

**Tidworth Military Cemetery,
Tidworth, Wiltshire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2769 PRIVATE

F. G. GUSTER

50TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

16TH APRIL, 1917 Age 19

So Dearly Loved

So Sadly Missed

Frank George GUSTER

Frank George Guster was born at Hyde Park, South Australia on 12th December, 1898 to parents Walter Isaac & Mary Ann Guster (nee Muggleton).

Walter Isaac Guster, father of Frank George Guster, died at Parkside, South Australia on 9th August, 1908.

Mary Ann Guster, mother of Frank George Guster, died at Walkerville, South Australia on 1st June, 1910.

Frank George Guster was an 18 year old, single, Labourer from Walkerville, South Australia when he enlisted at Adelaide, South Australia on 1st September, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his sister – Miss Phylis Irene Guster, King Street, Alberton, South Australia. Frank Guster stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served with Senior Cadets for 4 years then transferred to Citizen Forces. He also stated that he had previously been rejected from serving in His Majesty's Service as he was medically unfit.

Private Frank George Guster was posted to "E" Company, 2nd Depot Battalion on 1st September, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 50th Battalion on 26th September, 1916 at Mitcham.

Private Frank George Guster, Service number 2769, embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Port Melbourne (A16)* on 23rd October, 1916 with the 50th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements. He was admitted to Ship's Hospital while at Sea on 3rd December, 1916 & was discharged on 7th December, 1916. Private Guster disembarked at Devonport, England on 28th December, 1916. (Note: As per Embarkation Roll, however a Statement of Service form recorded he had embarked from Fremantle (Western Australia) on 23rd October, 1916. Another Statement of Service form had "Fremantle" crossed out & replaced with "Adelaide.")

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 Frank George Guster was admitted sick to Camp Hospital on 2nd January, 1917 from 13th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire, England. He was transferred from Camp Hospital on 28th January, 1917 to Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire & was discharged to Depot on 2nd March, 1917.

Private Frank George Guster was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 3rd March, 1917 & classified as Unfit. He reported sick to Brigade Hospital on 5th March, 1917 with Bronchitis. The Hospital Admissions form recorded that Private Guster was admitted to Brigade Camp Hospital, A.I.F. at Perham Down, Wiltshire on 4th March, 1917 with Bronchitis. The form recorded he was transferred to General Hospital at Tidworth. The Military Hospital, Tidworth recorded that Private Guster was admitted on 9th March, 1917 with Bronchitis. He was listed from 21st March, 1917 as suffering from Tubercle of Lung.

A Medical Report was completed on Private Frank George Guster on 17th March, 1917 at Military Hospital, Tidworth. His disability was listed as Tubercle of Lung which had originated in January, 1917 in England. "*Had only occasional "colds" previous to January, 1916 when he had attacks of Bronchitis. Admitted hospital 12th Jan 1917 sent to convalescent camp beginning of March. Admitted Military Hospital Tidworth 9.3.17. Sputum found positive to T.B. and he began to have haemoptysis.*" Private Guster's condition was due to exposure while on active service. His present condition was recorded as "*Confined to bed. Very weak, pale and emaciated. Haemoptysis is still slightly present. He has marked involvement of apices of both lungs and the left lung is fairly extensively involved. T.B. present in sputum. Temp swings between 100/102 – 103 evening. Pulse 116 Resps 32.*" The Officer in charge of the Medical Case recommended that Private Guster be discharged as permanently unfit. The Medical Board agreed on 20th March, 1917.

50th Battalion

The 50th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 26 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits were veterans from the 10th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 10th, the 50th was predominantly composed of men from South Australia. The

battalion became part of the 13th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division and was dubbed "Hurcombe's Hungry Half Hundred", after its first CO, Lieutenant Colonel Frederick Hurcombe.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Base Records wrote to Miss P Guster, King Street, Alberton, South Australia on 20th March, 1917 advising that No. 2769 Private F. G. Guster had been admitted to Edmonton Military Hospital on 2nd March, 1917 suffering from Phthisis.

Communications addressed to Miss P. Guster, King Street, Alberton, South Australia in March, 1917 were returned.

Base Records wrote to 4th Military District, Adelaide, South Australia requesting the name & latest address for the next of kin of No. 2769 Private F. G. Guster, 50th Battalion "as previous correspondence from this office has been returned unclaimed. The matter is urgent as it is desired to transmit a later casualty report concerning this man."

The 4th Military District replied to Base Records on 12th April, 1917 advising that the records of No. 2769 Private F. G. Guster show next-of-kin as Miss P, Guster, King Street, Alberton, S.A. "The above soldier left an allotment of Pay to Aunt- Mrs Elsie May Muggleton, Walkerville Terrace, Walkerville, S.A."

Base Records wrote to Mrs E. M. Muggleton, Walkerville Terrace, Walkerville on 14th April, 1917 advising that information had "...been received by cable stating that No. 2769 Private F. G. Guster, 50th Battalion, was admitted on 2.3.17 to the Edmonton Military Hospital, suffering from phthisis. Next-of-kin to this soldier is shown on his attestation sheet as sister, Miss P, Guster, King Steet, Alberton, S.A. but communications so addressed have been returned unclaimed, and in order that she may be informed of the above report, I should be glad if you could furnish this office with her correct postal address."

Miss E. M. Muggleton, Walkerville Terrace, Walkerville replied to Base Records on 17th April : "Frank and Phyllis Guster have no father or mother. Frank lived with his Grandmother Mrs Muggleton, Walkerville and Phyllis lives with Aunt Mrs Jacquier her mother's sister and I am not Mrs E. M. Muggleton but Miss."

Private Frank George Guster died at 3.45 pm on 16th April, 1917 at Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from Tubercle of Lung.

A death for Frank G. Guster, aged 19, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Andover, Hampshire/Wiltshire, England. (According to information provided by his sister for the Roll of Honour – Frank George Guster was 18 years & 4 months at the time of his death).

Private Frank George Guster was buried on 20th April, 1917 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 326 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

From the burial report of Private Frank George Guster - Coffin was imitation Walnut. Brass mounted with name plate engraved. Military funeral by Church of England Military Chaplain at Perham Downs.

A War Pension was granted to Phyllis Irene Guster, King St., Alberton, sister of the late Frank George Guster, 2769, 50th Battalion in the sum of 10/- per fortnight from 5th July, 1917.

Miss E. Muggleton, Walkerville Terrace, Walkerville wrote to Base Records on 19th November, 1917 requesting a "...certificate of death of the late Private Frank George Guster as the Secretary of the Lodge asked me for one..."

Base Records replied to Miss E. Muggleton on 23rd November, 1917, enclosing as requested a certificate of report of death of the late No. 2769 Private F. G. Guster, 50th Battalion.

Base Records contacted Miss P. Guster, c/o Mrs E. Jacquier, King St., Alberton, South Australia on 3rd May, 1921 stating she was registered on the records of the late No. 2769 Private F. C. Guster, 50th Battalion but were enquiring if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & was specifically asked if she had any brothers or any older

sisters 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.

Phyllis Guster, King St, Alberton replied to Base Records on 6th May, 1921 advising that she was “... *the only surviving relative we have no brothers or sisters. I am the nearest blood relative.*”

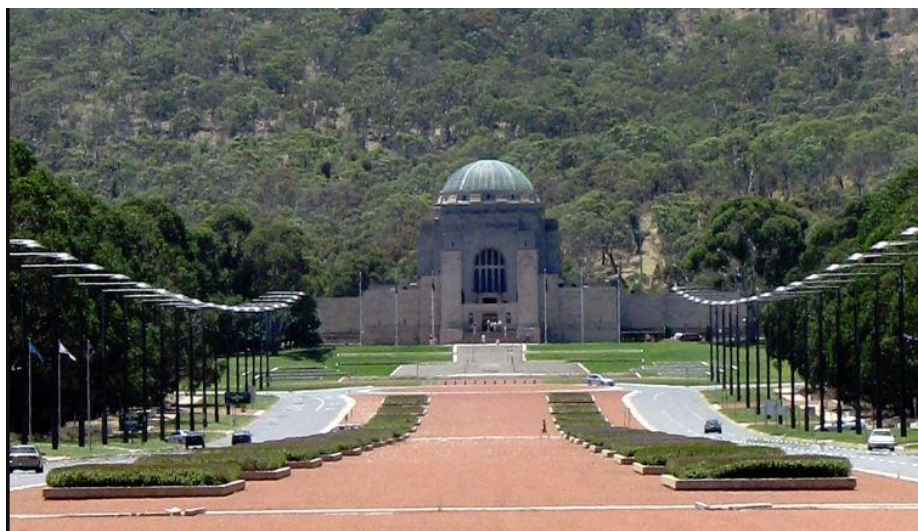
Private Frank George Guster was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Guster’s sister - Miss P. Guster, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent March, 1923 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Frank George Guster – service number 2769, aged 19, of Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Walter Isaac & Mary Ann Guster, of Hyde Park, South Australia.

Private F. G. Guster is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 150.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



Frank Guster is remembered on the St. Andrews Church Honour Roll, located in St. Andrew's Anglican Church, 43 Church Terrace, Walkerville, South Australia.



St. Andrews Church Honour Roll, Walkerville (Photo from Monument Australia – Paul Scott)

Frank Guster is remembered on the Fallen Men of the Parish Plaque, located in St. Andrew's Anglican Church, 43 Church Terrace, Walkerville, South Australia.



Walkerville Fallen Men of the Parish Plaque (Photo from Monument Australia – Paul Scott)

F. G. Guster is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial 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)

Frank George Guster is remembered on the Soldiers' Memorial Swimming Reserve Roll of Honour plaque, located in the Reserve at Severn Street, Gilberton, South Australia.

The reserve commemorates fifty-four soldiers from Gilberton, Medindie and Walkerville who died in service or were killed in action in World War One. The reserve was developed in 1920 by the Gilberton Amateur Swimming Club.

The granite memorial was erected and unveiled in the reserve on the 24th February 2017 and lists the names of those who lost their lives. Funding for the memorial was received through the ANZAC Centenary Grants Program in 2016 -2017.



Soldiers' Memorial Swimming Reserve Roll of Honour, Gilberton

(Photos from Monument Australia – Stephen Warren)

(76 pages of Private Frank George Guster'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



Newspaper Notices

ANSWERING THE CALL

LATEST ENROLMENTS

At the Recruiting Depot yesterday 58 men offered their services. Twenty-seven were accepted, 23 deferred, and eight rejected.

The names and addresses of the men who went into camp yesterday, are as follow:-

.....

F. G. Guster, laborer, Walkerville

.....

(Daily Herald, Adelaide, South Australia – 2 September, 1916)

THE AUSTRALIANS

283rd CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ILL

2769 – Pte F. G. GUSTER, Alberton

(The Journal, Adelaide, South Australia – 29 March, 1917) & (The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 30 March, 1917)

WALKERVILLE DISTRICT COUNCIL

April 30 – Present, Councillors Shepherd (chairman), Bickle, Bungey, Crase, Colquhoun, Hobba, Muescke and Wimble. Letters of condolence were ordered to be sent to parents of the late Private F. G. Guster, late of Walkerville, and the late Private Winner, of Gilberton, those soldiers having lost their lives on active service abroad....

(Daily Herald, Adelaide, South Australia – 7 May, 1917)

THE AUSTRALIANS

294th CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DIED OF ILLNESS

2769 – Pte F. G. GUSTER, Alberton (April 16)

(Observer, Adelaide, South Australia – 12 May, 1917)

OUR FALLEN HEROES

The following further deaths of South Australian soldiers serving with the A.I.F. are reported:-F. G. Guster, Alberton (April 16);.....

(Southern Cross, Adelaide, South Australia – 18 May, 1917)

RETURN THANKS

MRS MUGGLETON and FAMILY, of Walkerville, wish to THANK all kind friends for letters, cards, and personal expressions of sympathy, also the District Council of Walkerville, brothers of the Foresters Lodge in the sad loss of their grandson and nephew, Frank George Guster, who died on active service abroad.

(The Express and Telegraph, Adelaide, South Australia – 29 May, 1917)

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 F. G. Guster does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

So Dearly Loved

So Sadly Missed

Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Tidworth Military Cemetery, which contains burials of both wars, was directly connected with training grounds on, or near, Salisbury Plain.

During the First World War, the cemetery was used for burials from Tidworth and Fargo Military Hospitals and the 417 graves, many of them of Australian or New Zealand servicemen, are scattered throughout the cemetery.

There are 106 Second World War graves in the cemetery, two substantial groups of which can be found in sections F and D. The rest are scattered.

The cemetery also contains 40 war graves of other nationalities, many of them Polish.

(Information from CWGC)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00327

The AIF Tidworth cemetery under snow. – March 1919.

Identified graves marked by a cross and headstone in the foreground

Front row: 50727 Private Rowland James Dickson, Australian Machine Gun Corps, died 14 October 1918.

Second row, left to right: 18282 Driver John Thalma Jackson, Details Australian Engineers, died 30 October 1917; 17445 Pte Roland Travers Woodville, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 13 September 1917; 31712 Gunner John Alexander McDonald, 15th Field Artillery Brigade, Australian Field Artillery, died 30 July 1917, aged 37, at Tidworth Military Hospital; 3062 Pte Even Thomas Kennedy, 3rd Australian Pioneers, died 7 August 1917.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00481

Tidworth Military Cemetery – 12 June, 1919

A corner of the Australian cemetery. Front row, left to right: 5840 Private F. W. Heede, 25th Battalion died 3 June 1917; 7350 Private A. E. Campbell, 8th Battalion, died 2 August 1917; 1824 Driver A. C. Jones, 4th Company, Australian Machine Gun Corps, AADC, died 8 August 1917; 8009 Corporal W. J. Giles, Australian Tunnelling Company, died 17 March 1918.



Tidworth Military Cemetery (Photo by *julia&keld* – Find a Grave)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo courtesy of John Prestidge)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo by Chris Talbot 2009)



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers – Kevin)

Photo of Private F. G. Guster's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Selena Hardie)

