

Bulford War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1830 PRIVATE

J. E. COLEMAN

1ST AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS

20TH JANUARY, 1918

Joseph Edward COLEMAN

Joseph Edward Coleman was born at Glen Innes, NSW on 1st December, 1891 (as stated on his Attestation Papers).

Joseph Edward Coleman was a 24 year old, single, Labourer from of Inverell Road, Armidale, NSW, when he enlisted at Armidale on 18th October, 1915 with the 2nd Reinforcements, 1st Pioneer Battalion of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1830 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his cousin – Joseph Best of Inverell Road, Armidale, NSW.

Pte Joseph Coleman was attached to “C” Company, Depot Battalion, Casula, NSW from 19th November, 1915. He was transferred to 13th Battalion on 9th March, 1916 to 1st April, 1916.

Pte Joseph Edward Coleman embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 14th April, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 11th June, 1916.

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.

Pte Joseph Coleman was marched out to Pioneer Training Battalion from A.S.C. Training Depot, Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 4th September, 1916.

Pte Joseph Coleman was appointed Acting L/Cpl. on 11th May, 1917 at A.S.C. Training Camp – on Provost Staff.

Pte Joseph Coleman was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire on 2nd November, 1917 & discharged to Conv. Training Depot, Parkhouse on 12th November, 1917

Pte Joseph Coleman was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire on 11th January, 1918 (Dangerously ill).

Private Joseph Edward Coleman died at 4.45 p.m. on 20th January, 1918 at 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire from Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Joseph E. Coleman, aged 26, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Joseph Edward Coleman was buried on 24th January, 1918 in Bulford Church Cemetery, Wiltshire - Grave No. 12 Australian Reserve Section (CWGC Plot number 3. I. II.) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Coleman - *Coffin was good condition, stained wood. He was accorded a Military Funeral. The deceased was regularly visited by the Chaplain. He was quite conscious and was seen and spoke to Chaplain about 1 hour before his death. He did not leave any messages. He appeared to be quite contented. The Medical and Nursing attention was all that could be desired.*

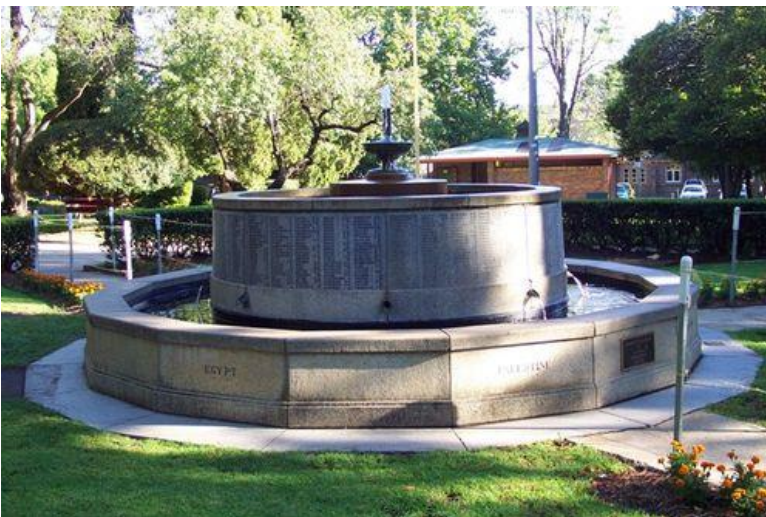
Pte Joseph Edward Coleman was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to the next-of-kin of deceased soldiers. A letter from District Finance Officer to Base Records, Melbourne, dated 10th January, 1922, in regards to No. 1830, Pte Coleman J. E. 1st Pnr Bn. (Decd) reads: “*With reference to your communication of 15th December, '21, I have to advise that no claim has been received in this Office in connection with the War Gratuity on account of the abovementioned deceased soldier. The balance of the Estate, £41-6-2d., was transferred to the Registrar of Unclaimed Estates.*” The letter has also been stamped with “*War Medals etc to Untraceables*”

Private J. E. Coleman is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 171.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. E. Coleman is remembered on the Armidale Memorial Fountain, located in Central Park, Barney Street, Armidale, NSW.



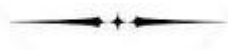
Armidale Memorial Fountain (Photos by David Evans OAM/Roger Johnson – Monument Australia)



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private J. E. Coleman – service number 1830 as having served with 1st Australian Pioneers. No family details are listed.

(47 pages of Pte Joseph Edward Coleman's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

382nd CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte JOS. EDW. COLEMAN, Armidale, 20/1/18

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Saturday 9 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 in Bulford Church 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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 6th July, 1921, to Mr J. Bert of Inverell Road, Armidale advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of the late Pte J. E. Coleman 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. The envelope had been marked by the Post Office "Unknown".

Pte J. E. Coleman does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte J. E. Coleman's Headstone at Bulford Church Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Andrea Charlesworth 2012)



Bulford Church Cemetery (*Photo courtesy of Andrea Charlesworth 2012*)