

**Lodge Hill Cemetery,
Birmingham, West Midlands**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4418 PRIVATE

J. E. ETTRIDGE

28TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

1ST APRIL, 1917

John Edward ETTRIDGE

John Edward Ettridge was born at Streaky Bay, South Australia on 26th February, 1892 to parents Joseph & Evelyn Elizabeth Ettridge (nee Seaman).

Evelyn Elizabeth Ettridge, mother of John Edward Ettridge, died on 26th March, 1898 at Meckering, Western Australia, aged 28 years. She was buried in Meckering Pioneer Cemetery, Western Australia.

John Edward Ettridge attended School at Meckering, Western Australia.

Joseph Ettridge, father of John Edward Ettridge, died on 16th August, 1915 at Meckering, Western Australia. He was buried in Meckering Pioneer Cemetery, Western Australia.

The 1916 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Dampier, subdivision of Northam, Western Australia recorded John Edward Ettridge, Labourer from Meckering.

John Edward Ettridge was a 24 year old, single, Farmer from Northam, Western Australia when he enlisted at Blackboy Hill, Western Australia on 24th February, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4418 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Frederick Joseph Ettridge, Meckering, Western Australia. John Edward Ettridge's younger brother – Thomas William Ettridge enlisted the same day.

Private John Edward Ettridge was posted to 2 Area on 24th February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 11th Reinforcements of 28th Battalion on 14th March, 1916.

Private John Edward Ettridge embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Shropshire (A9)* on 31st March, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 28th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements.

Private John Edward Ettridge embarked from Alexandria on H.T. *Scotian* on 10th May, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 18th May, 1916.

Private John Edward Ettridge was sent sick to 26th General Hospital on 10th June, 1916 from No. 2 Divisional Base Depot. He was admitted to No. 26 General Hospital at Etaples, France the same day with Influenza. Private Ettridge was discharged to Base on 24th June, 1916.

Private John Edward Ettridge was taken on strength of 28th Battalion in France on 28th July, 1916 from Reinforcements.

Private John Edward Ettridge reported sick on 26th September, 1916. He was admitted to No. 12 Field Ambulance with Influenza then transferred to No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station. Private Ettridge was transferred to Ambulance Train on 28th September, 1916 & admitted to No. 30 General Hospital at Calais, France the same day – P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). He was transferred to Base Depot on 10th October, 1916. Private Ettridge was marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 11th October, 1916. He proceeded from 3rd A.D.B.D. on 28th October, 1916 to join his Unit & rejoined 28th Battalion in France on 30th October, 1916.

Private John Edward Ettridge was wounded in action in France on 2nd March, 1917. He was admitted to 5th Field Ambulance on 3rd March, 1917 with Shrapnel wounds to Head & Back then transferred the same day to 45th Casualty Clearing Station. Private Ettridge was transferred to Ambulance Train & admitted to No. 5 General Hospital at Rouen, France on 4th March, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to Head & Back. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Aberdonian* on 9th March, 1917. (The Purport form recorded he embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Grantully Castle* from Havre with GSW to right Hand).

28th Battalion

The 28th Battalion was raised at Blackboy Camp in Western Australia on 16 April 1915 from recruits previously earmarked for the 24th Battalion, which was instead being raised in Victoria.....

After another stint in Egypt, the 7th Brigade proceeded to France and the Western Front, as part of the 2nd Australian Division. The 28th Battalion took part in its first major battle at Pozieres between 28 July and 6 August 1916. After a spell in a quieter sector of the front in Belgium, the 2nd Division returned to the south in October, where the 28th Battalion took part in confused and costly fighting to the east of Flers, in the Somme Valley.

For many of the major battles of 1917 the 28th found itself in supporting roles. At the second battle of Bullecourt, the 28th provided reinforcements who were nonetheless involved in heavy fighting.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 28th Battalion

France – 2nd March, 1917:

3 am – B. Co and RAIDERS at 3 am attacked MALT TRENCH. The attack was stopped by the wire. Attackers were withdrawn and a Party under 2Lt Leaver worked into MALT TRENCH on left of 26th Battn and ___ down objective until 2Lt LEAVER was wounded. Lt KING and Lt ALLEN organised another party which went under Lt ALLEN and 2.30 pm gained objective taking prisoners 14 men of 67th Regiment and capturing 1 trench mortar and 1 electric signally apparatus.

2 to 5th March, 1917:

In the line

(Extract of War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private John Edward Ettridge was admitted to 1st Birmingham War Hospital, England & was reported to be dangerously ill on 11th March, 1917.

Private John Edward Ettridge ("D" Company, 28th Battalion) died at 5.10 pm on 1st April, 1917 at 1st Birmingham War Hospital, Birmingham, England from wounds received in action in France – to Head & Back.

A death for John E. Ettridge, aged 24, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Kings Norton, Worcestershire, England.

Private John Edward Ettridge was buried on 4th April, 1917 in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England – his name is remembered on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall B10. 467 as he does not have a headstone.

From the burial report of Private John Edward Ettridge - *Coffin was good. Private Funeral by Rev. Tibbetts, Frankley Rectory. "Made no remarks before dying."*

A Telegram from 1st Birmingham War Hospital to Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London stated his brother attended the Funeral.

The 5th Military District, Perth, Western Australia replied to Base Records on 22nd August, 1922 with the following letter regarding the late 4418 Private J. E. Ettridge, 28th Battalion: *"In reply to your memo of 2/8/22, please note that the parents of the abovenamed are deceased and the next of kin is the eldest brother, Mr J. F. Ettridge, of Meckering. W.A."*

Private John Edward Ettridge was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Ettridge's eldest brother – Mr F. J. Ettridge, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent September, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private J. E. Ettridge – service number 4418, of 28th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

J. Ettridge is remembered on the Meckering War Memorial, located at Gabbedy Place, Meckering, Western Australia.



(Photos courtesy of Gordon Stuart)



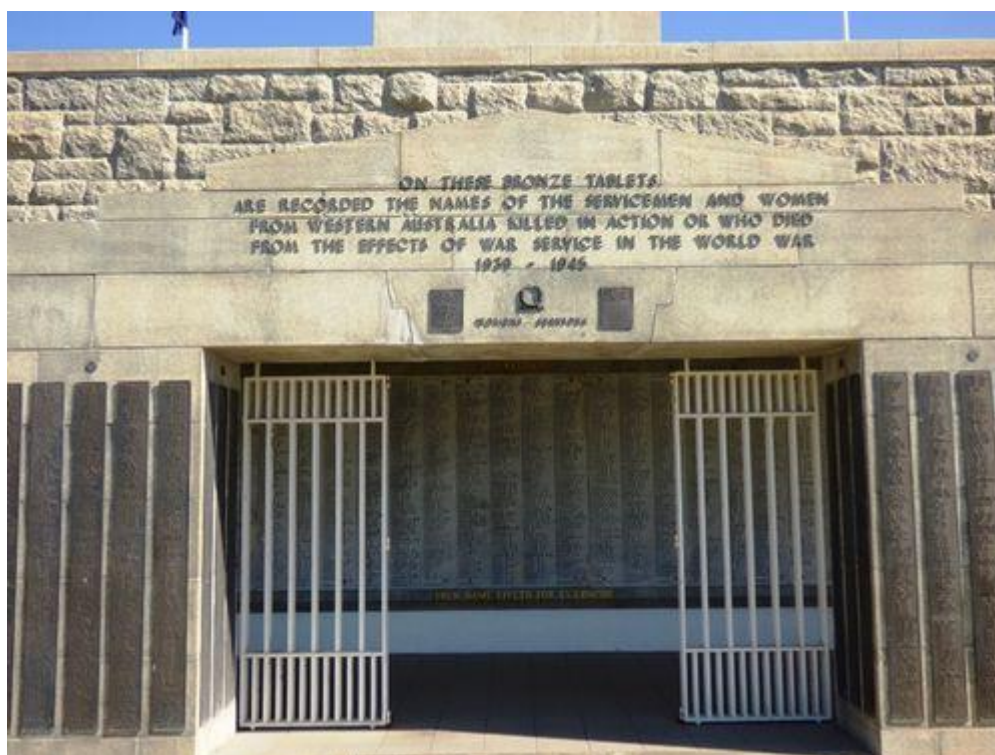
J. E. Ettridge is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



**Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)
& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names**

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)





28th Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

Private J. E. Ettridge is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 112.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(38 pages of Private John Edward Ettridge'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) & National Archives



PTE. JACK ETTRIDGE.

(Died of wounds. Son of the late
Mr. J. Ettridge, of Meckering.)

(Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 11 May, 1917)

Connected to Private John Edward Ettridge:

Younger brother – Thomas William Ettridge – Enlisted on 24th February, 1916. Embarked from Fremantle on 31st March, 1916 with 7th Infantry Brigade, 28th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements as Private 4417.

Returned to Australia 19th April, 1919.

Entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.

Newspaper Notices

THE CALL TO THE COLOURS

AND THE MEN WHO ARE ANSWERING

NORTHAM

Ettridge, J. E., Ettridge T.W.

(*Camp Chronicle*, Midland Junction, Western Australia – 2 March, 1916)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ROLL OF HONOUR

284th CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED

J. E. Ettridge (Meckering), and dangerously ill;

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Western Australia – 31 March, 1917)

THE TOLL OF WAR

AND ROLL OF HONOR

Died of Wounds

J. E. Ettridge, Meckering, previously reported wounded and dangerously ill;

(*The Sun*, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia – 22 April, 1917)

KILLED IN ACTION

ETTRIDGE – On April 1, at 1st Birmingham War Hospital, died of wounds received in France, Private John Edward Ettridge, 28th Battalion, dearly beloved second son of the late Joseph Ettridge, aged 25 years.

We mourn your loss, but your action

Sweet balm to your loved ones bring.

(*Western Mail*, Perth, Western Australia – 4 May, 1917)

War Casualties

Recently in our columns it was stated that Private T. Ettridge, late of Meckering, had died of wounds received in France. Such was not the case, as it was his brother, Private J. E. Ettridge, who succumbed to wounds whilst in hospital in England.

(The Northam Advertiser, Western Australia – 9 May, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

ETTRIDGE – In loving memory of our dear brother, Private John Edward, who died of wound in First Birmingham Hospital, England, on April 1, 1917.

To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, L. and J. Seaman, Meckering.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 1 April, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Anzac Heroes

ETTRIDGE – In loving memory of Private John Edward Ettridge who died in the 1st Birmingham War Hospital, England on April 1, 1917, from wounds received in France.

God knows how much we miss him,
sees the tears we shed;
He whispers, "Hush, he only sleeps,
Your loved one is not dead."

-Inserted by his loving sister, brother-in-law, L. and J. Seaman and family, Meckering.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 1 April, 1920)

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.

Base Records wrote to The Secretary, Imperial War Graves Commission, London on 2nd November, 1932 with the following: *"In connection with the publication of Birmingham (Lodge Hill) Cemetery Register your attention is invited to proof slip entry No. 133 referring to the late No. 4418 Private J. E. ETTRIDGE, 28th Battalion, and it is desired to point out that the deceased's initials have been omitted and should properly read as above. More particularly it is requested that the necessary action be taken to ensure the accuracy of the headstone inscription in this respect."*

Base Records also wrote to Mr F. J. Ettridge, Meckering, Western Australian on the same date to advise of the error of the proof slip entry & that the *"discrepancy is being brought to the notice of the Commission with a view to ensuring the accuracy of the headstone inscription. It is regretted, however, that it will not be practicable to similarly amend the Register entry at the late juncture as the printed copies have already been prepared for publication."*

Private John Edward Ettridge does not have CWGC headstone, his name is instead remembered on a CWGC Screen Wall as his grave was one that could not be individually marked with a headstone.

Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England

The First World War saw four important hospitals - besides many smaller - posted at Birmingham: the 1st Southern General (3,500 beds) was in the university and other buildings, with a section at Stourbridge; the 2nd/1st Southern General (1,800 beds) in the Dudley Road Infirmary and in billets; the 1st Birmingham War Hospital (1,000 beds) at Rubery Hill Asylum and the 2nd Birmingham War Hospital (900 beds) at Hollymoor Asylum. Military hospitals were at Birmingham again during the Second World War, including No 7 Canadian Hospital at Marston Green. Birmingham and Coventry were among the chief manufacturing areas producing materials for the war effort and were subjected to many devastating air raids during the Blitz of 1940-41.

BIRMINGHAM (LODGE HILL) CEMETERY contains 499 First World War burials, most of them in a war graves plot in Section B10. The names of those buried in the plot, or in graves elsewhere in the cemetery which could not be individually marked, are inscribed on a Screen Wall. Second World War burials number 125, most of them scattered throughout the cemetery, although there is a small plot in Section 2E. Birmingham Municipal Crematorium stands within the cemetery. In the chapel, there is a bronze plaque commemorating 48 servicemen of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there.

(Information from CWGC)

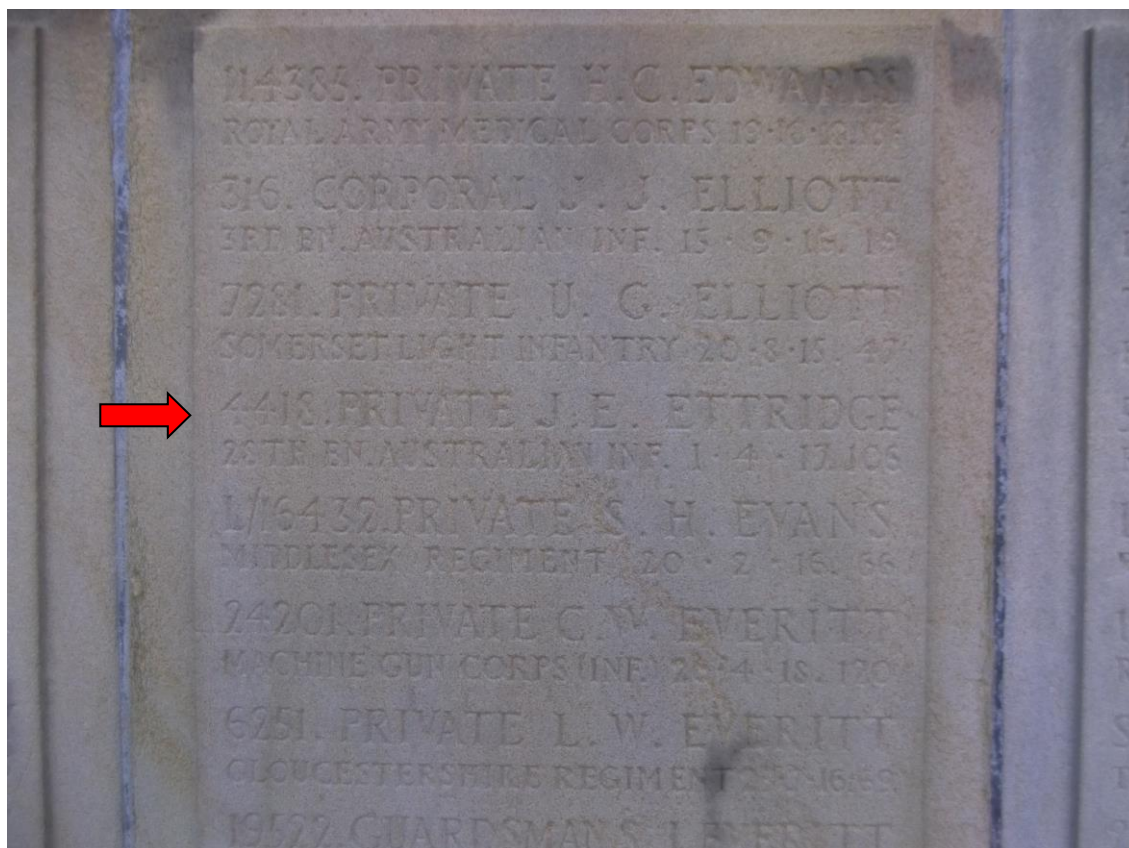


(Photo by Lepidus Magnus)



Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham *(Photos from CWGC)*

Photo of Private J. E. Ettridge's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission WW1 Screen Wall in Lodge Hill Cemetery, Birmingham, West Midlands, England.



(Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)



WW1 Screen Wall in Garden of Remembrance *(Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)*



WW2 Garden of Remembrance (Photo by Myra Mason – Find a Grave)

Lodge Hill Cemetery

