

**Ocklynge Cemetery,
Eastbourne, East Sussex
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1675A PRIVATE

T. MULLENS

43RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

26TH JULY, 1917

Thomas MULLENS

Thomas Mullens was born in 1888 in Eastbourne, Sussex, England to parents George & Louisa Mullens (nee Miller).

The 1891 England Census listed Thomas Mullens as a 2 year old, living with his family at 5 Salehurst Rd, Eastbourne, Sussex, England. His parents were listed as George Mullens (Gardener, aged 37, born Eastbourne, Sussex) & Louisa Mullens (aged 34, born Eastbourne, Sussex). Thomas was one of three children listed on this Census – Fred (aged 7, born Eastbourne, Sussex), then Thomas & Emily J. Mullens (aged 6 months, born Eastbourne, Sussex).

The 1901 England Census listed Thomas Mullens as a 12 year old, living with his family at 5 Salehurst Rd, Eastbourne, Sussex, England. His parents were listed as George Mullens (Jobbing Gardener, aged 48, Working on own account) & Louisa Mullens (aged 45). Thomas was one of three children listed on this Census – Fred (Engine Cleaner (LB & SCR), aged 17), then Thomas & Arthur G. Mullens (aged 5, born Eastbourne, Sussex).

A death was registered in the district of Eastbourne, Sussex, in the March quarter of 1902, for George Mullens, aged 48.

The 1911 England Census listed Thomas Mullens as a 22 year old Engine Cleaner, living with his widowed mother – Louisa Mullens (aged 55, born Eastbourne) & younger brother – Arthur George Mullens (Baker's Van Boy, aged 15, born Eastbourne). The family of three were living at 9 Salehurst Rd, Eastbourne in five roomed dwelling. Louisa Mullens had recorded that she had six children with only three still living.

Thomas Mullens was a 27 year old, single, Cook from Adelaide, South Australia when he enlisted on 3rd April, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1675 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Louisa Mullens of 9 Salehurst Rd, Eastbourne, Sussex, England.

Private Mullens was written up while at Camp at Morphettville, South Australia for being absent without leave from 9 am to 4.30 pm on 9th May, 1916. He was fined 10/-.

Private Thomas Mullens embarked from Adelaide on HMAT *Afric (A19)* on 9th June, 1916 with the 11th Infantry Brigade, 43rd Infantry Battalion, 1st Reinforcements & disembarked at Southampton, England on 24th July, 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 Mullens was taken on strength with 11th Training Battalion on 7th August, 1916.

Thomas Mullens married Edith R. Turner in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire in September quarter, 1916. They had married at the Amesbury Register Office.

Private Thomas Mullens proceeded overseas to France from 11th Training Battalion on 9th September, 1916 & was transferred to 27th Battalion.

Private Thomas Mullens was admitted to 2nd Divisional Base Depot at Etaples from England on 11th September, 1916. He proceeded to join his Unit on 28th September, 1916 & was taken on strength in Belgium with 27th Battalion on 28th September, 1916.

Private Thomas Mullens was transferred & taken on strength with Anzac Light Railways from 27th Battalion on 18th January, 1917.

Private Thomas Mullens was admitted to 12th Australian Field Ambulance on 4th February, 1917 with septic foot. He was transferred to D.R.S the same day then transferred to Casualty Clearing Station on 23rd February, 1917. Private Mullens was transferred to 21 Ambulance Train on 25th February, 1917 & admitted to 11th Stationary Hospital at Rouen on 26th February, 1917 with I.C.T. left heel. He embarked from Rouen for England on 28th February, 1917 on the Hospital Ship "*St. Patrick*".

Private Thomas Mullens was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital on 1st March, 1917 with I.C.T. foot. He was granted furlo on 23rd March, 1917 to 3rd April, 1917 & was then to report to Perham Downs.

Private Thomas Mullens was marched in from furlo to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 4th April, 1917. He was medically classified as B1 A4 (Fit for Overseas training Camp when passed dentally fit) & listed as having Septic foot & Rheumatism.

Private Thomas Mullens was marched in to H. & D. (Hardening & Drafting) Depot at Perham Downs on 27th April, 1917 then marched out to Camp H.Q. at Perham Downs on 28th April, 1917.

Private Thomas Mullens proceeded Overseas to France with 43rd Battalion on 27th May, 1917 from No's 4 & 5 Camp, Perham Downs via Southampton. He was marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France from England on 28th May, 1917. Private Mullens was marched out to his Unit from Rouelles on 16th June, 1917 & was taken on strength with 43rd Battalion in the field on 18th June, 1917.

Private Thomas Mullens was wounded in action in France on 4th July, 1917. He was admitted to 9th Field Ambulance with gunshot wounds to chest then transferred to 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station. Private Mullens was taken by Ambulance Train on 7th July, 1917 to Boulogne where he was admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital on 8th July, 1917. Private Mullens embarked for England from Boulogne on 9th July, 1917 on Hospital Ship "St Denis".

Private Thomas Mullens was admitted to The King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London on 9th July, 1917. The Hospital Admissions form records – "*Notes from France – Wounded July 4, 1917. Paralysis both lower limbs. X-ray shows F.B. fracture of one or two vertebrae. On admission – Wound right side of chest – 1" behind Posher Axillary line in 7th space.....*" His condition was reported as dangerous.

Private Thomas Mullens died at 2.30 am (Hospital Admissions form has time of death at 2 am) on 26th July, 1917 at The King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London from wounds received in action in France – gunshot wounds to spine & chest.

A death for Thomas Mullens, aged 2_, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Lambeth, Surrey.

Private Thomas Mullens was buried at 3 pm on 30th July, 1917 in Ocklynge Cemetery, Eastbourne, East Sussex, England, in a private grave - Plot number L. 257, next to the grave of his father. Private Mullens has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Mullens - *Coffin was good polished Elm. By special request of the widow and mother of the deceased soldier the remains were removed to Eastbourne for private funeral. The relatives asked to be allowed to decline a Military funeral. The remains were interred in a private family grave adjoin the grave in which the late Pte Mullens' father is buried. Relatives present at funeral – Mrs T. Mullens (Wife) 19 Tower Street, Eastbourne and Mrs Louisa Mullens (Mother) Salehurst Road, Eastbourne.*

Private Thomas Mullens requested in his Will, dated 14th September, 1916, that all he bequeathed all that he possesses to his wife – Edith Rose Mullens of 19 Tower Street, Eastbourne, Sussex, England with the exception of £5 for his brother – Fred. He also appointed Fred Mullens of 67 Green St, Eastbourne, England as the executor.

A War Pension was granted to Edith Rose Mullens, widow of late Private "Thomas Anzac Mullens", 1675, in the sum of 40/- per fortnight commencing from 28th September, 1917.

[A birth was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Eastbourne, Sussex for Kathleen M. Mullens, with mother's maiden name of Turner.]

Private Thomas Mullens was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Mullens's widow – Mrs T. Mullens (Scroll & Plaque both sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private T. Mullens – service number 1675A, of 43rd Battalion Australian Infantry, A.I.F. No family details are listed.

Private T. Mullens is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 137.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

T. Mullens is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

Thomas Mullins is remembered on the Eastbourne Roll of Honour located at the top of the main staircase above the entrance hall in the Town Hall. The Eastbourne Borough Memorial Book which is kept in the Library also records most of the names.

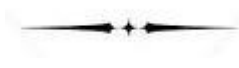


Eastbourne Roll of Honour (Photo courtesy of Chris Comber, 2009)





Private Thomas Mullens *(Photo from VWMA – Faith Jones)*



Newspaper Notices

CASUALTY LISTS

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LOSSES

327th LIST

Wounded

1675 Pte T. MULLENS, England

(Chronicle, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 4 August, 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)

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

Ocklynge Cemetery, Eastbourne, Sussex

Ocklynge Cemetery, Eastbourne, Sussex contains 175 War Graves. There are 129 War Graves from World War 1 & 44 War Graves from World War 2. There are also 1 Belgian & 1 Brazilian Foreign National burials from World War 1. A Cross of Sacrifice stands near the Chapel, facing the main entrance.

During World War 1, Eastbourne contained a very large Military Convalescent Hospital, originally called Eastbourne Military Hospital, which opened in April, 1915. From January, 1917 to October, 1919, it became No. 14 Canadian General Hospital.



Cross of Sacrifice at Ocklynge Cemetery, Eastbourne, Sussex (Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Private T. Mullens' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Ocklynge Cemetery, Eastbourne, Sussex, England.



(Photo courtesy of Roberto Lagnado)



Four Australian Soldiers at Ocklynge Cemetery, Eastbourne, Sussex (Photo from CWGC)