

**Plumstead Cemetery,  
Plumstead, Greater London, England  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**21714 SAPPER**

**W. G. CAVEY**

**AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS**

**1ST JUNE, 1918 Age 21**

## William Guy CAVEY

William Guy Cavey was born on 5th November, 1896 at Southampton, England to parents Edward (Ebenezer) & Jessie Cavey (nee Hogben).

William Guy Cavey attended school Plumstead Road School, Greenwich, London, England from 4th February, 1901. The family lived at 60 Orchard Road.

The 1901 England Census recorded William Cavey as a 4 year old, living with his family at 60 Orchard Rd. Plumstead East, London, England. His parents were listed as Ebenezer Cavey (Painter, aged 29, born Plumstead, London) & Jessie Cavey (aged 26, born Greenock, Scotland). William was the eldest of three children listed on this Census – William then Winifred (age 3, born Plumstead, London) & Frank R. Cavey (aged 3 months, born Plumstead, London).

The 1911 England Census recorded William Cavey as a 15 year old, at School, living with his family at 34 Aberly Street, Plumstead, London, England in 5 room dwelling. His parents were listed as Ebenezer Cavey (House Decorator, aged 38) & Jessie Cavey (aged 33). Ebenezer & Jessie had been married for 16 years & had a total of 4 children. William was the eldest of four children listed on this Census – William then Winnifred Cavey (At School, aged 12), Frank Cavey (At School, aged 10) & Jessie Cavey (aged 8, born Plumstead, London). Also listed were 2 boarders – Margaret Read (Laudress, aged 33) & Dolly Read (aged 8).

According to information provided for the Roll of Honour – William Cavey came to Australia when he was 16 years old. Mrs Jessie Cavey (Housewife, aged 34), William Cavey (Messenger, aged 16), Miss Winnie Cavey (aged 14), Frank Cavey (aged 12) & Miss Jessie Cavey (aged 10) were passengers on the *Norseman* which had embarked from the port of London, England on 28th June, 1913 bound for Sydney, Australia.

William Guy Cavey was a 21 year old, single, Fitter & Turner from 43 Rush Street, Woollahra, NSW (address as per Embarkation Roll, however his address on "Application to Enlist in the Australian Imperial Force" form had the address of 36 Suffolk St, Paddington, Sydney) when he enlisted on 1st December, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 21714 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr E. Cavey, 45 Kashgar Road, Plumstead, Kent, England. William Cavey stated on his Attestation Papers that he had been an apprentice for 4 ½ years with W. Hosking, Glebe, Sydney, NSW.

Private William Guy Cavey was posted to Recruits at Sydney Showground Camp, NSW on 2nd January, 1918. He was transferred to W. T. S. as Sapper on 7th January, 1918 then transferred on 8th January to Engineers Reinforcements, 2nd Military District.

### **Australian Engineers in the First World War**

Engineers, also known as sappers, were essential to the running of the war. Without them, other branches of the Allied Forces would have found it difficult to cross the muddy and shell-ravaged ground of the Western Front. Their responsibilities included constructing the lines of defence, temporary bridges, tunnels and trenches, observation posts, roads, railways, communication lines, buildings of all kinds, showers and bathing facilities, and other material and mechanical solutions to the problems associated with fighting in all theatres.

*(Description of Engineers Information from The Australian War Memorial)*

Sapper William Guy Cavey embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Runic* (A54) on 22nd March, 1918 with the Field Companies Engineers, 1st Draft Reinforcements & disembarked at London, England on 24th May, 1918.

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.

Sapper William Guy Cavey was marched in to No. 3 Details Camp at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 24th May, 1918 from Australia.

Sapper William Guy Cavey was sent sick to Delhi Hospital, Wiltshire on 27th May, 1918 then admitted to Tidworth Military Hospital, Wiltshire the same day with Influenza & P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). He was reported to be dangerously ill.

Sapper William Guy Cavey died at 10.35 pm on 1st June, 1918 at Tidworth Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England from Pneumonia & Influenza. A Telegram from Medical at Tidworth Hospital to Administrative Headquarters. A.I.F., London on 2nd June, 1918 stated that Sapper Cavey had died from Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for William Cavey, aged 21, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Andover, Hampshire, England.

Sapper William Guy Cavey's body was sent to his home in Plumstead for burial. He was buried at 3 pm on 7th June, 1918 in Plumstead Cemetery, Greater London, England – Plot number Grave No. 318, Section K. This is now recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as K. 318 and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

*From the burial report of Sapper William Guy Cavey - Coffin was Elm with brass furnishings. The deceased soldier was buried in the above Cemetery at the request of his Parents. The cortege left the Father's house. Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers from A.I.F. Headquarters, London, were in attendance. The coffin was covered with the Australian Flag and mounted on a Gun Carriage. Several beautiful wreaths were placed on the grave. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral. An oak cross was erected.*

*Names of relatives & friends present at the Funeral: Father & Mother – Mr & Mrs E. Cavey, 23 Blithdale Road, Plumstead. Brother & Sister. Mr & Miss Cavey, and other relatives.*

Sapper William Guy Cavey, of 43 Rush Street, Woollahra, New South Wales, requested in his Will, dated 16th February, 1918, that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects to be given to his Aunt – Margaret Goodfellow, 43 Rush St, Woollahra, Sydney, NSW.

Sapper William Guy Cavey 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 Sapper Cavey's father – Mr E. Cavey, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sapper William Guy Cavey – service number 21714, aged 21, of Australian Engineers Field Coy. He was the son of Edward & Jessie Cavey, of 23 Blithdale Rd., Plumstead, England.

Sapper W. G. Cavey is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 27.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(47 pages of Sapper William Guy Cavey'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **410th CASUALTY LIST**

#### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

##### **DIED OF WOUNDS**

Spr WM. GUY CAVEY, England.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 20 June, 1918)*

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### **WAR'S TOLL**

#### **LATEST CASUALTY LIST**

The 410th casualty List, issued last night.....

##### **DIED (OTHER CAUSES)**

CAVEY, Spr. W. G. England

*(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 20 June, 1918)*

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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. 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)*

Sapper W. G. Cavey does not have an inscription on his Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.



## Plumstead Cemetery, Greater London, England

Plumstead Cemetery contains 187 Commonwealth War Graves – 106 relating to World War 1 & 81 relating to World War 2.



**Plumstead Cemetery Entrance**



**Chapel in Plumstead Cemetery** *(Photo courtesy of Ian Yarham – 2020)*





**Cross of Sacrifice** (Photo courtesy of Ian Yarham – 2021)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Yarham – 2020)



Photo of Sapper W. G. Cavey's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Plumstead Cemetery, Greater London, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Ian Yarham 2022)*





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