

Sutton Veny War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



777 PRIVATE

W. H. ELLERY

10TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

6TH OCTOBER, 1919 Age 21

Dearly Loved Only Son Of

J. & N. Ellery

Moonta, Sth. Australia

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte W. H. Ellery is located in
Grave Plot # 93A. M. 7. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

William Howard ELLERY

William Howard Ellery was born at Broken Hill, NSW in 1898 to parents Josiah Nicholas & Agnes S. Ellery (nee Olds). He was aged 18 years & 6 months & a single, Clerk from Caroline Street, Moonta, South Australia when he enlisted at Adelaide, South Australia on 11th July, 1916 with the 8th Machine Gun Company, 14th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 777 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. N. Ellery of Caroline Street, Moonta, South Australia. William Ellery has served 3 years with Senior Cadets. Both of William Ellery's parents had signed a consent form allowing their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service abroad as he was under the age of 21 years, with a proviso that "*he does not leave the Commonwealth before he reaches the age of 19 years.*"

Pte Ellery was admitted to Hospital at Ascot Vale from 24th August to 24th September with a sore throat. He was transferred to Hospital at Seymour Camp with possible Pleurisy & then admitted to No. 5 Australian General Hospital in Melbourne from 23rd to 31st October, 1917 with Pleurisy & was recommended for Light Duty for 10 days.

Pte William Howard Ellery embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Nestor (A71)* on 21st November, 1917 & disembarked at Suez on 15th December, 1917.

Pte Ellery embarked from Australian Camp at Suez on HMAT *Maple* on 31st December, 1917 & disembarked at Alexandria on 8th January, 1918. He then embarked the same day on HMAT *Alberich* & disembarked at Taranto, Italy on 13th January, 1918.

Pte Ellery was admitted to Isolation Hospital at Cherbourg, France in late January, 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.

Private William Howard Ellery was marched in to 1st Training Battalion at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 14th February, 1918 & marched out 2 days later to 2nd Training Battalion.

Pte Ellery proceeded overseas to France to reinforcements of 10th Battalion via Southampton on 7th April, 1918. He was marched in at Havre, France on 8th April, 1918 & marched out to his Unit on 10th April, 1918. Pte Ellery was taken on strength from Reinforcements with 6th Machine Gun Company on 11th April, 1918.

Pte Ellery was sent to School of Instruction on 22nd July, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion on 1st August, 1918. During this timeframe Pte Ellery was absent without leave from 9.30 pm on 28th July, 1918 to 5.30 p.m. on 29th July, 1918. He was awarded 1 days Field Punishment & forfeited 2 days pay as punishment.

Private William Howard Ellery was wounded in action on 10th August, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to the left thigh & legs. He was admitted to 5th Field Ambulance the same day then transferred on 12th August, 1918 to 53rd Casualty Clearing Station then on to 2nd C. General. Pte Ellery was transferred to 1st Australian Convalescent Depot at Havre on 31st August, 1918 & discharged on 1st October, 1918.

Pte Ellery was marched in to A. I. B. D. at Havre on 1st October, 1918 & proceeded to his Unit on 9th October, 1918. Pte Ellery rejoined his Unit in the field on 11th October, 1918.

Pte Ellery was written up for a Crime – "Mounting Guard in an unclean condition." He forfeited 1 days pay as punishment.

Pte Ellery was on leave from France from 14th February, 1919 until 28th February, 1919. He rejoined from leave in UK on 2nd March, 1919.

Pte Ellery was sent sick to 2nd Australian Field Ambulance on 14th March, 1919 & admitted with Pleurisy. He rejoined his Battalion from Hospital on 22nd March, 1919.

Pte Ellery was sent sick to Hospital on 19th May, 1919 & admitted to Casualty Clearing Station, in France on 20th May, 1919. He was transferred to 56th General Hospital on 10th June, 1919 & embarked for England on 15th June, 1919. Pte Ellery was admitted to 1st A.D.H. at Bulford, Wiltshire on 15th June, 1919 with V.D.

Private William Howard Ellery was admitted to the 1st Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 9th September, 1919 dangerously ill.

Private William Howard Ellery died at 9 a.m. on 6th October, 1919 at the 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for William H. Ellery, aged 21, was registered in the December quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Pte Ellery contains a request from the Red Cross to The Matron of 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny, requesting further details into his illness, death & burial. A reply from The Matron reads:

"In reply to your letter concerning the illness of 777 Pte W. H. Ellery, 10th Battn. A.I.F. He was admitted to hospital 9.9.19 with an acute attack of Pneumonia. A letter was dispatched from this office to his mother on 12.9.19. His condition was not at any time considered satisfactory as he was not taken off the Dangerously Ill list from the date of being entered 11.9.19. Towards the end of the month further complications were apparent – owing to the complicated lung condition. The heart condition became embarrassed. Another letter was dispatched from this office to his Mother 29.9.19 informing her of his condition. Despite all medical and nursing care and attention he gradually became worse and died quietly 9.30 a.m. 6.10.19. He was quite conscious until within ½ an hour of his death.

He was interred in the C. of E. portion of the graveyard attached to St. John The Evangelist Church, Sutton Veny at 2.30 p.m. 8.10.19 with full military Honours, grave No. 93.A.

He was "one of the boys" in whom both medical officers and Sisters were most interested, and for whom everything possible was done. Another letter was dispatched 5.10.19 to the Mother."

Private William Howard Ellery was buried on 8th October, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 93A. From the burial report of Pte Ellery – *The deceased was accorded a Military funeral, the coffin (elm with brass mountings) being covered with the Australian flag. The Firing Party was supplied by No. 2 Group and consisted of 13 other ranks. The Last Post was sounded by a bugler.*

Private W. H. Ellery is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 58.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. H. Ellery is also listed on the National War Memorial in Adelaide, which 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)

Pte William Howard Ellery was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Ellery's father – Mr J. N. Ellery, Moonta, Sth Australia (sent July, 1921 & December, 1922).

The CWGC lists Private William Howard Ellery, 777, of 10th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of Josiah and Agnes Ellery of Caroline St., Moonta, South Australia.

(89 pages of Pte William Howard Ellery Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives.



Newspaper Reports

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

430th Casualty List

WOUNDED

Private W. H. Ellery, Moonta

(*Barrier Miner*, Broken Hill, NSW - Thursday 26 September, 1918)

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

ELLERY – On the 6th October at the A.G. Hospital, England of pneumonia, No. 777, W. H. Ellery (Bill), 10th Battalion, late 9th Machine Gun Co., only son of Mr and Mrs J. N. Ellery, Moonta, aged 21 years and 8 months, after 3 years and 3 months on active service. The best is yet to be. – Reunion.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, Sth Australia - Thursday 16 October, 1919 & *Chronicle*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – Saturday 18 October, 1919)

IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE

ELLERY – In fond memory of our beloved son and brother, 777, Pte W. H. Ellery, 10th Battalion, who died of broncho-pneumonia at Sutton Veny Hospital, England, on October 6, 1919.

Not gone from memory, not gone from love,
But gone to our Father's home above.

-Inserted by his sorrowing father, mother and sister.

(*The Register*, Adelaide, Sth Australia - Wednesday 6 October, 1920)

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 at St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny. 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*)

Pte William Howard Ellery does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Dearlly Loved Only Son Of J. & N. Ellery Moonta Sth. Australia



Photo of Pte W. H. Ellery's Headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)



War Graves at Sutton Veny *(Photos from CWGC)*