

**Hollybrook Memorial,  
Southampton, Hampshire, England  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**6969 PRIVATE**

**E. J. EDWARDS**

**15TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**9TH JANUARY, 1917**

## Edward James EDWARDS

Edward James Edwards was born around 1877 to mother Mary Jane Edwards.

(According to information provided by his brother – William Wallace Edwards for the Roll of Honour – Edward James Edwards was born at Clarnece River, near Grafton, New South Wales, however Edward James Edwards listed he was born at Goondiwindi, Queensland.)

Edward James Edwards attended school at St. George, Queensland.

The 1903, 1905, 1906 & 1908 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Maranoa, subdivision of St. George, Queensland recorded Edward James Edwards, Labourer from Barlee Street.

The 1912 & 1913 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Maranoa, subdivision of St. George, Queensland recorded Edward James Edwards, Selector, from Willow Park.

Edward James Edwards was a 39 year old, single, Selector (listed as a Grazier in information supplied by his brother for the Roll of Honour) from St. George, Queensland when he enlisted on 27th October, 1916 at Brisbane, Queensland with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs M. J. Edwards, St. George, Queensland.

Private Edward James Edwards was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 30th October, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 23rd Reinforcements of 15th Battalion on 21st November, 1916.

Private Edward James Edwards, Service number 6969, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Beltana* (A72) on 25th November, 1916 with the 4th Infantry Brigade, 15th Infantry Battalion, 23rd Reinforcements.

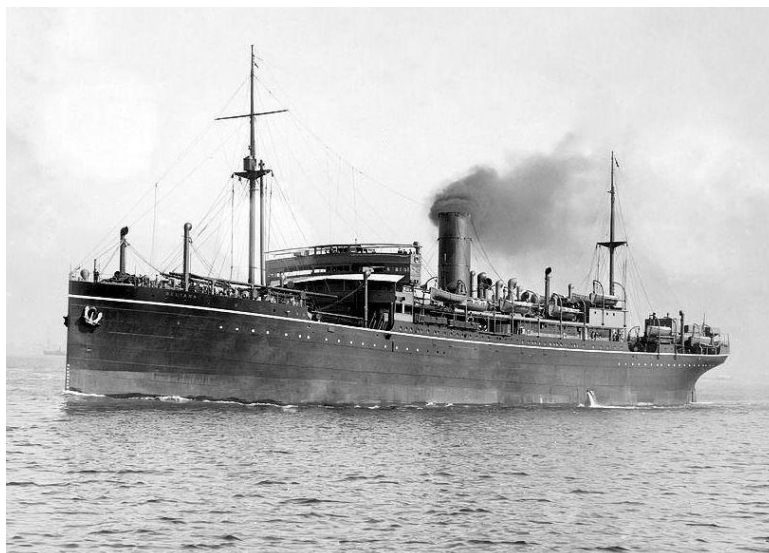
### 15th Battalion

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

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Edward James Edwards was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 24th December, 1916 with Broncho Pneumonia post Influenza.

Private Edward James Edwards died 3.10 am on 9th January, 1917 at Sea on board HMAT *Beltana* (A72) from Broncho Pneumonia & Influenza.



**HMAT *Beltana* (A72)**

According to Register of Deceased Passengers Edward James Edwards died at co-ordinates 3.32 N; 12.57 W. Seven Australian Soldiers are listed on the Register of Deceased Passengers who died on board HMAT *Beltana* (A72) between 26th November, 1916 & 14th January, 1917.



Private Edward James Edwards was buried at Sea on 9th January, 1917 HMAT *Beltana* (A72). He is commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England as he has no grave. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

W.W. Edwards, Willow Park, St. George, Queensland, wrote to Base Records on 5th April, 1918 with the following letter: *"Will you kindly return to me the Parcel containing the personal Belongings of my deceased Brother E. J. Edwards that was addressed to my Deceased mother M. J. Edwards which was returned to you from the Public Curators Office Brisbane."*

W.W. Edwards, Willow Park, St. George, Queensland, wrote to Base Records on 22nd June, 1921 with the following: *"In reference to No 6969 Private E. J. Edwards 15th Battalion No there is no Brothers older than my self I am the eldest of the family & I cant say as to weather our Father is now living or not I have not seen or heard of him since 1912."* (Base Records had noted on the Attestation Papers that Private Edwards' mother – Mrs Mary Jane Edwards was deceased. Written in pencil was *"Sister Francis Singleton, Tara, Queensland P.E. see Brother"* Contact would have been made to ascertain who the closest next of kin was & Base Records would have specifically asked if Private Edwards' father was alive due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. Stamped across the Attestation Papers: *"War Medals &c to eldest brother (under bond) Mr W. W. Edwards, Willow Park, St. George, Q."*)

A Statutory Declaration was completed & signed by W. W. Edwards at St. George, Queensland on 26th July, 1921 stating: *"I, William Wallace Edwards, of Willow Park, St. George, Queensland, do solemnly and sincerely declare that I will undertake to preserve with due care any War Medals or other items given into my custody on account of the service rendered by the late No. 6969 Private E. J. Edwards, 15th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force and will return them to the Department of Defence upon demand in writing should they be required for the purpose of being handed to someone having a prior claim to myself...."*



Private Edward James Edwards 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 Edward's next of kin. His eldest brother – Mr W. W. Edwards, was declared the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent March, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Edward James Edwards – service number 6969, of 15th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

E. Edwards is remembered on the St. George Hospital Memorial Pavilion, located at St. George Hospital, 1 Victoria Street, St. George, Queensland.

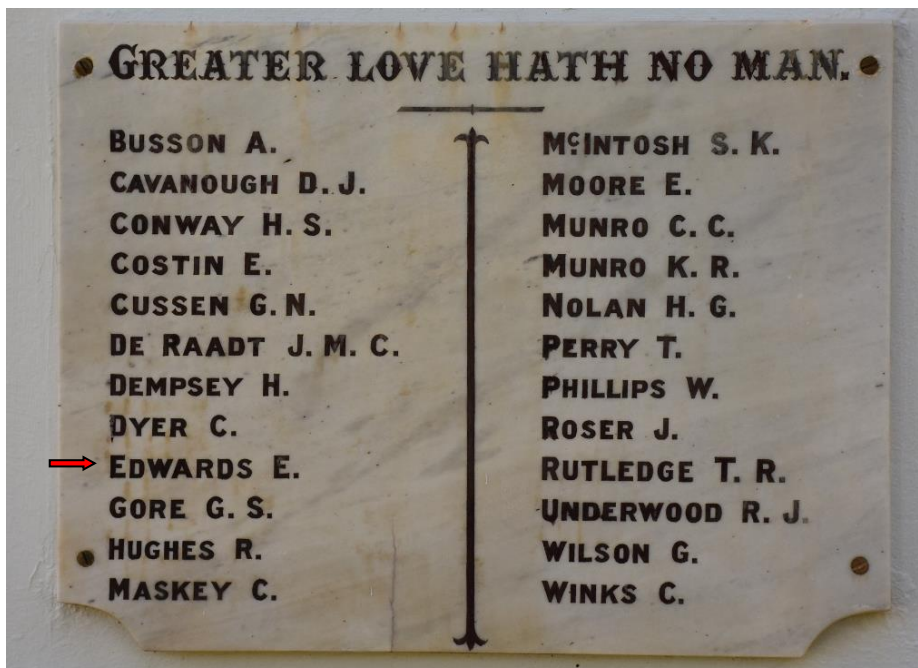


**St. George Hospital Memorial Pavilion** (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)





St. George Hospital Memorial Pavilion (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)





J. E. Edwards is remembered on the St. George & District Honour Roll, located in St. George Hospital Memorial Pavilion at St. George Hospital, 1 Victoria Street, St. George, Queensland.



St. George & District Honour Roll (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



Edward J. Edwards is remembered on the Remembrance Wall located in Apex Park, St. George's Terrace, St. George, Queensland.



Remembrance Wall (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)







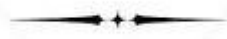
Private E. J. Edwards is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 75.



*Roll of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

(32 pages of Private Edward James 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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*





## Newspaper Notices

### Roll of Honour

#### Queensland Casualties

The 265th Australian casualty list was released by the censor.....

#### DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte E. J. Edwards, St. George, 9/1/17

(*The Week*, Brisbane, Queensland – 26 January, 1917)

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## LEGAL NOTICES

**I**N THE SUPREME COURT OF QUEENSLAND.

In the WILL of EDWARD JAMES EDWARDS, late of St. George, in the State of Queensland, formerly Selector, but latterly a Member of the Australian Imperial Forces.

Notice is hereby given that after the expiration of fourteen days from the date of the publication hereof, application will be made to this Honorable Court that PROBATE of the WILL of the abovenamed Edward James Edwards, deceased, may be granted to the Public Curator of Queensland, the Sole Executor named in the said Will.

Any person interested who desires to object to this application, or to be heard upon it, may file a Caveat in the Registry at any time before the Grant is made.

Dated at Brisbane this Fourth day of February, 1918.

R. J. S. BARNETT, Official Solicitor, to The Public Curator, Brisbane.

(*The Daily Mail*, Brisbane, Queensland – 7 February, 1918)

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### Statutory Notice to Creditors

**Statutory Notice to Creditors.**

Re EDWARD JAMES EDWARDS, late of St. George, in the State of Queensland, deceased.

**N**OTICE is hereby given that all creditors and other persons having claims against the Estate of the abovenamed EDWARD JAMES EDWARDS, late of St. George, in the State of Queensland, deceased, who died on or about the Ninth day of January, 1917, A.D., at sea, on board H.M.A.S. Baltana, are hereby required to send their claims to the Public Curator, Brisbane, on or before the Twentieth day of July, 1918. And that after the expiration of the last mentioned date the Public Curator will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which he shall then have had notice.

Dated this 2nd day of May, 1918.

R. J. S. BARNETT,  
Official Solicitor to the Public Curator,  
Brisbane.

(*Balonne Beacon*, St. George, Queensland – 18 May, 1918)

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## Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

### **Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England**

The Hollybrook Memorial is situated in Southampton (Hollybrook) Cemetery behind the plot of First World War graves near the main entrance.

The Hollybrook Memorial commemorates by name almost 1,900 servicemen and women of the Commonwealth land and air forces\* whose graves are not known, many of whom were lost in transports or other vessels torpedoed or mined in home waters (\*Officers and men of the Commonwealth's navies who have no grave but the sea are commemorated on memorials elsewhere). The memorial also bears the names of those who were lost or buried at sea, or who died at home but whose bodies could not be recovered for burial. Almost one third of the names on the memorial are those of officers and men of the South African Native Labour Corps, who died when the troop transport Mendi sank in the Channel following a collision on 21 February 1917. Other vessels sunk with significant loss of life were: HS Anglia, a hospital ship sunk by mine off Dover on 17 November 1915. SS Citta Di Palermo, an Italian transport carrying Commonwealth troops, sunk by mine off Brindisi on 8 January 1916. In rescuing survivors, two Royal Naval Otranto drifters were themselves mined and blown up. HMTs Donegal and Warilda, ambulance transports torpedoed and sunk between Le Havre and Southampton on 17 April 1917 and 3 August 1918. HS Glenart Castle, a hospital ship torpedoed and sunk off Lundy on 26 February 1918. SS Galway Castle, torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic on 12 September 1918. RMS Leinster, the Irish mail boat, torpedoed and sunk in the Irish Sea on 10 October 1918. Among those commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial is Field Marshall Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, who died when the battle cruiser HMS Hampshire was mined and sunk off Scapa Flow on 5 June 1916.

The memorial was designed by T. Newham and unveiled by Sir William Robertson on 10 December 1930.

There are approximately 162 Australian World War 1 Service Personnel commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*





**Cross of Sacrifice**





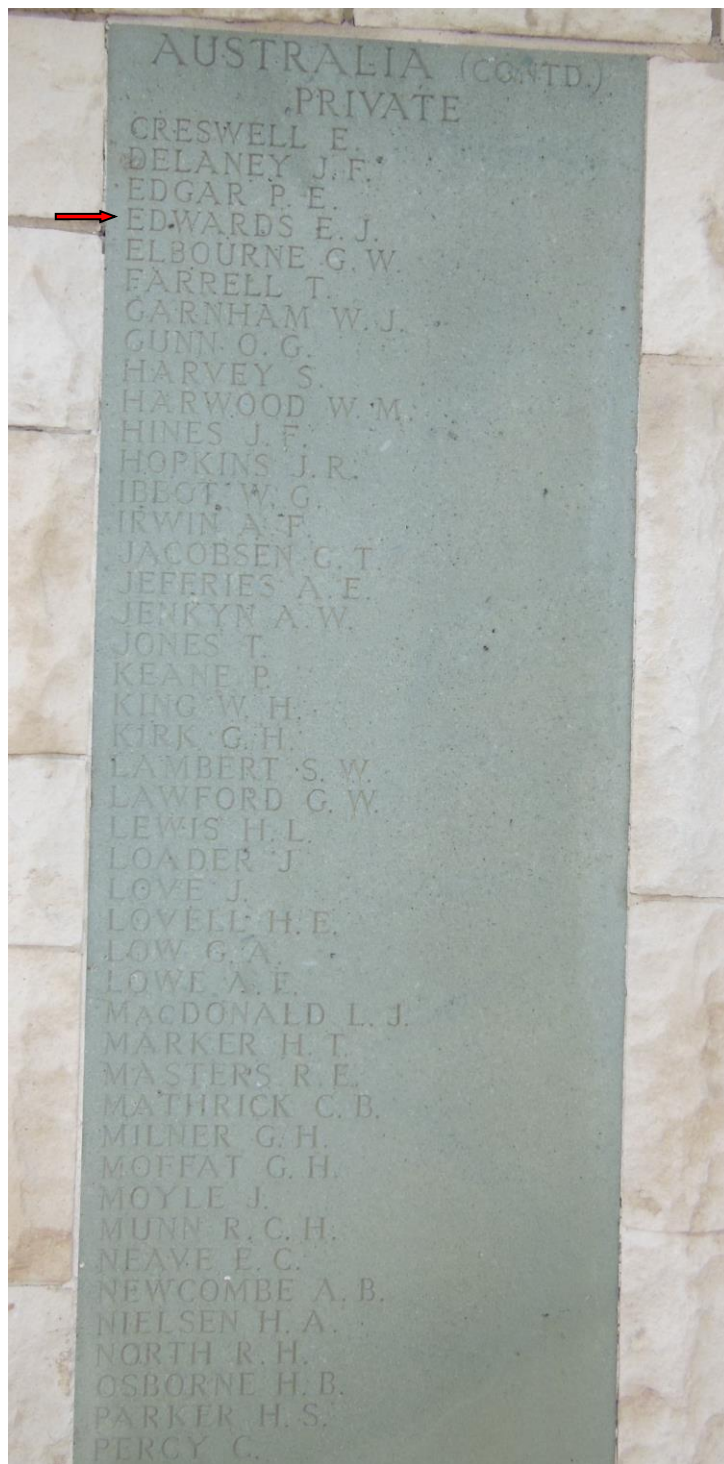
**Name Panels behind Cross of Sacrifice** *(Photo from CWGC)*



**CWGC Graves in Hollybrook Cemetery with Cross of Sacrifice & Hollybrook Memorial** *(Photo from CWGC)*



Photo of Private E. J. Edwards' name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, Hampshire, England.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)

