

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



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**13132 RIFLEMAN**

**T. TELFORD**

**N.Z. RIFLE BRIGADE**

**2ND FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 44**



## Thomas TELFORD

Thomas Telford's birth was registered in 1874 in Bacchus Marsh, Victoria, Australia, the son of James & Mary Telford (nee Rodgers). His date of birth on his New Zealand Attestation Papers was stated to be 31st July, 1873.

Thomas Telford stated he was a 42 year old, single, Bushman from Wanganui, New Zealand when he enlisted on 18th January, 1916 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his brother – Mr W. Telford of Bacchus Marsh, Victoria, Australia.

Rifleman Thomas Telford, Service number 13132, embarked with 3rd Reinforcements to 3rd Battalion, G. Company of New Zealand Rifle Brigade from Wellington, New Zealand on 6th May, 1916 on HMNZT (53) *Navua*. Three ships had embarked that day carrying a total of 2,557 men. He disembarked at Suez on 22nd June, 1916.

Rifleman Thomas Telford embarked on the *Ivernia* for Overseas from Alexandria, Egypt on 26th July, 1916. He disembarked at Southampton, England on 7th August, 1916.

On 20th August, 1916 Rifleman Telford left Sling Army Camp, Wiltshire, England for France. He was marched in at Etaples, France on 21st August, 1916 & posted to B Company of 3/3 New Zealand Rifle Brigade in the Field on 14th September, 1916.

Rifleman Telford was wounded in action on 15th September, 1916. He was admitted to 3rd Northern Field Ambulance on 23rd September with Gunshot & shrapnel wounds to left leg & then transferred the same day to 13th Casualty Clearing Station. Rifleman Telford embarked for England from Rouen, France on 28th September, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Panama*.

Rifleman Thomas Telford was admitted to 3rd Southern General Hospital, England on 30th September, 1916. He was transferred to the Hospital at Hornchurch on 8th December, 1916.

Rifleman Thomas Telford was on Leave from 16th January, 1917 until 31st January, 1917.

Rifleman Thomas Telford was admitted to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire on 1st February, 1917 with Pneumonia – seriously ill.

Rifleman Thomas Telford died on 2nd February, 1917 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire, England from Pneumonia.

A death for Thomas Telford, aged 43, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Rifleman Thomas Telford was buried on 6th February, 1917 in St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England.

Rifleman Thomas Telford was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal as he had entered a Theatre of War – Western Europe 1916. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Rifleman Telford's brother – Mr William Telford (October, 1921 & February, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Rifleman Thomas Telford – service number 13132, aged 44, of 3rd Battalion, 3rd New Zealand Rifle Brigade. He was the son of James & Mary Telford of Bacchus Marsh, Victoria, Australia.

Thomas Telford is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.

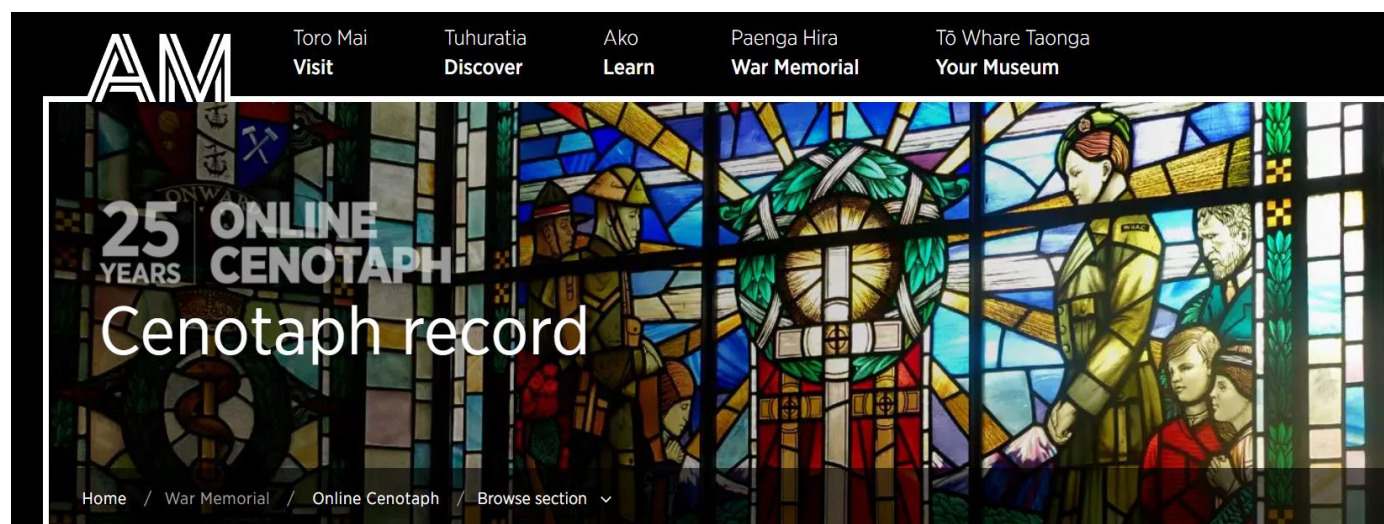


**Commemorative Roll** (Photo from AWM)



**Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial** (Capital Photographer)

Thomas Telford is remembered in the Auckland Museum's Online Cenotaph.



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Online Cenotaph **Thomas Telford**

TE REO MĀORI ENGLISH

(19 pages of Rifleman Thomas Telford's Service records are available for On Line viewing at Archives New Zealand website).

*Information obtained from the Archives New Zealand, Auckland War Memorial Museum, Commonwealth War Graves Commission & PapersPast, National Library of New Zealand.*



## Newspaper Reports

### DOMINION HEROES

#### DIED OF DISEASE

Telford, Thomas, Rifle Brigade, Feb. 2 – W. Telford, Victoria (brother)

*(Auckland Star, New Zealand, Volume XLVIII , Issue 33, 7 February, 1917)*

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### DEATHS – On Active Service

Telford – On 2nd Feb., at 3rd Southern General Hospital, England, from effects of wounds and pneumonia, Thomas, beloved brother of Mrs P. Pigott, Mrs B. Pigott, William and Eileen. R.I.P.

*(The Bacchus Marsh Express, Victoria, Australia – Saturday 10 February, 1917)*

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## 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.

Rifleman Thomas Telford has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone. None of the New Zealand CWGC headstones have a personal inscription.

### **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)*







**New Zealand Section of Codford Anzac War Graves Cemetery** *(Photo by Romy Wyeth 2013)*



Photos of Rifleman T. Telford's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England. Also known as Codford Anzac War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.

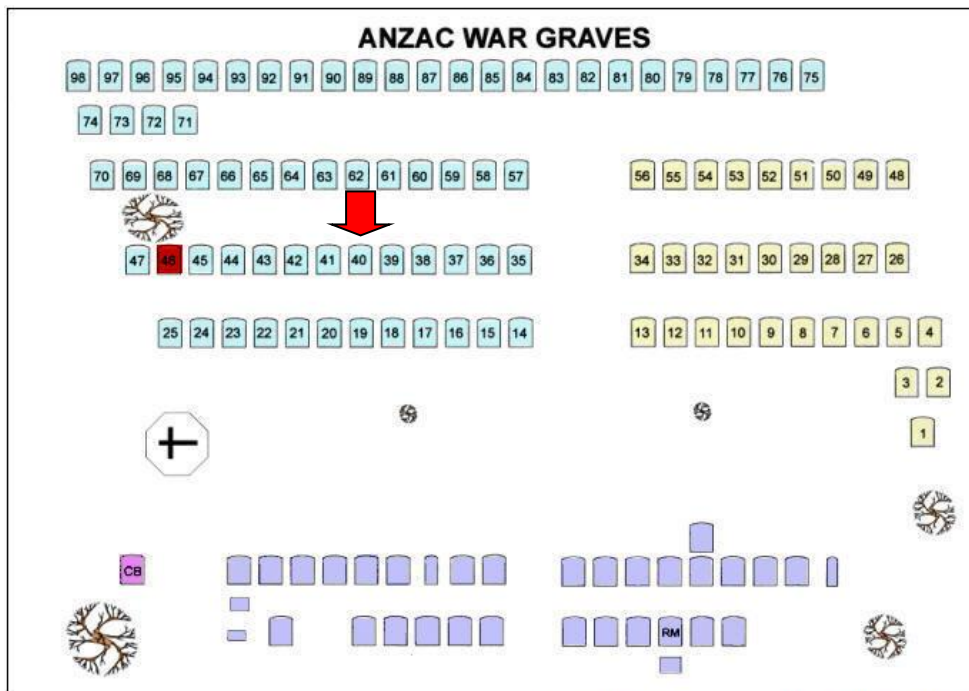


*(Headstone Photos courtesy of Romy Wyeth)*





Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Rifleman T. Telford is located in Second Row (Left Hand Side) Grave Plot # 40 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (CWGC Reference - Grave # 32)



- Australian Soldiers
  - New Zealand Soldiers
  - Welsh Soldier
  - Local Burials
  - UK Soldier
- Codford War Graves map adapted from Brian Marshall courtesy of Romy Wyeth