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

War Graves

Lest We Forget

World War 1

2897   PRIVATE

S. H. ELPHICK

55TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

1ST FEBRUARY, 1917   Age 23

To Live In Hearts

We Leave Behind

Is Not To Die

Stephen Henry ELPHICK

Stephen Henry Elphick was born at Tumut, New South Wales to parents Stephen Henry & Elizabeth Caroline Elphick (nee Foster). His birth was registered in 1894 as Henry S. Elphick.

Stephen Henry Elphick was educated at Convent of Mercy, Tumut, NSW.

Stephen Henry Elphick was a 22 year old, single, Linesman from Tumut, NSW when he enlisted at Goulburn, NSW on 13th July, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2897 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his Father – S. Elphick of Tumut, NSW.

Private Stephen Henry Elphick was posted to "C" Company, Depot Battalion at Goulburn, NSW on 21st July, 1916. He was transferred to 7th Reinforcements of 55th Battalion on 21st September, 1916.

Private Stephen Henry Elphick embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Ascanius (A11)* on 25th October, 1916 with the 55th Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 28th December, 1916. Private Elphick had been admitted to the Ship's Hospital twice with influenza on the voyage over to England from 27th – 30th November for 3 days and from 14th - 18th December, 1916 for 4 days.

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 Stephen Henry Elphick was admitted sick to Hospital at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 25th January, 1917 from "C" Company, 14th Training Battalion, No. 11 & 12 Camps, Hurdcott, Wiltshire. He was transferred & admitted to Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire on 26th January, 1917.

Private Stephen Henry Elphick died at 9.30 p.m. on 1st February, 1917 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire from Broncho Pneumonia. The Hospital Admissions form recorded the following: "*Very toxaemic on admission. Bronco pneumonia right side which on 4th day also appeared on left side. Died of cardiac failure.*" Time of death recorded as 9.35 pm.

A death for Henry S. Elphick, aged 23, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.
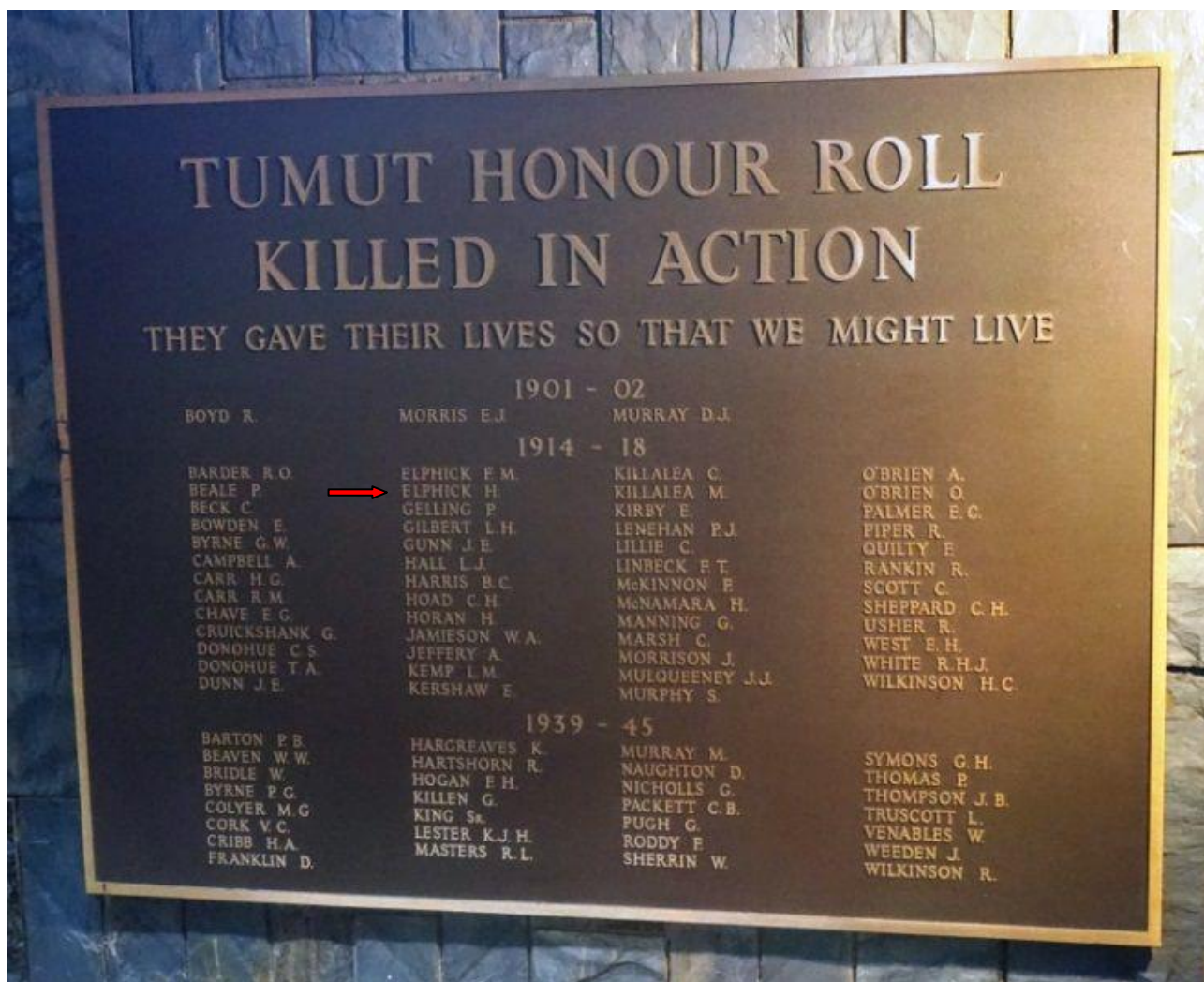
Private Stephen Henry Elphick was buried on 5th February, 1917 in the churchyard of St. Edith's at Baverstock, Wiltshire on 5th February, 1917 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

A War Pension was granted to Mrs Elizabeth Caroline Elphick, mother of the late Private Henry Stephen Elphick in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 13th April, 1917, amended to £1-10-0 per fortnight from 23rd May, 1918.

Private Stephen Henry Elphick was entitled to British War Medal only as he ahd not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Elphick's father – Mr S. H. Elphick (Memorial Scroll sent December, 1921 & Memorial Plaque sent July, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Stephen Henry Elphick – service number 2897, as being 23 years old & served with 55th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Stephen Henry and Elizabeth Caroline Elphick, of Sydney Street, Newtown, Tumut, New South Wales.

H. Elphick is remembered on the Tumut Honour Roll, located at Tumut RSL Club, 65 Russell Street, Tumut, NSW.

Tumut Honour Roll *(Photo from Monument Australia – Chris McLaughlin)*

Private S. H. Elphick is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 160.
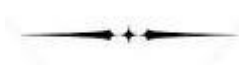

(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)

Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(44 pages of Private Stephen Henry Elphick'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

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Newspaper Reports

CHIEFLY PERSONAL

The friends of Trooper S. H. Elphick tendered him a send-off at the residence of his grandmother, Stony Creek, Tumut on the evening of the 1st October. About 80 guests were present for the occasion. Trooper Elphick was presented with a wristlet watch on behalf of the tennis players, a safety razor from his uncle, Mr Foster, a set of military brushes from his Newtown friends, and a neat prayer book from his grand-mother, Mrs Foster. Refreshments were supplied by the ladies. Trooper Elphick takes his departure to-day.

(*The Tumut Advocate and Farmers & Settlers' Adviser*, NSW – Tuesday 3 October, 1916)

SOUTHERN CASUALTIES

The 273rd casualty list issued yesterday contains the following southern names:-

Pte S. H. Elphick (Tumut), died of illness.

(*Young Witness*, NSW – Tuesday 20 February, 1917)

Studio Portrait of Private Stephen Henry Elphick

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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 S. H. Elphick, Tumut, NSW advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription for the headstone of the late Private S. H. Elphick 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.

Private S. H. Elphick does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

To Live In Hearts We Leave Behind Is Not To Die

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 S. H. Elphick's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire, England.

(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)