

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



10504 DRIVER

W. J. EDWARDS

AUSTRALIAN ARMY SERVICE CORPS

6TH JULY, 1916

William James EDWARDS

William James Lewis Edwards was born at Blackstone, Ipswich, Queensland on 8th August, 1896 to parents William John & Mary Ann Edwards (nee Lewis).

William James Edwards attended Central School at Ipswich, Queensland.

Mary Ann Edwards, mother of William James Lewis Edwards, died on 16th October, 1907 at Blackstone, Queensland.

William James Edwards was a 19 year old, single, Labourer (listed as a Miner by his father in information provided for the Roll of Honour) from Booval, via Ipswich, Queensland when he enlisted at Ipswich, Queensland on 28th November, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Congregational & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr W. J. Edwards, Booval, via Ipswich, Queensland. William James Edwards stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served as a Private in 11th Infantry.

Driver William James Edwards was posted to A.S.C. (Army Service Corps) Platoon on 28th November, 1915. He was transferred to 23rd Company, A.S.C. at Alderley on 1st May, 1916.

Driver William James Edwards, Service number 10504, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Persic* (A34) on 30th May, 1916 with the 3rd Divisional Train (A.S.C.) 23rd Company.

Driver William James Edwards was admitted to Ship's Hospital on 4th July, 1916 with Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

Driver William James Edwards died at 6.45 am on 6th July, 1916 at Sea on board HMAT *Persic* (A34) from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis. The Hospital Admissions form recorded: "*Very acute toxic exhaustion – extremely marked purpuric rash – wrists & knees involved. Mentally dull from onset died at 6.45 am.....*"



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

PB0824

HMAT *Persic* (A34)

The Register of Deceased Passengers recorded Driver William James Edwards died from Exhaustion from acute Cerebro Spinal Meningitis at co-ordinates: Lat. 12.11 S, Long 1.34 E



Position of HMAT *Persic* at time of Driver William James Edwards' death

Driver William James Edwards was buried at Sea on 6th July, 1916 from HMAT *Persic* (A34). 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.

Driver William 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 Driver Edwards' father – Mr W. J. Edwards, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent May, 1922 & Plaque sent August, 1922).



Memorial Plaque or "Death Penny" for Driver William James Edwards

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver William James Edwards – service number 10504, of Australian Army Service Corps. No family details are listed.

Driver W. 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 181.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. J. L. Edwards is remembered on the West Moreton District Welsh Roll of Honour, located in United Welsh Church, 6 Thomas Street, Blackstone, Ipswich, Queensland.



West Moreton District Welsh Roll of Honour (Photo from VWMA – courtesy of Debbie Waddell – Ipswich RSL)

W. J. L. Edwards is remembered on the Blackstone Congregational Church Honour Roll, located in United Welsh Church, 6 Thomas Street, Blackstone, Ipswich, Queensland.



Blackstone Congregational Church Honour Roll

(Photo from VWMA – courtesy of Debbie Waddell – Ipswich RSL)

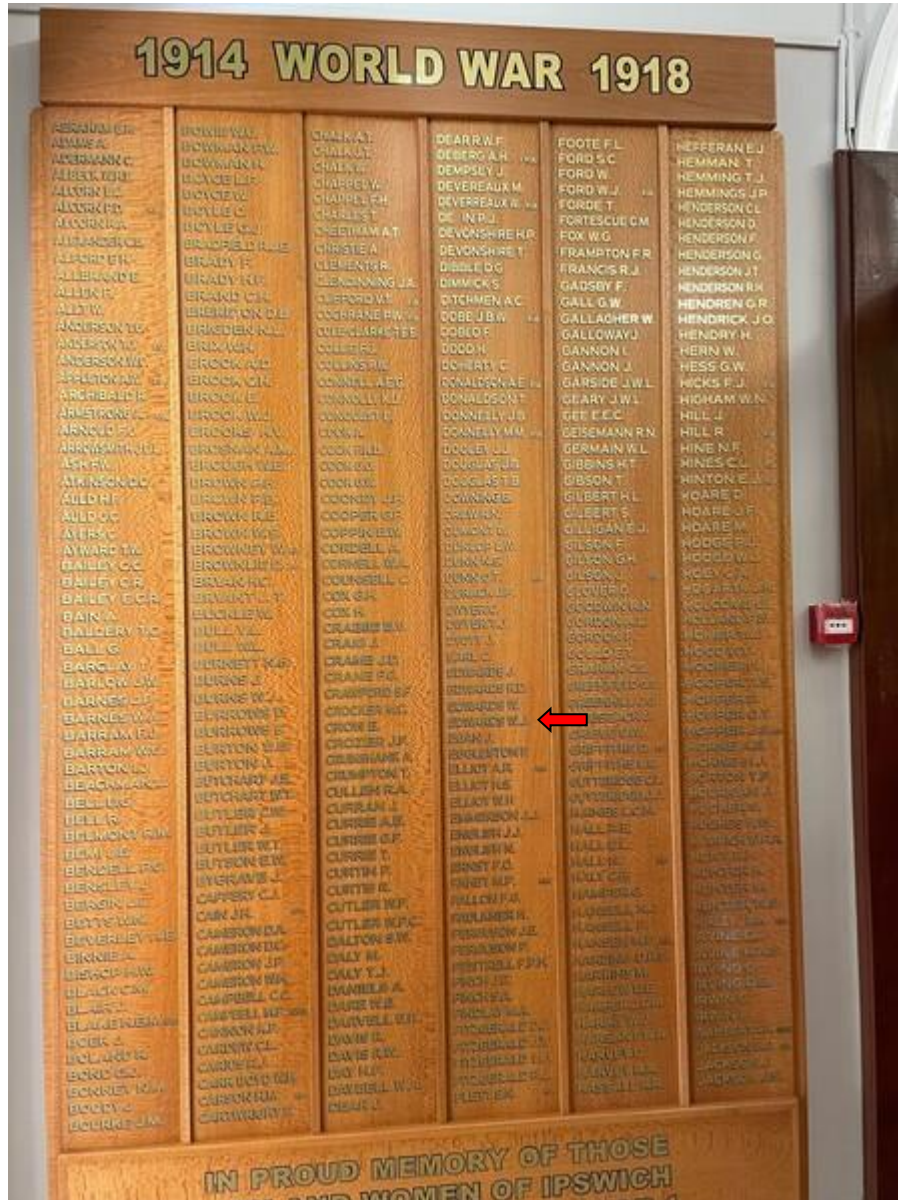
W. J. Edwards is remembered on the Booval War Memorial, located in Cameron Park, Green Street, Booval, Queensland.



Booval War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Brendan Downs)



W. J. Edwards is remembered on the Men and Women of Ipswich Roll of Honour, located in Ipswich Soldiers' Memorial Hall, 63 Nicholas Street, Ipswich, Queensland.

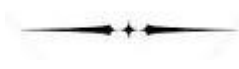


Men and Women of Ipswich Roll of Honour

(Photo from VWMA – courtesy of Debbie Waddell, Secretary Returned & Services League of Australia – Ipswich Sub Branch)

(31 pages of Driver William 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) & National Archives





(*The Queenslander Pictorial* – 8 January, 1916)



Newspaper Notices

DEATHS

EDWARDS – Driver W. J. Edwards, son of Mr W. J. Edwards, licensee of the Prince Alfred Hotel, Booval, died at sea on the 6th July, 1916, aged 19 years.

(*Queensland Times*, Ipswich, Queensland – 18 July, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOR

187th CASUALTY LIST

Died of Illness – Driver W. J. Edwards, Booval

(*The Northern Miner*, Charters Towers, Queensland – 28 July, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

EDWARDS – Died at sea, 6th July, 1916, Driver W. J. Edwards, Australian Army Service Corps, A.I.F., only son of W. J. Edwards, Prince Alfred Hotel, Booval, aged 19 years.

He gave his life, his best, his all.

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Brisbane, Queensland – 29 July, 1916) & (*The Queenslander*, Brisbane, Queensland – 5 August, 1916)

BEREAVEMENT NOTICES

Mr and Mrs W. J. EDWARDS and FAMILY, Prince Alfred Hotel, Booval, desire to convey their sincere THANKS to all kind Friends who sent letters and cards, in their recent sad bereavement and who in any other way sympathised with them.

(*Queensland Times*, Ipswich, Queensland – 5 August, 1916)

Driver W. J. L. Edwards

A HERO OF BOOVAL

WHO DIED FOR HIS KING AND COUNTRY

Driver W. J. Edwards, only son of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Edwards, of the Prince of Wales Hotel, Booval, and grandson of Mrs. James Lewis, of Blackstone, was one of those young men who responded to the call of the Dungarees, as they passed through Ipswich from the Downs, on their way to Enoggera, over 12 months ago. Subsequent to reaching the military training centre he was allotted to the Army Service Corps, at Enoggera, eventually leaving for the front. After the transport vessel on which he was a passenger had left a certain port, Driver Edwards complained of being unwell. This was on the 4th of July, 1916, and his sickness



was diagnosed as being spinal meningitis, which developed very quickly. His death occurred two days afterwards on the 6th of July, and on that day the deceased lad was buried at sea, some 1800 miles from Capetown. Pte. Bert. Little, an Ipswich boy (son of Mr. W. Little, cab-driver of Warwick road), was at his side at the time of Driver Edwards's death, and was most attentive to him during his sickness. The news of his demise was a sad blow to his parents, as he was a most promising young man, and was only 19 years old. He was a native of Blackstone, and he received his education at the State School there, and at the Newtown State School. Leaving school, he worked for a time in the employ of Messrs Cribb and Foote, and later took on colliery work at the Park Head Colliery, where he was engaged when he decided to enlist. His death was much regretted by all his friends in the Bundamba area, and his parents were the recipients of numerous letters of condolence.

(*Queensland Times*, Ipswich, Queensland – 6 January, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

EDWARDS – In loving memory of Driver W. J. Edwards, 42nd Battalion, who died at sea, on his way to the front, July 6th, 1916.

(Inserted by L. D. and M. Lewis)

EDWARDS – In loving memory of our dear nephew, Driver W. J. Edwards, 23rd A.S.C., who died at sea 6th July, 1916.

Asleep in Jesus.

(Inserted by his uncle and aunt, David & Lizzie Thomas)

EDWARDS – In sad but loving memory of our dear son and brother, Driver W. J. Edwards, 23rd A.S.C., of the A.I.F., who died at sea July 6th, 1916.

Not one of us was by his side,
To hear his faint sigh,
Or whisper just one loving word,
Before he closed his eyes.

We never knew the pain he bore,
We never saw him died,
We only knew he passed away,
And never said good-bye.

(Inserted by his loving father, stepmother, sister, stepbrothers and sisters)

(*Queensland Times*, Ipswich, Queensland – 6 July, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

EDWARDS – In loving memory of our dear grandson and nephew, Driver W. J. Edwards, 23rd Army Service Corps, A.I.F., who died at sea July 6th, 1916.

We often think of you, dear Willie,
And think of how you died;
To think you could not say good-bye
Before you closed your eyes.

(Inserted by his loving grandma and Uncle Jim)

EDWARDS – In sad but loving memory of our dear brother, Driver W. J. Edwards, 23rd Army Service Corps, A.I.F., who died at sea July 6th, 1916, aged 19 years.

Little he thought when he bade us good-bye,
He left us for ever, left us to die ;
Not even his cold, lifeless form did we see,
For it lies in the depths of the deep, deep sea.
We never knew the pain he bore,
We never saw him die ;
We only know he passed away,
And did not say good-bye.

(Inserted by his loving sister and brother, Marie and Jacob Davies.)

(*Queensland Times*, Ipswich, Queensland – 6 July, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

EDWARDS – In loving memory of our beloved only brother, Driver W. J. Edwards, 23rd A.S.C, who died at sea, July 6, 1916.

In a watery grave he lies sleeping,
One of earth's bravest and best ;
In our hearts we shall miss him for ever,
Though we know he is only at rest,
You are always in our thoughts, dear Willie.
It is sweet to breathe your name,
In life we loved you dearly.
In death we love the same.

(Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Marie and Jacob Davies.)

EDWARDS – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Driver W. J. Edwards, 23rd A.S.C., who died at sea, July 6, 1916.

The shock was great, the pain severe,
For little we thought the end was near ;
Only those who have lost are able to tell,
The pain of the heart and not say fare-well.

(Inserted by his loving father, step-mother, sister, stepbrothers, and sisters.)

(*Queensland Times*, Ipswich, Queensland – 6 July, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

EDWARDS – In loving memory of our only brother, Driver W. J. Edwards, who died at sea July 6th, 1916.

His King and country called him,

The call was not in vain;

For on our Roll of Honour

You will find our hero's name.

No matter how we watch, dear Willie,

No matter how we call;

There is nothing now to answer,

But your photo on the wall.

(Inserted by his loving sisters, Marie and Olive)

(*Queensland Times*, Ipswich, Queensland – 5 July, 1919)

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.

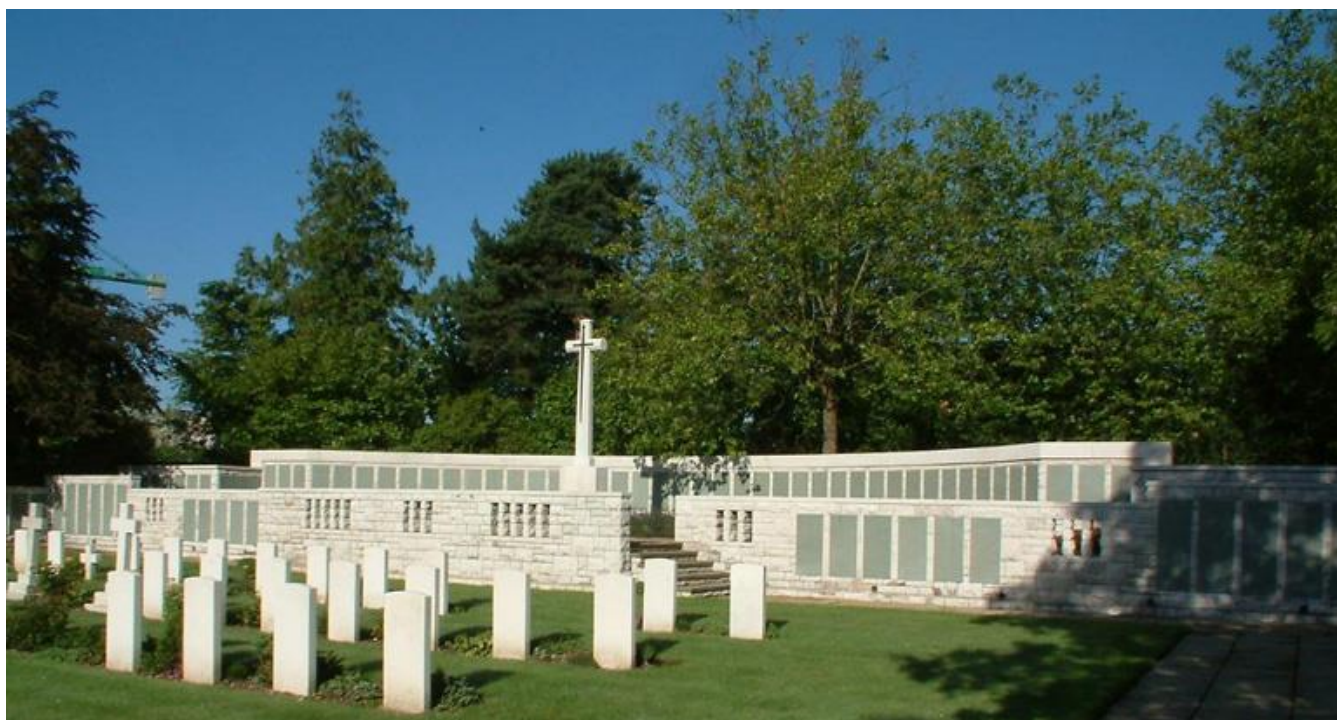
The Hollybrook Memorial commemorates by name almost 1,900 servicemen and women of the Commonwealth land and air forces* whose graves are not known, many of whom were lost in transports or other vessels torpedoed or mined in home waters (*Officers and men of the Commonwealth's navies who have no grave 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)

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



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)





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