

Baverstock War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



3806 PRIVATE

L. H. FITZGERALD

32ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

12th JANUARY, 1917 Age 28

Lawrence Henry FITZGERALD

Lawrence Henry Fitzgerald was born on 24th October, 1888 at Milang, South Australia to parents Edward Robert & Laura Julia Fitzgerald (nee Landseer). He was a 27 year old, single, Farmer from Moorook, South Australia when he enlisted on 11th August, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 32nd Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 3806 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his Aunt – Miss Blanche Colville, 8th Avenue, East Adelaide, South Australia.

Pte Lawrence Henry Fitzgerald embarked from Adelaide on HMAT *Commonwealth (A73)* on 21st September, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 14th November, 1916.

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 Lawrence Henry Fitzgerald was admitted sick to Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire on 14th December, 1916 from "D" Company, 8th Training Battalion, Hurdcott.

Private Lawrence Henry Fitzgerald died at 2.15 p.m. on 12th January, 1917 at the Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire from Pneumonia.

A death for Lawrence H. Fitzgerald, aged 28, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Private Lawrence Henry Fitzgerald was buried on 15th January, 1917 in the churchyard of St. Edith's at Baverstock, Wiltshire and has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

From the burial report of Pte Lawrence Henry Fitzgerald – "*.....was buried with full Military Honours; a Firing Party and Band being supplied by the 8th Training Battalion, Hurdcott....*".

Private L. H. Fitzgerald is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 120.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte L. H. Fitzgerald is also remembered on the South Australian National War Memorial located on corner North Terrace and Kintore Avenue, Adelaide. Panel 5, 4th Column – 32nd Battalion.



South Australian National War Memorial

(Photo by Bilby)

Pte L. H. Fitzgerald was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Fitzgerald's aunt – Mrs B. Colville (February, 1923 & January, 1923). A letter, dated 18th May, 1921, was sent to Mr Desmond Landseer Fitzgerald – older brother of Pte Fitzgerald, Albermarle Station, Mendindie, River Darling, NSW, by Base Records as it had been ascertained that he was the eldest surviving male blood relative (Pte Fitzgerald's parents were both deceased) but because Pte Fitzgerald had nominated his aunt – Mrs B. Colville as next of

kin, the letter was to acknowledge that he agreed that the medals go to the aunt or if he objected that they would go to him. The letter was never replied to. A Statutory Declaration was signed by Mrs B. Colville, of 6th Avenue, St. Peters, East Adelaide, South Australia agreeing that she would preserve the War medals of late Pte Fitzgerald & produce them to the Dept. of Defence should they be required for the purpose of being handed to someone having prior claims.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Lawrence Fitzgerald – service number 3806, as being 28 years old & served with 32nd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Edward and Laura Fitzgerald. Born at Gawler, South Australia.

(62 pages of Pte Lawrence Henry Fitzgerald'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

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Pte Lawrence Henry Fitzgerald

(A.W.M.)

Newspaper Reports

THE CALL TO ARMS

At the Currie-street Recruiting Depot on Friday 35 volunteers for active service were examined, of whom 22 were enlisted, eight were unfit and five were deferred.

GONE INTO CAMP

The following men went into camp of Friday:- L. H. Fitzgerald.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – Saturday 12 August, 1916)

MOOROOK HONOUR LIST

..... L. H. Fitzgerald.....

(Murray Pioneer and Australian River Record, Renmark, South Australia – Friday 18 May, 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 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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 28th June, 1921, to Mrs B. Colville (Aunt of late Pte Fitzgerald) advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription for the headstone of the late Pte Fitzgerald had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Pte L. H. Fitzgerald does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte L. H. Fitzgerald 's CWGC Headstone at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)



St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire.

(Photo from CWGC)