

# Baverstock War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



2974 PRIVATE

**P. REIDY**

*served as*

**P. WILSON**

**58TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**2nd FEBRUARY, 1918    Age 36**

## **Patrick REIDY (served as Patrick Wilson)**

Patrick Reidy was born at Buninyong, near Ballarat, Victoria on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 1883 to parents Andrew & Mary Reidy (nee Breen). He was a 31 year old, single, Labourer when he enlisted on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 1915 at Liverpool, New South Wales with the 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his brother – Thomas Reidy of Leigh Creek Post Office, Ballarat, Victoria (Both parents were deceased). Patrick Reidy was discharged on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 1915 as Medically unfit. He had served 41 days in Camp with “D” Company, 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

Patrick Reidy re-enlisted on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 1915 with the 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion at Liverpool, NSW. He gave his birthplace as Greville, Ballarat, Victoria. Patrick did list that he had previously served with 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion but was discharged as medically unfit. Pte P. Reidy was discharged “Unlikely to become an efficient soldier”. He had served 65 days in Camp with the 1<sup>st</sup> Reinforcements 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

Patrick Reidy re-enlisted again on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1915 at Cootamundra, NSW. He stated he was born at Ballarat on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 1883. Patrick Reidy was discharged on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 1915 “Unlikely to become an efficient soldier”.

Patrick re-enlisted again on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 at Moore Park, NSW but this time as Patrick Wilson, aged 31 years & 11 months, born at Ballarat. His next of kin was listed as his sister Annie Hayes. He was attached to 58<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements. His service number of 39652 was changed to 2974.

Pte Patrick Wilson embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Afric (A19)* on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 1917. Pte Wilson was written up for being Absent without Leave whilst on Troopship (stopover) from 11 p.m. on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 1916 until 2.30 a.m. on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 1916 for drunkenness. He was awarded 10 day detention & fined a total of 13 days pay plus 5/-.

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.

Pte Patrick Wilson was marched in to 15<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire from Australia on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1917. He proceeded overseas to France from 15<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion, via Folkestone on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 & was taken on strength In the Field in France from 5<sup>th</sup> D. B. D. on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 1917.

Pte Patrick Wilson was Wounded in Action on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 1917 at Bullecourt in France with a gunshot wound to right leg (calf & muscle wound) & left shoulder. He embarked from Calais, France on H.S. (Hospital Ship) *Newhaven* for England on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 1917 & admitted to Horton County of London War Hospital at Epsom. On 6<sup>th</sup> September, 1917 Pte Wilson was transferred to Gorton War Hospital at Epsom.

Pte Wilson was granted furlo from 20<sup>th</sup> September, 1917 until 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1917. Pte Wilson was marched in from Admin. Headquarters, London to No. 4 Command Depot at Weymouth on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1917. He was transferred to No. 2 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1917.

Private Patrick Wilson was sent sick with Influenza on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 1918 & admitted to Fovant Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1918, seriously ill with Pneumonia.

Private Patrick Wilson died on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 1918 at Military Hospital, Fovant Wiltshire from Pneumonia.

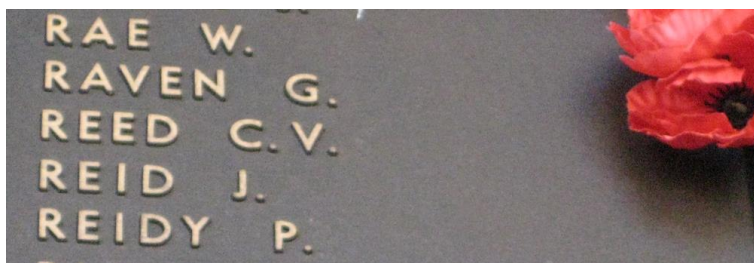
Private Patrick Wilson was buried in the churchyard of St. Edith's at Baverstock, Wiltshire on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 1918 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

From the burial report of Pte P. Wilson –*"The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, the coffin being of polished elm, Chaplain J. Fahey D.S.O. officiating."*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Pte Patrick Wilson 2974 (Pte Patrick Reidy) contains the following letter from Military Hospital at Fovant:

*"Re: Pte P. Wilson. I can give you the following particulars. He was admitted into this Hospital on the 16-1-18 with Pneumonia. He was complaining of pain in the chest and had a most distressing cough. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> the patient became delirious and exhausted remaining in this condition for 3 days. On the 25<sup>th</sup> he appeared to improve, but on the 27<sup>th</sup> he became worse and died on the 2-2-18 at 1 a.m. in the early morning. Everything possible was done for him but without avail."*

Private P. Reidy, who served as Pte P. Wilson, is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 166 under his real name.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

According to Communications dated 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 1921, between Base Records, Melbourne & District Finance Office the late Pte Wilson had “nominated Mr W. Cutcheon (friend) of 229 Barcom Avenue, Darlinghurst, NSW as Next-of-kin. The balance of military moneys due to his estate was paid to Miss A. Reidy (sister) on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 1919. A Claim for War Gratuity by Miss Reidy was rejected. All letters held here written by the late soldier were forwarded to Messrs Pearson & Mann, Solicitors, Ballarat Victoria on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 1918.” Mr W. McCutcheon received the personal effects of the late Pte Wilson. He had also enquired as to the location of a Will.

Pte Patrick Wilson was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Wilson's sister – Annie Reidy (sent November, 1921 & August, 1922). On his Attestation Papers for his last enlistment Pte Wilson had nominated his sister “Annie Hayes” as his next-of-kin. A letter by Miss Annie Reidy explains that at the time of her brother enlisting she was engaged to be married & her brother thought that if he died his sister would have been married – hence the use of Annie Hayes but unfortunately the engagement was ended so she was still Annie Reidy. Annie Reidy did explain in a letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> September, 1921 that there was an older sister – Mary McDonald who had married & moved to Western Australia before Patrick was born & had told Annie that she would leave all Patrick's belongings to Annie & not to bother her as she had a family of thirteen children, was in bad health, had five sons at the War & her husband had died.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Patrick Reidy (served as WILSON) – service number 2974, as being 36 years old & served with 58th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Andrew and Mary Reidy. Born at Bungaree, Victoria.

(132 pages of Pte Patrick Wilson'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*

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## Newspaper Reports

### AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

Private P. Wilson has been reported as a casualty. Letters concerning him addressed to Mr. McCutcheon, 42 Flinders-street. Darlinghurst, having been returned unclaimed to the military authorities, he is requested to communicate with Mr. Bruncker, Victoria Barracks, Paddington.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Tuesday 19 February, 1918)*

## 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 28<sup>th</sup> June, 1921, to Mr W. McCutcheon (listed as next-of-kin friend) advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription for the headstone of the late Pte P. Wilson 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. Mr McCutcheon, in a letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> June, 1921, advised Base Records that he was not a blood relative to the late Pte P. Wilson.

Pte P. Reidy served as P. Wilson does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



**St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire.**

*(Photo from CWGC)*

Photo of Pte P. Reidy served as P. Wilson's CWGC Headstone at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire.



*(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)*