

**Newmarket Cemetery,
Newmarket, Suffolk
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5644 CORPORAL

T. MORRIS

23RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

26TH OCTOBER, 1917 Age 39

Thomas MORRIS

Thomas Richard Morris was born at Garsington, Oxfordshire, England in 1877 to parents Albert & Elizabeth Morris (nee Wakenell). He was baptised on 25th March, 1877.

The 1881 England Census recorded Thomas R. Morris as a 4 year old, living with his family at Bell Row, Wheatley, Oxfordshire, England. His parents were listed as Albert Morris (Agricultural Labourer, aged 36, born Holton, Oxfordshire) & Elizabeth Morris (aged 34, born Cuddlesdon, Oxfordshire). Thomas was one of six children listed on this Census – James Morris (Agricultural Labourer, aged 11, born Forest Hill, Oxfordshire), George W. Morris (Scholar, aged 11, born Woodeaton, Oxfordshire), Caroline Morris (Scholar, aged 6, born Garsington, Oxfordshire), then Thomas, Elizabeth Morris (aged 2, born Garsington, Oxfordshire) & Richard P. Morris (aged 3 months, born Garsington, Oxfordshire).

The 1891 England Census recorded Thomas Morris as a 14 year old Farm Labourer, living with his family at Wytham, Berkshire, England. His parents were listed as Albert Morris (Farm Labourer, aged 46) & Elizabeth Morris (aged 44). Tomas was one of eight children listed on this Census – William Morris (Farm Labourer, aged 24), James Morris (Farm Labourer, aged 22), George Morris (Farm Labourer, aged 20), then Thomas, Fanny Morris (Scholar, aged 12), Percy Morris (Scholar, aged 10, born Wheatley, Oxon), Lepol Morris (Scholar, aged 6, born South Leach, Oxon) & Dorkis Morris (Scholar, aged 4, born South Leach, Oxon).

Albert Morris, father of Thomas Morris, died in 1896.

Thomas Morris enlisted with the Oxfordshire Light Infantry in 1894. His regimental number was 4709.

The 1901 England Census recorded Private Thomas Morris, aged 23, of Oxford Light Infantry as a Patient in Royal Victoria Hospital, Hound, Hampshire, England.

Thomas Morris married Jane Saunders. Their marriage was registered in the district of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire in the March quarter, 1903.

The 1911 England Census recorded Thomas Morris as a 34 year old Shunter (Railway Company) living with his wife – Jane Morris (aged 32, born Westcott, Buckinghamshire) in a 6 roomed dwelling at 227 Mill Road, Wellinborough, Northamptonshire, England. Thomas & Jane had been married for 8 years & had no children.

Thomas Morris was a 38 year old, married, Labourer from Arthur Street, Surrey Hills, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 28th April, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5644 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Jane Morris, of Arthur Street, Surrey Hills, Victoria. Thomas Morris stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served with Oxfordshire Light Infantry for 8 years & 7 years in Reserves.

Private Thomas Morris was posted to "B" Company, 23rd Depot Battalion on 2nd May, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 23rd Battalion.

Private Thomas Morris embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Shropshire (A9)* on 25th September, 1916 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 23rd Infantry Battalion, 15th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 11th November, 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.

Private Thomas Morris proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 13th December, 1916 on *Princess Henrietta* from 6th Training Battalion.

Private Thomas Morris was marched in to 2nd Australian Divisional Base Depot at Etaples, France in 14th December, 1916. He was marched out to join his Unit on 17th December, 1916 & was taken on strength with 23rd Battalion in France on 18th December, 1916.

Private Thomas Morris was sent to Hospital sick on 15th February, 1917. He was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance with a Hernia on 15th February, 1917 then transferred to 45th Casualty Clearing Station on 15th

February, 1917. Pte Morris was transferred to No. 11 Ambulance Train on 18th February, 1917 & admitted to 20th General Hospital at Camiers on 19th February, 1917 with a Hernia. Pte Morris was invalided to England on 27th February, 1917 from Havre on Hospital Ship *Warilda*.

A report was completed on Private Thomas Morris & it was stated that Pte Morris's Hernia was due to being accidentally injured on 15th February, 1917 in the Field when carrying Timber & that the soldier was not to blame for the injury.

Private Thomas Morris was admitted to 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, London, England on 28th February, 1917 with a Hernia. He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on 18th April, 1917 & discharged to furlo on 30th April, 1917 & was then to report to Training Depot at Perham Downs.

Private Thomas Morris was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 16th May, 1917 from furlo & classified as B1 A2 (Fit for Overseas Training Camp in three to four weeks).

Private Thomas Morris proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 12th July, 1917 from Overseas Training Depot.

Private Thomas Morris was marched in to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 13th July, 1917. He was marched out to his Unit on 30th July, 1917 & rejoined his Unit from Hospital on 31st July, 1917.

Private Thomas Morris was promoted to Lance Corporal on 10th August, 1917

Lance Corporal Thomas Morris was to be Corporal (Temporary) from 25th September, 1917 vice Smith promoted.

Corporal Thomas Morris wounded in action on 8th October, 1917. His rank reverted back to Lance Corporal on being admitted to Hospital. Lance Corporal Morris was admitted to 3rd Field Ambulance on 8th October, 1917 then transferred to Casualty Clearing Station. He was transferred to No. 21 Ambulance Train with shrapnel wounds to back then admitted to 57th General Hospital. Lance Corporal Morris embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St. Andrew* on 13th October, 1917.

Corporal Thomas Morris was admitted to Suffolk Hospital, Ampton, Bury St. Edmunds on 13th October, 1917 with gunshot wounds to back.

Lance Corporal Thomas Morris died at 10.20 am on 26th October, 1917 at Severals House Hospital, Newmarket, Suffolk, England from wounds received in action – gunshot wound to back & pneumonia.

A death for Thomas Morris, aged 40, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Newmarket, England.

Lance Corporal Thomas Morris was buried at 2 pm on 30th October, 1917 in Newmarket Cemetery, Newmarket, Suffolk, England – Plot number E. 937 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Corporal Thomas Morris - *Coffin was good, polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military Funeral. A Firing Party of thirteen non-commissioned officers, under the command of Sgt Instructor Maynard, was provided by the Northern Army School, comrades of the deceased soldier acted as bearers. The coffin was covered with the "Union Jack", and surmounted by several lovely floral tributes. The service in the chapel at and at the graveside was conducted by the Rev. F. Northrop, Chaplain to the Forces. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F.*

Communications were sent between Base Records & Department of Repatriation between 1919 & 1921 to locate the current address of the widow of the late Corporal Thomas Morris. The Department of Repatriation advised that the widow of the late Corporal Morris had applied for a free passage from Australia to England in 1919. They later advised that the address of Mrs Jane Morris was c/o John Saunders Esq., Westcote, Aylesbury, Bucks, England.

A War Pension was granted to Jane Morris, of Arthur St., Surrey Hills, widow of the late Corporal Thomas Morris, in the sum of 40/- per fortnight from 3rd January, 1918.

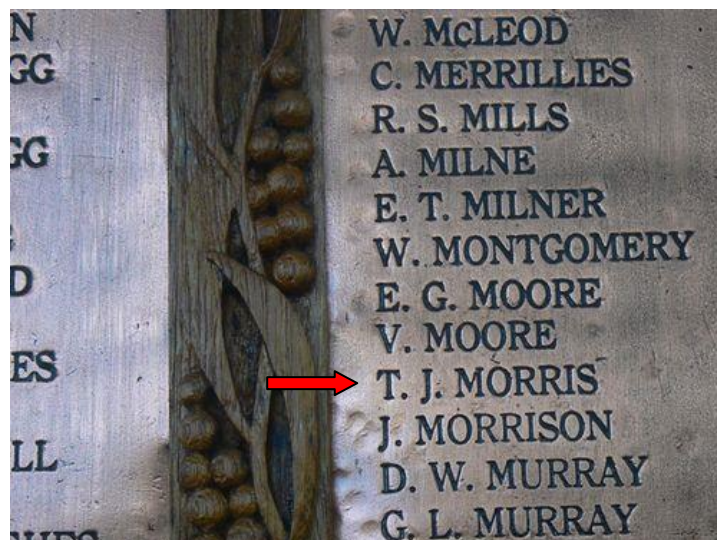
Corporal Thomas Morris was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Corporal Morris's widow – Mrs J. Morris, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in September, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal Thomas Morris – service number 5644, aged 39, of 23rd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the husband of Jane Morris, of High St., Westcott, Bucks.

A "T. J. Morris" is remembered on the Surrey Hills War Memorial, located in Surrey Gardens, Union Road, Surrey Hills, Victoria. Sandra Dexter, a local researcher, has researched all the names on the Surrey Gardens Shrine & cannot identify any "T. J. Morris" from the area. It is assumed that the middle initial was made in error & that the name on the memorial does in fact relate to Corporal Thomas Morris who lived at Surrey Hills at the time of his enlistment in the Australian Imperial Force.



Surrey Hills War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



Corporal T. Morris is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 99.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(68 pages of Corporal Thomas Morris' 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



Newspaper Notices

The 353rd CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED

Private T. Morris, Surrey Hills

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 21 November, 1917)

THE 360th AND 361st CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF WOUNDS

T.Cpl. T. Morris, Surrey Hills

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 5 December, 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. 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)

Corporal T. Morris does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Newmarket Cemetery, Newmarket, Suffolk, England

Newmarket Cemetery, Newmarket, Suffolk contains 81 Commonwealth War Graves – 17 from World War 1 & 64 from World War 2 (which includes 20 Polish Graves).



Newmarket Cemetery *(Photo by darearljolo – Find a Grave)*

Photo of Corporal T. Morris's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Newmarket Cemetery, Newmarket, Suffolk, England.



(Photo by julia&keld)



Newmarket Cemetery (Photo by julia&keld)