

Baverstock War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



4520 PRIVATE

T. L. DAVIES

32ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

7th MARCH, 1917 Age 20

In Memory Of Our Dear Son

His Loving Parents

Lameroo. S.A.

Thomas Leslie DAVIES

Thomas Leslie Davies was born near Warracknabeal, Victoria to parents Samuel & Elizabeth Davies. He was a 20 year old, single, Farmer from Lameroo, South Australia when he enlisted on 6th November, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 32nd Infantry Battalion, 12th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 4520 & his religion was Methodists. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Elizabeth Davies of Lameroo, South Australia (Father deceased). A consent was signed for by Elizabeth Davies consenting to her son Thomas Leslie Davies enlisting in the A.I.F. and for Active Service abroad, dated 16th October, 1916.

Pte Thomas Leslie Davies embarked from Adelaide on HMAT *Berrima* (A35) on 16th December, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 16th February, 1917.

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.

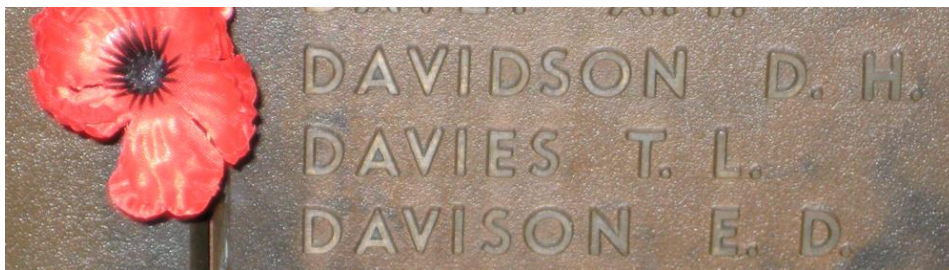
Private Thomas Leslie Davies was admitted to Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire on 2nd March, 1917.

Private Thomas Leslie Davies of "D" Company, 8th Training Battalion, died at 5.10 a.m. on 7th March, 1917 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire from Pneumonia.

A death for Thomas L. Davies, aged 20, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Private Thomas Leslie Davies was buried in the churchyard of St. Edith's at Baverstock, Wiltshire on 9th March, 1917 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

Private T. L. Davies 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 T. L. Davies 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 T. L. Davies is also remembered on the Lamerook Honour Roll for World War 1, located at Lamerook Memorial Hall, Railway Terrace South & Chandos Terrace, Lamerook, South Australia.



(Photo from Monument Australia – Roger Johnson)

Pte Thomas Leslie Davies was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Davies' mother – Elizabeth Davies (both August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Thomas Leslie Davies – service number 4520, as being 20 years old & served with 32nd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Samuel and Elizabeth Davies, of Lameroo, South Australia.

A War Pension was granted to Elizabeth Davies, widowed mother of Pte Thomas Leslie Davies, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 12th May, 1917.

(50 pages of Pte Thomas Leslies Davies' 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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Newspaper Reports

CASUALTY LISTS - 280th LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DIED OF SICKNESS

4520 Pte T. L. DAVIES, Lameroo (March 7)

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – Saturday 24 March, 1917)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

THE LATE PRIVATE T. L. DAVIES

Private Leslie Davies, who died from pneumonia in England on March 7, was the fourth son of Mrs Elizabeth and the late Mr Samuel Davies, of Lameroo. He was born and educated at Pepper's Plain, Victoria, and from there he and his parents removed to Lameroo in 1906. He lived at Lameroo until the time of his enlistment in November, 1916. He left for the _____ in the following December. On _____ England he met his brother, _____ Davies was extremely popular _____ a member of the _____ Football Club. He was 20 years of age, and was loved by all who knew him.



Private L. Davies

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – Friday 13 April, 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 8th May, 1920, to Mrs E. Davies, Lameroo, South Australia advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription for the headstone of the late Pte T. L. Davies exceeded the limit imposed by the War Graves Commission. The letter also questioned the choice of the Star of David (the emblem of the Jewish faith) on the headstone as Pte Davies was recorded as being Methodist. A reply was sent on 14th May, 1920 by Mrs E. Davies, mother of Pte T. L. Davies, amending the inscription & choosing the Christian Cross.

Pte T. L. Davies does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Memory Of Our Dear Son. His Loving Parents. Lameroo. S.A.



St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire.

(Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Pte T. L. Davies' CWGC Headstone at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)