

**Sutton Road Cemetery,
Southend-On-Sea, Essex, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3540 PRIVATE

H. E. EMERY

59TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

28TH JULY, 1916 Age 19

*A Noble Son
For His Country
And Those He Loved
Our Dear Lee*

Harold Ernest EMERY

Harold Ernest Emery was born at Upper Norwood, London, England in 1897 to parents George Edwin and Priscilla Louisa Emery (nee Watsham) (Upper Norwood was listed by his mother as the place of birth on information provided for the Roll of Honour, however on Harold stated on his Attestation Papers that he was born at Lambeth, London, England.)

The 1901 England Census recorded Harold Emery as a 3 year old, living with his family at 22 Woodland Hill, Norwood, Lambeth, London, England. His parents were listed as Edwin Emery (Bricklayer, aged 26, born Norwood, Surrey) & Priscilla Emery (aged 28, born Norwood, Surrey). Harold was the youngest of 3 sons listed on this Census (all born Norwood, Surrey) – Edwin Emery (aged 6), William Emery (aged 5) then Harold Emery.

The 1911 England Census recorded Harold E. Emery as a 13 year old at School & Grocer's Errand Boy, living with his family at 58 Woodland Rd, Norwood, Lambeth, London, England. His parents were listed as Edwin Emery (Bricklayer, aged 36) & Priscilla L. Emery (aged 38). Edwin & Priscilla had been married for 17 years & had 5 children. Harold was the middle son of five sons listed on this Census (all born Upper Norwood, Surrey) – Edwin G. J. Emery (Apprentice, Motor Works, aged 16), William A. Emery (Tailor's Assistant, aged 15) then Harold, Norman F. Emery (age 8) & Cyril Emery (aged 6).

According to information supplied by his mother for the Roll of Honour, Harold Emery came to Australia when he was 15 years old. Mrs P. Emery (Housewife, aged 39) & her 5 sons – Mr E. Emery (aged 17), Mr W. Emery (aged 16), Mr H. Emery (aged 15) Master A. Emery (aged 9) & Master C. Emery (aged 7) were all passengers on *Paparoa* which had departed from the port of Liverpool, England & arrived at Victoria, Australia on 2nd December, 1912. Mr E. Emery, father of Harold, had arrived in Melbourne on 4th May, 1912 on board *Kaikoura* from London, England.

Harold Ernest Emery was a 19 year old, single, Grocer from 35 Argyle Street, St. Kilda, Victoria when he enlisted on 18th July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3540 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr G. E. Emery, 35 Argyle Street, St. Kilda, Victoria.

As Harold Ernest Emery was under the age of 21 years, his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service abroad. "*We, the undersigned do agree to our son, Harold Ernest Emery joining the expeditionary force*". E. Emery (father) & P. Emery (mother) signed their consent on 26th July, 1915.

Private Harold Ernest Emery was posted to Depot at Albert Park, Victoria for recruit training. He was transferred to Reinforcements (unattached) on 17th September, 1915 then transferred to 11th Reinforcements of 8th Battalion on 7th October, 1915.

Private Harold Ernest Emery embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Nestor* (A71) on 11th October, 1915 with the 8th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements.

Private Harold Ernest Emery was taken on strength of 8th Battalion on 7th January, 1916 at Tel-el-Kebir.

Private Harold Ernest Emery was taken on strength of 60th Battalion from 8th Battalion on 24th February, 1916 (listed on Purport form but crossed out on Casualty Form – Active Service).

On 15th March, 1916 Private Harold Ernest Emery was transferred to 59th Battalion. He was taken on strength of 59th Battalion "C" Company at Tel-el-Kebir on 15th March, 1916.

Private Harold Ernest Emery embarked from Alexandria on Troopship *Kinfauns Castle* on 18th June, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 29th June, 1916.

Private Harold Ernest Emery was wounded in action in France on 19th July, 1916. He was admitted to No. 8 Casualty Clearing Station on 20th July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to shoulder then transferred to Ambulance Train on 21st July, 1916. Private Emery was admitted to 8th Stationary Hospital at Wimereux on 21st July, 1916 with GSW to right arm. He embarked for England from Boulogne, France on 23rd July, 1916 on Hospital Ship *St. Denis*.

59th Battalion

The 59th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 21 February 1916 as part of the expansion of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits came from the veteran 7th Battalion, and the other half were fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 7th, the 59th was predominantly composed of men from rural Victoria. The battalion became part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

On 19 July 1916, the 59th became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front, less than a month after it arrived in France. The battle of Fromelles was a disaster for the 59th. Attacking in the first wave, the 59th suffered heavy casualties at the hands of German machine-gunners, and its advance faltered far short of its objective. Despite grievous losses, the units of the 5th Division manned the front line around Fromelles for a further two months.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 59th Battalion

19th July, 1916

12 noon – Heavy bombardment of enemy lines. 60th Battn relieved half our front from PINNEY AVENUE inclusive.

7 pm – 59th Battn attacked enemy position in four waves. First wave going over parapet at 6.45 pm other three waves following at five minute intervals. Attack did not penetrate enemy trenches being held up by intense rifle and machine gun fire approximately 100 yards from enemy front line.

Casualties sustained in action of 19th/20th July, 1916

	<i>Officers</i>	<i>Other Ranks</i>
<i>Killed</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Wounded</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>381</i>
<i>Missing</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>269</i>
<i>Died of Wounds</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Totals</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>674</i>

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Harold Ernest Emery was admitted to H.M. Queen Mary's Royal Naval Hospital (affiliated to Chatham), South-end-on-Sea on 24th July, 1916. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Gunshot wd rt arm, Fract. Humerus. Gas gangrene, septicaemia. Death.*"

Private Harold Ernest Emery died at 5.25 pm on 28th July, 1916 at Military Hospital, Chatham, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. (gunshot wounds) to both arms. (The Field Service Army Form B. 2090A – Report of Death of a Soldier, Statement of Service form, Purport card & Casualty Form – Active Service all recorded that Private Emery died at Military Hospital, Chatham. The Morning State of Sick Army Form A27 for the Military Hospital at Chatham recorded that Private Emery died at H. M. Queen Mary's R. N. Hospital, Southend.)

A death for Harold E. Emery, aged 19, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Rochford, Essex, England.

Private Harold Ernest Emery was buried in Municipal Cemetery, Sultan Road, Southend – Grave No. 3492.

Mr G. E. Emery, 35 Argyle Street, St. Kilda, Victoria, was advised by Base Records on 6th March, 1917: *"With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your son, the late No. 3540 Private H. E. Emery, 59th (late 8th) Battalion, I am now in receipt of advice which shows that he died at Military Hospital Chatham England, on the 28th July 1916, of wounds received in action, and was buried in the Municipal Cemetery Sultan Road Southend, Grave No. 3492. These additional details are furnished by direction, it being the policy of the Department to forward all information received in connection with deaths of members of the Australian Imperial Force."*

Base Records wrote to Mr G. E. Emery, 35 Argyle Street, St. Kilda, Victoria on 19th August, 1919 with the following letter: *"With reference to my communication of the 6th March, 1917, regarding the burial of your son, the late No. 3540, Private H. E. Emery, 59th Battalion, I am now in receipt of advice from A.I.F. Headquarters, London, to the effect that the remains of your son have been exhumed from Common Grave No. 3492 and re-interred in Separate Single Grave No. 3439 in Sutton Road Cemetery, Southend-on-Sea, England. This work is carried out with the utmost care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain."*

Private Harold Ernest Emery's burial place is now listed by Commonwealth War Graves Commission as Sutton Road Cemetery, Southend-On-Sea, Essex, England – Plot number E. 3439 and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Harold Ernest Emery requested in his Will that in the event of his death all his property & effects be bequeathed to his mother – Mrs P. Emery, 35 Argyle St, St. Kilda.

The Industrial Department, The Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society Limited, Melbourne, wrote to Base Records on 19th August, 1916 requesting the official certificate of death of the late Private Harold Ernest Emery as he was assured by the Society.

Base Records replied to The Industrial Department, The Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society Limited, Melbourne on 29th August, 1916 advising that the necessary official documents covering the report of death of the late Private H. E. Emery had not yet been received by the department.

Base Records forwarded on 17th November, 1916 a certificate of report of death of the late Private H. E. Emery to The Industrial Department, The Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society Limited, Melbourne.

A War Pension was granted to Priscilla L. Emery. Argyle St, St. Kilda, mother of the late Private Harold Ernest Emery, in the sum of £1 per fortnight from 5th October, 1916.

Priscilla Emery, 35 Argyle St, St. Kilda, Melbourne, wrote to Base Records on 2nd May, 1918 with the following: *"I am in receipt of the photographs of grave of our son 3540 Pte Harold E, Emery, 59th Battalion which we are very pleased to get, there is one mistake which we would like rectified; it states that he died in 'Chatham Military Hospital' I think the error was made through the cable which reached us on August 5th 1916 it should have read 'Queen Marys' Royal Naval Hospital Southend-on-sea of which I have ample proof."*

Private Harold Ernest Emery was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Emery's father – Mr G. E. Emery, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

Advice for the change of address for Mr Emery, father of the late Private Harold Ernest Emery, was *"left at Counter"* on 3rd August, 1922 *"removed to 47 Weller Street, West Geelong, Victoria"*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Harold Ernest Emery – service number 3540, aged 19, of 59th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Edwin and Priscilla Louisa Emery, of 35 Argyle St., St. Kilda, Melbourne, Australia.

Private H. E. Emery is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 167.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(62 pages of Private Harold Ernest Emery'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

DEATHS

On Active Service

EMERY – On the 28th July, in Chatham Hospital (England), Private H. E. Emery, much loved third son of Mr and Mrs Emery, St. Kilda, aged 19 years.

Though only a lad, he fought for his side;
He gave his young life for a cause that was true,
Fighting for his country, for me and for you.

Our hero.

-Inserted by his aunt.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 8 August, 1916)

DIED ON SERVICE

EMERY – On the 28th July, in Chatham Military Hospital, England, Private Harold Ernest Emery, third son of Mr and Mrs Emery, of 35 Argyle street, St. Kilda, aged 19 years.

We little thought, dear Harold,
When you said your last good-bye
And God bless you,
We should never hear your loving voice again.

(Dearly loved, sadly missed, by father, mother and brothers)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 12 August, 1916)

DEATHS

On Active Service

EMERY – On the 28th July, in Chatham Military Hospital, England, Private Harold Ernest Emery, third son of Mr and Mrs Emery, of 35 Argyle street, St. Kilda, aged 19 years.

We little thought, dear Harold,
When you said your last good-bye-
And God bless you-
We should never hear your loving voice again.

Dearly loved, sadly missed.

-By father, mother and brothers.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 12 August, 1916)

756 CASUALTIES

IN 192ND LIST

Died, Cause Not Stated

Pte H. E. EMERY, St. Kilda, 28/7/16

(*The Bendigo Independent*, Victoria – 14 August, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

EMERY – In memory of Private Harold Ernest Emery, who died of wounds, July 28, 1916, sustained in the Battle of Pozieres, 59th Battalion, third beloved son of E. and P. Emery, Argyle street, St. Kilda.

He died, as he lived – for others.

-(Inserted by parents and brother).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 July, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

EMERY – In loving memory of dear Harold, late 59th Batt., who died on 28th July, 1916, of wounds received in the battle of Pozieres, son of Mr and Mrs Emery, of Argyle-street, St. Kilda, and brother of Ted, Will (returned), Norman and Cyril. Loved by all.

An English son, but an Australian soldier, who gave his young life that shirkers might live.

-Inserted by his aunt, E. Ball. Gembrook.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 27 July, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

EMERY – A tribute to the memory of my dear friend, Harold, died of wounds on the 28th July, 1916, aged 19 years.

-Inserted by Private F. R. Wilson (abroad).

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 July, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

EMERY – In loving memory of our dear Harold, who died of wounds on 28th July, 1916. A noble son.

For his county and those he loved.

-Inserted by his family, Argyle-street, St. Kilda.

EEMERY – In loving memory of the late Private Harold Ernest Emery, who died on the 28th July, 1916, of wounds received in the battle of Pozieres, 59th Battalion, much loved son of Mr and Mrs Emery, of Argyle-street, ST. Kilda, and brother of Ted, Will (returned), Norman and Cyril.

We never miss the sunshine till the shadows fall.

-Inserted by his aunt, E. Ball, Gembrook.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 28 July, 1919)

**Notices were also placed in 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923 & 1924

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 H. E. Emery has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone with the following inscription:

A Noble Son For His Country And Those He loved

Our Dear Lee

Sutton Road Cemetery, Southend-On-Sea, Essex, England

This cemetery contains 127 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war and 152 burials of the 1939-45 war, including 1 unidentified seaman of the Merchant Navy. In addition there are 4 Foreign National war burials here. There are 2 small Screen Wall memorial panels naming those of the 1914-1918 war whose graves are not marked by headstones.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photo from Find a Grave – Hawk Moth)



(Photo from CWGC)



Row of 7 Australian WW1 Headstones *(Photo courtesy of Geoffrey Gillon)*

Photo of Private H. E. Emery's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Sutton Road Cemetery, Southend-On-Sea, Essex, England.



(Photo courtesy of Geoffrey Gillon)

