

**St. Marcella Churchyard,
Whitchurch, Wales
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2184 PRIVATE

T. ROBERTS

3RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

23RD MARCH, 1921 Age 39

Thomas ROBERTS

Thomas Lloyd Roberts was born at Denbigh, Denbighshire, Wales 28th May, 1882 (as listed on his headstone) to parents Godfrey Lloyd Roberts & Jane Ann Roberts (nee Johnson). The Baptism Register recorded he was baptised on 10th July, 1881 at the Parish Church of Llanarmon yn yale, Denbigh, Wales. His parents were listed as Godfrey Lloyd Roberts, Innkeeper & Jane Anne Roberts of Butcher's Arms.

→ 1881. April. 10 No. 1442.	Ellen Sarah.	Edward Roberts Ellen	Gamer,	Royal Oak Inn.	Innkeeper	Edwards Vicar
April. 10. No. 1443.	Frederick William	Edward Roberts Ellen	Gamer,	Royal Oak Inn	Innkeeper	Edwards Vicar.
May 15 No. 1444.	Margaret Alice	Abel Sarah Anne	Davies.	The Village Llanarmon.	Labourer	Edwards Vicar
→ July 10 No. 1445.	Thomas Lloyd	Godfrey Lloyd. Jane Anne,	Roberts	Butcher's Arms.	Innkeeper,	Edwards Vicar

The 1891 Wales Census recorded Thomas Ll. Roberts as a 9 year old Scholar, living with his family at 2 Ruthin Road – Railway Inn, Denbigh, Denbighshire, Wales. His parents were listed as Godfrey Ll. Roberts (Licensed Victualler, aged 35, born Denbigh, Denbighshire) & Jane A. Roberts (aged 33, born Thistleflat, Durham). Thomas was the eldest of four children listed on this Census (all born Denbigh, Denbighshire) – Thomas then William G. Roberts (Scholar, aged 6), John E. Roberts (aged 2) & Jane A. Roberts (aged 4 months). Also listed was Elizabeth Griffiths (General Servant, aged 72).



Railway Inn, Denbigh

Thomas Lloyd Roberts, Joiner, aged 22, married Elizabeth Hughes, aged 23, on 20th August, 1903 in the Parish Church of Llangwyfan, in the district of Ruthin, Denbighshire, Wales.

The 1911 Wales Census recorded Thomas Lloyd Roberts as a 29 year old Joiner living with his wife & sons in a 4 roomed dwelling at Bragdy, Pentre Villas, Llandrnog, Denbighshire, Wales. Thomas' wife was listed as Elizabeth Roberts (aged 33). Thomas & Elizabeth Roberts had been married for eight years, having had five children, two having since died. Three sons were listed on this Census – William G. L. Roberts (aged 5), Edward H. G. Roberts (age 4) & Robert J. G. Roberts (aged 8 months). Also listed was John Thomas (aged 34) & his wife - Annie Thomas (aged 42). They had been married for under one year & were brother-in-law & sister-in-law of Thomas Lloyd Roberts.

Thomas Roberts was a 34 year old, married (with 4 children), Carpenter when he enlisted at Liverpool, NSW on 22nd April, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2184 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Elizabeth Roberts, care of Railway Hotel, Denbigh, North Wales, England.

Private Thomas Roberts was posted with 6th Reinforcements of 3rd Battalion on 22nd April, 1915 for recruit training.

Private Thomas Roberts was charged with being drunk & using obscene language at 9 am on 18th May, 1915 at Oxford Street, Sydney. He was fined 30/-.

Private Thomas Roberts embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Karoola* (A63) on 16th June, 1915 with the 3rd Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements.

Private Thomas Roberts was taken on strength of 3rd Battalion at Anzac on 4th August, 1915.

Private Thomas Roberts was wounded in action at Gallipoli on 7th August, 1915 with shrapnel wounds to arm. He was transferred to Hospital Ship *Ascania* & admitted to Hospital at Abbassia on 7th August, 1915. He was transferred & admitted to No. 1 General Hospital at Cairo on 11th August, 1915. Pte Roberts was transferred to No. 2 Convalescent Depot at Heliopolis on 11th August, 1915. He was discharged on 8th September, 1915.

War Diary – 3rd Battalion

7-8-15 LONE PINE

We held our position against continuous bombing at which the enemy appear to be very expert. Our casualties were heavy and we confidently expect from results of observation that theirs were the same. About 70 prisoners and two machine guns were captured the previous night one of which is in action against the enemy. Both our own M/Guns were just out of action during the day by enemy m/gun on JOHNSTONES JOLLY. A strong counter attack was launched by the enemy on our front during the night. Bombing which has been much neglected in our training is the thing required most. Our men however demonstrated their ability to use bombs successfully and our trained men were as good as those of the enemy.

The day was spent in holding our front against bombs and consolidating the line. A further 30 yards of trench was taken with this object about 1800 and prepared for defence. We had no trouble here during the night 7/8th.

(Extract of War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Thomas Roberts embarked from Alexandria for overseas on 22nd March, 1916 on HMTS *Grampian*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 28th March, 1916.

Private Thomas Roberts was sent to hospital sick on 17th July, 1916. He was admitted to No. 3 Australian Field Ambulance on 17th July, 1916 with Rheumatism. Pte Roberts was transferred to 4th Australian Field Ambulance on 21st July, 1916. He was transferred & admitted to No. 1 New Zealand Stationary Hospital at Amiens on 28th July, 1916. Pte Roberts was discharged on 30th July, 1916 to Base. He was admitted to No. 8 General Hospital at Rouen on 31st July, 1916 with Rheumatism. Pte Roberts embarked on Hospital Ship *Salta* from Rouen on 1st August, 1916.

3rd Battalion

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Thomas Roberts was admitted to Ulster Voluntary Force Hospital, Belfast, Ireland on 4th August, 1916 with Rheumatism (chronic) he was discharged on 22nd August, 1916 (date as per Hospital Admissions form).

Private Thomas Roberts was taken on strength at No. 1 Command Depot, Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 26th August, 1916.

Private Thomas Roberts was written up for an Offence while posted at Perham Downs – AWL (Absent without leave) from 3 pm on 27th September, 1916 till 9 am on 29th September, 1916. He was awarded 3 days CC (Confined to Camp) & forfeited 3 days' pay.

Private Thomas Roberts reported back from furlough at No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs on 2nd October, 1916 & was medical classed as B1 A.

Private Thomas Roberts was marched in to Bovington Camp, Wool, Dorset, England on 13th October, 1916.

Private Thomas Roberts was marched out to No. 4 Command Depot at Wareham, Dorset on 3rd November, 1916 & medically classified C (Fit for Home service).

Private Thomas Roberts was medically assessed at Wareham on 20th November, 1916 & classified as B1 A2 (Fit for overseas training camp in three to four weeks). He was assessed again on 20th December, 1916 & again classified as B1 A2 (little improvement). Pte Roberts was assessed again on 9th January, 1917, 18th January, 1917 & 26th January, 1917 & each time classified as B1 A2.

A Medical Report was completed on Private Thomas Roberts on 30th January, 1917 at No. 4 Command Depot, Wareham, Dorset, England regarding his disability – Chronic Rheumatism. Pte Roberts stated that he was troubled with Rheumatism about 15 years ago for the first time & has had rheumatism nearly every winter. *“He complains of pains in every joint but no swelling” and “pains in hips & knees especially in cold & wet weather.”* The Medical Board recommended that Pte Roberts was permanently unfit for General Service & temporarily unfit for Home Service for more than 6 months.

Private Thomas Roberts was marched out from No. 4 Command Depot at Wareham on 3rd March, 1917 & marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset the same day.

Private Thomas Roberts was written up for a Crime while posted at Verne – Absent off pass from Reveille on 12th April, 1917 till 11.30 am on 14th April, 1917. He was awarded 3 days CB (Confined to Barracks) & forfeited 3 days' pay.

Private Thomas Roberts was returned to Australia & left from Plymouth, England on 23rd May, 1917 due to Chronic Rheumatism & arrived on *Ayrshire* on 19th July, 1917.

Private Thomas Roberts was admitted to No. 4 Australian General Hospital, Randwick, Sydney, NSW, Australia on 3rd August, 1917. He was medically assessed & the comment reads: *“Occasional slight Rheumatic pains but condition much improved since leaving England. Permanently unfit.”* He was discharged on 4th August, 1917.

Private Thomas Roberts was discharged from the Australian Imperial Force on 21st August, 1917, medically unfit.

A request for a War Pension (NSW) was submitted on 11th August, 1917 by Private Thomas Roberts, of P.O. Oxford St, Sydney. The claim was rejected – *“No incapacity as result of warlike operations.”*

Claims were also made in the name of Elizabeth Roberts, wife; William Godfrey Lloyd Roberts, child; Edward Hugh Gough Roberts, child; Robert Gough Roberts, child; Norman Gough Roberts, child & Betty Maroubra Roberts, child – all of 5 Garden Terrace, Denbigh, Wales. All their claims were rejected.

A request for a War Pension (London) was submitted on 20th October, 1917 by Elizabeth Roberts, c/o J. A. Roberts, Railway Hotel, Denbigh, North Wales, wife of Private Thomas Roberts but was later withdrawn.

Thomas Lloyd Roberts died on 23rd March, 1921.

A death for Thomas L. Roberts, aged 39, was registered in the March quarter, 1921 in the district of St. Asaph, Denbighshire, Wales.

Private Thomas Roberts was buried on 26th March, 1921 in St. Marcella Churchyard, Whitchurch, Denbighshire, Wales (West of Church) and has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. His address listed in the Burial Register was 5 Garden Terrace, Denbigh.

Private Thomas Roberts was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private T. Roberts – service number 2184, aged 39, of 3rd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the husband of Elizabeth Roberts, of Conway Villa, Ruthin Rd., Denbigh.

Private T. Roberts is not commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia as he did not die while serving as a member of the Australian Armed Forces.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(37 pages of Private Thomas Roberts' 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



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 Lloyd Roberts has a Private Headstone

St. Marcella Churchyard, Whitchurch, Denbighshire, Wales

St. Marcella Churchyard, Whitchurch contains 8 Commonwealth War Graves – 5 from World War 1 & 3 from World War 2.





Photo of Private Thomas Lloyd Roberts' Private Headstone in St. Marcella Churchyard, Whitchurch, Denbighshire, Wales.





IN

LOVING MEMORY
OF

THOMAS LLOYD ROBERTS

(LATE OF RAILWAY HOTEL)

BORN MAY 28th 1882

DIED MARCH 23^d 1921

THY WILL BE DONE

ALSO BETTY BELOVED DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE

BORN DEC 26th 1912

DIED ____ 31ST