

Reginald Arthur Titford

Parents: John Robert Titford who worked for many years as a gardener for Mr G. Rolfe at Lyndoch, Warrnambool. Reginald's mother was Sarah Jane Roberts 1866-1947. They had three other children, George Robert 1886-1942, William John 1894-1975 and Robert who predeceased his mother.

Reginald worked as an apprentice for the plumbers George Lance and Son. George was an artist and Director of the Warrnambool Art Gallery until his death in 1901. Reginald was a prominent coxswain of the Warrnambool Rowing Club. Correspondence during the First World War with club office bearer Mr F. Grayson include Reginald reminiscing about the rowing club on the Hopkins and how writing about the war made him weary.

Reginald enlisted at 25 years of age on 20 February 1911, reengaged in 1916 and served until 20 February 1919. His trade is detailed as carpenter and plumber. On enlistment he was a corporal with the 2nd Field Company Engineers leaving Melbourne on the 'Orvieto' on 21st October 1914. He was in the landing at Gallipoli and served in Egypt and the Western Front (France & Belgium). He was mentioned in dispatches at Gallipoli. Reginald had 5 bouts of 'influenza' from 1914-1916. In July 1916 whilst serving in the 1st Pioneers BR 60 he suffered a gunshot wound to the knee.

In 1916 Reginald was serving in Pozieres France and was awarded the Military Cross for 'conspicuous gallantry during operations when in charge of pioneers consolidating a trench. An infantry party in advance was heavily attacked and forced back. Both officers were wounded, but Lt. Titford, although wounded himself, assumed command, built a barricade and the pioneers were able to hold position until the arrival of a trench gun enabled the attack to be repelled'. (Source 'Commonwealth Gazette' No. 184, 14th December 1916 & Warrnambool Standard 22 February, 1917, page 4). He was also awarded the Military Medal, 1914-15 Star, British War medal and Victory Medal. In 1918 his rank was listed on the Nominal Roll as Captain. Reginald returned to Australia on 2 March 1919.

In 1920 at 33 years of age Reginald applied for 'Soldier settlement' irrigation block at Mildura. This was worked as an orchard, it was transferred in 1958. He cited his experience at Lyndoch Estate as a skill for the farm.

Reginald enlisted for World War Two at 48 years of age serving in the 4th Army Troops Coy RAE and served from November 1940- 1942. He remained a single man. Reginald died on 7th June 1960 and is buried in the Brighton Cemetery.