particulars. It was reported to us that these three men have passed through the Clearing Station. Cashman with shell shock and Crown too. I am almost sure this is true, and he will tell you all particulars. The Battery Clerk told me this only about eight days ago. Pte. Turner who is one of our men received a letter from Pte. Mashford who is in England, so I am almost positive you will find that none of these three men are missing, and I do not know about the fourth man Parker. Another letter in the file, dated 25th July, 1916, states: Mashford, C. C. 763 - This man is in HO. I. A.D.B.D. and is in good health.

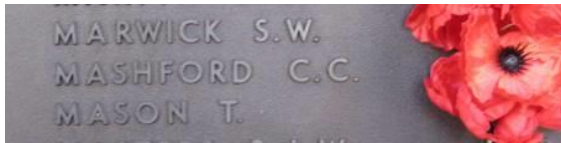
On 2nd September, 1916 Pte. Mashford rejoined his Unit in Belgium. He was detached for duty with Trench Mortar Battery in the field on 17th October, 1916. He was wounded in action in the field on the 6th November, 1916 & transferred to No. 4 General Hospital. He was transferred to England on 11th November, 1916. Pte. Mashford, of 1st Brigade Australian Trench Mortars, was then admitted to Edmonton Military Hospital, London with a Gunshot wound to the neck, from 12th November - 24th November, 1916. He was discharged from Hospital on 24th November, 1916 & given furlough, to report to Perham Downs on 9th December, 1916.

Pte. Mashford was transferred several times between 14th December, 1916, from No.1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, to No. 3 Camp at Parkhouse then Drafting Depot at Perham Downs & finally on 7th February, 1917 was attached to 8th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire. 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.

He was admitted to Fovant Military Hospital, seriously ill with Pneumonia on 18th February, 1917 from "B" Company, 8th Training Battalion. He died at 11.25 a.m. on 24th February, 1917 in Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire from Pneumonia.

A death for Charles Mashford, aged 25, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire. (Located in Pte. Mashford's Service Record file includes the Morning State of Sick Form (A. 27) which lists his Christian name as Charles & the age as 25). Private Cyril Claud Mashford was buried on 27th February, 1917 in the churchyard of St. Edith's at Baverstock, Wiltshire and has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

He is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 33.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte. C. C. Mashford is also remembered on the North Sydney War Memorial, located at the top of Walker St in St. Leonards Park, NSW.

(Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW –David Roden and Andrew Howell)



Pte. Cyril Claud Mashford was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte. Mashford's mother (father was deceased) – Mrs. S. E. Mashford (July, 1921 & March, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Cyril Claud Mashford – service number 763, as being 24 years old & served with 1st Division - Australian Trench Mortar Battery. He was the son of Thomas and Sarah Elizabeth Mashford, of 38 Sutherland Street, Neutral Bay, Sydney, New South Wales. A War Pension was granted to Sarah Elizabeth Mashford, mother of late Pte. C.C. Mashford in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 2nd June, 1917

64 pages of Pte. Cyril Claud Mashford'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

From Roll of Honour information - Brother Lieutenant R. L. Mashford Mentioned in Despatches & awarded French Medaille Militaire.

Newspaper Reports

THIRTY-SIXTH CASUALTY LIST
NEW SOUTH WALES
WOUNDED
C. C. Mashford, Neutral Bay.

The Advertiser, Adelaide, Saturday, 12 June, 1915

MEN OF THE DARDANELLES
PRIVATE C. C. MASHFORD.

Private Cyril C. Mashford (wounded) is a son of the late Mr. Thomas Mashford of Neutral Bay and Lincolnshire (Eng.). Prior to enlisting he was in the employ of Mr. Alex. Stoko, consulting engineer, of Pitt Street, city, but on the outbreak of war he offered his services and left with the 2nd Battalion under the late Lieut-Col. Braund.

The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Monday, 28 June 1915

MORE CASUALTIES

198th LIST

MISSING

Pte. C. C. MASHFORD, (Neutral Bay)

Evening News, Sydney, Thursday, 24 August 1916

CASUALTIES

DOUBLE LIST ISSUED

NEW SOUTH WALES

WOUNDED

Pte. C. C. MASHFORD, Neutral Bay (third occasion).

The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Tuesday, 12 December 1916

WAR CASUALTIES

DIED OF ILLNESS.

PRIVATE C. C. MASHFORD.

Official information has been received by Mrs. T. Mashford, of Neutral Bay, of the death of her second son, Private Cyril Claud Mashford, of pneumonia, in hospital, England. The deceased enlisted on the outbreak of war. He was at the landing at the Dardanelles, was wounded, and invalided to England, and returned and took part in the evacuation. He had been fighting in France since last April, being wounded three times, besides receiving shell-shock, the result of being buried by an explosion. Previous to enlisting he was in the employ of Mr. Alex. Stobo, consulting engineer. Private Mashford's two brothers are serving at the front.

The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Wednesday, 21 March 1917

MASHFORD — Died of pneumonia, in Fovant Military Hospital, England, February 24, Private Cyril Claud, second dearly loved son of Mrs. T. Mashford, Sutherland-street, Neutral Bay. A young life nobly ended.

The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Wednesday, 28 March 1917

YOUNGEST D.C.M.

HONOUR ROLL OF HIS SCHOOL

The youngest D.C.M. in the whole strength of the British Army is Leonard Jackson (whose story appeared in this paper, with his photo, on February 19). His school (Neutral Bay Public) has sent a big contribution to the front, and the boys have done fine work in the cause of the Empire. Among those who have gained distinction are; D. Marks, M.C., White Eagle of Servia, and promotion to rank of Major; he is 21 years old. C. Christmas has been awarded the M.C. and attained to commissioned rank; L. Grave has won the M.C. and been given his commission; A. Kernaghan, M.C.; L. Maunsell, M. M.; and Leonard Jackson, D.C.M.; and others decorated and promoted. Died for Empire (killed in action): A. L. French, A. E. Meggy, T. Burke, C. Glasgow, E. H. Cheal, E. Leask, A. Maunsell, F. Green, J. Struthers, H. T. Watkins, J. Wyatt, M. Welch, C. Adelb, F. Dickson, E. J. C. Glassford, J. Crane, O. Taylor, S. Mannell, **C. Mashford** and J. Swan.

The Globe and Sunday Times War Pictorial, Sydney, Monday, 2 April, 1917

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased WWI soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock. 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. Cyril Claud Mashford has a personal inscription on his headstone.

Sometime, Some Day Our Eyes Shall See The Face We Hold In Memory

Photo of Pte. Cyril Claud Mashford's
CWGC Headstone at St. Edith's Churchyard,
Baverstock, Wiltshire.

(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)

