

Sutton Veny War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



3904 PRIVATE

J. PODMORE

22ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

1st NOVEMBER, 1918 AGE 26

*Private Headstone for Pte J. Podmore is located in
Grave Plot # 21. H. 7. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

James Podmore

James Podmore was born at Kensington, Victoria in 1892 to parents James & Emily Buckingham Podmore (nee Langdon). He was a 23 year old, single, Tobacco worker from 17 Edward Street, Brunswick, Melbourne when he enlisted at Melbourne, Victoria on 16th July, 1915 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 22nd Battalion, 9th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 3904 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. Podmore of 17 Edward Street, Brunswick, Melbourne, Victoria.

Private James Podmore embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Warilda* (A69) on 8th February, 1916.

Pte Podmore embarked for Overseas per *Torana* from Alexandria on 21st March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 27th March, 1916.

Pte Podmore was sent to Hospital sick from 2nd Australian Divisional Base at Etaples France on 28th March, 1916. He was admitted to No. 7 Indian Sty. Hospital at Marseilles with mumps & discharged on 1st April, 1916.

Pte Podmore was admitted to Lahore British Hospital with Tonsillitis on 1st April, 1916 & discharged the same day.

Pte Podmore joined his Battalion in France on 31st July, 1916.

Pte Podmore was written up for an Offence – absent without leave from parade on 15th May, 1917. He was awarded 48 hours field Punishment No. 2 & forfeited 2 days pay.

Pte Podmore was wounded in action on 8th October, 1917 & taken to 3rd Field Ambulance with a shrapnel wound to left knee on 9th October, 1917.

Pte Podmore was admitted to No. 2 Australian General Hospital at Boulogne on 10th October, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to left eye & knee. He was marked for transfer to England & was transferred on the Hospital Ship *Jan Breydel* on 13th October, 1917. Pte Podmore was admitted to Wellington Road Auxiliary Hospital, Liverpool on 14th October, 1917. He was transferred to 5th Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on 31st October, 1917.

Pte Podmore was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 2nd November, 1917. He was marched out to No. 2 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 15th November, 1917.

Pte Podmore was admitted to Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire on 29th December, 1917 with a contusion to head & face. The Hospital admissions forms states that Pte Podmore had been knocked down by a motor car. He was discharged to Training Depot at Fovant on 10th January, 1918. Pte Podmore was marched on to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott on 16th January, 1918.

Pte Podmore was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 21st March, 1918. He was transferred to Overseas Training Brigade at Sandgill Camp on 9th April, 1918.

Pte Podmore was marched in at Havre, France on 10th April, 1918 & marched out to his Unit on 20th April, 1918. Pte Podmore rejoined 22nd Battalion on 27th April, 1918.

Pte Podmore was sent to 5th Australian Field Ambulance on 2nd August, 1918 with Mitral Regurgitation. He was transferred to 3rd General Hospital at Le Treport on 4th August, 1918 & transferred to England on Hospital Ship Guildford Castle on 10th August, 1918. Pte Podmore was admitted to Graylingwell Hospital at Chicester on 11th August, 1918 with Valvular disease of the heart & transferred to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on 29th August, 1918. He was discharged to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 4th September, 1918.

Pte Podmore was on leave from 11th October, 1918 & then to report to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on completion of leave.

Private James Podmore was admitted in a serious condition to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 24th October, 1918 with Influenza.

Private James Podmore died at 17.15 hrs on 1st November, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Influenza and Pneumonia.

A death for James Podmore, aged 26, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Pte James Podmore is quite a large file, containing 49 pages. It contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives to find out the fullest details regarding the wounds, death & burial. Another letter in the file dated 11th November (no year) addressed to Pte Podmore states that *"your people in Australia think you were wounded in July or August and have cabled to us, through our Office, to find out and directly hear from you we will cable at allay their anxiety."*

- In regards to the death of Pte Podmore a letter which is an extract from the Medical report made out at Sutton Veny Hospital, Wilts reads:

"Pte Jas. Podmore, 3904, 22nd Batn. A.I.F. was admitted to the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny on 24/10/1918 as a severe case of Influenza. Diffuse areas of broncho pneumonia developed & on 30/10/18 the patient was placed on the "seriously ill" list. He gradually got worse becoming more septicaemic & sank & died on 1/11/18, death resulting from Influenza complicated by purulent bronchitis & heart failure."

Other letters concerning the death of Pte Podmore dated March, 1919 from Head Sister at Military Hospital Sutton Veny state *"there is little I can tell you. This hospital took over from the R.A.M.C. on the 23rd December '18 and the only record to be found here is Pte Podmore's death on the 1st Nov. 1918."*

- There are several letters regarding the possible wounding of Pte Podmore – all by fellow Battalion men. Some extracts include – *"Pte Podmore belongs to C. Coy.....He is our great rope quoit player. He was still with us this last time up in the trenches.";* *"The Regt was in action on the 4th August at Pozieres Ridge and I heard Podmore had been slightly wounded. The last time I saw him was with his Coy. in the trenches at Flers on the 6th Nov. and he was quite well then.";* *"Podmore is in my Company and has never been missing. I know him well."* and finally a letter from Pte Podmore himself which reads *".. I am away with my Battalion and have never been away from it since I joined up. The report of my being wounded was incorrect I have already informed friends in Australia."*

Private James Podmore was buried at 2 pm on 6th November, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 21. From the burial report of Pte Podmore - *Coffin was polished Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours. The funeral was preceded by a Firing Party and Band from No. 1 Australian Command Depot. Six of deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall. Three Officers and about 100 N.C.O.'s and Men of deceased's late Unit followed the remains to the graveside. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Pte James Podmore requested in his Will dated 22nd May, 1914 that all his real & personal Estate be left to his mother – Emily Little of Carlton, Victoria & for John William Podmore to be appointed Executor of the Will.

Pte James Podmore was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Podmore's mother – Mrs Emily Little (formerly Podmore) (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922). A letter was written in October, 1919 by James Podmore, stating to be the father of Pte James Podmore, of 205 Fitzgerald Street, Perth, asking Base Records who was the next of kin of Pte James Podmore & when & where he was buried. It was normal practice for any medals etc to be given to the father of the deceased soldier, however in this case the medals were given to Pte Podmore's mother. No explanation is given in his Service Record file.

The CWGC lists Private James Podmore, 3904, of 22nd Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of Emily B. Podmore of 3 Barry St, Brunswick, Victoria and the late James Podmore.

Private J. Podmore is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 97.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. Podmore is remembered on the Brunswick Town Hall Honour Roll located in Foyer of Brunswick Town Hall, 233 Sydney Road, Brunswick, Victoria.

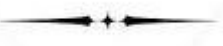


Brunswick Town Hall Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Bruce Garrett)



(85 pages of Pte James Podmore's 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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing file) & National Archives.



Newspaper Reports

DEATHS

On Active Service

PODMORE - Officially reported died of illness 1st November, at Military Hospital, Weymouth, England, after 3 years' active service, Private James Podmore, No. 3904, dearly beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Little, 17 Edward-street, East Brunswick, loved brother of John, Em. (Mrs. Davis), Nina (Mrs. Phillips) and Edith, and loved uncle of May.

He has crossed the grand horizon,

Eternity's great span;

He has earned the crowning glory

Of a soldier and a man.

When the flags are o'er the roadway,

And the troops come marching home;
Oh, God, have pity on the watching ones
Whose loved one will ne'er return.

(The Age, Melbourne, Vic – Monday 11 November, 1918)

DEATHS

On Active Service

PODMORE - Officially reported died illness 1st November, at Military Hospital, Weymouth, England, after 3 years' active service, Private James Podmore, No. 3904, 22nd Battalion, 6th Brigade, loving nephew of Mr and Mrs Langdon, and dear cousin of J. K. Langdon. A stretcher bearer.

Duty nobly done,
So dearly loved, so deeply mourned.
- Inserted by his sorrowing uncle Jack, auntie Jennie and cousin John King Langdon, Kensington.

(The Age, Melbourne, Vic – Tuesday 12 November, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOR

VICTORIAN LIST

Died, Other Causes

Pte J. Podmore, Brunswick, 1/11/18 (illness)

(Weekly Times, Vic – Saturday 7 December, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

PODMORE – In loving memory of my dear son, Private James Podmore, who died at Sutton Veny, England on active service on the 1st November, 1918; also my dear husband William Little, who died on the 19th August, 1921.

My lips cannot speak how I loved him,
My heart cannot tell what to say,
God only knows how I miss him,
As I Battle along life's way.
But his loving voice keeps whispering,
Mother, be brave and true;
At the end of a lane of shadows
I'll be waiting, dear mother, for you.

Inserted by his mother, E. Little.

PODMORE – In loving memory of our dear brother, James Podmore, who died at Sutton Veny, England on the 1st November, 1918.

Though parted from the one we loved,
How sweet 'tis to recall
Those loving deeds, in vain we try

To recollect them all.
But the helping hand and generous heart,
So full of sympathy;
The kindly smiles, the loving ways,
Will a sweet memory be.

Inserted by his brother, John Podmore; sister and brother-in-law, W. and Emily Arroll; sister and brother-in-law, H. and Nina Phillips; sister and brother-in-law, W. and Edith Norman, and niece, May and W. Rodrick.

PODMORE – In loving memory of our dear nephew and cousin, Private James Podmore, 22nd Battalion, died of illness at Sutton Veny, England, 1st November, 1918. Ever remembered.

Inserted by his uncle, auntie and cousin, John King Langdon, Kensington.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Vic – Saturday 1 November, 1924)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P10085.001

The original grave marker for Pte James Podmore in Churchyard at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

A letter signed by Mrs Emily Podmore, mother of late Pte James Podmore, dated 2nd January, 1921, was sent to Base Records who forwarded the letter to Australian Graves Services which reads in part: "*Re my son's grave I wish to know if I could have a verse printed on it. I got my son's grave done with a headstone before my son-in-law, Pte H. Phillips, left England for home. He got it done up. Also I would like the Military Cross on it too as well as the stone that is on it. I think the Cross is an honour that should not have been moved. The Military Cross I mean by that is what the other graves of deceased soldiers have that the grave decorator has taken off, which he has a right to it as well as mine.*" Mrs Podmore/Little, Pte Podmore's mother, had a private headstone erected for her son & was now enquiring as to where the original wooden cross marker went as she wanted it back in position with his new headstone. She was also asking for the Army to engrave an inscription on the headstone she had erected. Australian Graves Services replied to Mrs Podmore in May, 1921 advising her that enquires had been made to the Vicar of the Parish & also to the local Monumentalist as to who was responsible for the removal of the original wooden cross but they had been unable to obtain any definite information from either. Mrs Podmore was also given the name of a Masonry worker from Warminster who had advised that he was prepared to carve a verse on the memorial & his charges were set out in the letter. Mrs Podmore was asked to communicate direct with the stone-mason whose address had been given.



War Graves at Sutton Veny (Photos from CWGC)



Photo of Private James Podmore's private headstone, which was erected by his mother, in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)