

**Earlham Road Cemetery,
Norwich, Norfolk
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2142 PRIVATE

F. E. EDWARDS

27TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

8TH SEPTEMBER, 1916 Age 21

Duty Nobly Done

Frederick Edward (Fred) EDWARDS

Frederick Edward Edwards was born at Quorn, South Australia on 27th June, 1893 to parents George Thomas and Caroline Anna Edwards (nee Pannell).

Frederick Edward Edwards attended Quorn Public School, South Australia.

Frederick Edward Edwards was a 22 year old, single, Labourer from Quorn, South Australia when he enlisted at Keswick, South Australia on 31st May, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2142 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr George Thomas Edwards, Quorn, South Australia.

Frederick Edward Edwards was posted to G Group, Base Infantry on 31st May, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred as Private on 25th June, 1915 to 4th Reinforcements of 27th Battalion.

Private Frederick Edward Edwards was reported to be absent without leave from Mitcham from 9.30 am on 4th August, 1915 to 12 noon on 8th August, 1915. He forfeited 5 days' pay.

Private Frederick Edward Edwards was reported to be absent without leave from Mitcham from 9.30 pm on 22nd August, 1915 until 9.30 pm on 24th August, 1915.

From the South Australian Police Gazette – 8 September, 1915:

DESERTERS FROM H.M. SERVICE

FROM THE AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES, AT MITCHAM, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

.....

On August 27th, 1915

Private Frederick Edward Edwards, a labourer, born at Quorn, South Australia, aged 21 years and 11 months, 5ft. 4 ¾ in. high, dark complexion, dark hair, brown eyes.

....

No warrants. Should these deserters be located, communicate with the military authorities, Mortlock Camp, Mitcham.

Private Frederick Edward Edwards embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Star of England (A15)* on 21st September, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 27th Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements.

Private Frederick Edward Edwards was Absent without leave from Commanding Officers 3.30 Parade on 3rd November, 1915 at Heliopolis until found in Camp at 9 pm. He was given 3 days confined to Camp.

Private Frederick Edward Edwards was taken on strength of 27th Battalion at Mudros on 29th December, 1915. He disembarked at Alexandria from Mudros on 10th January, 1916.

Private Frederick Edward Edwards proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 15th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 21st March, 1916.

Private Frederick Edward Edwards was Absent without leave at Morbecque from 14.00 hrs to 21.30 hrs on 31st March, 1916. He forfeited 1 days' pay. He was awarded 7 days F. P. (Field Punishment) No. 2 for making a false statement to the Officer of Picquet.

Private Frederick Edward Edwards was wounded in action in France on 4th August, 1916. He was admitted to No. 13 Field Ambulance with shrapnel wounds to back & abdomen then transferred & admitted to Casualty Clearing Station on 8th August, 1916. Pte Edwards was admitted to "Spec Hsp Warlay" on 9th August, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to back & abdomen. He was transferred & admitted to No. 44 Casualty Clearing Station on 19th August, 1916 then transferred to Ambulance Train on 20th August, 1916. Pte Edwards was admitted to No. 1 Canadian General Hospital at Etaples, France on 21st August, 1916 with wounds to abdomen. He was listed for transfer to

England on 26th August, 1916 & on 27th August, 1916 embarked for England from Calais, France on Hospital Ship *Brighton*.

27th Battalion

After a stint in Egypt, the 7th Brigade proceeded to France as part of the 2nd Australian Division. The 27th Battalion entered the front-line trenches for the first time on 7 April 1916 and took part in its first major battle at Pozieres between 28 July and 5 August.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 27th Battalion

3 August, 1916 – Work continued as before

Wounded Lieut. Poltar and 7 O.R.

Night 4/5 August, 1916 – Attacked position on left of BAPAUME Rd at 9 pm. Attacked and captured two lines of trenches and strong point at windmill. Narrative attached.

Casualties Officers (1 names listed as Killed, wounded or Missing)

Other ranks Killed 40 Wounded 289 Missing 67

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Frederick Edward Edwards was admitted to Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich, Norfolk, England on 28th August, 1916 – with abdominal wounds & Peritonitis (severe). His condition was listed as dangerously ill.

Private Frederick Edward Edwards died on 8th September, 1916 at Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich, Norfolk, England from wounds received in action in France - Gunshot wounds to abdomen & General Peritonitis.

A death for Fred Edwards, aged 24, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Blofield, Norfolk, England.

Private Frederick Edward Edwards was buried in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England – Section 26, Grave No. 252.

A letter was sent on 20th April, 1920 from Base Records to Mr G. T. Edwards, Quorn, South Australia, father of the late Private F. E. Edwards, advising that “*now in receipt of further advice which shows that his remains have been exhumed from the former site, and re-interred in Grave No.700, Section 54, Norwich Cemetery, Norwich. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain.*”

Private Frederick Edward Edwards has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Town Clerk of Quorn wrote to Major Hardie, Keswick on 18th September, 1916 regarding a telegram received regarding the death of Private F. E. Edwards. The letter states that the date given for the death of Pte Edwards must have been confused with the date of Pte Edwards' wounding. The information was verified by Mr G. T. Edwards & his other son on active service. The letter in part reads: “*..... The father says that on 7th inst he received a telegram from the Minister of Defence stating that his son Private F. E. Edwards had been dangerously wounded in France – and on the 17th inst. another telegram from another son viz. Private Wm. Jas. Edwards stating that Fred (Private F. E. Edwards) had died in England on 8th Sept. from wounds he received in action in France on 28th August.*

Thus it seems that the information conveyed to you has confused the date of his being wounded 28th August with the date of his death. Private W. J. Edwards' information as to dates are apparently correct, as it seems he was with his brother while lying wounded in England, and remained with him till he died.”

Private Frederick Edward Edwards was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Edwards' father – Mr G. T. Edwards, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Frederick Edward Edwards – service number 2142, aged 21, of 27th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of George Thomas and Caroline Anna Edwards.

Private F. E. Edwards is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 110.



Roll of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

F. E. Edwards is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

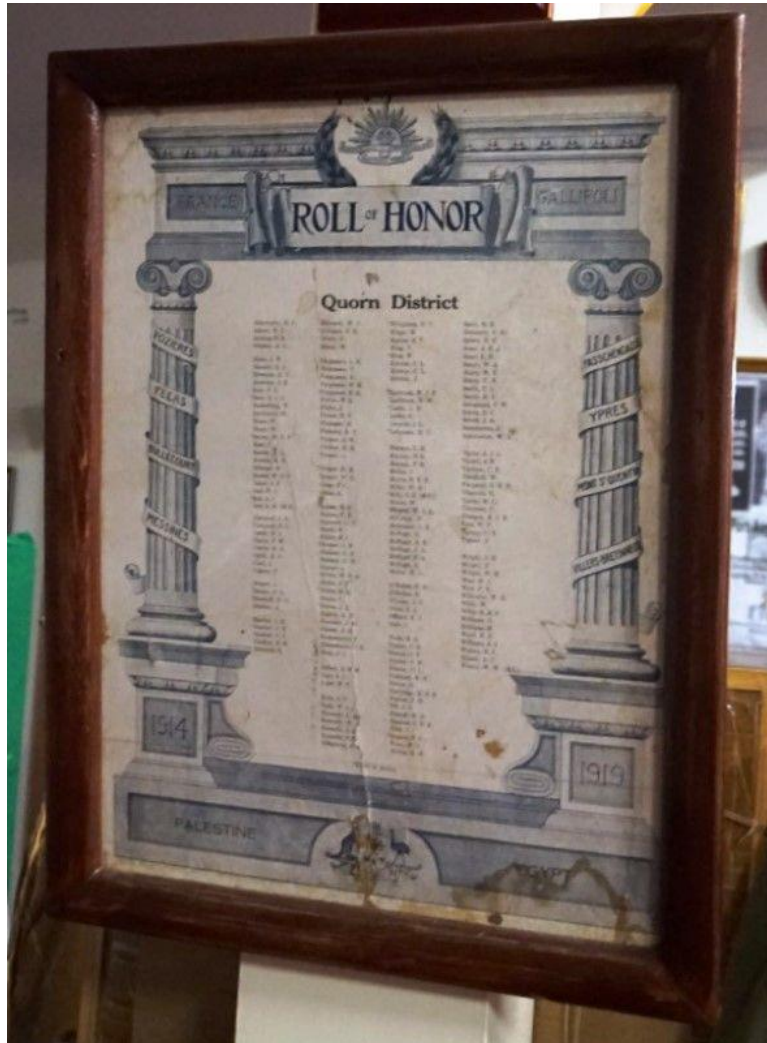
F. E. Edwards is remembered on the Quorn War Memorial, located at Railway Terrace, Quorn, South Australia.



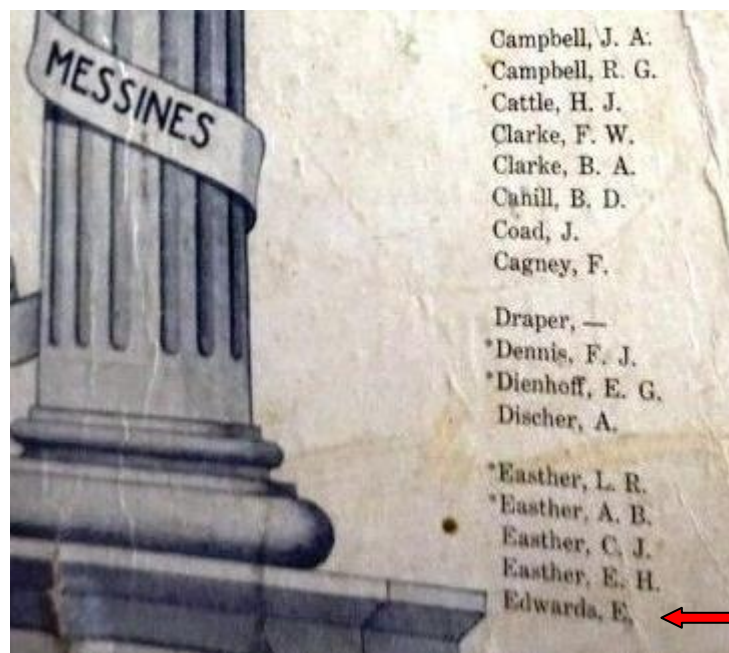
Quorn War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Roger Johnson)



E. Edwards is remembered on the Quorn District Roll of Honour, located in Port Augusta R.S.L. Club, 17 Fulham Road, Port Augusta, South Australia.



Quorn District Roll of Honour



F. E. Edwards is remembered on the Quorn District Roll of Honour, located in the Town Hall, First Street, Quorn, South Australia.



Quorn District Roll of Honour

(pages of Pte Frederick Edward Edwards' 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



Private Frederick Edward Edwards



Newspaper Notices

(NOTE: Some newspapers quoted the date of death incorrectly for Pte F. E. Edwards. The correct date of death is 8th September, 1916)

BIOGRAPHICAL

LATE PTE. F. E. EDWARDS.

QUORN, September 18.— The Secretary of the local recruiting committee received a telegram this afternoon stating that Pte. F. E. Edwards died on August 28 at the war hospital at Norwich, England. The Secretary was asked to notify Mr. G. T. Edwards, the deceased soldier's father. Pte. F. E. Edwards enlisted here in May, 1915. He was born at Quorn, and educated at the local public school. His father has been employed in the locomotive department for many years. The deceased soldier was 24 years of age, and was the fourth son of a family of five boys and five girls. Another son, William James, enlisted in November, 1915, and is still at the front. The parents had, prior to the arrival of the telegram, received news from the other son that 'Fred was wounded and seriously ill.' The deceased was a steady, hard-working young man, and prior to enlisting was employed by the Railway Department.

(*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 20 September, 1916) & (*The Journal*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 20 September, 1916)
& (*Observer*, South Australia – 30 September, 1916)

THE AUSTRALIANS

216th CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Pte F. E. EDWARDS, Quorn, (dang. ill)

(*The Register*, Adelaide, South Australia – 21 September, 1916)

KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

PRIVATE F. E. EDWARDS

Mr and Mrs Edwards, of Quorn, have received word from the military authorities that their son, Private F. E. Edwards, No. 2142, of the 27th Battalion, died in the War Hospital, Norwich, England, on August 28, the cause of death not being stated in the wire. The wire was sent to the secretary of the Recruiting Depot at Quorn on Monday afternoon, who had the painful duty of informing the deceased's parents.

(*Quorn Mercury*, South Australia – 21 September, 1916)

THE AUSTRALIANS

BIOGRAPHICAL



THE LATE F. E. EDWARDS

whose death was reported in The Register on Wednesday.

(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 22 September, 1916)

THE AUSTRALIANS

224th CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte F. E. EDWARDS, Quorn (Aug 28)

(Observer, Adelaide, South Australia – 7 October, 1916)

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)

Private F. E. Edwards does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Duty Nobly Done

Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich contains 533 Commonwealth War Graves.

The cemetery was laid out in 1856 and casualties of the South African War were buried in the oldest part. Nearly half of the 1914-1918 burials are to be found in two military plots; one in the North-Eastern part and the other in the Western part of the burial ground. Ground immediately adjoining the latter was reserved for service burials of the 1939-1945 War and is now combined with it to form the 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 War Graves Plot. The Cross of Sacrifice, which honours the servicemen of both Wars who are buried in the cemetery, stands in the plot, and carved upon two of the panels of its base are the dates 1914-1918 and 1939-1945. There are now nearly 350, 1914-1918 and nearly 200, 1939-1945 war casualties commemorated in this site. In addition, a special memorial is erected to one soldier buried among civilian air raid victims in a grave on which it was not possible to erect a headstone.

(Information & photo from CWGC)



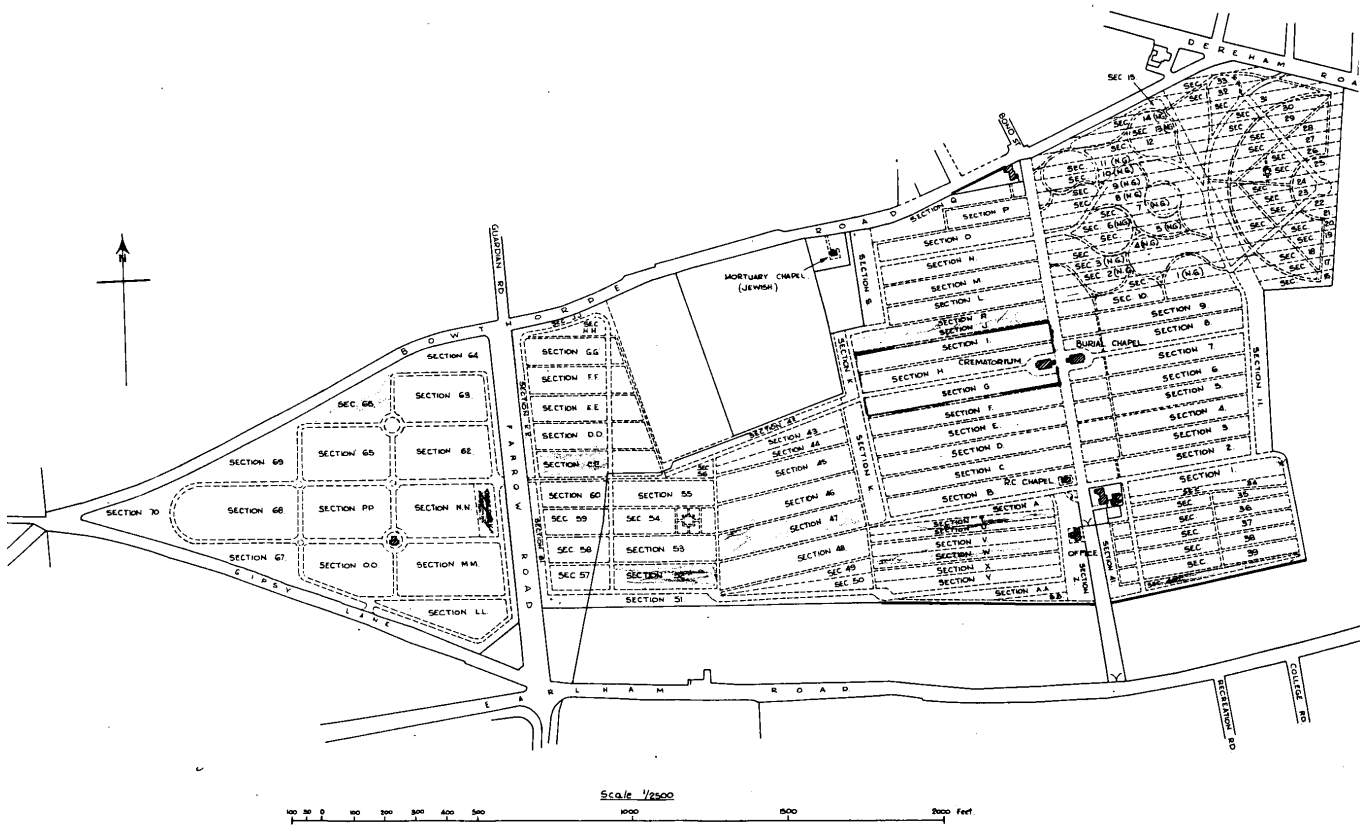
Photo of Private F. E. Edwards' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Earlam Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England.



(Photo by Jennifer Hart – Find a Grave)



(Photo by Momminpappa06)



Map of Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

