

**All Saints Churchyard Extension,  
Orpington, Kent, England  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**4797 PRIVATE**

**W. E. GEORGE**

**58TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**12TH AUGUST, 1916 Age 22**

*Duty Nobly Done*

## William Eden GEORGE

William Eden George (junior) was born at Carlton, Victoria in 1893 to parents William Eden George & Ellen George (nee Duggan).

William Eden George was educated at Christian Brothers, North Melbourne, Victoria.

Ellen George, mother of William Eden George, junior, died on 20th April, 1914

The 1916 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Maribyrnong, subdivision of Moonee Ponds, Victoria recorded William Eden George, junior, Painter from 47th Athol Street, Moonee Ponds. His father William Eden George, Railway employee was listed at the same address.

William Eden George was a 22 year old, single, Painter from 47 Athol Street, Moonee Ponds, Victoria when he enlisted on 4th October, 1915 in Melbourne, Victoria with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4797 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr W. E. George, 47 Athol Street, Moonee Ponds, Victoria.

Private William Eden George was posted to 24th Depot at Royal Park on 4th October, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 16th Depot Battalion at Bendigo on 3rd December, 1915 then transferred to 15th Reinforcements of 7th Battalion at Broadmeadows on 12th January, 1916. Private George was transferred on 8th February, 1916 to 15th Reinforcements of 6th Battalion at Broadmeadows.

Private William Eden George embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Wiltshire (A18)* on 7th March, 1916 with the 6th Infantry Battalion, 15th Reinforcements.

### 6th Battalion

The 6th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 7th and 8th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade...

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private William Eden George was transferred to 58th Battalion on 20th April, 1916 while at Tel-el-Kebir. He was taken on strength of 58th Battalion on 20th April, 1916 from 2nd Training Battalion at Ferry Post.

Private William Eden George embarked from Alexandria on 17th June, 1916 on *Transylvania* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 23rd June, 1916.

Private William Eden George was wounded in action in France on 19th July, 1916. He was admitted to No. 8 Casualty Clearing Station on 20th July, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to hip & hand. He was transferred to Ambulance Train on 22nd July, 1916 & was admitted to 3rs Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 22nd July, 1916 with multiple shrapnel wounds. Private George embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St David* on 24th July, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to foot.

### 58th Battalion

The 58th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 17 February 1916 as part of the expansion of the AIF. Roughly half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 6th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 6th, the 58th was predominantly composed of men from Victoria. The battalion became part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

Having only arrived in France on 23 June, the 58th became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front at Fromelles on 19 July. The battle was a disaster. The 58th had the dual role of providing carrying parties and a reserve force. The reserve force (approximately half of the battalion) was ordered to attack late in the battle and was virtually annihilated by machine-gun fire; as a whole, the 58th suffered casualties equal to almost a third of its

strength. Despite the grievous losses in its battalions, the 5th Division continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months.....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

War Diary – 58th Battalion

19th July, 1917 – In the Field

(year as listed on page 9 of 20 of War Diary. Page 10 - a continuation of page 9 had correct date of “19.7.16”)

Major Denchy(?) of 57th Bn took over command vice Lt. Col Jackson who went to rest home. Bn marched out at 2.15 pm from Billets. 1 man killed & 2 wounded by shell fire near Windy Post. One Platoon of A Co. under 2Lt Godfrey left at Rifle Villa to police roads & communication trenches. C & D march into trenches occupied by 59th Bn with instructions as to carrying across ammunition & D detailed to dig communication across No Mans Land when attack launched. A less platoon under 2Lt Godfrey & B more \_\_\_ 300 yd line. C & D commenced duties when attack launched. At 9.30 A & B ordered to proceed to \_\_\_ trenches & change in support of 59th & 60th held up in front of enemys \_\_\_. A & B move across open ground to \_\_\_ trenches & charge at 10 pm. Heavy losses. Neither Company reaches enemy stenches. Remnants crawl back throughout night. 57th Bn move up to \_\_\_ trenches & man the \_\_\_ with the remainder of our men. Heavy shelling by enemy during night. Unable to evacuate dead or wounded owing to P\_\_\_ys (?) \_\_\_ \_\_\_ being blocked.

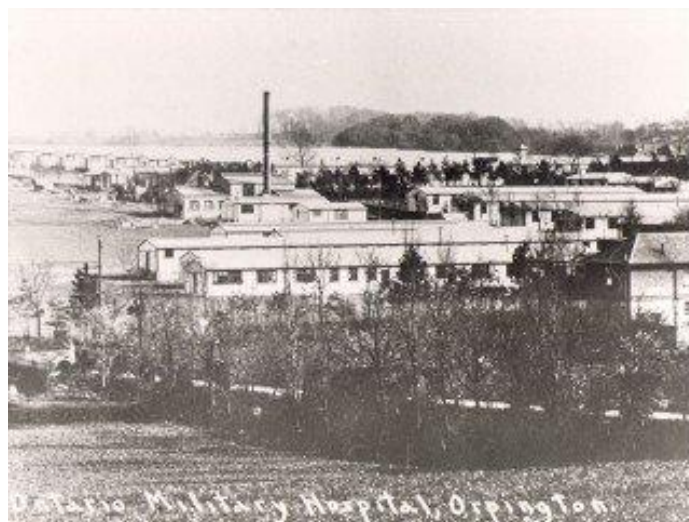
Casualties	Officers	Killed	Wded	Missing
		-	6	4
	Other ranks	27	161	49

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

Private William Eden George was admitted to Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, Kent, England on 25th July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wounds) to right foot & left hip.

Base Records advised Mr W. E. George, 47 Athol Street, Moonee Ponds, Victoria, father of Private W. E. George, on 9th August, 1916 advising that Private W. E. George was seriously ill suffering from gunshot wound to hip & foot.

Private William Eden George died at 2.30 am on 12th August, 1916 at Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, Kent, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. Right foot, left hip & left thumb. The Hospital Admissions form recorded that he died of Sepsis.



**Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington**

A death for William E. George, aged 22, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Bromley, Kent, England.

Private William Eden George was buried in Orpington Churchyard Grave No. 2 Row A.

Base Records wrote to Mr W. E. George, 47 Athol Street, Moonee Ponds, Victoria, on 16th April, 1920: *“With reference to my communication of 14th August, 1917, regarding the regrettable loss of your son, the late No 4797 Private W. E. George, 58th Battalion, I am now in receipt of further advice which shows that his remains have been exhumed from former site, and re-interred in Grave No.8. Section “H”, Orpington Cemetery, Orpington. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain. The utmost care and attention is being devoted to the graves of our fallen soldiers, and photographs are being taken as soon as possible for transmission to next-of-kin.”*

This is now recorded by CWGC as All Saints Churchyard Extension, Orpington, Kent, England – Plot number H. 10 and now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Base Records advised Mr W. E. George, 47 Athol Street, Moonee Ponds, Victoria, father of Private W. E. George, on 19th August, 1916 advising that Private W. E. George was dangerously ill.

Cole & O’Heare, Barristers & Solicitors, Bourke & Queens Streets, Melbourne, wrote to Base Records on 5th December, 1916 stating they were acting for Mr William Eden George, father of Private William Eden George No 4797 58th Battalion & requested an official certificate of death. They advised that Private George had left a Will dated 24th January, 1916 where Mr W. E. George was sole executor & sole beneficiary.

Base Records replied to Messrs Cole & O’Heare on 8th December, 1916, enclosing a certificate of report of death of the late No. 4797 Private W. E. George, 58th (late 6th) Battalion.

Private William Eden George was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private George’s father – Mr W. E. George, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Eden George – service number 4797, aged 22, of 58th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William Eden George, of 47 Athol St., Moonee Ponds, Victoria, and the late Ellen George.

Private W. E. George is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 165.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(43 pages of Private William Eden George'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**

### **Wounded Soldiers**

Mr W. E. George, of 47 Athol st., Moonee Ponds, has received intimation from Defence Department that his son, Private W. E. George, is seriously ill, suffering from gunshot wounds in hip and foot. The locality of the action is not stated.

*(The Essendon Gazette and Keilor, Bulla and Broadmeadows Reporter, Moonee Ponds, Victoria – 17 August, 1916)*

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*(Flemington Spectator, Victoria – 17 August, 1916)*

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Mr W. Eden George, of 47 Athol street, has been notified by Defence Department that his son, Private W. E. George, aged 22 years, died of wounds received in France. His death occurred on August 12th at Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, Kent, England

*(The Essendon Gazette and Keilor, Bulla and Broadmeadows Reporter, Moonee Ponds, Victoria – 31 August, 1916)*

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## **TOLL OF WAR**

### **203RD LIST**

#### **KILLED IN ACTION**

Pte W. E. George, Moonee Ponds

*(The Evening Echo, Ballarat, Victoria – 31 August, 1916)*

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## **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

### **WOUNDED AND SERIOUSLY ILL**

#### **VICTORIA**

Pte W. E. GEORGE, Moonee Ponds

*(The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria – 2 September, 1916)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

WOTHERSPOON – GEORGE – In fond remembrance of Bdr Will Wotherspoon, killed in action, 14th August, 1917; also Private W. E. George, died of wounds, 12th August, 1916, friends of Gnr. Norm Lukey (on active service)

Duty nobly done.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 14 August, 1918)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

GEORGE – In loving memory of William Eden, younger son of William Eden and late Ellen George, 47 Athol street, Moonee Ponds; brother of Percy, Edie and Irene, wounded 19th July, 1916, Fleurbaix (58th Battalion), died 12th August, 1916, Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, Kent, England.

For King and country

-Inserted by dad and sisters

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 12 August, 1919)

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### 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 W. E. George has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone with the following inscription:

*Duty Nobly Done*

## All Saints Churchyard Extension, Orpington, Kent, England

During the First World War, the Ontario Hospital was at Orpington from February 1916 to September 1917, when it became No 16 Canadian General Hospital. The hospital closed in September 1919. The hospital made a number of burials in a section of the extension to Orpington (All Saints) Churchyard, which was for many years known as Ontario Cemetery. This Extension contains 116 burials, 88 of which are Canadian. The extension as a whole contains 129 First World War burials and another 14 from the Second World War. The Commission also cares for 70 non-war service graves in the extension.

*(Information from CWGC)*



**All Saints Churchyard (left) & Extension (right), Orpington** *(Google Street view)*



**All Saints Churchyard Extension, Orpington** *(Photo from Find a Grave – Mark Hornsby)*



*(Photos from CWGC)*





Photo of Private W. E. George's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in All Saints Churchyard Extension, Orpington, Kent, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright)*



*(Photo from Find a Grave – PEH 2010)*