

**Compton Chamberlayne
War Graves Cemetery,
Wiltshire, England**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3712 PRIVATE

T. CASS

10TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

17TH AUGUST, 1918 AGE 23

Thomas CASS

Thomas Cass was born in Leichhardt, Sydney, New South Wales in 1894 to parents Thomas & Harriet Maria Cass.

Thomas Cass attended School at St Barnabas' Church of England School, Adelaide, South Australia & also James Street, Perth, Western Australia.

Thomas Cass was a 20 year old, single, Storeman from 111 Carr Street, West Perth, Western Australia when he enlisted in Adelaide, South Australia on 10th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His Service Number was 3712 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father, T. Cass of 111 Carr Street, West Perth, Western Australia. Thomas Cass stated on his Attestation Papers that he had completed 1 year of Senior Cadets. He had also served with 76th Battalion for 3 years & Citizen Forces with 74th Battalion & was still serving.

Private Thomas Cass was posted to "C" Company, 2nd Depot Battalion on 10th August, 1915. He was transferred to 12th Reinforcements of 10th Battalion on 1st October, 1915.

Private Thomas Cass embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on RMS *Malwa* on 2nd December, 1915 with the 10th Infantry Battalion, 12th Reinforcements & disembarked on 14th February, 1916 at Cairo. He was discharged to Aerodrome in Cairo with influenza.

Private Thomas Cass embarked from Alexandria on 29th March, 1916 on H.T. *Transylvania* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 4th April, 1916.

Private Thomas Cass proceeded to join his Battalion from Base at Etaples on 24th May, 1916 & was taken on strength of 10th Battalion in the Field on 26th May, 1916 from Reinforcements.

Private Thomas Cass was sent sick to Hospital on 30th June, 1916. He was admitted to No. Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 30th June, 1916 with Influenza. He was discharged to duty on 7th August, 1916 & rejoined 10th Battalion in France on 10th August, 1916.

Private Thomas Cass was sent sick to Hospital on 22nd November, 1916 then transferred & admitted to New Zealand Stationary Hospital at Amiens on 28th November, 1916 with Influenza. He was transferred & admitted to 13th Stationary Hospital at Boulogne, France on 30th November, 1916.

Private Cass was sent sick to Hospital on 11th December, 1916. He was admitted to No. 1 Convalescent Depot at Boulogne on 12th December, 1916 & was fit for discharge to Base Depot on 21st December, 1916. Private Cass rejoined his Battalion on 8th January, 1917 from Hospital.

Private Thomas Cass proceeded on 26th August, 1917 to Summer Rest Camp. He returned to 10th Battalion on 8th September, 1917.

Private Thomas Cass was wounded in action in Belgium on 20th September, 1917. He was admitted to 1st Australian Field Ambulance on 20th September, 1917 with a gunshot wound to his right shoulder then transferred & admitted to 32nd Casualty Clearing Station. Private Cass was transferred to Ambulance Train 36 on & admitted to 22nd General Hospital at Dannes on 21st September, 1917. He was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Pieter de Conick* on 24th September, 1917.

10th Battalion

The 10th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. The battalion was recruited in South Australia, and together with the 9th, 11th and 12th Battalions, formed the 3rd Brigade.

..... After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the 10th Battalion returned to Egypt and, in March 1916, sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bitter trench warfare. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July. After Pozieres the battalion fought at Ypres in Flanders before returning to the Somme for winter. In 1917, the battalion returned to Belgium to take part in the

major British offensive of that year - the Third Battle of Ypres. For his valorous actions at Polygon Wood east of Ypres in September 1917, Private Roy Inwood was awarded the Victoria Cross.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 10th Battalion

19th September, 1917:

Final preparation for action, Moved out for action at 11.30 pm.

20/22nd September, 1917:

Action at Polygon Wood (Appendix 9)

Appendix 9 (Casualties):

	<i>Killed</i>	<i>Wounded</i>	<i>Missing</i>
<i>Officers</i>	3	4	2
<i>O/Ranks</i>	15	147	52

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Thomas Cass was admitted to the 2/1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham (Dudley Rd Section) on 25th September, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to right Shoulder. He was transferred to No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park, Middlesex on 8th October, 1917. Private Cass was discharged & sent on furlough from 24th October to 7th November, 1917. He was then to report to Command Depot at Weymouth.

Private Thomas Cass was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset on 7th November, 1917 from furlough. He was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 13th November, 1917.

Private Thomas Cass was written up for an Offence at Hurdcott on 13th December, 1917 – neglecting to obey an order given by an N.C.O. He was awarded 7 days confined to Barracks.

Private Thomas Cass was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 14th December, 1917.

Private Thomas Cass was reported A.W.L. (absent without leave) on 3rd January, 1918. He returned from A.W.L. on 8th January, 1918.

Private Thomas Cass was written up for a Crime – overstaying leave from midnight on 3rd January, 1918 until reporting back at 4.20 pm on 8th January, 1918. He was awarded 8 days Field Punishment No. 2 on 9th January, 1918 & forfeited a total of 13 days' pay.

Private Thomas Cass proceeded overseas to France from Longbridge Deverill on 17th January, 1918 via Southampton. He was marched in to 1st A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 18th January, 1918. Private Cass proceeded from 1st A.I.B.D. on 20th January, 1918 to join his Unit & he rejoined 10th Battalion in France from Hospital on 1st February, 1918.

Private Thomas Cass was sent sick to Hospital on 31st March, 1918. He was admitted to 2nd Field Ambulance with P.U.O. (pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin) then transferred on 4th April, 1918 to 65th Field Ambulance. Private Cass was discharged to duty on 7th April, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion on 10th April, 1918.

Private Thomas Cass was wounded in action on 30th May, 1918 (2nd occasion). He was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance on 30th May, 1918 with Shrapnel wounds to his back. Private Cass was transferred & admitted to 15th Casualty Clearing Station on 30th May, 1918. He was transferred again & admitted to 55th General Hospital on 3rd June, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to his back. Private Cass embarked for England on 7th June, 1918 on Hospital Ship *St. Andrew*.

10th Battalion

In March and April 1918 the 10th Battalion helped stop the German spring offensive and was then involved in the operations leading up to the Allied counter-stroke. In June, during an attack near Merris in France, Corporal Phillip Davey became the third member of the battalion to be awarded the Victoria Cross.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 10th Battalion

Merris Sector - 30th May, 1918:

A MINOR OPERATION was carried out during the night, as per report App No. XIX.

Three counter attacks were repulsed.

Casualties:- Killed: O.R.s 10 Officers 2

Wounded: O.R.s 52 Officers 4

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Thomas Cass was admitted to Norfolk War Hospital, Thorpe, Norwich, England on 7th June, 1918. He was transferred to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield on 26th July, 1918. He was discharged to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott on 2nd August, 1918.

Private Thomas Cass was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 2nd August, 1918 from 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital & medically classified as B1 b (temporarily unfit for active service).

Private Thomas Cass was sent sick to Group Hospital at Hurdcott on 3rd August, 1918 "(G.S.W. Back)". He was admitted to Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire on 5th August, 1918 & reported as seriously ill with Meningitis on 6th August, 1918.

Private Thomas Cass died at 11 p.m. on 17th August, 1918 at the Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire from wounds received in action (gunshot wound to spine) & cerebro-spinal meningitis.

The Hospital Admissions Form has the following information regarding Private Thomas Cass: "...*this man was hit in the back by a piece of shell 29.8.18. At the C.C.S. the note made is small wound of back no exit. Abdomen ___ rigid, no vomiting.... On admission here [Military Hospital, Fovant] Pt [Patient] stated that wound in his back had never healed – always discharging pus freely. ...Back had considerable limitation of movement and around the opening of sinus there was much redness and swelling as if pus & fluid was pent up.... The same night patient began to complain of pains and numbness in his legs and there was obviously cerebro-spinal fluid coming away as well. The following day he as sick at intervals and showed symptoms of spreading cerebro-spinal meningitis. From this he died 11 pm 17.8.18.*"

A death for Thomas Cass, aged 23, was registered in the September quarter of 1918, in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire. (Fovant was a parish in the district of Wilton).

Private Thomas Cass was buried in Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England on 19th August, 1918 – Back Row, Grave Plot #6.

From the burial report of Pte Cass – Coffin was good, Polished Elm with Brass Mountings – *Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the body being conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage, preceded by a Firing Party and Band. Six men of deceased's company acted as Pallbearers and a number of Officers, N.C.O.'s and men attended as mourners.*

Deceased's brother, Captain F. Cass, Administrative Hqrs, attended as chief mourner. A beautiful wreath from deceased's brother was placed on the grave. Headquarters, A.I.F. Depots in U.K. were represented at the funeral.

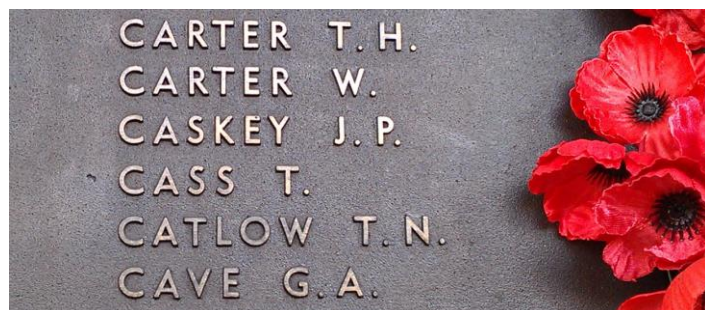
The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file Private Thomas Cass contains a letter from the Matron of Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire which reads: *"Pte T. Cass was admitted into this Hospital on the 6th August, suffering from gun shot wound in the back He was operated upon, but no improvement followed & he gradually became worse until his death. He was buried at Compton Chamberlayne. His brother Lieutenant Cass was with him sometime before he died."*

From information provided by his sister for the Roll of Honour - Private Thomas Cass was described by his family as being of *"a humorous vein, highly musical (clarinet) & exceptionally kind in his disposition."*

Private Thomas Cass was entitled to the 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. Mr T. Cass, father of the late Private Thomas Cass, died on 8th December, 1916. Mrs Harriet Cass, mother of the late Private Thomas Cass, having died in 1907. An agreement between the late Private Cass's brother & sister saw the medals divided in the following manner - 1914/15 Star, Victory Medal & Memorial plaque were distributed to his sister - Mrs E. Sell, 75 Carr St, Perth, WA. The British War Medal & clasp & Memorial Scroll were distributed to his brother- Mr W. Cass of 7 Wright St, Adelaide, South Australia. Private Cass had previously nominated his sister – Mrs Sell as sole beneficiary & under the circumstances had a moral claim to the mementoes. According to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Thomas Cass – service number 3712, aged 23, of 10th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Thomas and Harriet Maria Cass.

Private T. Cass is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 58.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

T. Cass is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

(85 pages of Private Thomas Cass' 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

W.A. CASUALTIES

At The Fighting Fronts

WOUNDED

Thomas Cass, Perth, joined in South Australia;

(The Daily News Perth, WA – Saturday 27 October, 1917)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

CASS – A tribute to the memory of Thomas Cass, who died of wounds received in action on August 17, 1918, after nearly three years active service.

Never the lotus closes,
Never the wild fowl wakes,
But a soul goes out on the east wind
That died for Australia's sake.

-Inserted by his friends at "Lyndholme," Clarence Park.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide – Saturday 16 August, 1919) & (Chronicle, Adelaide – Saturday 23 August, 1919)

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 Compton Chamberlayne Cemetery. 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)

Private T. Cass does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery contains 34 Commonwealth War Graves all from World War 1. Of these 28 are of Australian Soldiers.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)



Left & right of Cemetery with central Plinth (Photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)



Photo taken from back of Cemetery looking towards the Entrance (Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)

Photo of Private T. Cass's Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone in Compton Chamberlayne War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)



(Photo taken c March, 1919)

Graves of Australian soldiers in the cemetery at Compton-Chamberlyne, each marked by a cross.

Back row, left to right: 55821 Private (Pte) Alfred Alwin Dreckow, 32nd Battalion (Bn), died 19 October 1918; **3712 Pte Thomas Cass, 10th Bn, died 17 August 1918**; 3764 Pte William Joseph Arnold, 31st Bn, died 2 July 1918; Captain Roy Allan Sillar, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 30 June 1918; 1993A Pte Sydney Ross, 18th Bn, died 31 May 1918.

Front row: 1666 Sergeant Percy Robert Knowles, 9th Australian Light TM Battery, died 30 January 1918; 1995 Pte Thomas James Skipper, 51st Bn, died Fovant Military Hospital 7 January 1918; 687 Pte John Thomas Wehrmann, 32nd Bn, died 3 November 1917; 3462 Pte William Joseph Park, 60th Bn, died 23rd September 1917; 1725 Pte William Ernest Riley, 60th Bn, died 22 May 1917.



Compton Chamberlayne War Graves (Photo from CWGC)

Compton Chamberlayne War Grave Locations







































British Soldier



Irish Soldier



Australian Soldier

Front Row	Grave	Middle Row	Grave	Back Row	Grave
Public	1	 Oliver	1		1
Public	2	 Knowles	2	Public	2
 Haywood	3	 Skipper	3	 Turner	3
 Gilbert	4	 Wehrmann	4	 Evans	4
 Le Tisser	5	 Park	5	 Dreckow	5
 Jones	6	 Riley	6	 Cass	6
 Cook	7	 Turnbull	7	 Arnold	7
 Pairman	8	 White	8	 Sillar	8
	9	 Howard	9	 Ross	9
 Norris	10	 Tull	10	 Finn	10
 Lintott	11	 Snell	11	 McCarthy	11
 Redman	12	 Ferrow	12	 Trengove	12
Public		 Public			13
Public		Public			14
Public				 Walsh	15
					16
				 Hooper	17
					18
				 Larkin	19