

## Thomas Samuel Lodge



Private (Pte) 7081 Thomas Samuel Lodge enlisted in the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade of the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division in Geelong on 30 September 1916. He embarked overseas on 23 November and disembarked in Plymouth on 29 January 1917, where he joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> (Brigade) Training Battalion in Wiltshire.

He sailed from England on 3 May and landed in France the next day, where he was taken on strength of the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, in the field at Bresle, on 21 May 1917.

The battalion moved north to Belgium in late September and participated in the Battle on Menin Road on 20 – 21 September 1917, where they achieved all their objectives and captured 300 Germans and 14 machine guns, at a cost of 229 casualties (29 killed or missing).

Two weeks later, the battalion was back in action at Broodseinde Ridge on 4 October, where they again pushed the Germans back and successfully held the captured ground (including 300 prisoners, four field guns and 11 machine guns) for the loss of 201 battalion casualties.

Pte Lodge was admitted to the 25<sup>th</sup> General Hospital at Hardelot with scabies from 27 November – 3 December, and he rejoined the battalion on 19 December. As the general activity on the front had quietened down, he was also granted leave in France from 10 – 27 February 1918.

By late March/early April 1918, the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Division was headed south in response to the German Offensive on the Somme. When news of a second German breakthrough in the north was received on 5 April, they had to immediately turn around to meet it. The Australians made it back just in time to establish defences and stop the Germans east of Hazebrouck between 14 – 18 April, during which the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion lost 129 men (27 killed or missing).

In early August the battalion moved south to join the allies' Amiens offensive. The 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion helped to capture the villages of Rosieres and Lihons between 9 – 11 August at a cost of 282 men, including 49 killed, one of whom was Pte Lodge, who was killed in action on 9 August 1918.

While Private 7081 Thomas Samuel Lodge was initially buried near where he fell, his remains were later re-interred in Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres, France.

Name: Lodge, Thomas Samuel	
Service Number	7081
Date enlisted	30 September 1916
Place enlisted	Geelong, Victoria
Rank on enlistment	Private
Initial Unit	8 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion
Date and ship embarked for overseas	23 November 1916 HMAT A20 <i>Hororata</i>
Stated age/DOB (if known)	29 years
Place of birth	Little River, Victoria
Marital status	Married
Occupation	Farmer
Religion	Church of England
Next of kin and address	Lodge, Mrs Ethel May, wife, Little River, Victoria
Permanent address	Little River, Victoria
Appearance	Medium complexion, brown hair, brown eyes, height – 5 feet 7 ½ inches, weight – 10 stone, 3 lbs, chest measurement – 37 inches
Final Rank	Private
Final Unit	8 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion
Theatres of war served in	France, Belgium
Fate	Killed in action
Date and place died	9 August 1918 Rosieres, France
Cemetery details	Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres, France. Plot VII, Row H, Grave 20
Honours/medals	British War Medal, Victory Medal
Notes	Also listed on the Lara & District War Memorial Gates, Little River Roll of Honor and the Little River Christ Church Honor Board. Brother of James Arthur Lodge (3587) and George Lemuel Lodge (3588).