Milton Cemetery,

Portsmouth, Hampshire

War Graves

Lest We Forget

World War 1

1996   PRIVATE

T. FULTON

47TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

24TH AUGUST, 1916   Age 33

Thomas FULTON

Thomas Fulton was born at Woolloomooloo, Sydney, New South Wales in July, 1882 to parents John and Catherine Fulton (nee Walsh).

Thomas Fulton attended Bourke St School, Surry Hills, Sydney, NSW.

A death was registered in 1911 for Catherine Fulton in the district of Waterloo, NSW.

Thomas Fulton was a 33 year old, single, Bottle blower (as per occupation listed on his Attestation Papers, however, according to information supplied by his father for the Roll of Honour – Thomas Fulton was a Hair Dresser) from 26 Cleveland Avenue, Surry Hills, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Casula, Sydney on 22nd November, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1996 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr John Fulton, of 650 Bourke Street, Surry Hills, Sydney, NSW.

Private Thomas Fulton was posted to 3rd Reinforcements of 31st Battalion on 4th January, 1916.

Private Thomas Fulton embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ballarat (A70)* on 18th February, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 31st Infantry Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 23rd March, 1916.

Private Thomas Fulton was reported to be Absent without leave from 3 pm Parade to Tattoo on 23rd March, 1916 while posted as Zeitoun. He was confined to camp for 14 days & forfeited 1 days' pay.

Private Thomas Fulton was allotted to & proceeded to join 47th Battalion from 8th Training Battalion at Zeitoun & joined 47th Battalion at Serapeum on 1st April, 1916.

Private Thomas Fulton proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 2nd June, 1916 on Troopship *Caledonia*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 9th June, 1916.

Private Thomas Fulton was sent sick to Hospital while in the field on 24th July, 1916. He was admitted to 12th Field Ambulance with Scabies then transferred to 4th Casualty Clearing Station on 24th July, 1916. Pte Fulton was discharged to duty on 30th July, 1916 & rejoined his Battalion on 31st July, 1916.

Private Thomas Fulton was wounded in action on 9th August, 1916. He was admitted to 44th Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wounds to leg. Pte Fulton was transferred to 2nd Australian General Hospital at Wimereux on 10th August, 1916. He was invalided to England on Hospital Ship St. Dennis from Boulogne, France on 12th August, 1916 with a fractured Tibia.

47th Battalion

The 47th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 24 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its new recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 15th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia.

Arriving in France on 9 June 1916, the 47th entered the trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 3 July. It participated in its first major battle at Pozieres. Initially, the battalion provided working parties during the 2nd Division's attack on 4 August, and then, with its own division, defended the ground that had been captured. The 47th endured two stints in the heavily-contested trenches of Pozieres, as well as a period in reserve.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Thomas Fulton was admitted to 5th Southern General Hospital, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England on 12th August, 1916 with a fractured left leg (severe). His condition was reported as serious on 23rd August, 1916.

Private Thomas Fulton died on 24th August, 1916 at 5th Southern General Hospital, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England from wounds received in action in France & Tetanus following gunshot wounds (severe).

A death for Thomas Fulton, aged 35, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Portsmouth, Hampshire, England.

Private Thomas Fulton was buried in Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England – Plot number I, Row 6, Grave No. 53 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A letter was sent from Base Records on 20th April, 1920 to Mr J. Fulton, father, of the late Private Thomas Fulton, advising that his son's remains had been exhumed from the former site in Milton Cemetery & had been re-interred in Plot H. Row 19. Grave No. 13 in the same cemetery. It was explained that "*this work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain".*

Private Thomas Fulton was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Fulton's father – Mr John Fulton, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Thomas Fulton – service number 1996, aged 34, of 17th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Catherine Fulton, of 640 Bourke Street, Surry Hills, Sydney, New South Wales.

Private T. Fulton is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 143.

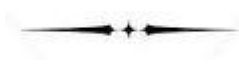*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

Pte T. Fulton is remembered on the Municipality of Waterloo Roll of Service, located in Waterloo Library, 770 Elizabeth Street, Waterloo, NSW.

Municipality of Waterloo Roll of Service *(Photo from Register of War Memorials in NSW)*

(48 pages of Private Thomas Fulton'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

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Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

FULTON – Private Tom Fulton, died of wounds received in France, August 24, 1916.

His cheerful smiles and kindly ways are pleasing to recall,

He died a hero, beloved by all.

Inserted by his loving father and only sister, Maggie.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 9 September, 1916)

MORE GAPS IN RANKS

TO-DAY'S CASUALTY LIST

The 211th casualty list, issued to-day, contains 900 fresh names…..

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte T. FULTON, Surry Hills.

(*The Sun*, Sydney, NSW – 14 September, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

FULTON – In loving remembrance of Private Thomas Fulton, who died of wounds received at Pozieres, August 24, 1916.

His King and country called him,
The call was not in vain;
On Australia's roll of honour
You will find our hero's name.

Inserted by his loving father and sister Maggie.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 25 August, 1917)

On Active Service

FULTON – Pte Thomas Fulton, died of wounds received at Pozieres, August 24, 1916.

Inserted by his loving father and sister Maggie.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 24 August, 1918)

<u>Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones</u>

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)

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

Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England

Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth contains 426 Commonwealth War Graves – 192 relating to World War 1 & 234 relating to World War 2. There are 12 Australian War Graves from World War 1 in this cemetery.

It was opened in 1911, and contains war graves of both World Wars. The 1914-1918 burials are mainly in Plot 1. After the war a Cross of Sacrifice was erected on the northern side of the chapel in honour of all the servicemen buried in the cemetery.
The 1939-1945 War burials are widely spread throughout the cemetery.

(Information from CWGC)

Australian War Graves in Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth *(Photo by Mr Peter Bennett)*

Photo of Private T. Fulton's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England.

(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers)

Cemetery Chapel at Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth *(Photo by Basher Eyre)*