

Durrington War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



6520 PRIVATE

G. F. HOLMES

10TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

6th FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 33

Fondly Remembered

By Wife And Children

God Knew Best

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte G. F. Holmes is located in Grave Plot # 179
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

George Frederick HOLMES

George Frederick Holmes was born in 1883 to parents Joseph & Margaret Holmes (nee Cox). His birth was registered in the district of Bath, Somerset in the December quarter of 1883.

The 1891 Census for England recorded George Holmes as a 7 year old living with his family at 2 Fountain Buildings, Walcot, Bath, Somerset. His parents were listed as Joseph Holmes (Wholesale Fruit Dealer, aged 45) & Margaret Holmes (aged 36). George was one of seven children listed in this Census – Joseph (aged 16), William (aged 9), then George, Walter (aged 4), Henry (aged 1), Deverell (aged 3) & Ida (aged 8), Also listed was a servant – Celina Johnson (aged 15).

A death for Joseph Holmes, aged 49, was registered in December quarter, 1893 in the district of Bath, Somerset.

The 1901 Census for England recorded George Holmes as a 17 year old Stone Mason living with his family at 4 Arlington Rd, Bath. His mother was listed as Margaret Holmes (Widow, aged 50, Living on Own Means). George was the second eldest of 5 sons listed on this Census – William (Electrician, aged 21), then George, Walter (aged 15), Deverall (aged 13), Harry (aged 11). Also listed was Margaret Holmes' widowed sister-in law – Lucy Parfitt (aged 35 & Lucy's son Frederick Parfitt (Apprentice Iron Moulder, aged 18).

A marriage was registered in December quarter 1908 in the district of Bath, Somerset between George Frederick Holmes & Edith Frances Miller.

The 1911 Census for England recorded George Frederick Holmes as 27 year old, married Baker Mason (Builder) living with his wife & 2 children in a 6 roomed dwelling at 4 Arlington Road, Oldfield Park, Bath, Somerset. His wife and children were listed as – Edith Frances Holmes (aged 26), Olive Margaret Homes (aged 1) & John Joseph Holmes (aged 6 months). George & Edith had been married for 3 years & had 2 children. Also listed was Grace Darling, a boarder (aged 28, Confectioner's Assistant). (Children's births registered – Olive Margaret M. Holmes - June quarter 1909 at Bath & John J. J. Holmes – September quarter 1910 at Bath).

George Frederick Holmes was a 33 year old, married, Stone Cutter from Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide, South Australia when he enlisted on 21st August, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Battalion, 21st Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6520 & his religion was Congregational. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs E. Holmes, Bath, England.

Pte George Frederick Holmes embarked from Adelaide on HMAT *Port Melbourne (A16)* on 23rd October, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 28th December, 1916. Prior to embarkation, Pte Holmes had attended Hospital at Mitcham Clearing on 18th October, 1916 with Bronchitis but had not been admitted. Pte Holmes had also spent 4 days in Ships' Hospital on journey over to England from 20th December to 24th December, 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 George Frederick Holmes was marched in to 3rd Training Battalion, Durrington Camp from Australia on 29th December, 1916.

Pte George Frederick Holmes was written up for overstaying leave from midnight on 18th January, 1917 till surrendering himself at 4.10 pm on 25th January, 1917 in London. He was awarded 168 hours detention by Major J. Newman & was in custody for 3 days awaiting trial. Total forfeiture of 17 days' pay.

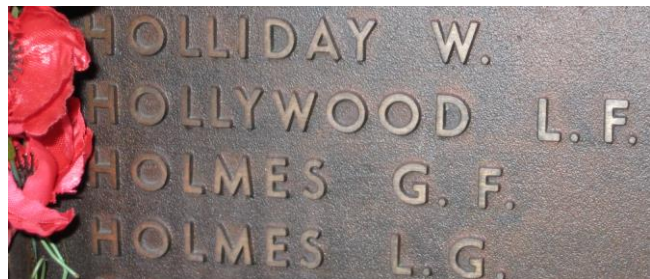
Pte George Frederick Holmes was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 2nd February, 1917 with Broncho Pneumonia (severe).

Pte George Frederick Holmes died at 7.50 a.m. on 6th February, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital from Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for George F. Holmes, aged 34, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private George Frederick Holmes was buried on 10th February, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 179 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private G. F. Holmes is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 59.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte G. F. Holmes is also remembered on the South Australian National War Memorial, located on corner North Terrace and Kintore Avenue, Adelaide. (Panel 1, column 3)



Adelaide War Memorial *(Photo by Bilby)*

Pte G. F. Holmes 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 Pte Holmes' widow – Mrs E. Holmes (both sent February, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private George Frederick Holmes – service number 6520 as being 33 years old & served with 10th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Joseph and Margaret Holmes; husband of Edith Francis Holmes, of 13 Arlington Road, Bath, Somerset, England. Born at Bath.

(30 pages of Pte George Frederick Holmes' 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



UK WW2 Civilian Deaths, 1939 – 1945

Edith Francis Holmes, age 56. Daughter of James P. and Harriet Miller, of 13 Arlington Road, Oldfield Park, Bath; widow of G. Holmes. 11 April, 1941, at 11 Purton Road.

Buried - Gloucestershire, Bristol

Newspaper Reports

ANSWERING THE CALL - LATEST ENROLMENTS

G. F. Holmes, stonecutter, Adelaide

(*Daily Herald*, Adelaide – Tuesday 22 August, 1916)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

CASUALTY LIST No. 273

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Died of Illness – G. F. Holmes, England, 6/2/17

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland – Tuesday 20 February, 1917)

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 Durrington 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)

Pte G. F. Holmes does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Fondly Remembered By Wife And Children God Knew Best



Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire *(Photo by Dave Healing 2013)*

Photo of Pte G. F. Holmes' Headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)