

**Efford Cemetery,
Plymouth, Devon
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1444 SERJEANT

J. T. MAGEE M.M.

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

25TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 30

James Thomas MAGEE

James Thomas Magee was born at Bendigo, Victoria in 1888 to parents James and Mary Magee (nee Slattery).

The 1913 & 1914 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Balaclava, subdivision of St. Kilda East, Victoria recorded James Thomas Magee, Driver, from 284 High Street, St. Kilda.

James Thomas Magee was a 26 year old, single, Driver (listed on Roll of Honour as Farmer & Blacksmith) from Woodstock-on-Loddon, via Bendigo, Victoria when he enlisted at St. Kilda, Victoria on 20th August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1444 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as J. Magee, Woodstock-on-Loddon, via Bendigo, Victoria.

Driver James Thomas Magee was posted to Camp on 20th August, 1914 for recruit training.

Driver Thomas Magee (name as per Embarkation Roll) embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Shropshire* (A9) on 20th October, 1914 (Casualty Form – Active Service in the Service Record file recorded he embarked on 21st October, 1914) with the 2nd Field Artillery Brigade – Brigade Ammunition Column.

Driver Thomas Magee joined M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) on 4th April, 1915.

Driver Thomas Magee was taken on strength of Howitzer Battery from 2nd Brigade Ammunition Column on 15th July, 1915 at Gallipoli Peninsula.

Driver Thomas Magee disembarked at Alexandria on 26th December, 1915 from Gallipoli Peninsula from Troopship *Caledonia*.

Driver Thomas Magee was transferred to 2nd Field Artillery Brigade on 9th February, 1916 & was attached to 2nd B.A.C. (Brigade Ammunition Column) on 11th February, 1916 at Tel-el-Kebir.

Driver Thomas Magee was admitted to No. 2 Stationary Hospital at Tel-el-Kebir on 19th February, 1916 with Mumps.

Driver Thomas Magee was transferred to No. 4 Divisional Artillery on 27th February, 1916.

Driver Thomas Magee was taken on strength of 21st Howitzer Brigade & posted to 101st Battery on 6th March, 1916.

Driver Thomas Magee proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 25th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 1st April, 1916.

Driver Thomas Magee was taken on strength of 1st Brigade in France on 15th May, 1916, having been transferred from 21st Howitzer.

Driver Thomas Magee was promoted to Temporary Bombardier on 24th February, 1917, vice Josephson. His temporary promotion was confirmed the same day.

Temporary Bombardier Thomas Magee was promoted to Temporary Corporal on 3rd July, 1917 vice Josephson to Hospital.

Temporary Corporal Thomas Magee reverted to sub rank of Bombardier on 4th September, 1917, vice Eagle taken on strength.

Bombardier Thomas Magee was promoted to Temporary Corporal on 30th September, 1917, vice Wilkinson Killed in action. He was then promoted to Corporal the same day.

Three Soldiers from 1st Australian Field Artillery, 1st Australian Division, 1st Anzac Corps – Bombardier Wyn Howard Cleary, Bombardier James Thomas Magee & Bombardier Arthur Clarence Courtney were recommended for the Military Medal on 5th October, 1917 “*During operations at Westhoek on 4th October 1917. Enemy shell caused a fire in a dump which rapidly spread owing to high wind – the flames preventing egress from several dugouts in*

vicinity. These N.C.O.'s (although H.E. shell was in imminent danger of being encircled by the flames) showed great courage and coolness and methodically got the fire under. Had the shell exploded, men in the dugouts near by would have been buried alive and the battery position destroyed. These N.C.O. s received slight burns in consequence." Corporal Thomas Magee was promoted to Temporary Sergeant on 23rd October, 1917, vice Weingott evacuated wounded.

Temporary Sergeant Thomas Magee was wounded in action – Gassed in Belgium on 3rd November, 1917. He was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance on 3rd November, 1917 then transferred & admitted to 17th Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Temporary Sergeant Thomas Magee reverted to the sub rank of Corporal on evacuation to Hospital wounded on 3rd November, 1917. Corporal Magee was transferred to Ambulance Train 25 on 4th November, 1917 & admitted to 15th Australian General Hospital at Abbeville, France on 5th November, 1917. He was marked for transfer to England on 10th November, 1917 & embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Ville de Liege* on 11th November, 1917.

Temporary Corporal James Thomas Magee, 101st Australian (Howitzer) Battery was awarded the Military Medal. (*London Gazette* – 17 December, 1917 – page 13199 & *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* – 2 May, 1918 – page 1037)

The Military Medal (MM) was a military decoration awarded to personnel of the British Army and other arms of the armed forces, and to personnel of other Commonwealth countries, below commissioned rank, for bravery in battle on land. The award was established in 1916, with retrospective application to 1914, and was awarded to other ranks for "acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire". (*Wikipedia*)



Military Medal (MM)

Corporal Thomas Magee was admitted to 1st Eastern General Hospital at Cambridge, England on 11th November, 1917 (listed on Hospital Admission form as Woburn Military Hospital) – Gassed slight. He was discharged to furlo from 30th November, 1917 & was to then report to No. Command Depot at Sutton Veny.

Mr J. Magee, Woodstock-on-Loddon, via Bendigo, Victoria was advised by Base Records on 28th November, 1917 that Temporary Bombardier J. T. Magee had been admitted to 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, England on 11th November, 1917 suffering from gas poisoning, mild.

Corporal Thomas Magee was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England from furlo on 15th December, 1917. He was medically classified as B1 A3 (fit for overseas training camp in 2 to 3 weeks).

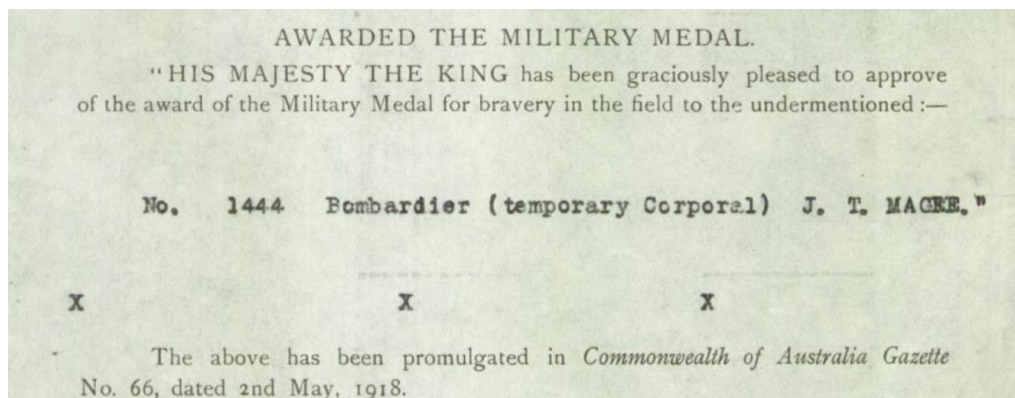
Corporal Thomas Magee was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 20th February, 1918 He had been fitted with a "partial upper" & was dentally fit as of 20th February, 1918. He was marched in to R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Heytesbury, Wiltshire on 1st March, 1918.

Corporal Thomas Magee proceeded overseas to France from Heytesbury via Southampton on 7th March, 1918. He was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 8th March, 1918. Corporal Magee was marched out from A.G.B.D. on 11th March, 1918 for 1st Divisional Artillery. He rejoined his Unit from wounded on 13th March, 1918.

Corporal Thomas Magee was promoted to Temporary Sergeant on 12th March, 1918, vice Weingott evacuated sick.

Temporary Sergeant Thomas Magee was promoted to Sergeant on 7th May, 1918 vice Cater reverted.

Base Records sent Mr J. Magee, Woodstock-on-Loddon, via Bendigo, Victoria on 27th May, 1918 notice that No. 1444 Bombardier (temporary Corporal) J. T. Magee had been awarded The Military Medal. A copy of the Third Supplement No. 30431 to the London Gazette was forwarded.



Sergeant Thomas Magee was sent to No. 2 Army Rest Camp on 16th July, 1918 from 1st Field Artillery Brigade & rejoined his Unit on 2nd August, 1918.

Sergeant Thomas Magee embarked from Havre, France on 13th October, 1918 for Australia. He disembarked at Southampton with "B" Draft on 14th October, 1918 & was marched in to St. Budeaux R.T.A. Special leave 1914. (Returned to Australia)

Sergeant James Thomas Magee was admitted to Ford House, 4th Southern General Hospital, England on 19th October, 1918 with Influenza.

Sergeant James Thomas Magee died at 22.00 hrs on 25th October, 1918 at 4th Southern General Hospital (Ford House Section), Plymouth, England from Influenza & Pneumonia.

A death for James T. Magee, aged 31, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Devonport, Devon, England.

Sergeant James Thomas Magee was buried on 31st October, 1918 in Eggbucklands Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England (as per details in his Service Record file).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission now records that Sergeant James Thomas Magee was buried in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England – Plot number R.C. C.3616 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Sergeant James Thomas Magee - *Coffin was Elm with brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent from S. McDowall, Officers, N.C.O.'s and other ranks of Rest Camp, St Bordeaux, Plymouth. The Rev: Father Durand of Devonport conducted the burial service, and the "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the Funeral.*

Names of Relatives and Friends present at the Funeral – *5 Officers and 200 Other Ranks under Major L. McLean, representing Lt Col Wood from Rest Camp, St Bordeaux, Plymouth.*

James Thomas Magee requested in his Will dated 18th July, 1917 that all his personal estate be bequeathed to his mother – Mrs M. Magee, of Woodstock-on-Loddon, via Bendigo, Victoria.

Mary Magee, Woodstock-on-Loddon, via Bendigo, Victoria , mother of the late Sergeant James Thomas Magee, wrote to base Records in June, 1919 stating she had received a package of the effects of her son but expected him to have much more property. She also requested to have his Gas Helmet and Field Glasses as there were *“Returned Anzacs here and they have theirs. It may be Government property, but after all my dear son did for King and Country it is not too much to ask besides I have not claimed a Pension. My reason for asking for these are that there is not anything in the Package that could be kept as a war relic in remembrance of him.”* Base Records replied stating that no other personnel effects had been received but on several occasions more than one packages has been received in connection with the same member of the A.I.F. Base Records also stated that the gas helmet and field glasses would not be returned as they were part of the military equipment and property of the Government & would be returned to the Ordnance Store for re-issue.

Base Records contacted Mr J. Magee, Woodstock-on-Loddon, via Bendigo, Victoria on 14th July, 1920 stating that they were registered on the records of the late Sergeant J. T. Magee but the relationship was not recorded. Base Records asked if there were *“any nearer blood relatives than yourself”* & specifically asked if the late soldier’s father was still alive due to the *“Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918”* which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Mary Magee, mother of the late Sergeant James Thomas Magee, replied to Base Records on 19th July, 1920 stating that she would be very thankful for the 1914 Star and any other medals or Badge that she would be entitled to in respect of her late son. Mrs Mary Magee wrote another letter to Base Records dated 19th July, 1920 stating that J. Magee was the late Soldier’s father & as he was *“very old and almost blind I attend to all his correspondence.”*

Base Records wrote to Mrs M. Magee, Woodstock-on-Loddon, via Bendigo, Victoria, on 15th May, 1919 asking if the father of the late Sergeant J. T. Magee was still living & if so would like to know in regards to the Military Medal of he would desire to be handed the Medal publicly on the first suitable occasion or whether he would prefer to have it delivered direct to him. Mrs M. Magee replied on 19th May, 1919 stating that the late Sergeant Magee’s father was very old and feeble and would prefer to have the Military Medal sent by Post direct.

Sergeant James Thomas Magee was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sergeant Magee’s father – Mr J. Magee, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant James Thomas Magee – service number 1444, aged 30, of 1st Bde., Australian Field Artillery. M.M. He was the son of James and Mary Magee. Native of Woodstock (Loddon), Victoria, Australia.

Sergeant J. T. Magee is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 11.



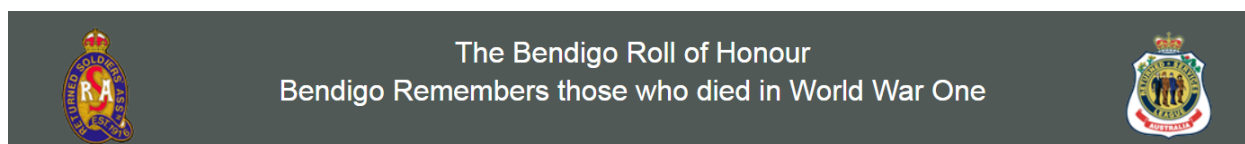
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

T. Magee is remembered on the State School & District Honour Roll, located in Woodstock Hall, Newbridge Road, Woodstock-on-Loddon, Victoria.

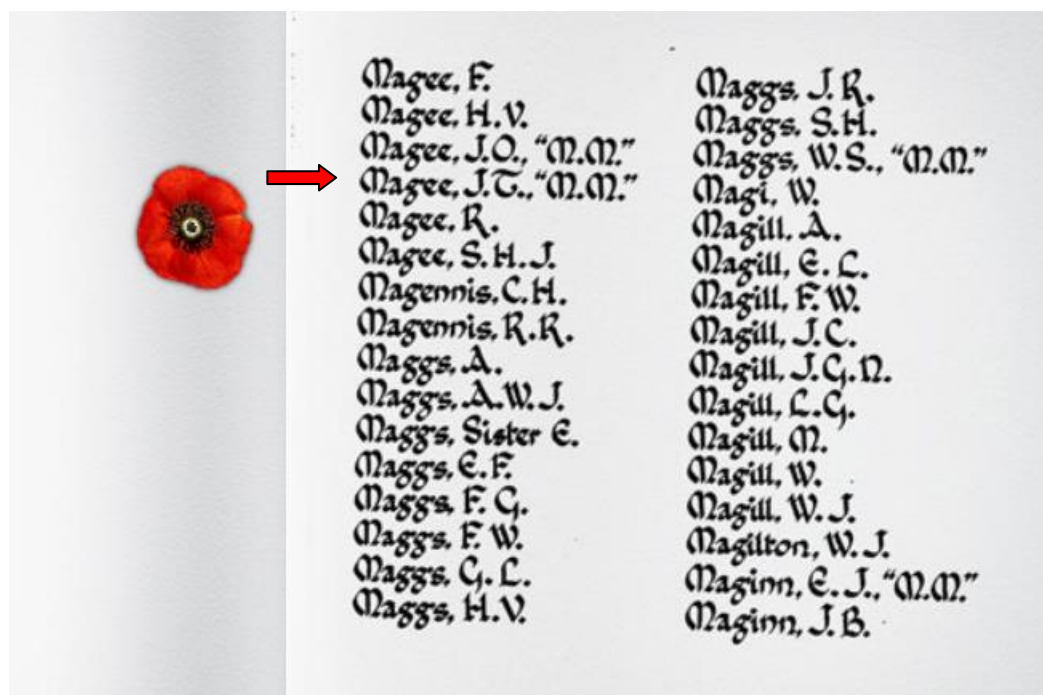


State School & District Honour Roll at Woodstock (Photo from Monument Australia – Tim Fitzgerald)

James Thomas Magee is remembered on the Bendigo Roll of Honour website

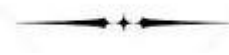


J. T. Magee is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.



(99 pages of Sergeant James Thomas Magee'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





Sergeant James Thomas Magee *(Photo courtesy of Ralph Surry)*



Sergeant James Thomas Magee *(Photo courtesy of Ralph Surry)*



Newspaper Notices

WOODSTOCK VOLUNTEERS

About 300 people assembled at Cr. Ferguson's barn to honor the Woodstock boys, five of whom, Messrs T. Magee, A. Brown, W. Hamilton, T. Hamilton and S. Spencer, volunteered for the war. The chairman (Cr. Ferguson,) expressed the wish that each one of the guests would, while at the seat of war, conduct himself as a British soldier should, and that, after the Germans had been thoroughly beaten, each, covered with honor and glory, would return to Australia. The chairman then proposed the toast of "The King," and the National Anthem was sung. Cr. Wirth proposed the toast of "Our Soldiers." Messrs. Hogan, Dixon ad Douglas also spoke. Amidst loud applause, Mr. Hogan announced that when the volunteers returned he would give them a banquet at his own expense. After

partaking of the excellent supper provided, the barn was cleared for the concert. Local talent contributed the different items, all of which were well received. Each volunteer was presented with a gold medal suitably inscribed. The recipients responded. As Messrs. T. Magee and T. Hamilton were unable to attend (the first-named having gone with the first contingent), their relatives received the medals, and responded for them. A dance followed, and the musicians were Miss Clayton and Messrs. P. Brown, M. Power, and A. Brown. The secretary (Mr S. Michael) had everything arranged most satisfactorily.

(The Bendigo Independent, Victoria – 14 December, 1914)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LISTS Nos. 367 and 368

Victoria

WOUNDED

Bdr. J. T. Magee, Woodstock (gas)

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 11 December, 1917)

DEATH OF AN ANZAC

SERGEANT J. T. MAGEE M.M.

Official notice has been received of the death of Sergeant J.T Magee, M.M., 22nd Battalion, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Magee of Woodstock-on-Loddon. The deceased was one of the first Victorian volunteers enlisting from St. Kilda in August 1914 and left with the First Australian Division. He was at the landing and evacuation of Gallipoli and fought in Belgium and went to fight in France. He was slightly gassed in October 1917. He was returning home when he took ill in England and died from influenza and pneumonia on 25th October.

(Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria – 13 November, 1918)

Australians and the War

Died of Illness

Sergt. J. T. Magee, M.M., 22nd Battalion (late 2nd) eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J Magee of Woodstock-on-Loddon, died from influenza and pneumonia in England on 25 October. Deceased was one of the first Victorians who volunteered at St Kilda in August 1914 and left with the First division of the Australian Imperial Forces. He went through the Gallipoli campaign and subsequently served in many battles on the West front in France and Belgium. He was gassed in October 1917, and on recovering rejoined his regiment in the trenches. He was on the point of returning to Australia when he was stricken down with sickness.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 15 November, 1918)

DEATH OCCURS ON WAY HOME

Bendigo, Monday

Mr and Mrs J. Magee, of Woodstock-on-Loddon, have been notified that their son Sergeant J. T. Magee, M.M., 22nd Battalion, died in England on October 25, from influenza and pneumonia. Sergeant Magee enlisted from St. Kilda in August 1914, and left with the First Australian Division. He took part in the landing on and the evacuation of Gallipoli, and fought also in Belgium and France. He was slightly gassed in October, 1914. He was returning home when he took ill in England.

(*The Herald*, Melbourne, Victoria – 18 November, 1918)

THE 448th and 449th CASUALTY LISTS

VICTORIAN NAMES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Sergt. J. T. Magee, M.M., Woodstock-on-Loddon

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 4 December, 1918)

Sgt. J. T. Magee remembered on the family grave marker in Marong Cemetery, 41 Cemetery Road, Marong, Victoria.



Marong Cemetery (Photo courtesy of Carol's Headstone Photos)



Magee Family Marker (Photo courtesy of Carol's Headstone Photos)



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)

Serjeant J. T. Magee does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England

During the First World War, Plymouth, Devonport and Stonehouse contained between them the Royal Dockyard, Royal Naval Barracks (known as H.M.S. Vivid), the Royal Marine Barracks of the Plymouth Division, and naval and military hospitals. For the duration of the war, Devonport was made headquarters of the Auxiliary Patrol Area. Plymouth was a naval station second only to Portsmouth during the Second World War. Devonport was also an important military station and there was a R.A.F station at Mount Batten, opposite Plymouth. PLYMOUTH (EFFORD) CEMETERY contains 338 scattered burials of the First World War. The 109 Second World War burials, including 5 unidentified, are also scattered apart from a small group in Section C, in a plot set aside for service burials that was actually little used. The Commission also maintains five non-war burials within the cemetery and 12 war graves of other nationalities, most of them Greek merchant seamen. PLYMOUTH CITY CREMATORIUM is situated in Plymouth (Efford) Cemetery and 61 servicemen and women of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there are commemorated on a screen wall set into a recess in the hedge behind the Cross of Sacrifice.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth *(Photo from CWGC)*



War Graves in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth *(Photo from CWGC)*



War Graves in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth *(Photo from CWGC)*

Photo of Serjeant J. T. Magee's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Efford Cemetery, Plymouth, Devon, England.



(Photo by Ian Moore, Plymouth via Ralph Surry)



(All Headstone photos by Ian Moore, Plymouth via Ralph Surry)



