

**Old Fletton Cemetery,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



LIEUTENANT

W. H. FLOWERS

49TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

25TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 34

Walter Henry FLOWERS

Walter Henry Flowers was born at Hyde Park, Townsville, Queensland on 7th January, 1884 to William & Mercy Flowers.

Walter Henry Flowers attended West End State School, Townsville, Queensland.

Walter Henry Flowers married Edith Elsie Ruth Mundy on 11th February, 1909 in Queensland.

The 1909 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Herbert, subdivision of Townsville, Queensland listed Walter Henry Flowers, Clerk of Margaret Street along with his wife Edith Elsie Ruth Flowers, Housewife. Walter's parents – William Flowers, Labourer & Mercy Flowers, Nurse, were listed at Norman Street.

The 1912, 1913 & 1916 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Herbert, subdivision of Townsville, Queensland listed Walter Henry Flowers, Salesman of Margaret Street along with his wife Edith Elsie Ruth Flowers, Housewife. Walter's parents – William Flowers, Labourer & Mercy Flowers, Nurse were listed at Norman Street.

From the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* – 22 November, 1913:

1st Military District

2nd Infantry (Kennedy Regiment)

Lieutenant (provisional) WALTER HENRY FLOWERS, from the Senior Cadets, to be 2nd Lieutenant (provisionally). Dated 1st November, 1913.

Walter Henry Flowers was a 32 year old, married, Grocer from Townsville, Queensland when he signed up on 20th September, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Methodist & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Edith Elsie Ruth Flowers, care of Mrs K. Wall, "Warriston" Petrie Terrace, Red Hill, Brisbane, Queensland. Walter Flowers stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served with A.G.A., Townsville for about 5 years, Senior Cadets for about 12 months & 2 years with the 2nd Infantry Kennedy Battalion, Townsville.

Walter Henry Flowers was appointed 2nd Lieutenant with 3rd Reinforcements, 49th Battalion of Australian Imperial Force on 1st April, 1916.

2nd Lieutenant (Honorary Lieutenant) Walter Henry Flowers embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Clan McGillivray (A46)* on 1st May, 1916 (Casualty Form – Active Service state embarked Sydney 3rd May, 1916) with the 49th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements & disembarked at Egypt on 13th June, 1916.

2nd Lieutenant Walter Henry Flowers embarked overseas from Alexandria on 5th August, 1916 for B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) on *Megantic*.

2nd Lieutenant Walter Henry Flowers was marched in to Reinforcements Camp at Etaples on 16th October, 1916.

Edith Elsie Ruth Flowers, wife of Walter Henry Flowers, died on 24th October, 1916.

Death Notice from *Townsville Daily Bulletin* 26 October, 1916:

DEATHS

FLOWERS – Elsie, the beloved wife of Lieutenant W. H. Flowers, passed away on Tuesday last, in Brisbane. Deeply regretted.

Death Notice from *The Queenslander* 4 November, 1916:

DEATHS

FLOWERS – On October 24th, at Brisbane, Edith Elsie Ruth, beloved wife of W. H. Flowers and daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Mundy, of Townsville.

2nd Lieutenant Walter Henry Flowers was marched out from Reinforcements Camp on 26th October, 1916 to join 49th Battalion & taken on strength of 49th Battalion in France from Reinforcements on 29th October, 1916.

2nd Lieutenant Walter Henry Flowers was sent to Hospital – 1st Anzac M.D. Station on 6th December, 1916 & was discharged to duty on 11th December, 1916 & rejoined his Battalion from Hospital on the same day.

2nd Lieutenant Walter Henry Flowers was sent to School of Instruction on 13th January, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion on 9th February, 1917.

2nd Lieutenant Walter Henry Flowers was sent to Hospital on 14th February, 1917 & placed on Seconded List on 14th February, 1917. He was transferred to 45th Casualty Clearing Station on 16th February, 1917 then transferred by Ambulance Train No. 11 on 17th February, 1917. 2nd Lieutenant Flowers was admitted to 9th General Hospital at Etretat on 19th February, 1917 with Tachycardia. He was discharged to duty on 19th March, 1917.

2nd Lieutenant Walter Henry Flowers was marched in to 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 31st March, 1917. He was marched out to join 49th Battalion on 17th May, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion in the field on 17th May, 1917. 2nd Lieutenant Walter Henry Flowers resumed duty from Seconded List the same day.

2nd Lieutenant Walter Henry Flowers was promoted to Lieutenant on 14th June, 1917.

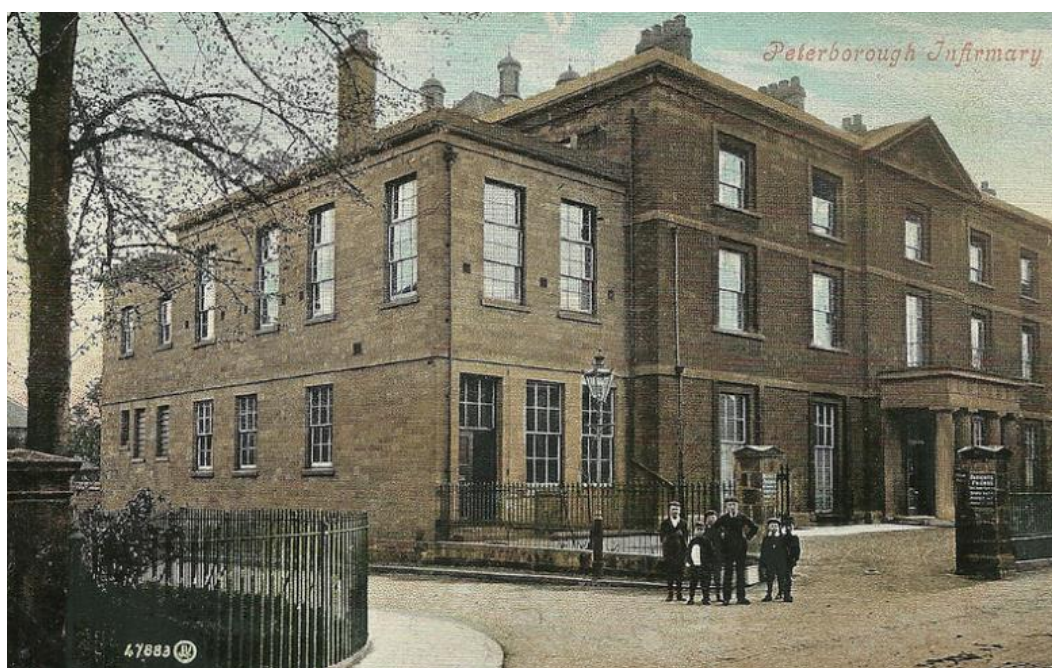
Lieutenant Walter Henry Flowers was on leave to England on 26th June, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion on 8th July, 1917.

Lieutenant Walter Henry Flowers was on leave to England on 29th October, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion on 11th November, 1917.

Lieutenant Walter Henry Flowers was detached to 4th Divisional Battalion on 17th January, 1918 & rejoined his Unit on 24th January, 1918.

Lieutenant Walter Henry Flowers was on leave to England on 28th February, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion on 16th March, 1918.

Lieutenant Walter Henry Flowers died on 25th October, 1918 at Peterborough Infirmary, England from Influenza & Bronchitis.



A death for Walter H. Flowers, aged 35, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Peterborough, (spanning counties of Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire), England. The informant was Mr E. Flowers, Uncle, of 71a Artesian Road, Bayswater, London.

49th Battalion

The 49th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 27 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 9th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 9th, the 49th was predominantly composed of men from Queensland. The battalion became part of the 13th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division.

Early in 1917, the battalion participated in the advance that followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, supporting the 13th Brigade's attack at Noreuil on 2 April. Later in the year, the focus of the AIF's operations moved to the Ypres sector in Belgium. There the battalion fought in the battle of Messines on 9 June and the battle of Polygon Wood on 26 September. Another winter of trench routine followed.

With the collapse of Russia in October 1917, a major German offensive on the Western Front was expected in early 1918. This occurred in France in late March and the 4th Division moved to defend positions around the Dernancourt on the River Ancre. The 49th Battalion assisted in the repulse of a large German attack on 5 April, launching a critical counter-attack late in the afternoon. The German threat remained until late April, when Australian troops of the 13th and 15th Brigades carried out a successful counter-attack and dislodged the enemy from Villers-Bretonneux. The 49th was held in reserve during the assault.

When the Allies launched their own offensive in early August, the 49th Battalion was among the units involved and played an active role until the middle of that month, before moving to duties in the rear area. The battalion was ordered forward for its last major operation of the war in September and provided part of the 4th Division's reserve for the attack on the Hindenburg "outpost line" on the 18th.

(Extract of Battalion information from The Australian War Memorial)

Lieutenant Walter Henry Flowers was buried on 30th October, 1918 in Old Fletton Cemetery, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, England – Plot number NC. 423 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Lieutenant W. H. Flowers - *Coffin was Oak with brass fittings. The deceased Officer was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent from – Aunt - Mrs Washbourne, Mrs Tee and family, Cousins- Mr and Mrs Coggan and his brother officers. A very large party were in attendance and the Last Post was sounded at the graveside. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of Relatives & Friends present at the Funeral – Uncle – Mr E. Flowers; Aunts – Mrs Webb & Mrs Washbourne; Cousin – Mrs Johnson and many friends.

Newspaper Article on Funeral - *Townsville Daily Bulletin*, Queensland – 14 January, 1919:

AUSTRALIAN OFFICER'S FUNERAL

Lieut. Walter Henry Flowers, Australian Imperial Force, a nephew of Mrs Groves, Fletton Avenue, Peterborough, who died in Peterborough infirmary from Pneumonia following influenza, was buried with full military honors in old Fletton cemetery on Wednesday afternoon. Lieut. Flowers, (says a Fletton paper) was a native of Queensland, Australia. He was stationed at Northampton, and when on leave was in the habit of visiting his aunt Mrs Groves. A week last Wednesday he went to see her, intending to leave the following day, but he had a slight cold which developed into influenza, and consequently he was unable to travel. On the Thursday following he was removed to Peterborough Infirmary where he unfortunately passed away the next morning. He was 35 years of age. The deceased had been in France two years, and seen very much active service during that period and quite recently had been awarded military honours, including the Military Medal. The funeral service the first part of which was held in the Cemetery Chapel was conducted by the Rev. R.C. Frew, military chaplain. There were many sympathisers present. The chief were Mr E. Flowers (uncle), Mrs Webb (Aunt), Mrs Washbourne (Aunt), Mrs Clarke (Cousin), Mrs Johnson (Cousin), Mrs Tee and Mr and Mrs R.R. Coggan. Amongst those following were Capt. G. D. Coleman (O.C. troops at Peterborough) Lieut. J. M. Woodthorpe, Lieut. A. W. Keeble, Lieut. J. T. Dickinson (commanding Fletton Platoon of the Hunts, Volunteers), Corporal Edmondson (representing Australian Headquarters), C.S.M. Vittery

(musketry instructor to the 1st Hunts Volunteers Regt.). The firing party was provided by the Hunts, Volunteers, under Sergt. Major Gibson R.D.C and the following N.C.O.'s were present Sergt. Medlock, Sergt. Briddell, Corporals Hawkins, Rowells and Petts. The "Last Post" was sounded by Bugler Munson of the R.D.C. The coffin bore the inscription "Lieut. Henry Walter Flowers, 49th Battalion, A.I.F. 1918 aged 34 years." The floral tributes bore cards as follows:- "With dearest love from Auntie Groves and Auntie Washbourne" With four fond love to our dear nephew from Aunt Eliza and Uncle Will." In tender memory of our dear Wal from Merci, Walter and Mona. "With Nancy's love." "In loving memory of a dear one from Rose and Bert." "With deepest sympathy from his brother officers." "In remembrance from Mr and Mrs Coggan." "In loving memory of dear Walter from Mr and Mrs Tee and family." 197 Lincoln-street Peterborough.

2/Lieutenant Walter Henry Flowers requested in his Will, located in his Pay Book, dated 19th April, 1917 that in the event of his death the whole of his property and effects be left to his mother – Mrs Mercy Flowers, Norman Street, Ashton Estate, West End, Townsville, Queensland.

Base Records contacted Mrs Mercy Flowers, mother of the late Lieutenant Walter Henry Flowers, asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself 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. Mrs Flowers replied stating that her son's wife – Elsie Flowers had died on 24th October, 1916 & her son's father – William Flowers had died on 6th November, 1920 at Althorpe, Northamptonshire, England.

Lieutenant Walter Henry Flowers was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lieutenant Flowers' mother – Mrs Mercy Flowers /Richardson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent February, 1922 & Plaque sent December, 1922). (Mercy Flowers married Edward Tuff Richardson in 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lieutenant Walter Henry Flowers, aged 34, of 49th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of William and Mercy Flowers, of Norman St., Aston Estate, Townsville, Queensland.

Lieutenant W. H. Flowers is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 148.

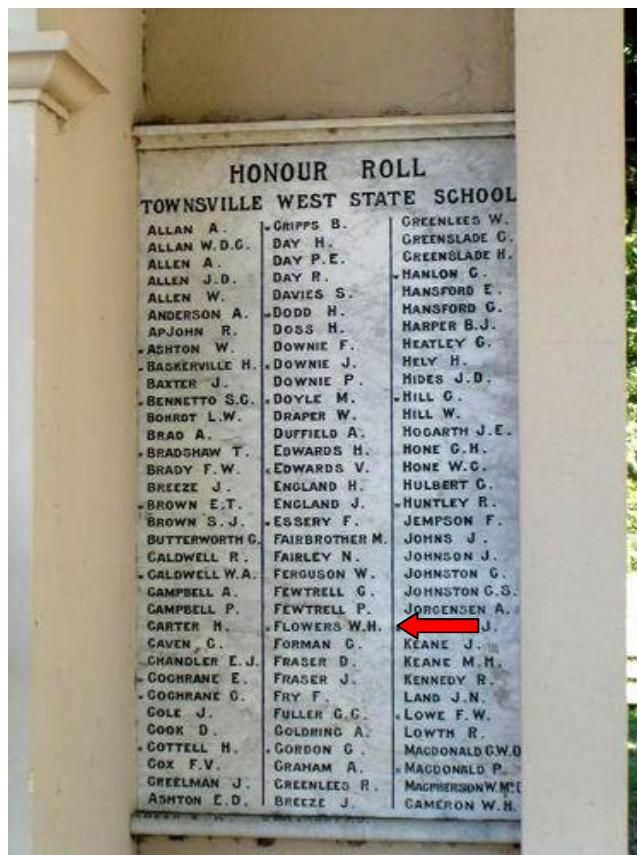


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. H. Flowers is remembered on the Soldiers Memorial Gate of Honour at the Townsville West State School (West End State School), 29 Ingham Road, Townsville, Queensland.



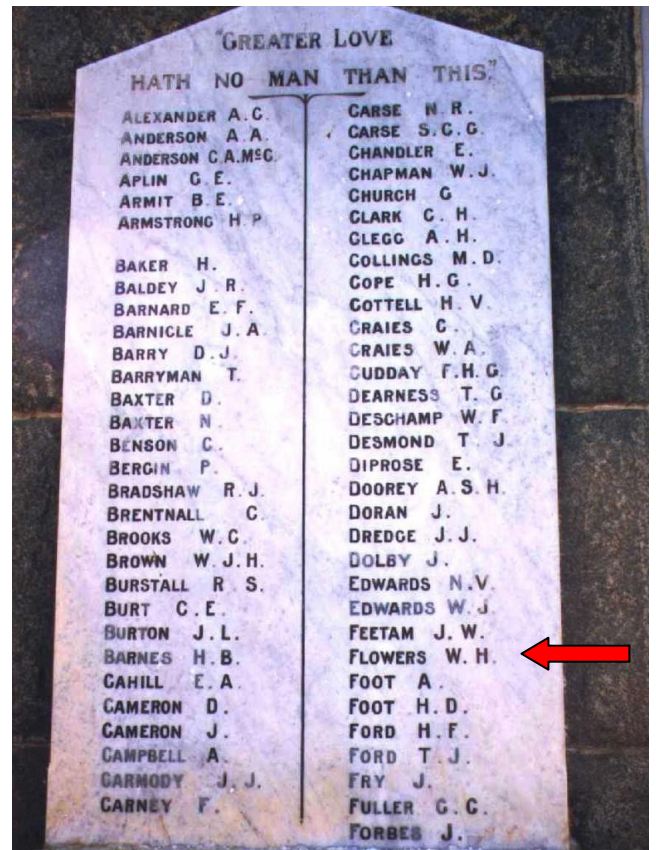
Soldiers Memorial Gate of Honour, Townsville (Photos from Monument Australia – Diane Watson)



W. H. Flowers is remembered on the Townsville War Memorial, located in Anzac Memorial Park, The Strand, Townsville, Queensland.



Townsville War Memorial (Photos from Queensland War Memorial Register – Shirley & Trevor McIvor)



Fourth Avenue, Railway Estate, Townsville was renamed in 1926 as Flowers Street in memory of Walter Henry Flowers who died at Peterborough, England on 25th October 1918.

(58 pages of Lieutenant Walter Henry Flowers' 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

THE GREAT WAR

Mrs Flowers has received two letters from her son, Lieutenant W. H. Flowers, who was in Egypt when writing, and is quite well. He had seen his friend, Willie Smith, had a talk with him, and they are expecting to go to England.

(Townsville Daily Bulletin, Queensland – 21 September, 1916)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

CASUALTY LIST No. 278

QUEENSLAND

ILL

2nd Lieut. W. H. Flowers, West End.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 10 March, 1917)

TOWNSVILLE WEST STATE SCHOOL

Second Honor Board Unveiled

A large number of adults assembled at the Townsville West State School Tuesday afternoon April 24 to do honor to the past pupils who have gone to the front. The occasion was the unveiling of the school honor board No. 2 and the planting of an Anzac tree.

..... The names on the school honor boards are as follows:-

Honor Board No. 2 - Benjamin John Harper, **Walter Henry Flowers**, Edward George Murray, Henry Cater, Arthur Mathews, Victor Welsh, J. Douglas Allen, William Allen, Samuel John Brown, William Steel, George Stanley Johnson, Charles Murphy, Robert McNeill.

(Townsville Daily Bulletin, Queensland – 4 May, 1917)

CASUALTIES

THE 448th AND 449th LISTS

DIED OTHER CAUSES

Lieut. W. H. Flowers, Townsville, 25/10/18 (illness, prev. rep. ill)

(Daily Standard, Queensland – 30 November, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

FLOWERS – In fond memory of dear Walter, Lieut. W. H. Flowers, who died October 25th, 1918.

Rest, dearest Walter, gently rest,

Th_____you most who loved you best.

Inserted by ____ and E. Milburn.

(Townsville Daily Bulletin, Queensland – 25 October, 1921)

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)

Lieutenant W. H. Flowers does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Old Fletton Cemetery, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, England

Old Fletton Cemetery, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire contains 10 Commonwealth War Graves – 3 from World War 1 & 7 from World War 2.



(Photo by julia&keld)

Photo of Lieutenant W. H. Flowers' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Old Fletton Cemetery, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



CWGC Headstone with fallen Private Headstone for Lieutenant W. H. Flowers & his wife Elsie Flowers

(Photo taken 2015 julia&keld)



Original Grave marker for Lieutenant Walter Henry Flowers