

# Bulford War Graves



*Lest We Forget*

## World War 1



**2881 PRIVATE**

**C. R. TODD**

**46TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**17TH JULY, 1917\* AGE 18**

*In Memory*

*Of My Dearly Loved Son Roy*

*\*Note – Date of death on the headstone is incorrect – should be 17<sup>th</sup> July, 1917*

## Charles Roy TODD

Charles Roy Todd was born at Castlemaine, Victoria in 1899 to Edith Florence May Todd. The father was listed as "Unknown". (According to some sources - Charles Lee Suey was Charles Roy Todd's father & his birth was registered under his mother's maiden name).

Florence May Todd married Charles John Lee Suey in 1901. Charles was the eldest son of Charles & Florence Lee Suey but he had been born prior to their marriage. Charles Lee Suey was a storekeeper at Castlemaine. After his parents' marriage Charles (known as Roy) took his father's name of Lee Suey.

Roy Lee Suey attended Castlemaine State School but left in 1912. His father died in 1912 & the family relocated to Bendigo.

Charles Todd stated he was aged 19 years & 11 months, born at Hay, NSW, single & a Labourer from Castlemaine, Victoria when he enlisted at Melbourne on 5<sup>th</sup> July, 1915 with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2881 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his Aunt - Emily Kimm of Castlemaine, Victoria (Mother not seen for two years). Emily Kimm, as Aunt & Guardian to Charles Todd & who was "entrusted with full powers of control by his mother, who is absent from the Commonwealth" have her full consent for Charles Todd to join the Australian Imperial Force. (Note – Charles Todd would have been only 15 or 16 years of age !)

Pte Charles Todd embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Hororata* (A20) on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1915 & disembarked at Egypt.

Pte Charles Todd was taken on strength with 9<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements at Moascar Camp, Ismalia, Egypt on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 1916.

Pte Charles Todd was transferred to 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir, Egypt on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 1916.

Pte Charles Todd proceeded to join the British Expeditionary Force & embarked at Alexandria on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 1916 on *Kinfauns Castle* troopship. He disembarked at Marseille, France on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 1916.

Pte Charles Todd was wounded in action in France on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 1916. He rejoined his Unit from Hospital on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 1916.

Pte Charles Todd was wounded in action again on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1916. He embarked on Hospital Ship *Newhaven* at Boulogne, France for England on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 with a gunshot wound to the left thigh.

Pte Charles Todd was admitted to Graylingwell War Hospital, Chichester, West Sussex, England on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 1916

Notification was sent on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 to Mrs E. Kimm at Castlemaine, Victoria to advise that Private C. Todd had been wounded. The Post Master General advised Base Records that the addressee had left the address & the present address was unknown. The message had not been delivered.

In October, 1916 Mrs Florence Lee Suey wrote to Base Records to advise that No. 2881 Pte C. Todd was her son therefore making her the next-of-kin. She advised that Mrs Kimm had left Australia for China. In another letter, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1916, Mrs Florence Lee Suey advised Base Records that she was shocked to read that her son was seriously ill & she was the next-of-kin. She stated he was under age & she refused to sign his papers so he got Mrs Kimm to sign them without her knowledge. Mrs Lee Suey also stated that Pte Charles Todd had enlisted under her maiden name.

Pte Charles Todd was transferred to 3<sup>rd</sup> Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 1917. He was discharged & granted Furlough on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 1917 to 10<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 & was to report to Weymouth.

Pte Charles Todd was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth from Hospital on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 1917.

Pte Charles Todd was written up while at Monte Video (?) for overstaying furlough from Reveille on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 1917 until 7 pm. He was awarded 7 days Confined to Barracks & forfeited 5 days' pay.

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.

Pte Charles Todd was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire from Weymouth on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 1917.

Pte Charles Todd was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 1917 with gonorrhoea.

An Infectious Diseases Notification Form was completed on Pte Todd, 2881 at 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 1917. He was reported as having Tubercular Bronchopneumonia & Miliary Tuberculosis. The date of the onset of the disease was listed about 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1917 & the source of the infection was noted as "*previous infection – no previous case in Hospital.*" The sanitary condition of quarters & surroundings was described as good & all his bedding & clothes were disinfected.

Private Charles Roy Todd died at 2.40 p.m. on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 1917 at 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital, Bulford, Wiltshire from Pneumonia. (Some forms in the Service Record file have the date of death as the 18<sup>th</sup> July, 1917.)

A death for Charles Todd, aged 21, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Charles Roy Todd was buried on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 1917 in Bulford Church Cemetery, Wiltshire - Grave No. 6 Australian Reserve Section (CWGC Plot number 3. I. 6.) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Charles Todd - *Coffin was Stained wood, in good condition – The deceased was in a special ward where every possible attention was given to him. The Chaplain saw him regularly and will write to the relatives. He was delirious (intermittent) for some days before his death. He was given a Military Funeral.*

Private C. R. Todd is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 142.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

Pte Charles Roy Todd was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Todd's mother – Mrs F. M. Lee Suey (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922) Mrs F. M. Lee Suey advised Base Records in May, 1920 that the late Pte Charles Todd "had no nearer next of kin than myself, his father being deceased."

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Charles Roy Todd - service number 2881, as being 18 years old & served with 46th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Charles Lee and Florence L. Suey, of 28 Bridge St., Bendigo, Victoria. Born at Castlemaine.

A War Pension was granted to Florence Lee Suey, Mundy St, Bendigo, mother of late Pte Charles Todd in the sum of 20/- per fortnight from 21<sup>st</sup> September, 1917. Evelyn Lee Suey, sister of the late Pte Charles Todd, applied for a War Pension. It was rejected on the grounds that she was not dependant as defined by the Act. Rejections were also made to Violet Lee Suey's application, & Iris Lee Suey's application.

(51 pages of Pte Charles Todd '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*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DA10075

**Pte Charles Roy Todd** (c September, 1915)

## **Newspaper Notices**

### **THE 328<sup>th</sup> CASUALTY LIST**

The Victorian names are:

#### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

Private C. Todd, Bendigo

*(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – Saturday 4 August, 1917)*

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### **ITEMS OF NEWS**

Word has been received here (writes our Campbell's Creek correspondent), that another (popular young soldier has made the supreme sacrifice, vis., Private Roy Lee Suey. He enlisted under the name of Todd, and spent about two years on active service. He was severely wounded in action just twelve months ago, and for eight months lay in hospital utterly prostrated. The cause of death is stated to have been pneumonia. He was the son of the late Mr Charles Lee Suey, of Castlemaine and was employed as a gardener on Campbell's Creek prior to joining the colors.

*(Mount Alexander Mail, Victoria – Saturday 4 August, 1917)*

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### **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 in Bulford Church Cemetery. 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 C. R. Todd does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Memory*

*Of My Dearly Loved Son Roy*

Photo of Private C. R. Todd's Headstone at Bulford Church Cemetery, Wiltshire. The headstone has the incorrect date of death. Date of death should be 17<sup>th</sup> July, 1917.



*(Photo courtesy of Andrea Charlesworth 2012)*



**Bulford Church Cemetery** *(Photo courtesy of Andrea Charlesworth 2012)*