

**Christ Church Churchyard,
Tilstock, Shropshire,
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



SECOND LIEUTENANT

R. J. T. FORSYTH

AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS

16TH FEBRUARY, 1918

Greater Love

Hath No Man Than This

First At The Rendezvous

Reginald James Thomas (Reg) FORSYTH

Reginald James Thomas Forsyth was born at 39 Hayberry Street, Crow's Nest, Sydney, NSW in early 1893 to parents John Lile Lewis Forsyth and Elizabeth Christina Forsyth (nee Crowley).

Reginald James Thomas Forsyth attended Crow's Nest Public School, NSW.

Reginald James Thomas Forsyth toured Queensland as a member of the 1914 Australasian Champion Y.M.C.A. Gymnastics Team.

Reginald James Thomas Forsyth was a 22 year old, single, Commercial Traveller, from 39 Hayberry Street, North Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney on 21st March, 1915 with the 1st Light Horse Brigade, 1st Light Horse Regiment, 7th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1096 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – John Lile Lewis Forsyth of 39 Hayberry Street, North Sydney, NSW. Reginald Forsyth stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 6 months with Sth African Rifle Club.

Private Reginald James Thomas Forsyth embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Marere* (A21) on 16th August, 1915.

Private Reginald James Thomas Forsyth was appointed Lance Corporal on 1st January, 1916 while attached to 1st Light Horse Regiment.

Lance Corporal Reginald James Thomas Forsyth proceeded to join Western Front Force from Egypt on 14th January, 1916.

Lance Corporal Reginald James Thomas Forsyth was appointed Corporal on 5th May, 1916 while posted at Romani (vice Cpl. Bice promoted) while attached to 1st Light Horse Regiment.

Corporal Reginald James Thomas Forsyth was wounded in action at Romani on 4th August, 1916. He was admitted to No. 1 Stationary Hospital at Ismailia on 6th August, 1916 with gunshot wounds to chest then transferred to Base Hospital on 14th August, 1916. Corporal Forsyth was admitted to No. 3 Australian General Hospital at Abbassia on 14th August, 1916 with gunshot wounds to arm. Corporal Forsyth was transferred to British Red Cross Convalescent Hospital at Montazah on 20th September, 1916. He was discharged to Moascar on 4th October, 1916 & taken on strength of 1st L.H.T.R. (Light Horse Training Regiment) on 5th October, 1916.

1st Australian Light Horse Regiment

The light horse were initially considered unsuitable for the Gallipoli operation, but were soon deployed without their horses to reinforce the infantry. The 1st Light Horse Regiment landed on 12 May, 1915 and was attached to the New Zealand and Australian Division. It played a defensive role for most of the campaign but mounted an attack on the Turkish position known as "the Chessboard" as part of the August Offensive on 7 August - 200 men were involved, 147 became casualties. The regiment left Gallipoli on 21 December, 1915.

Back in Egypt, the 1st Light Horse Regiment joined the ANZAC Mounted Division. Between January and May 1916, it was deployed to protect the Nile valley from bands of pro-Turkish Senussi Arabs. On 14 May, it redeployed with its parent brigade to join the forces defending the Suez Canal. The 1st Light Horse Brigade played a significant role in turning back the Turkish advance on the canal at the battle of Romani on 4 August. In ensuing days the regiments of the Brigade participated in the immediate follow-up of the defeated Turks, but were soon withdrawn to rest.

The 1st Light Horse Regiment rejoined the Allied advance across the Sinai in November, 1916

(Information from The Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 1st Australian Light Horse Regiment – 4th August, 1916:

ROMANI – On the night of 3rd/4th the Bde took up a line of Outpost from HOD-EL-ENNA to No. 1 POST, the Regt remaining in camp in reserve. About midnight the Regt. was ordered out, and at 0130 "A" Squadn. reinforced the LINE held by the 3rd L. H. Regt. on the southern slopes of MT. MEREDITH. A quarter of an hour later "B" Squadron went up and took up a line on either side of MT. MEREDITH. The Regt. less two Squadrons and one troop took up a line covering the two (2) Re-entrants north of MT. MEREDITH. One (1) Troop, "C" Squadn. remaining in camp as escort to Leicester Battery, R.H.A. The Regiment came under very heavy rifle & M.G. fire, also shrapnel from a Mountain Batt'y.

The Regt. fell back gradually on to BIR-ET-MALER about 1000, and remained in Divisional Reserve until 1700 when we moved forward and took up a Line on S.E. end of HODS at BIR ABUDIYUK. Enemy shelled Camp and also dropped bombs, hand grenades and steel darts from aeroplanes, also turned machine guns on to Camp. Casualties Lieut W. McQuiggin and 9 Others killed and Capt. G. H. L. Harris, 2/Lieut. W. Nelson & 26 Others wounded & 3 missing.

(Information from The Australian War Memorial)

Corporal Reginald James Thomas Forsyth proceeded from Moascar on 12th October, 1916 to rejoin 1st Light Horse Regiment & rejoined his Regiment at Kantara on 13th October, 1916.

Corporal Reginald James Thomas Forsyth was attached to A.F.C. (Australian Flying Corps) on 28th October, 1916 for trade test.

Corporal Reginald James Thomas Forsyth was transferred to R.F.C. (Royal Flying Corps) at Had-al-Gala on 8th November, 1916.

Corporal Reginald James Thomas Forsyth was posted to No. 68 Squadron at Kantara on 28th October, 1916 & rated as 2/A.M. (Air Mechanic 2nd Class). He reverted to ranks at his own request on being taken on strength of 68th Australian Squadron.

2/A.M. (Air Mechanic 2nd Class) Reginald James Thomas Forsyth ceased to be attached to No. 67 Squadron & to be attached to No. 68 Squadron at Kantara on 22nd November, 1916.

2/A.M. (Air Mechanic 2nd Class).Reginald James Thomas Forsyth was attached to No. 67 Squadron on 9th December, 1916.

2/A.M. (Air Mechanic 2nd Class) Reginald James Thomas Forsyth ceased to be attached to No. 67 Squadron & to be returned to No. 68 Squadron on 9th January, 1917.

2/A.M. (Air Mechanic 2nd Class) Reginald James Thomas Forsyth embarked from Alexandria on H.T. *Kingstonian* on 13th January, 1917 for B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Southampton, England on 30th January, 1917.

2/A.M. (Air Mechanic 2nd Class) Reginald James Thomas Forsyth was promoted to 1st A.M. to complete establishment on 1st May, 1917.

1st A.M. (Air Mechanic 1st Class) Reginald James Thomas Forsyth was on Command at School of Instruction (Le Rhone Engines) with 65 Reserve Squadron, R.F.C. at Huntingdon on 7th May, 1917.

1st A.M. (Air Mechanic 1st Class) Reginald James Thomas Forsyth was marched out to the Staff Officer for Aviation (London) from No. 69 Squadron, A.F.C. at Harlaxton on 6th July, 1917.

1st A.M. (Air Mechanic 1st Class) Reginald James Thomas Forsyth having graduated as a Flying Officer (Pilot) was appointed Second Lieutenant in A.I.F & posted to A.F.C. on 23rd October, 1917.

Second Lieutenant Reginald James Thomas Forsyth was taken on strength of No. 30 Training Squadron, A.F.C. (Australian Flying Corps) on 29th November, 1917 at Tern Hill from Brigade Pool.

Second Lieutenant Reginald James Thomas Forsyth took off from Tern Hill Aerodrome, Shropshire, England at 2 pm on 20th January, 1918 on a Sopwith Pup B/6089 to participate in a formation flight. Second Lieutenant Reginald James Thomas Forsyth' plane crashed shortly after.

Second Lieutenant Reginald James Thomas Forsyth was admitted to Military Hospital at Prees Heath on 20th January, 1918 seriously ill after an aeroplane accident.

A Court of Inquiry was held at Tern Hill on 26th January, 1918 for the purpose of inquiring into the cause of the accident resulting in serious injuries being sustained by 2nd Lieut. R. J. T. Forsyth, A.F.C.

FIRST WITNESS – No. (Aus) 1348 2nd A/M/ Dunne W. J. states:

I am the rigger in charge of Sopwith Pup No. B/6089. I looked over the rigging on the morning on the 20th instant and found everything to be correct.

SECOND WITNESS – No. (Aus) 1314 1st A/M/ Drain P. J. states:

I am the fitter in charge of Sopwith Pup No. B/6089. I examined the engine in the machine on the morning of the 20th instant and found it to be in perfect working order.

THIRD WITNESS – Lieut. A. F. G. Stafford, A.F.C. states:

I am Flying Officer and was Acting Flight Commander on the 20th inst. I ordered Lt. Forsyth to take up Sopwith Pup B/6089 at 2 pm to take part in a formation flight. The formation had made one circuit of the aerodrome and was flying into wind when Lt. Forsyth got ahead of the formation, and in turning back did a vertical bank, his machine slipped, the nose dropped and the machine got into a slow spin. He succeeded in getting out of this, but could not get machine under full control before hitting the ground. The formation was flying at about 1000 feet.

There was a strong wind blowing at the time. Lt. Forsyth is a Service Pilot and has stunted this machine including spinning, before.

FOURTH WITNESS – Captain C. F. White R.A.M.C. states:

I am the Medical Officer attending at Tern Hill Aerodrome. At about 2.30 pm on the 20th instant I examined Lieut. Forsyth. He was unconscious and had a severe scalp wound, fracture of the skull, severe contusion both eyes and a compound comminuted fracture of the right ankle and foot. I sent him to Prees Heath Military Hospital.

FIFTH WITNESS – Major J. A. C. Cowper, A.F.C. states:

I am Squadron Comm, of the 6th Training Squadron, A.F.C. I examined the wreckage of machine B/6089 Sopwith Pup on the 20th instant and found evidence of the Pilot having been sick in the air.

FINDING – *The Court having carefully considered the evidence are of the opinion that the accident was caused by the Pilot being overcome with nausea and sickness in the air, the machine thereby becoming out of control.*

It is further considered that no blame can be attached to the Mechanics in charge of the machine or the Instructor who instructed the Pupil.

Second Lieutenant Reginald James Thomas Forsyth was posted from No. 6 Training Squadron, A.F.C. Tern Hill to Group Pool on 8th February, 1918.

Second Lieutenant Reginald James Thomas Forsyth died at 6.30 am on 16th February, 1918 at Military Hospital, Prees Heath, Salop, (Shropshire), England from injuries received in an aeroplane accident.

War Diary – 6th Training Squadron, Australian Flying Corps – 16th February, 1918:

2/Lt. J. S. Morgan R.F.C. posted to 6th T.S. A.F.C. on graduation 5/2/1918. Sop Camel B.6433 allotted from A.R.S. 1st Wing A.F.C. 2/Lts. A. W. Keight & D. R. Williams & Cadet N. Judd admitted to Military Hospital Prees Heath. 2/Lt. R. J. T. Forsyth, A.F.C. died in Military Hospital, Prees Heath as the result of an Aeroplane Accident.

(Information from The Australian War Memorial)

© Cathy Sedgwick 2016

A death for Reginald J. T. Forsyth, aged 25, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Whitchurch, Shropshire, England.

Second Lieutenant Reginald James Thomas Forsyth was buried at 3.30 pm on 19th February, 1919 in Christ Church Churchyard Extension, Tilstock, Shropshire, England – Plot number 34 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Second Lieutenant Reginald James Thomas Forsyth - *Coffin was good polished Elm with brass fittings. The deceased officer was accorded a full Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack flag. Several beautiful wreaths were placed on the coffin. Gun Carriage, Band, Firing Party and Pallbearers, under the Command of Captain Bullock, were supplied by the A.S.C. stationed at Prees Heath Military Camp, Whitchurch, Salop. Prior to the interment a service was held by Chaplain Lindsay Smith, C.F. in the Parish Church, Tilstock. Several Officers and a party of men the 6th Training Squadron A.F.C. stationed at Turnhill followed the remains of the deceased officer to the cemetery. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral. Names of relatives or friends present at the funeral – Brother Pte Forsyth, A.I.F. France.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Second Lieutenant R. J. T. Forsyth contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives in Australia to obtain the fullest details possible of the wounds, death & burial of Second Lieutenant R. J. T. Forsyth. A letter from Major D. Gray Newton, Press Heath Hospital, Whitchurch reads: *“Was admitted to Prees Heath Military Hospital on the 20.1.18 as the result of an aeroplane smash while flying. He was unconscious on admission. Had a large scalp wound and much contusion about both eyes, pointing to a fractured base of skull. He also sustained a compound fracture of right ankle joint. The patient never regained complete consciousness. Trephining was performed afterward, but without any beneficial effect. He eventually grew worse and died on the 16.2.18. A post mortem examination was held which verified our provisional diagnosis of a fractured skull and base, accompanied by severe inflammation of the membranes of the brain.”*

Reginald James Thomas Forsyth, requested in his Will dated 6th July, 1917 that the whole of his property & effects be given to his mother – Mrs J. L. L. Forsyth of 39 Hayberry St, North Sydney, NSW.

Second Lieutenant Reginald James Thomas Forsyth was entitled to the 1914/15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Second Lieutenant Forsyth's father – Mr J. L. L. Forsyth, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Second Lieutenant Reginald James Thomas Forsyth, of Australian Flying Corps. He was the son of John Lile Lewis Forsyth and Elizabeth Christina Forsyth.

Second Lieutenant R. J. T. Forsyth is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 187.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

R. J. Forsyth & his brother H. R. Forsyth are both remembered on the Crow's Nest Public School Roll of Honour.



Crow's Nest Public School Roll of Honour

(Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW – David Roden)

R. J. T. Forsyth is remembered on the North Sydney War Memorial located in St. Leonard's Park, corner Walker and Ridge Streets, North Sydney, NSW.



North Sydney War Memorial

(Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW – David Roden & Andrew Howell)



(67 pages of Second Lieutenant Reginald James Thomas Forsyth'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Connected to Second Lieutenant Reginald James Thomas Forsyth:

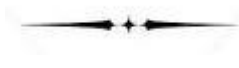
Younger brother - Pte Harry Raymond Forsyth, No. 887, 17th Battalion, A.I.F. Enlisted 27th February, 1915. Embarked for Australia on 7th April, 1919. Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. Applied in 1967 for the Gallipoli Medallion.



Reginald James Thomas Forsyth (Photo taken c1916 in Egypt)



Second Lieutenant Reginald James Thomas Forsyth



Newspaper Notices

THE RECRUITS

MORE MEN

A farewell supper was given on Saturday night at The Arcadia, North Sydney, to Messrs A. C. Boxsell, W. T. Meggitt and R. J. T. Forsyth, members of the North Sydney branch of the National Reserve who are going to the front.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 11 May, 1915)

CALL TO VOTE YES

1734 CASUALTIES

NEW SOUTH WALES

PROGRESS REPORT

Corpl. R. J. T. FORSYTH, North Sydney (convalescent, previously reported severely wounded)

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 24 September, 1916)

WAR LOSSES

MANY WOUNDED AND ILL

NEW SOUTH WALES
RETURNED TO DUTY

Cpl. R. J. T. Forsyth, North Sydney

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 9 December, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

FORSYTH – 2nd Lieut. Reg. J. T. Forsyth, died February 16, 1918, of injuries received in aeroplane accident 20/1/18; late of 1st A.L.H. and 68th A.F.C.; dearly loved eldest son and brother of Mr and Mrs J. Forsyth, Dick (O.A.S.), Nance, Jack, Judy, Lettie, Leslie and Bennie, 39 Hayberry-street, N.S.

FORSYTH – 2nd Lieut. R. J. T. Forsyth (A.F.C.), died of injuries, February 16, 1918, aged 25 years, dearly loved nephew and cousin of George and E. Hutchinson and family, of Coolangatta, South Coast. A young life nobly ended.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 2 March, 1918)

CASUALTY LIST NO. 385

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED – RESULT OF ACCIDENT

Sec.-Lieut. REGINALD JAMES THOMAS FORSYTH, North Sydney (previously reported severely injured.)

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 9 March, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

FORSYTH – In loving remembrance of Lieut. R. J. T. Forsyth (Reg), 68th A.F.C., late 1st A.L.H., died of injuries received in aeroplane accident, February 16, 1918, dearly loved son and brother of Mr and Mrs J. Forsyth and family 39 Hayberry-street, Crow's Nest. A young life nobly ended.

FORSYTH – In loving remembrance of Lieut. R. J. T. Forsyth, 68th A.F.C., late 1st A.L.H., died of injuries received in aeroplane accident, February 16, 1918, dearly loved nephew and cousin of Mr and Mrs G. Hutchinson and family, of Coolangatta.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 17 February, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

FORSYTH – In loving remembrance of Lieut. R. J. T. Forsyth (Reg), 68th A.F.C., late 1st A.L.H., died of injuries received in aeroplane accident, February 16, 1918, dearly loved eldest son and brother of Mr and Mrs J. Forsyth and family 39 Hayberry-street, Crow's Nest. A young life nobly ended.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 16 February, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

FORSYTH – In loving memory of my dear brother, 2nd Lieut. Reg. Forsyth, who died of injuries received in aeroplane accident, February 16, 1918.

We shall meet again
At the last roll call.

Inserted by his loving brother, Dick.

FORSYTH – In loving memory of our dear nephew and cousin, 2nd Lieut. Reg. Forsyth, who died February 16, 1918, result of aeroplane accident, whilst nobly doing his duty.

Never forgotten

Inserted by his loving aunt and uncle, Amy and Charles Knight, and cousins, Lili, Vera and Hilda.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 16 February, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

FORSYTH – In loving remembrance of Lieut. R. J. T. Forsyth, who died of injuries received in aeroplane accident, February 16, 1918, dearly loved eldest son and brother of Mr and Mrs Forsyth and family, Crow's Nest. One of the best.

FORSYTH – In loving memory of our dear nephew and cousin, 2nd Lieut. Reg. Forsyth, who died February 16, 1918, whilst serving his country.

Life's troubles ended.

Inserted by his loving aunt and uncle, Amy and Charles Knight, and cousins, Lill, Vera and Hilda.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 16 February, 1922)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

FORSYTH – In loving remembrance of our dear nephew and cousin, 2nd Lieut. Reg. Forsyth, died February 16, 1918.

Inserted by his loving aunty and uncle, Amy and Charles Knight, and cousins, Lill, Vera and Hilda.

Friends may change, memory never.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 16 February, 1923)

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. 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)

Second Lieutenant R. J. T. Forsyth does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Greater Love Hath No Man Than This

First At The Rendezvous

Christ Church Churchyard Extension, Tilstock, Shropshire, England

There are 22 Commonwealth burials of World War 1 in the churchyard. There are a further 23 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the Extension. The Extension is 100 metres from the Churchyard and across the road. It was opened in 1917.



Christ Church, Tilstock, Shropshire *(Photo from CWGC)*



Christ Church Churchyard Extension, Tilstock, Shropshire

Photo of Second Lieutenant R. J. T. Forsyth's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Christ Church Churchyard Extension, Tilstock, Shropshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of S. J. Clark)