



## *Baverstock War Graves WWI*

### **Private 4408 - Frederick Arthur Woolsey 30th Battalion Australian Infantry 22nd February, 1917 Age 48**

Frederick Arthur Woolsey was born at Bowen, Queensland in 1868 to parents Edward & Sarah Jane Woolsey (nee McMaster). (Birthplace of Bowen, Queensland is mentioned in CWGC information, supplied by the family. Frederick's Attestation Papers state he was born at Lismore, New South Wales.)

A marriage was registered in New South Wales in 1903 between Frederick A. Woolsey & Annie Smith in the Sydney district.

Births were registered in New South Wales in 1904 for Frederick A. Woolsey & in 1909 for Archibald E. Woolsey – parents Frederick A. & Annie Woolsey. (At the time of researching – births could only be checked up to 1913)

Frederick stated he was a 44 year old, married, horse-driver from Rocky Point Road, Banksia, New South Wales when he enlisted on 31st May, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 30th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.).

His service number was 4408 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs. Annie Woolsey of 19 Withcombe Street, Rozelle, New South Wales. A Statutory Declaration was signed by Fred. A. Woolsey, dated 12th June, 1916, stating that he was a married man & that his wife was living at home & that they had 3 children under the age of 16 years dependent on him for support. The eldest of which was 12 years old. (The age of 44 does not match the age shown on his headstone, which is supplied by the family).

Private Frederick Arthur Woolsey embarked from Sydney on the S.S. Port Napier on 17th November, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 29th January, 1917.

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

Private Frederick Arthur Woolsey was admitted sick to Fovant Hospital, Wiltshire on 17th February, 1917 from Hurdcott. He died at 2 p.m. on 22nd February, 1917 at the Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire from broncho pneumonia. His death aged 44 was registered in the March Quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

He was buried in the churchyard of St. Edith's at Baverstock, Wiltshire on 24th February, 1917 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

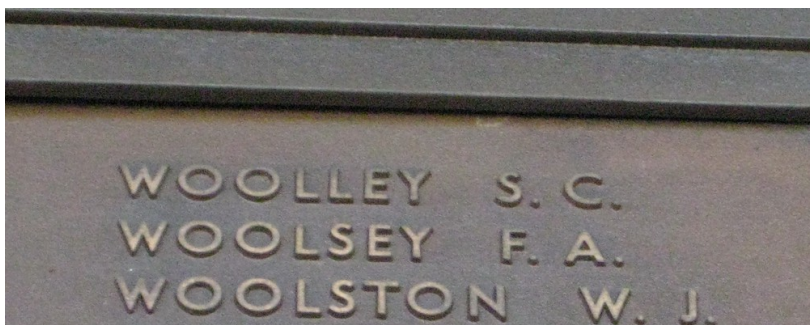
From the burial report of Pte Frederick Arthur Woolsey- Coffin was oak wood; Military Funeral with Full Honours. Admitted to Fovant Military Hospital suffering from Broncho-Pneumonia on 17-2-1917 and succumbed to Cardiac Failure due to the above condition at 2 p.m. 22-2-1917.

A request was made by the Red Cross, dated 30th March, 1917, on behalf of the late Pte Woolsey's family into the details of his death & burial. A reply was written from Military Hospital at Fovant, dated 31st March, 1917:



"I can only give you the following information. He was admitted into hospital on the 17th February 1917 suffering from Bronco-pneumonia he was very ill until he died on the 3rd June 1917 although everything possible was done for him. Private Woolsey was buried in Baverstock Churchyard, Dinton nr Salisbury on the 24th with full Military honours. I understand steps are being taken to erect a permanent memorial. If you think it would be any consolation to his friends to receive a letter from me, or from the nurse who looked after him, I should be only too pleased to do so."

Private F. A. Woolsey is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 118.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Private Frederick Arthur Woolsey was entitled to the British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Woolsey's widow – Mrs. Annie Woolsey (July, 1922 & September, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Frederick Arthur Woolsey– service number 4408, as being 48 years old & served with 30th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Edward and Sarah Woolsey; husband of Annie Woolsey of Thelma Boulevarde, Sans Souci. Born at Bowen, Queensland.

Mrs. Annie Woolsey had moved several times after the death of her late husband, Private F. A. Woolsey & Base Records had several communications returned unclaimed.

A War Pension was granted to Annie Woolsey, widow of late Pte Frederick Arthur Woolsey in the sum of £2 per fortnight, from 26th April, 1917. A Pension was also granted to Frederick Arthur Woolsey, son of late Pte Frederick Arthur Woolsey in the sum of £1 per fortnight, from 26th April, 1917. A Pension was also granted to Clement Robert Woolsey, son of late Pte Frederick Arthur Woolsey in the sum of 15/- per fortnight, from 26th April, 1917. A Pension was also granted to Archibald Edward Woolsey, son of late Private Frederick Arthur Woolsey in the sum of 10/- per fortnight, from 26th April, 1917.

72 pages of Private Frederick Arthur Woolsey'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

## Newspaper Reports

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES – LIST No. 277

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private F. A. Woolsey (Rozelle)

**Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate, New South Wales, Friday 9 March, 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 regard to the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

Private F. A. Woolsey has a personal inscription on his headstone:- Gone But Never Forgotten.