

Baverstock War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



4395 PRIVATE

W. G. PRICE

30TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

2nd MARCH, 1917 Age 22

Sadly Missed

And Deeply Mourned

By Those

Who Loved Him Dearly

William George PRICE

William George Price was born at Dalmorton, NSW in 1893 to parents Henry & Rachel Mary Price (nee Fuller). His birth was registered in the district of Glen Innes in 1893. He was a 22 year old, single Labourer from Newtown, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted on 20th September, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 30th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 4395 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs B. Price of 36 Australia St, Newtown, Sydney, NSW. William had been a member of the Scottish Rifles in Sydney for 3 years.

Pte William George Price embarked from Sydney on SS *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 in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private William George Price was admitted sick to Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire on 17th February, 1917 from 8th Training Battalion, Hurdcott.

Private William George Price died at 11.45 a.m. on 2nd March, 1917 at Military Hospital Fovant, Wiltshire from Bronchitis.

A death for William G. Price, aged 23, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Private William George Price was buried on 5th March, 1917 in the churchyard of St. Edith's at Baverstock, Wiltshire and has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

The Red Cross had been contacted by the family of the late Pte William George Price, requesting any details possible regarding his illness, death and burial. A letter was sent from the Red Cross, dated 12th April, 1917, to the Matron, Fovant Military Hospital, Salisbury Plains. A reply was written on 19th April, 1917 which reads:

"He was admitted into this hospital on the 17.2.17 suffering from Bronchitis, lung trouble followed and he died on 2.3.17. Was buried at Baverstock, Dinton. The sister who nursed him has written a few lines, if it will be of any use to you in writing to his people.

S. Tawning, Military Hospital Fovant

In reference to your letter regarding Pte Price I helped nurse him. He was always very good, bright and cheerful right to the very end, and most patient. All that we could possibly do for him, was done, and we were very grieved when he passed away. I thought perhaps writing these few words would help you with his people.

The Sister, Fovant Military Hospital."

Private W. G. Price is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 117.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

As the A.I.F. had endeavoured to contact the father of the late Pte W. G. Price without success, it was decided that the British War Medal would be handed over to Mrs Rachel Price, mother of late Pte W. G. Price, provided that a Declaration be signed beforehand. Mrs Price had advised the Repatriation Commission that she was living apart from her husband, who she believed was in America. A Statutory Declaration was signed by Rachel Mary Price on 16th October, 1924 stating that she would preserve the War Medals & any other items given into her custody on account of the service of late Pte W. G. Price & will return them to the Dept. of Defence at any time should anyone with prior right claim the items.

Pte W. G. Price was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Price's mother – Mrs R. M Price (Both sent October, 1924). As the A.I.F. had endeavoured to contact the father of the late Pte W. G. Price without success, it was decided that the British War Medal would be handed over to Mrs Rachel Price, mother of late Pte W. G. Price, provided that a Declaration be signed beforehand. A Statutory Declaration was signed by Rachel Mary Price on 16th October, 1924 stating that she would preserve the War Medals & any other items given into her custody on account of the service of late Pte W. G. Price & will return them to the Dept. of Defence at any time should anyone with prior right claim the items.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William George Price – service number 4395 as being 22 years old & served with 30th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Henry and Rachel Mary Price of “Qvista”, Empire St, Haberfield, Sydney. Born at Dalmorton, New South Wales.

A War Pension was granted to Mrs Rachel Mary Price, mother of late Pte William George Price, in the sum of £2 per fortnight, granted from 12th May, 1917. War pensions were also granted to the late Pte W. G. Price’s sisters – Linda Mabel Price, from 24th May, 1917 & Gladys Margaret Price, from 12th May, 1917 – both in the sum of 5/- per fortnight from

(57 pages of Pte William George Price’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

CASUALTIES – 280th LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte W. G. Price, Newtown

(The Land, Sydney – Friday 23 March, 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)

Pte W. G. Price does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Sadly Missed And Deeply Mourned By Those Who Loved Him Dearly

Photo of Pte W. G. Price'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)