

Ryhope Road Cemetery
Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, England
War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5159 PRIVATE

T. T. POWELL

47TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

21ST NOVEMBER, 1916 Age 36

Thomas Thornton POWELL

Thomas Thornton Powell was born on 14th September, 1879 at the "Valley" (Fortitude Valley), Brisbane, Queensland to parents Charles Henry & Helena Louisa Powell (nee Barney).

The 1903 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Wide Bay, subdivision of Cooran, Queensland recorded Thomas Thornton Powell Timber-getter, from 9-Mile, Brisbane Road.

The 1908, 1909 & 1912 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Wide Bay, subdivision of Widgee, Queensland recorded Thomas Thornton Powell Timber-getter, from 9-Mile, Brisbane Road.

The 1913 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Lilley, subdivision of Widgee, Queensland recorded Thomas Thornton Powell Timber-getter, from 9-Mile, Brisbane Road.

Thomas Thornton Powell was a 36 year old, single, Timber-getter from Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted on 28th October, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5159 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs H. L. Powell, Brisbane Road, via Gympie, Queensland.

Thomas Thornton Powell was posted to "B" Company, 9th Depot Battalion for recruit training. He was transferred to 16th Reinforcements of 15th Battalion on 16th January, 1916.

Private Thomas Thornton Powell applied for 5 days Home Leave at Traverston to "visit friends & attend to business arrangements. He proposed to leave at 5 pm on 1st March, 1916 & to return at 11 pm on 6th March, 1916 – total travelling time 16 hours. Private Powell was approved for 4 days' leave.

Private Thomas Thornton Powell embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Star of Victoria* (A16) on 31st March, 1916 with the 4th Infantry Brigade, 15th Infantry Battalion, 16th Reinforcements. He reported to Tel-el-Kebir from Australia on 5th May, 1916 from *Star of Victoria*.

Private Thomas Thornton Powell was transferred to 47th Battalion at Tel-le-Kebir on 20th May, 1916 from 15th Battalion.

Private Thomas Thornton Powell embarked from Alexandria on 7th June, 1916 on H. T. *Huntspill* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 14th June, 1916.

Private Thomas Thornton Powell was taken on strength of 47th Battalion in France on 10th August, 1916.

Private Thomas Thornton Powell was wounded in action in France on 11th August, 1916. He was admitted to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station on 12th August, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to lower extremities. Private Powell was transferred & admitted to 2nd Australian General Hospital at Wimereux, France on 14th August, 1916. He was transferred to Boulogne on 15th August, 1916 & embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Cambria* on 16th August, 1916 with G.S.W. to Foot.

47th Battalion

The 47th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 24 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its new recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 15th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 15th, the new battalion was composed mostly of men recruited in Queensland and Tasmania. The new battalion was incorporated into the 12th Brigade of the Australian Division.

Arriving in France on 9 June 1916, the 47th entered the trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 3 July. It participated in its first major battle at Pozieres. Initially, the battalion provided working parties during the 2nd Division's attack on 4 August, and then, with its own division, defended the ground that had been captured. The 47th endured two stints in the heavily-contested trenches of Pozieres, as well as a period in reserve.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Thomas Thornton Powell was admitted to Royal Infirmary Hospital, Sunderland, England on 16th August, 1916 with G.S.W. to right Leg & foot.

Mrs H. L. Powell, Brisbane Rd, via Gympie, Queensland, was advised by Base Records on 11th September, 1916 that her son Private Thomas T. Powell had been wounded.

Mrs H. L. Powell, Brisbane Rd, via Gympie, Queensland, mother of Private Thomas Thornton Powell, was advised by Base Records on 20th September, 1916 that Private T. T. Powell had been admitted to Royal Infirmary, Sunderland on 16th August, 1916 "*suffering from Gunshot wound Leg, Foot, mild.*"

Private Thomas Thornton Powell died at 5.30 pm on 21st November, 1916 at Hammerton House, V.A.D. Hospital, Sunderland, Newcastle-on-Tyne, England from wounds received in action in France - Gunshot Wounds to both legs & Exhaustion.

A death for Thomas T. Powell, aged 37, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Sunderland, Durham, England.

Private Thomas Thornton Powell was buried on 24th November, 1916 in Ryhope Road Cemetery, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, England – Plot number 6. A. 12175. C. and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Stephens & Tozer Solicitors, Union Trustee Buildings, corner George & Queens Streets, Brisbane, Queensland wrote to Base Record on 13th December, 1916 requesting two death Certificates for Thomas Thornton Powell.

Base Records forwarded the certificate of report of death (in duplicate) of the late Private Thomas Thornton Powell on 24th January, 1917.

The National Mutual Life Association of Australia Limited, 295 Queen Street, Brisbane, Queensland wrote to Base Records on 4th April, 1917 requesting the following details for Thomas Thornton Powell – place of birth, aged, height & next of kin. The details were forwarded to the National Mutual Life Association of Australia Limited on 12th April, 1917 by Base Records.

Base Records contacted Mrs H. L. Powell, Brisbane Rd, via Gympie, Queensland on 25th November, 1921 stating she was noted as the registered next-of-kin of the late No. 5159 Private T. T. Powell, but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically asked if his 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.

Base Records wrote to Headquarters, 1st District Base, on 9th August, 1922 stating that communications sent to Mrs H. L. Powell on 25th November, 1921 asking if the father of the late No. 5159 Private T. T. Powell was still living, had not been answered. Base Records requested that Headquarters may be able to take any action to "*obtain the desired information. Possibly the War Gratuity Section of the District Finance Office may be able to assist.*"

The District Finance Officer, 1st District Base, Brisbane replied on 28th March, 1923 to Base Records' memo (of 21st March, 1923) stating that the War Gratuity was paid to his late mother, Mrs Helene L. Powell & that the late soldier's father was deceased.

Robert H. Powell, Nine Mile, Brisbane Road, via Gympie, Queensland, wrote to Base Records on 21st November, 1922 stating "*In Brisbane paper of 20th November, 1922 (Next of Kin Wanted) my brother's name is in the list. Pte T. T. Powell, No 5159 (Thomas Thornton Powell) left Brisbane about the end of March 1915 with 16 to 15 Bt. was transferred to the 47 Bt. wounded on August 10, on the Soam. Died on November 21, 1916, at Hammerton House VAD Hospital Sunderland England. Particulars of Grave No12175 Sec A Nearest Railway Station Sunderland. When my brother left he made his allotment in favour of our Mother H. L. Powell since deceased.*"

Base Records replied to Mr R. H. Powell on 9th December, 1922 asking if the father of the late No. 5159 Private T. T. Powell was “still living, and if so his present address. If he no longer survives, has the late soldier any brother older than yourself, if so, what is the name and address of the eldest. This information is essential before war medals, etc. issuable on account of deceased’s service can be disposed of.... I am holding the matter open for 30 days from this date, when if no reply is to hand, the late soldier’s war mementoes must be placed on the Untraceables List.”

Base Records wrote to Mr R. H. Powell again on 9th April, 1923 advising that they had been informed by the District Finance Officer that the late Private T. T. Powell’s father was also deceased. Base Records again asked if there were any older brothers & if so the name and address of the eldest brother.

Robert H. Powell replied to Base Records on 9th May, 1923 stating that there was one older brother – Mr H. J. Powell, H.M.S. Customs, Brisbane, Queensland.

Private Thomas Thornton Powell was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Powell’s eldest brother – Mr H. Powell, as the closest next-of-kin (both parents deceased). (Scroll & Plaque sent June, 1923).



Memorial Plaque for Private Thomas Thornton Powell

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Thomas Thornton Powell – service number 5159, aged 36, of 47th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Charles Henry and Helen Luisa Powell, of Brisbane, Queensland.

Private T. T. Powell is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 144.

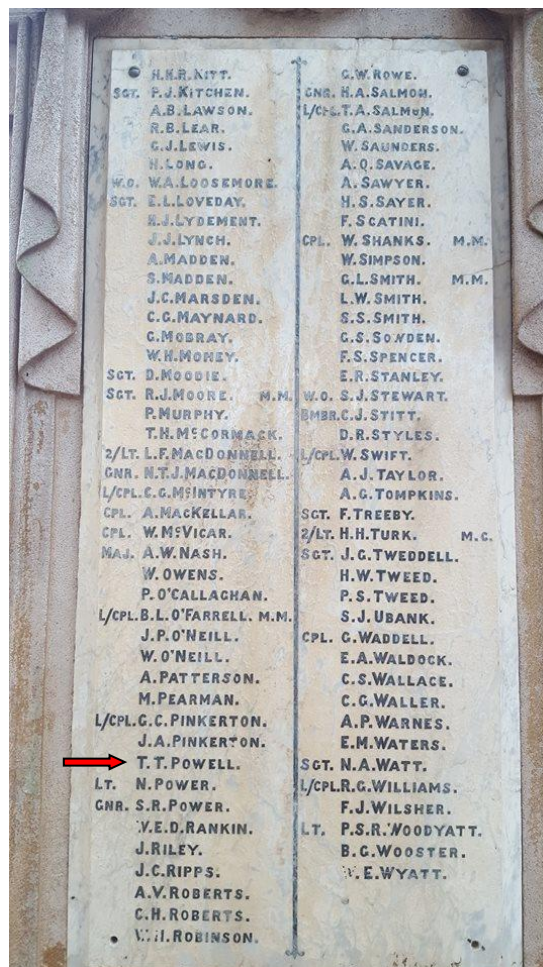


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

T. T. Powell is remembered on the Gympie and Widgee War Memorial Gates, located at Memorial Lane, Mary Street, Gympie, Queensland.



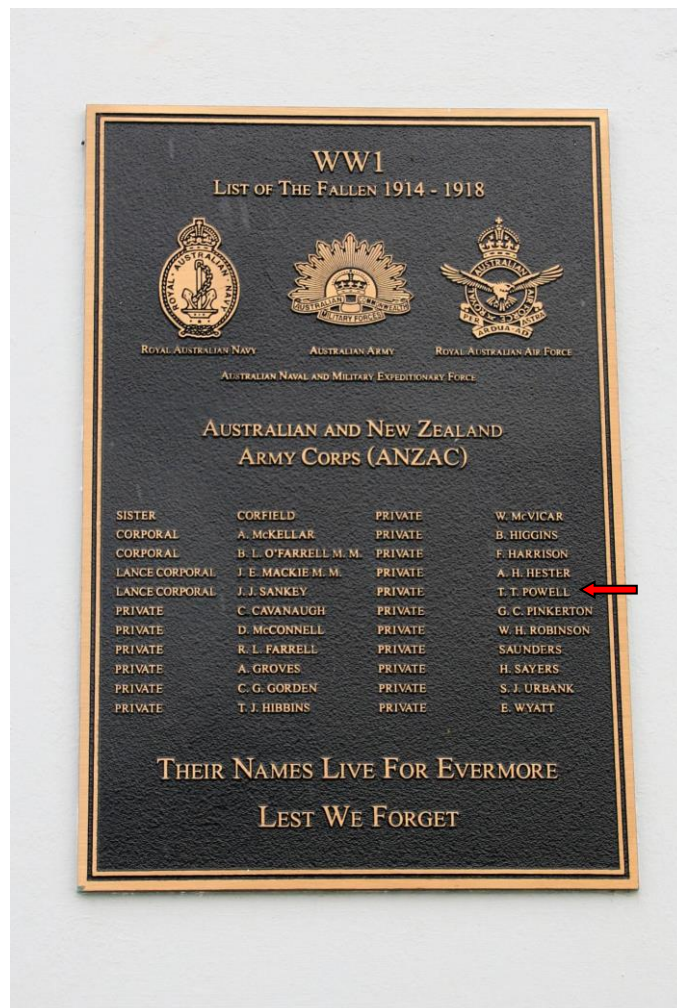
Gympie and Widgee War Memorial Gates (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Tony Ledger)



T. T. Powell is remembered on Imbil War Memorial, located at Yabba Road, Imbil, Queensland.



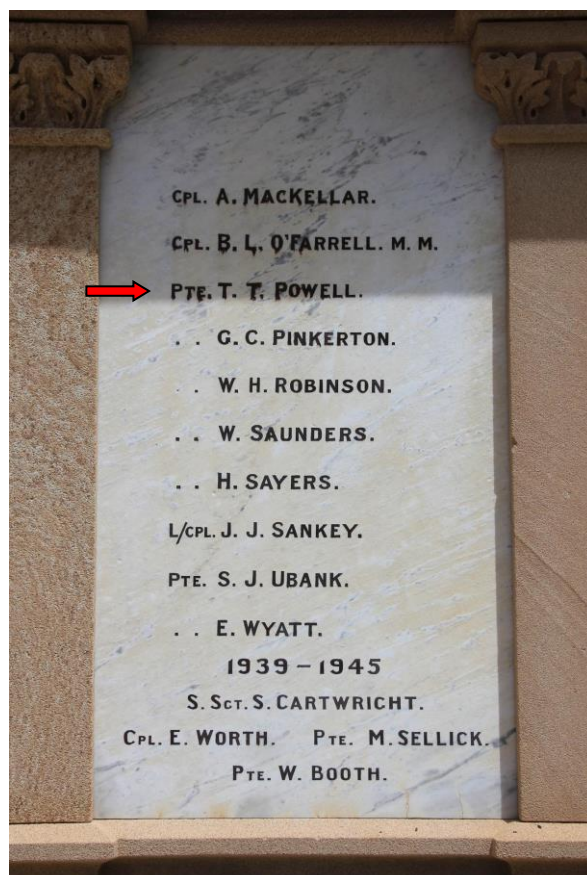
Imbil War Memorial (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Brian Rowe)



T. T. Powell is remembered on Kandanga War Memorial, located in Main Street, Kandanga, Queensland.



Kandanga War Memorial (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Brian Rowe)



The bridge over Tandur Road on the Bruce Highway, south of Gympie, has been named the Thomas Powell Bridge in recognition of a pioneering settler.

“Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Michael McCormack said Thomas Powell was a pastoralist who made a significant contribution to the economic and agricultural development of the Wide Bay area.”

(From *Mirage News* 5 March, 2019)



North Bound



South Bound

(53 pages of Private Thomas Thornton Powell'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



Private Thomas Thornton Powell & his mother

Newspaper Notices

WIDGEE SHIRE COUNCIL

GYMPIE, January 11.

Nominations for the Shire Council annual elections close next Tuesday. There will be two extraordinary elections about the same time, one on account of Councillor T. T. Powell having enlisted, and the other on account of the resignation of Councillor Spiller owing to ill health.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 14 January, 1916)

DISTRICT SOLDIERS

Mrs H. E. Grimley, Harlin-road, has received word that her cousin, Pte T. T. Powell, of Gympie, has been wounded in France, and is now in Hammerton Hospital, England.

(Queensland Times, Ipswich, Queensland – 24 August, 1916)

Roll of Honour

217th Casualty List

WOUNDED

Pte T. T. Powell, Gympie, Q.

(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 22 September, 1916)

Roll of Honour

Queensland Casualties

The 246th Australian casualty list was released at 9 o'clock on Monday by the censor.

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte T. T. Powell, Gympie, 21/11/16, p.r.w.

(The Week, Brisbane, Queensland – 8 December, 1916)

Remembering the Australian WW1 soldier who died in Sunderland after being wounded in the Somme

The memory of a WWI soldier from Australia lives on in a new portrait which was unveiled in Sunderland this week.



Members of the Salvation Army and Hendon History Group at the unveiling of the TT Powell portrait at Carnegie Community Centre

Thomas Thornton Powell left his job as a dairy farmer to travel half-way around the globe to fight for King and Country, only to be wounded in the Somme. In 2016 Hendon History Group restored his grave in Grangetown cemetery. Now, a portrait of the soldier has been unveiled in Carnegie Community Corner, formerly Hendon Library.

An artist from Cornwall, Amanda J Stafford, who has family locally, agreed to paint a portrait of T.T. Powell and his mother, using the last photograph he had taken before going to France in WW1.



The portrait will remain in the library

(*Sunderland Echo*, England – 13 November, 2018)

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 T. T. Powell has a Private Headstone.

Ryhope Road Cemetery, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, England

Ryhope Road Cemetery, Sunderland (historic county of Durham) has 159 Commonwealth War Graves – 90 from World War 1 & 69 from World War 2.



Ryhope Road Cemetery, Sunderland *(Photo from CWGC)*

Photo of Private T. T. Powell's Private Headstone in Ryhope Road Cemetery, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, England.



(Photos courtesy of Peter Bennett)



T. T. POWELL

47TH BATTALION A.I.F.

QUEENSLAND

DIED OF WOUNDS 21ST NOV, 1916

ERECTED BY HIS MOTHER

From Sunderland in the First World War :

The private grave of the late Private Thomas Thornton Powell was restored in July, 2015.



Private Thomas Thornton Powell's restored grave (*Photos from Sunderland in First World War*)

