

Sutton Veny War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



3200 PRIVATE

G. TAYLOR

AUST. ARMY SERVICE CORPS

27TH APRIL, 1918

CWGC Headstone for Pte G. Taylor is located in

Grave Plot # 330B. D. 23. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny

George TAYLOR – *Correct name* Thomas Sabien BURGESS

Thomas Sabien Burgess was born in 1873 to parents John & Martha Burgess (nee Sabien). His birth was registered in the district of Grafton, NSW. His parents had married in the district of Grafton in 1866.

Thomas Sabien Burgess enlisted under the name of George Taylor. As George Taylor, he stated he was a 26 year old, single, Saddler from Lismore, NSW when he enlisted at Toowoomba, Queensland on 3rd May, 1916 with the 4th Pioneer Battalion, 7th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 3200 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Mrs Elizabeth Campbell of “Clarence” O’Connor Street, Haberfield, Sydney, NSW. “George Taylor” had served 2 years with Scottish Rifles at Lismore. Thomas Sabien Burgess/“George Taylor’s” description from Attestation Papers - 5ft 8 inches tall; 144 lbs; medium complexion; grey eyes & brown hair.

Private “George Taylor” embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Kyarra* (A55) on 17th November, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 30th January, 1917.

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 “George Taylor” was marched in to Australian Details at Fovant, Wiltshire (date not recorded). He was marched in to Pioneer Training Battalion at Sutton Mandeville, Wiltshire on 24th March, 1917.

Private “George Taylor” was taken on strength with 4th Pioneers Training Battalion at Hurdcott on 4th May, 1917 & then transferred to A.A.S.C. (Australian Army Service Corps) at Fovant on 7th May, 1917.

Private “George Taylor” was marched out to A.S.C. Detachment at Perham Downs on 13th June, 1917.

Private “George Taylor” was written up for an Offence while at Perham Downs on 31st July, 1917 - “A.W.L. from 2300 on 29/7/17 to 0800 on 30/7/1917”. This was admonished by Lt. Harrison but he forfeited a day’s pay.

Private “George Taylor” was written up for an Offence while at Perham Downs on 3rd September, 1917 - “A.W.L. from 2000 on 31/8/17 to 1600 on 1/9/1917”. He was awarded 5 days Confined to Barracks by Lt. Harrison and forfeited 2 days’ pay.

Private “George Taylor” was written up for an Offence while at A.A.S.C. Depot at Parkhouse on 12th October, 1917 - “Neglecting to obey A.I.F. Depot Orders of 22/6/17 in that he was found at about 7 am on 7/10/17 without leave. (Duty fell to another person)”. He was awarded 3 days Confined to Barracks by Lt. Cooke and forfeited 1 days’ pay.

Private “George Taylor” was written up for an Offence 8th April, 1918 - “At Warminster A.W.L. from 2400 on 6/4/18 till 1200 on 7/4/1917”. This was admonished by Capt. Berryman but he forfeited 1 days’ pay.

Private “George Taylor” was sent to Sutton Veny Hospital from A.A.S.C. Training Depot at Warminster, Wiltshire on 26th April, 1918.

Private “George Taylor” died at 11.30 pm on 27th April, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of a fractured skull, the result of a driving accident.

Details from the Medical Report on Accidental or Self-Inflicted Injuries on 3200 Sadler, Taylor G. A.A.S.C.:

Date of Casualty – 25th April, 1918; Nature of Injury – Compound fracture Skull – laceration Brain and Membranes. Fatal. Died 27th April, 1918.

Admitted to Hospital 26.4.18 (3.30 am) with three others who had formed members of a party in a drag accident. Returning from Trowbridge at 12.15 am., mistook the road and going downhill brake failed, and taking corner at bottom the drag overturned. On admission smelt excessively of drink, pulse full, soft and compressible, right eye infused with blood. Scalp wound near and below right parietal eminence.... ? drunk ? head injury. Ordered scalp to be shaved and cleansed. All limbs were moved and patient could be roused with difficulty.

27.4.18 – Patient has curled up in bed, resenting any interference; not been fully conscious. Anaesthetic operation

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4.30 pm – still unconscious. Pulse very poor.

11.30 pm Died.

An Inquest was held at Sutton Veny on 29th April, 1918 – “I certify that an inquest held by me at Sutton Veny Milty. Hosp. on body of Sadler Taylor the verdict was death from fractured skull from a fall caused from accident overturning of a brake at Rudge (Sgd) T.A.P.S. Weston, Coroner.” “Not on Duty Not to blame (Sgd) Capt. Buryender.”

A death for “George Taylor”, aged 28, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private “George Taylor” was buried on 1st May, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 230B (according to Burial Report in Service Record file, however CWGC has grave # 330B. From the burial report of Pte “George Taylor” - *Coffin was good polished Elm with Brass Mountings – Deceased was accorded a full Military funeral, the Gun Carriage being preceded by the Band of the 1st Australian Training Brigade and a Firing Party of 12 men. Six N.C.O.’s of deceased’s unit acted as pallbearers. Three Officers and about 100 N.C.O.’s and Men of deceased’s Unit also attended the funeral. A large cross of white roses from the Officers, N.C.O.’s and men of the A.A.S.C. Detachment, Warminster, was placed on the grave. Sadler Taylor was held in very high esteem by both Officers and men of the Unit, and his loss as a soldier and comrade is very keenly felt.*

Pte “George Taylor” requested in his Will, dated 22nd July, 1917, that all his personal Estate be left to his sister – Mrs Elizabeth Campbell of Haberfield, Sydney, NSW.

Mrs E. Campbell, sister of late Pte “George Taylor”, wrote to Base Records on 27th November, 1922 stating “*The correct name of Deceased was Thomas Sabien Burgess. He enlisted in Queensland under the name of George Taylor. The particulars on Certificate of Death are filled in to the best of my knowledge & ability. Yours faithfully, E. J. Campbell.*” Base Records replied on 6th December, 1922 stating that “*It is noted that whereas the abovenamed deceased is reported to have died on 27.4.18 at the age of 28 years, the above certificate shows the date of death as 27.4.22 – age about 44.*” (OPC Note – Pte “George Taylor”, according to Army Records was aged 28 years at the time of his death, however his correct age at death would have been 44 years. He lied about his date of birth, his place of birth & his name when he enlisted on 3rd May, 1916. To the question – “Have you been convicted by a Civil Power” he stated No. See section below for Thomas Sabien Burgess).

Pte “George Taylor” was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also to be sent to Pte Taylor’s next-of-kin. Medals were allocated to the next-of-kin in the following order - Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister, eldest surviving half-brother, eldest surviving half-sister.

A letter was written to Mrs E. J. Campbell, sister of late Pte “G. Taylor” (stated to be T. S. Burgess), from Base Records on 4th August, 1923 (similar letters had previously been sent on 14th May, 1921 & again on 20th November, 1922 & again on 6th December, 1922) asking for details of the next-of-kin of the late Pte “G. Taylor” (stated to be T. S. Burgess). Mrs Campbell replied that “*I am the next-of-kin, after my mother who married again, to my late brother T. S. Burgess, who enlisted under the name of G. Taylor.....My mother however is perfectly willing to surrender her claim to the medals to me. I have further to inform you that the deceased executed a will in my favour....*” Another letter was sent again to Mrs Campbell, dated 25th August, 1923, asking for the address of the late soldier’s mother in order that they could get in touch with her regarding the distribution of the War Medals & Mementos as Pte “G. Taylor’s” mother would have to approve, in writing, for the medals to be given to Mrs Campbell as Pte “G. Taylor’s” mother would be the recipient of the Medals & Mementos before Mrs Campbell. In the letter from Base Records dated 4th August, 1923 it stated that the “*matter would be held open for 21 days from*

this date, when, if no reply is received, these war mementos will be placed on the list of "Untraceables" to be, in all probability, eventually destroyed."

Pte "George Taylor's" personal belongings from Camp & the Military Hospital were returned to his sister Mrs E. Campbell & she also received photographs of his grave as she was listed as next-of-kin however as she had not replied to Base Records' numerous requests for contact details of her mother & according to instructions under the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918", she did not receive his War Mementos. Pte "George Taylor's" Service Record file does not show the usual information of who the War Mementos were awarded to. No signed receipts are included in Pte "George Taylor's" Service Record file as is the usual practice. It is therefore assumed that the Mementoes were sent to "Untraceables" as Mrs E. Campbell had not complied with requests from Base Records.

Private "G. Taylor" is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 181.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

The CWGC lists Private "G. Taylor", 3200, of Australian Army Service Corps - Details, A.I.F. No family details are listed.

(65 pages of Pte "George Taylor'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

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

Died from Other Causes

Private G. Taylor (New South Wales – as result of accident).

(*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, QLD – Saturday 25 May, 1918)

STATUTORY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Re THOMAS SABIEN BURGESS,
usually known as GEORGE TAYLOR, late of Brisbane, in the State of Queensland, Saddler, but latterly a member of the ALF, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given that all Creditors and other persons having Claims against the Estate of the abovenamed Thomas Sabien Burgess, late of Brisbane, in the State of Queensland, deceased, who died on or about the Twenty-seventh day of April, 1918, A.D., at England, are hereby required to send their Claims to the PUBLIC CURATOR, Brisbane, on or before the Twentieth day of May, 1919. And that after the expiration of the last mentioned date the Public Curator will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the Claims of, which he shall then have had notice.

Dated this Fourteenth day of March, 1919.

R. J S. BARNETT, Official Solicitor to the Public Curator, Brisbane

(The Brisbane Courier, QLD – Monday 24 March, 1919)

THOMAS SABIEN BURGESS

NSW POLICE GAZETTE – 5 AUGUST, 1908

North Sydney – A warrant has been issued by the North Sydney Bench for the arrest of Thomas Sabian Burgess, charged with embezzling the sum of £2 4s. 8d., the property of James Dwain, Military Road, North Sydney, at North Sydney, between the 14th and the 27th ultimo. Offender is about 30 years of age, 5 feet 7 inches high, medium build, florid complexion, red nose, light hair, clean shaved; dressed in a light-coloured sac suit and black hard hat; a butcher and ex-tram conductor.

Newspaper Reports:

At the North Sydney Police Court Thomas Sabien Burgess, 27, was committed for trial on a charge of embezzling £2 4s 8d from James Dwain, butcher, of Neutral Bay, between July 14 and 20.

(Evening News, Sydney, NSW – Tuesday 11 August, 1908)

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT

SENTENCED

Thomas Sabien Burgess, who had pleaded guilty on the previous day to charges of embezzlement, was sentenced to six months' hard labour in Maitland Gaol.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Wednesday 2 September, 1908)

GAOL DESCRIPTION details

Place of birth – Grafton

Date of Birth – 11th September, 1880

Occupation – Saddler

Religion – Church of England

Height, without shoes – 5ft 6 ¾ inches

Weight – 149 lbs

Colour of hair – Light Brown

Colour of eyes – blue

Convictions – Sydney – 3rd October 1905 – Stealing in a dwelling House – Sentenced to 12 months

- Sydney – 11th August, 1908 – Embezzlement (3 counts) – Sentenced to 6 months



Thomas Sabien Burgess – Darlinghurst Gaol - taken 31st August, 1908

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 at St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny. 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)

Pte “George Taylor” does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Private "G. Taylor's" (stated to be Thomas Sabien Burgess) CWGC headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)



War Graves at Sutton Veny (*Photos from CWGC*)

