

**St. Mary's New Churchyard,
Codford, Wiltshire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



AT REST

Sacred

To the Memory of

2782 Pte. THOMAS E. OSBORNE

45TH BATTN. A.I.F.

WHO DIED DEC. 10TH 1916. AGED 33 YEARS

ERECTED BY HIS COMRADES

A COMPANY 12TH TRAINING BATTN. A.I.F.

***Service Number of 2782 is incorrect – should be 2696*

Thomas Ernest OSBORNE

Thomas Ernest Osborn was born at Cardiff, New South Wales in 1882 to parents Bartholomew & Hannah Osborn. His birth was registered in the district of Carcoar, New South Wales. (Note: Surname listed as "Osborn" on NSW Births, Deaths & Marriages website). (Bartholomew Osborn married Hannah Field in 1870 in the district of Orange, New South Wales)

Thomas Osborne married Florence McLean in 1903 in Orange, NSW. Florence & Thomas had 5 children – Doris F. M. M., born 1903, died 1919 (birth registered in the district of Orange, death registered in the district of Redfern); Gladys O. H., born 1907, died 1919 (birth registered in the district of Bathurst, death registered in the district of Marrickville); Ernest R. R., born 1909 (birth registered in the district of Wollongong); Jean, born 1912 & died 1912 (birth & death registered in the district of Wollongong) & Percival B., born 1913 (birth registered in the district of Wollongong).

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Allowrie, subdivision of Port Kembla, New South Wales recorded Thomas Ernest Osborn, Smelter. His wife was listed as Florence Gillas Osborn, Domestic duties.

Thomas Osborne was a 33 year old, married, Smelter from Wollongong, New South Wales when he enlisted on 12th June, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Methodist* (as per Embarkation Roll, however his Attestation Paper shows his religion as Church of England). His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Florence Gillas Osborne of Barella Street, Wollongong. Information in Private Osborne's Service Record shows a letter addressed to The Camp Commandant, Military Camp, Kiama, NSW from Capt. R. Vowell, Wollongong Recruiting Area, dated 12th June, 1916:

"The man named below has been given a railway warrant and instructed to report to you on June 13th, 1916. Thomas Ernest Osborne."

Private Thomas Ernest Osborne, Service number 2696, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 7th October, 1916 with the 45th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 21st November, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Thomas Ernest Osborne was marched in to 12th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire on 21st November, 1916.

Private Thomas Ernest Osborne was admitted to Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 7th December, 1916

Private Thomas Ernest Osborne died at 7.50 a.m. on 10th December, 1916 at Sutton Veny Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England from Capillary Bronchitis Pneumonia.

A death for Thomas E. Osborne, aged 33, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Private Thomas Ernest Osborne was buried in St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England - Grave No. 45. (No date recorded). The Burial Register for Codford St. Mary, Wiltshire recorded Thomas Ernest Osborne was buried on 16th December, 1916 in Grave number 45.

War Pensions were granted in respect of the death of Private Thomas Ernest Osborne to the following – as of 15th February, 1917 & the amounts show were payments per fortnight:

Thomas Ernest Reuben Osborne, child, 15/-; Gladys Olive H. Osborne, child, 10/-; Ernest Reginald Robert Osborne, child, 10/-; Percival Bartholomew Osborne, child, 10/-; Florence Gillis Osborne, widow, £2; Doris Florence Mary May Osborne, child, £1.

Private Thomas Ernest Osborne 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 Private Osborne's widow – Mrs Florence Johnson of 105 Eveleigh St, Redfern, NSW. Private Osborne's widow had remarried on 16th February, 1918 to Victor N Johnson. The Memorial Scroll was sent to in September, 1921 & returned & readdressed in February, 1922. The Memorial Plaque was received by Private Osborne's remarried widow in April, 1923.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Thomas Ernest Osborne – service number 2696, of 45th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private T. E Osborne is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 140.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

T. E. Osborne is remembered on the War Memorial Arch at MacCabe Park, Wollongong, NSW.



War Memorial Arch at MacCabe Park, Wollongong (Photo by Peter Liebeskind)



War Memorial Arch at MacCabe Park, Wollongong

(Photo by Neil Whitfield 2012)

(52 pages of Private Thomas Ernest Osborne's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Newspaper Reports

WAR CASUALTIES

KILLED IN ACTION

PTE T. E. OSBORNE

Private T. E. Osborne, of Wollongong, has been killed in France. His wife and five children reside in Wollongong.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Wednesday 20th December, 1916)

*Note – Pte Osborne was not killed in action in France – he died at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England.

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES – NSW

DIED OF ILLNESS – T. E. Osbourne, Wollongong, 10/12/16;

(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Saturday 30th December, 1916)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

OSBORNE – In loving memory of our dear brother, Thomas Ernest Osborne, who died in France, December 10, 1916, aged 33 years.

In France in a hero's grave

Our dear brother sleeps.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Hannah and Alfred Bell, Coledale,

(South Coast Times and Wollongong Argus, NSW, Friday 7th December, 1917)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Private Thomas E. Osborne does not have a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone. His headstone was erected by "His Comrades A Company 12th Training Battn. A.I.F."

* Pte Michael Smith also has a similar headstone erected by "His Comrades A Company 12th Training Battn. A.I.F." Pte Smith died on 5th December, 1916, Pte Osborne on 10th December, 1916. They are buried next to each other in plots 27 & 28 (using Map by Brian Marshall).

St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England

The New Zealand Command Depot was established at Codford in June 1916 and the No 3 New Zealand General Hospital followed in July. The New Churchyard was established by deed of gift as the "Military Burial Ground," with a small part reserved for future burials from the parish. The war graves plot contains 98 burials, mostly of New Zealand and Australian forces. There is only one burial of the Second World War in the New Churchyard.

(Information from CWGC)

There are 31 WW1 Australian War Graves & 66 WW1 New Zealand War Graves located here. There is one WW1 British Royal Army Medical Corp Grave & one WW2 Welsh Guards grave located in this Churchyard.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00275



St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford (*Photos courtesy of Romy Wyeth*)



Photo of Private Thomas E. Osborne's Private Headstone in St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England. Also known as Codford Anzac War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.

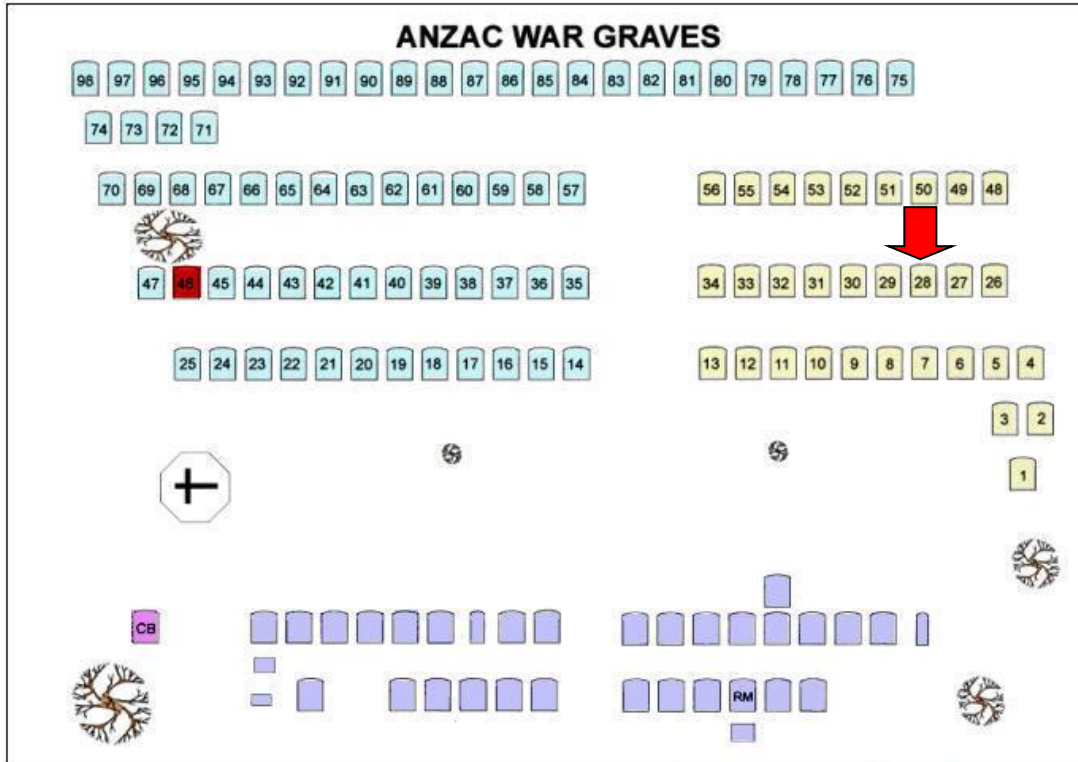
****Note: Private Osborne's Service number was 2696. The Service number 2782 on his headstone is incorrect & belonged to Private Michael Smith who is buried next to Private Osborne. Both men had their headstones erected by their Training Battalion – 12th - 'A' Company.**



(Headstone Photos courtesy of Romy Wyeth)



Headstone for Private Thomas E. Osborne is located in Main Middle Row (Right hand side) Grave Plot # 28 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (CWGC Reference - Grave # 45)



- Australian Soldiers
- Welsh Soldier
- New Zealand Soldiers
- Local Burials
- UK Soldier

Codford War Graves map adapted from Brian Marshall courtesy of Romy Wyeth



(Photo by Romy Wyeth 2013)