

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

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



6859 PRIVATE

JAMES THOMAS WILLIAMS

16TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

18TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 29

IN LOVING MEMORY

OF OUR SON

RIP

James Thomas WILLIAMS

James Thomas Williams was born at Wicklow Hill, Toodyay, near Goomalling, Western Australia in 1888 to parents John Margurite & Elizabeth Mary Williams (nee Slater).

James Thomas Williams attended school at Wicklow Hill, Western Australia.

James Williams was a 28 year old, single farmer from Goomalling, Western Australia when he enlisted on 2nd October, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his father – John W. Williams of Goomalling, Western Australia.

Private James Thomas William, Service number 6859, embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 9th November, 1916 with the 4th Infantry Brigade, 16th Infantry Battalion, 22nd Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 10th January, 1917.

16th Battalion

The 16th Battalion AIF was raised from 16 September 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. Three-quarters of the battalion were recruited in Western Australia, and the rest in South Australia. With the 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions it formed the 4th Brigade commanded by Colonel John Monash.....

(Battalion information from The Australian War Memorial)

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private James Thomas Williams was marched in to 4th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire on 10th January, 1917.

Private James Thomas Williams was admitted to Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 10th February, 1917 with influenza.

Private James Thomas Williams died at 1.45 p.m. on 18th February, 1917 at Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England from Influenza and Cardiac Failure.

A death for James T. Williams, aged 28, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private James Thomas Williams was buried on 22nd February was buried in St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England - Grave No. 89.

The Red Cross Missing & Wounded File for Private Williams has a request from the Secretary of Red Cross to the Officer Commanding Sutton Veny Military Hospital asking for further details of the illness, death and burial of Private J. T. Williams 6859 on behalf of his relatives. A reply from Matron of Sutton Veny Hospital reads:

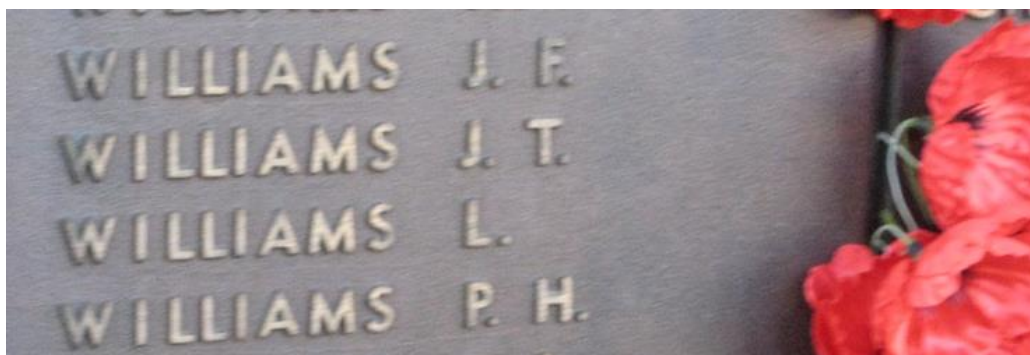
I received your letter in reference to the late Pte J. T. Williams A.I.F., who died at this Hospital on 18-2-17. The sister who nursed him wrote to his Mother when he was ill (to the address he gave) and again after his death, telling her about him. No. 2290 Pte Kelly 4/48 A.I.F. (His friend) also was with Pte Williams when he died, and I think wrote to his friends. With regard to the burial of Australians, we have no knowledge. Their station is Codford, some distance from here, and their Headquarters there arrange everything after a death, so that we do not know anything about the burial or burial places. Sister Aileen Moore, gave me the following particulars about Pte Williams. He was conscious to the last and very peaceful. He sent his love to his mother. Sister says he was so patient and very good, during the ten days or so, of his illness. I hope by this time his mother may have received the letters as they would be just a little comfort to her. We have a rule here, that when an Australian passes away the Sister who has charge of him, writes to his mother or wife, or sister, and I think it is always observed.

A War Pension was applied for by Mary Elizabeth Williams of Kalcuddering, the mother of the late Private James Thomas Williams. This was rejected on the basis that Mrs Williams was not dependent on the deceased soldier during 12 months prior to enlistment.

Private James Thomas Williams was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Williams' father – Mr J. M. Williams (February 1922 & December, 1921)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private James Thomas Williams – service number 6859, aged 29, of 16th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Mr J. M. & Mrs M. Williams, of Kalcuddering, Kounongorring, Western Australia.

Private J. T. Williams is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 81.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

The Goomalling War Memorial, located in Goomalling Veterans Park, Railway Terrace, Goomalling, Western Australia, does not list individual names.



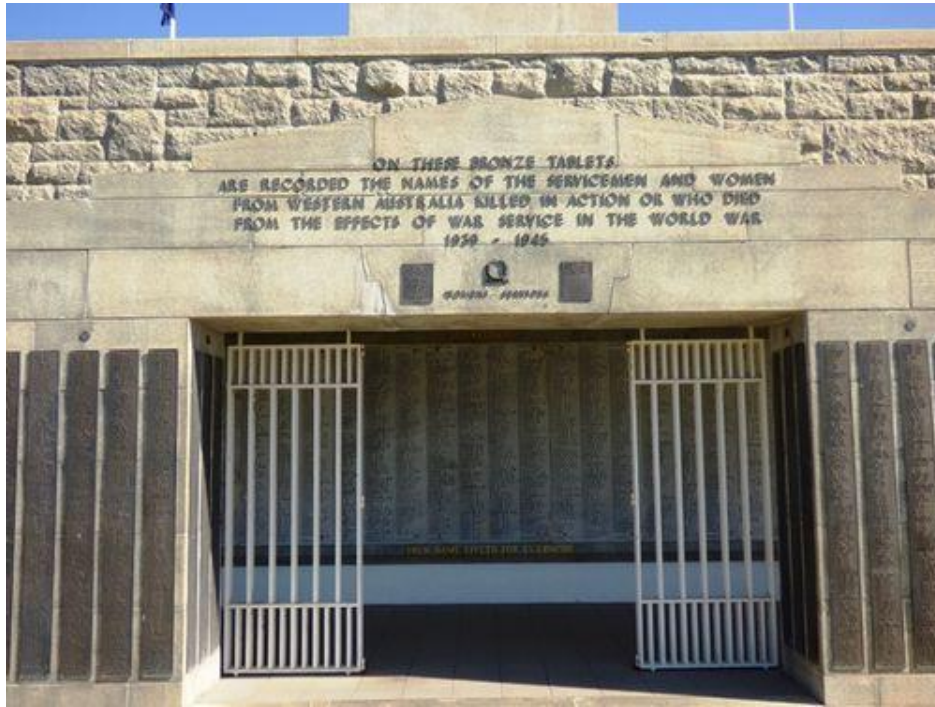
Goomalling War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia)

J. T. Williams is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park



& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names
 (Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)



16th Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

(54 pages of Private James Thomas Williams' 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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Studio portrait of Private James Thomas Williams C1915

Newspaper Reports

ANSWERED THE CALL

Today's Enlistments - FIT

J. T. Williams, Kalguddering, via Goomalling

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia, Thursday 24th August, 1916)

WAR CASUALTIES

Mrs J. M. Williams of Goomalling, has been informed by the military authorities that her son, Private J. T. Williams, of the 16th Battalion, died in a military hospital in England on February 18 last from influenza and cardiac failure.

(The West Australian, Perth, Friday 2nd March, 1917)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

277th Casualty List

DEATHS

J. T. Williams (Goomalling), died of illness

(Western Mail, Perth, Friday 16th March, 1917)

DECEASED PERSONS' ESTATES

The following probates have been granted by the Supreme Court:

James Thomas Williams, late of Goomalling, to Ernest John Williams, £633

(Kalgoorlie Miner, Western Australia, Monday 16th July, 1917)

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 Codford War Graves 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)

Private James Thomas Williams does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR SON

R I P

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

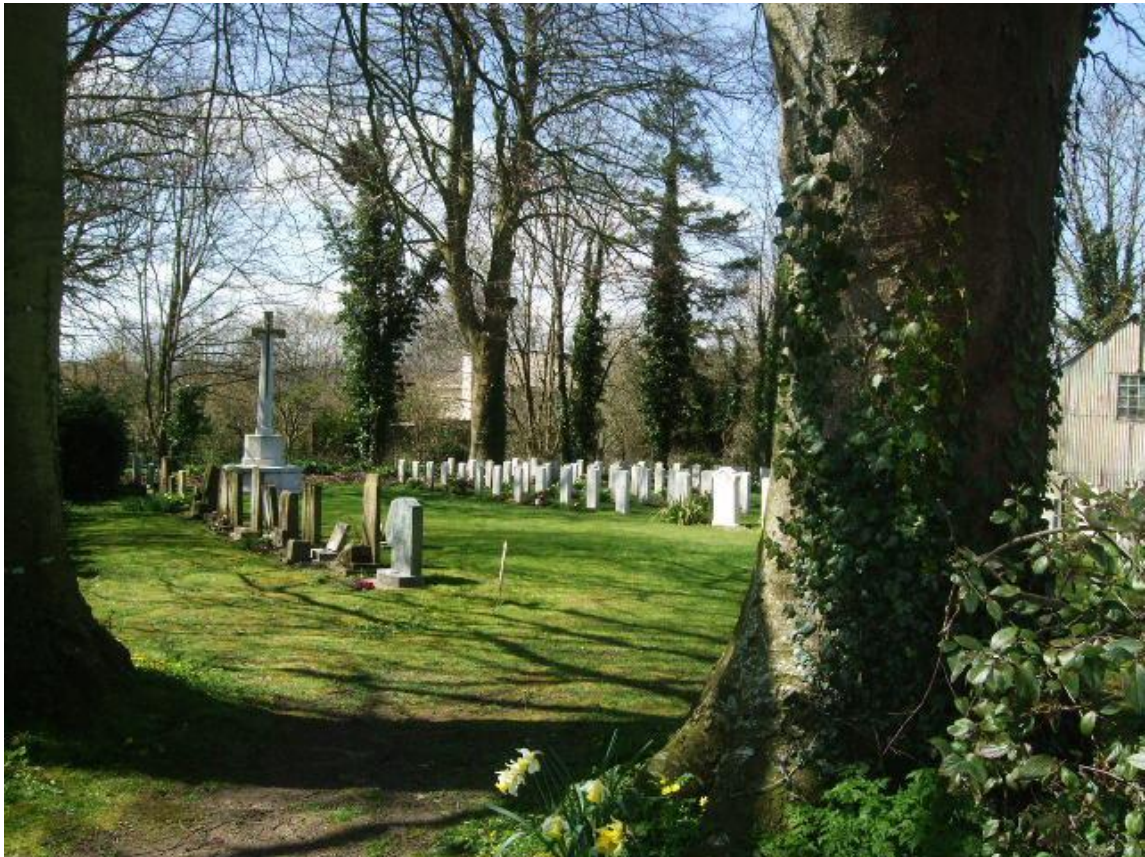
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St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford (Photos courtesy of Romy Wyeth)



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



(Photos courtesy of Romy Wyeth)



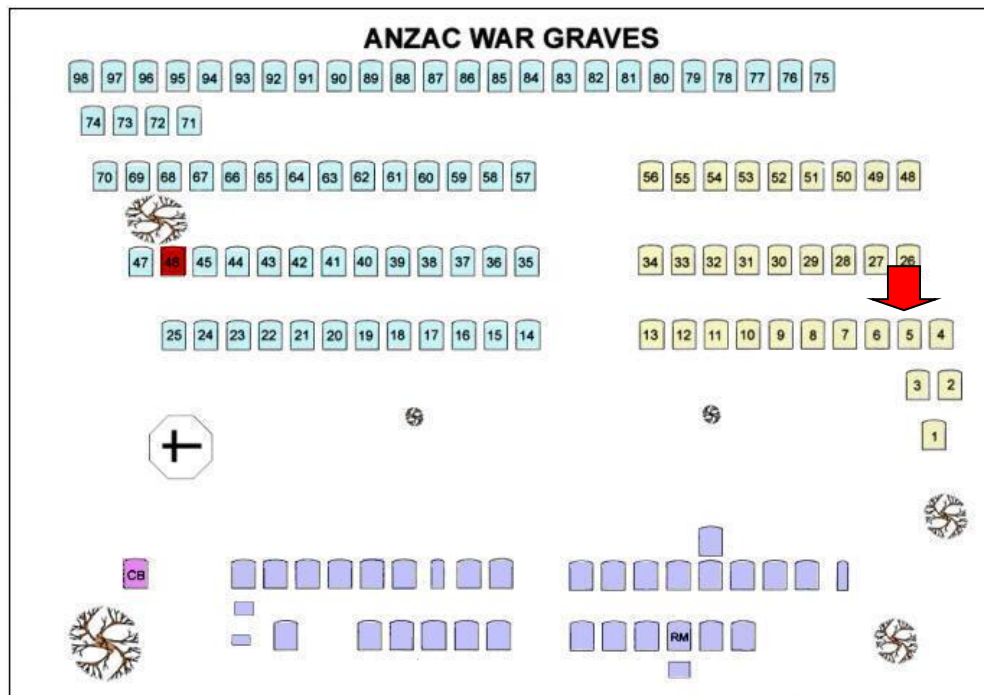
Photo of Private James Thomas Williams' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary's New Churchyard, Codford, Wiltshire, England. Also known as Codford Anzac War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Headstone Photos courtesy of Romy Wyeth)



Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Private James Thomas Williams is located in Main Front Row (Right hand side) Grave Plot # 5 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (CWGC Reference - Grave # 89)



- Australian Soldiers
- New Zealand Soldiers
- UK Soldier
- Welsh Soldier
- Local Burials

Codford War Graves map adapted from Brian Marshall courtesy of Romy Wyeth