

**St. Mary's New Churchyard,
Codford, Wiltshire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3762 PRIVATE

S. CLARKE

49TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

21ST JUNE, 1918 Age 28

Sydney James CLARKE

Sydney James Clarke was born at St. George, Queensland in 1890.

Sydney Clarke was a 27 year old, single, Stockman from Warwick, Queensland when he enlisted at Toowoomba, Queensland on 11th April, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his friend, Mrs Ellen Noud, Goondiwindi, Queensland. (From the information supplied for the Roll of Honour, completed by Mrs Ellen Noud, she was Sydney's foster mother.)

Private Sydney Clarke, Service number 3762, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 31st October, 1917 with the 52nd Infantry Battalion, 10th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 26th December, 1917. While in Port of Spain on 11th December, 1917, Private Clarke was disciplined for neglecting to obey an order given by his superior officer. He was awarded 7 days C.B. (Confined to Barracks) and forfeiture of 2 days pay.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Sydney Clarke was marched in to 13th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire on 26th December, 1917.

Private Clarke was admitted to Group Hospital with bronchitis on 9th January, 1918 & discharged 21st January, 1918. He was re-admitted on 24th January, 1918 with pneumonia & on 5th February, 1918 was admitted to the New Zealand Hospital with Bronchial Pneumonia - seriously ill. Private Clarke was discharged on 17th May, 1918 after 101 days. During this time Mrs E. Noud, Private Clarke's next-of-kin, received the following notifications from Base Records:

27/3/1918 – Reported Private Sydney Clarke Ill Will Advise Anything Further Received.

27/3/1918 – Now Reported Private Sydney Clarke Admitted New Zealand Hospital Codford England Fifth February Broncho Pneumonia Severe.

5/4/1918 – Private Sydney Clarke Removed From Seriously Ill List.

7/4/1918 - Private Sydney Clarke Condition Improving.

13/4/1918- Private Sydney Clarke Seriously Ill.

1/5/1918 – Now Reported Private Sydney Clarke Removed From Seriously Ill List.

20/5/1918 - Private Sydney Clarke Progressing Favourably.

6/6/1918 - Private Sydney Clarke Convalescent.

Private Sydney Clarke was then transferred to 49th Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire on 26th May, 1918.

Private Sydney Clarke was readmitted to the New Zealand Hospital with Pneumonia (seriously ill) on 14th June, 1918.

Private Sydney Clarke died at 11.45 a.m. on 21st June, 1918 at 3rd New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire, England. A Post Mortem was completed on 22nd June, 1918 & the cause of death was pneumonia.

A death for Sydney Clarke, aged 28, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Sydney Clarke was buried at St Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England - Grave No. 93, Australian Section on 24th June, 1918.

From the burial report - Coffin was good, Polished Elm with Brass Mountings – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours. The coffin was conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage, preceded by a Firing Party and Band. Six of deceased's comrades acted as Pallbearers. A half company of N.C.O.'s and men from deceased's training Unit attended as mourners. A large wreath from Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the Unit was placed on the grave. The late Pte Clarke was very popular and always proved himself a keen soldier and a true comrade.

Private Sydney Clarke requested in his Will, dated 24th November, 1917, that his property be left to his Friend – Mrs E. Noud of Goondiwindi, Qld.

Private Sydney Clarke was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. Before Private Clarke's medals were sent to his "next of kin" – Mrs E. Noud of Goondiwindi, Queensland, Base Records sent Mrs Noud a letter, dated 4th June, 1921, asking her to supply answers to their questions regarding living blood relatives of Private Clarke. On the copy of this letter, held in Private Clarke's Service Record file, the Officer in Charge of Base Records had written the following information across the letter:

"No reply to this but Memorial form for Headstone over grave shows deceased soldier to have been an illegitimate half-cast aboriginal, whose foster-mother was Mrs E. Noud. War Medals &c to foster-mother under bond.

Mrs Noud was required to sign a Statutory Declaration stating that she would take due care of any War Medals or other items she received of Private Clarke's & would return the medals to the Department of Defence should someone have a prior claim to them.

A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Clarke's foster-mother – Mrs E. Noud (October, 1922 & March, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Sydney Clarke – service number 3762, aged 28, of 49th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the foster son of Mrs E. Noud, of Goondiwindi, Queensland.

Private S. Clarke is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 147.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Private Sydney James Clarke is listed on the Australian War Memorial website under Indigenous Service.

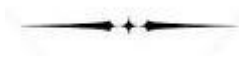
S. Clarke is also remembered on the Goondiwindi WW1 War Memorial located in Lehman Park, Marshall St, Goondiwindi, Queensland.



Goondiwindi WW1 War Memorial (Photos by Shirley & Trevor McIvor)

(73 pages of Private Sydney Clarke'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) & National Archives



Newspaper Reports

ROLL OF HONOUR

389th List – The Queensland Names

ILL

Sydney Clarke, Goondiwindi (ser.)

(*The Queenslander*, Brisbane, Saturday 20th April, 1918)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

Casualty list No. 416, containing the names of the following 270 Queenslanders, was issued tonight:-

Died from Other Causes

Private S. Clarke (Goondiwindi – illness)

(The *Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Queensland, Saturday 20th July, 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 Codford War Graves 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 S. Clarke does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England

The New Zealand Command Depot was established at Codford in June 1916 and the No 3 New Zealand General Hospital followed in July. The New Churchyard was established by deed of gift as the "Military Burial Ground," with a small part reserved for future burials from the parish. The war graves plot contains 98 burials, mostly of New Zealand and Australian forces. There is only one burial of the Second World War in the New Churchyard.

(Information from CWGC)

There are 31 WW1 Australian War Graves & 66 WW1 New Zealand War Graves located here. There is one WW1 British Royal Army Medical Corp Grave & one WW2 Welsh Guards grave located in this Churchyard.



St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford *(Photos courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*



(Photo by Romy Wyeth 2013)

Photo of Private S. Clarke's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England. Also known as Codford Anzac War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.

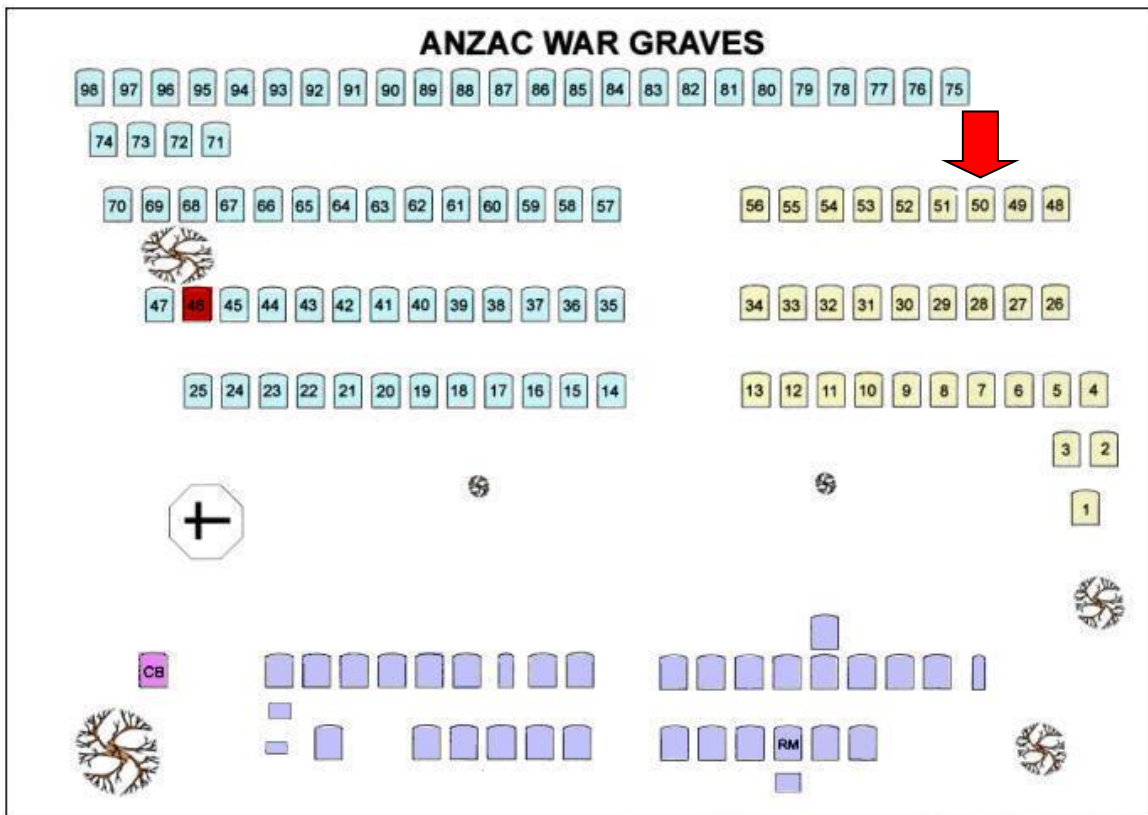


(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)



(Photo by Romy Wyeth)

Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Private S. Clarke is located in Main Third Row (Right Hand Side) Grave Plot # 50 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (CWGC Reference - Grave #93)



- Australian Soldiers
 - New Zealand Soldiers
 - UK Soldier
 - Welsh Soldier
 - Local Burials
- Codford War Graves map adapted from Brian Marshall courtesy of Romy Wyeth