

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

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



P. REIDY *served as*

2974 PRIVATE

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 16th September, 1883 to parents Andrew & Mary Reidy (nee Breen).

Patrick Reidy was a 31 year old, single, Labourer when he enlisted on 2nd March, 1915 at Liverpool, New South Wales with the Australian Imperial Force (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 posted to “D” Company of 19th Battalion on 2nd March, 1915 & was discharged on 6th April, 1915 as Medically unfit. He had served 41 days in Camp.

Patrick Reidy re-enlisted on 17th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) at Liverpool, NSW. He gave his birthplace as Greville, Ballarat, Victoria. Patrick did list that he had previously served with 19th Battalion but was discharged as medically unfit. Private P. Reidy was posted to 30th Battalion & discharged “*Unlikely to become an efficient soldier*”. He had served 65 days in Camp with the 1st Reinforcements 30th Battalion.

Patrick Reidy re-enlisted again on 1st November, 1915 at Cootamundra, NSW. He stated he was born at Ballarat on 16th September, 1883. Patrick Reidy was posted to “D” Company, 20th Battalion at Casula, Sydney, NSW & discharged on 8th December, 1915 “*Unlikely to become an efficient soldier*”.

Patrick re-enlisted again on 5th September, 1916 at Moore Park, NSW but this time under the name of Patrick Wilson, aged 31 years & 11 months, born at Ballarat. His next of kin was listed as his sister Annie Hayes. His service number was 2974.

Private Patrick Wilson was posted to Royal Agricultural Show Grounds at Moore Park, Sydney, NSW for recruit training. He was transferred to Dubbo Depot Battalion on 10th September, 1916 then transferred to “B” Company, Depot Battalion at Bathurst, NSW on 22nd September, 1916. Private Wilson was transferred to 7th Reinforcements of 58th Battalion at Bathurst on 29th September, 1916 then transferred to Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 8th October, 1916 still with 7th Reinforcements of 58th Battalion.

Private Patrick Wilson embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Afric (A19)* on 3rd November, 1916 with 7th Reinforcements of 58th Battalion & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th January, 1917. Private Wilson was written up for being Absent without Leave whilst on Troopship (stopover) from 11 p.m. on 27th November, 1916 until 2.30 a.m. on 29th November, 1916 for drunkenness. He was awarded 10 days 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.

Private Patrick Wilson was marched in to 15th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire from Australia on 10th January, 1917. He proceeded overseas to France from 15th Training Battalion, via Folkestone on 20th March, 1917.

Private Patrick Wilson was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 21st March, 1917. He was marched out to his Unit on 23rd March, 1917 & was taken on strength of 58th Battalion in the Field on 26th March, 1917.

Private Patrick Wilson was Wounded in Action on 12th May, 1917 at Bullecourt in France. He was admitted to 14th Field Ambulance on 12th May, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to leg & shoulder then transferred to 29th Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Private Wilson was transferred to No. 9 Ambulance Train on 13th May, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to left shoulder & right leg. He was admitted to 22nd General Hospital at Camiers, France on 14th May, 1917 with a gunshot wounds to right leg (calf & muscle wound) & left shoulder. Private Wilson embarked from Calais, France on H.S. (Hospital Ship) *Newhaven* for England on 18th May, 1917.

58th Battalion

The 58th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 17 February 1916 as part of the expansion of the AIF. Roughly half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 6th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 6th, the 58th was predominantly composed of men from Victoria. The battalion became part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.....

Early in 1917 the 58th battalion participated in the advance that followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, but it was spared from the assault. It did, however, defend gains made during the second battle of Bullecourt, between 9 and 12 May.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Patrick Wilson was admitted to Horton County of London War Hospital at Epsom, England on 18th May, 1917. He was transferred to 1st Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield on 6th September, 1917.

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

Private Patrick Wilson was sent sick to Fovant Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 16th January, 1918 with Influenza. He was reported to be seriously ill with Pneumonia on 17th January, 1918.

Private Patrick Wilson died on 2nd 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 5th February, 1918 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

From the burial report of Private 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 Private 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 22nd the patient became delirious and exhausted remaining in this condition for 3 days. On the 25th he appeared to improve, but on the 27th 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.”

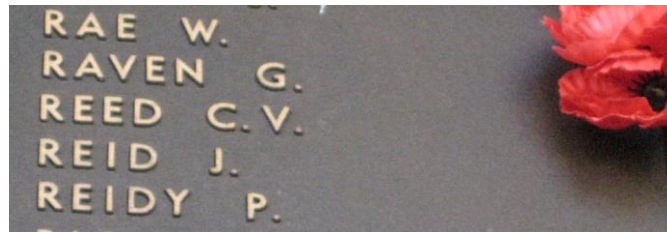
According to Communications dated 23rd August, 1921, between Base Records, Melbourne & District Finance Office the late Private Wilson had “nominated Mr W. Cutcheon (friend) of 229 Barcom Avenue, Darlinghurst, NSW as next-of-kin. The balance of military moneys due to his estate was paid to Miss A. Reidy (sister) on 6th 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 23rd December, 1918.” Mr W. McCutcheon received the personal effects of the late Private Wilson. He had also enquired as to the location of a Will.

Private Patrick Wilson was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Wilson's sister – Annie Reidy (sent November, 1921 & August, 1922).

On his Attestation Papers for his last enlistment Private 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 28th 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.

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

P. Wilson is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.





(132 pages of Private 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



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. Brunker, 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 28th June, 1921, to Mr W. McCutcheon (listed as next-of-kin friend) advised 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 21st June, 1921, advised Base Records that he was not a blood relative to the late Private P. Wilson.

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

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

St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock contains 32 World War 1 War Graves – 3 London Regiment Graves in the south-west corner & 29 Australian War Graves.



St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock *(Photo courtesy of Helen Roberts)*



St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock (Photos courtesy of Helen Roberts)



Photo of Private P. Reidy who served as P. Wilson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)