

**Sutton Veny,
Wiltshire, England
War Graves
World War 1**



Lest We Forget



3820 PRIVATE

E. J. LARACY

AUSTRALIAN ARMY SERVICE CORPS

18TH NOVEMBER, 1917

Edward Joseph LARACY

Edward Joseph Laracy was born on 6th October, 1893 at Drayton, Toowoomba, Queensland to parents Richard & Bridget Mary Laracy (nee Brennan).

Edward Joseph Laracy was a 21 year old, single, Baker from Perth Street, Toowoomba, Queensland when he enlisted at Toowoomba, Queensland on 14th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Richard Laracy of Perth Street, Toowoomba, Queensland. Edward Laracy answered on his Attestation Papers to the question “Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power?” – “Fined 10/- for Drunkenness”.

Private Edward Joseph Laracy, Service number 3820, embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Itonus (A50)* on 30th December, 1915 with the 9th Infantry Battalion, 12th Reinforcements.

Private Edward Joseph Laracy was allotted from 9th Battalion to 49th Battalion on 29th February, 1916 at Zeitoun, Egypt. He was transferred to 4th Divisional Field Bakery at Serapeum on 15th April, 1916 & taken on strength at Tel-el-Kebir on 16th April, 1916.

Private Edward Joseph Laracy embarked to join British Expeditionary Force from Alexandria on 6th June, 1916 on *Oriana* & disembarked at Marseille, France on 13th June, 1916.

Private Edward Joseph Laracy was sent to Hospital at Rouen, France on 19th March, 1917 & embarked on Hospital Ship *Warialda* for England from Havre, France on 28th March, 1917 with Bronchitis.

Private Edward Joseph Laracy was admitted to Kitchener Military Hospital, Brighton, London, England on 29th March, 1917 with Bronchitis. The Hospital Admissions form for Private Laracy stated “*History of Bronchitis in France*”. He was discharged on 8th May, 1917 & was sent on furlo until 23rd May, 1917 when he was to report to Training Depot at Wareham, England.

Private Edward Joseph Laracy was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Wareham, Dorset on 6th June, 1917 & marched out the same day to A.A.S.C. (Australian Army Service Corp) Training Depot at Parkhouse, Wiltshire.

Private Edward Joseph Laracy was marched in from Larkhill Bakery on 22nd August, 1917.

Private Edward Joseph Laracy was admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 30th October, 1917 with Pleurisy, seriously ill.

Private Edward Joseph Laracy died at 7.50 p.m. on 18th November, 1917 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England from Pneumonia. A Post Mortem examination showed the disease to be “*Generalised Tuberculosis ie. Tuberculosis Broncho Pneumonia & tubercle deposits in many other organs*”.

A death for Edward J. Laracy, aged 23, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Edward Joseph Laracy was buried on 23rd November, 1917 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England – Grave no. 293* (*according to Field Service Form in Pte Laracy's Service Record file, however CWGC states 292).

From the burial report of Private Edward Joseph Laracy – *The funeral was beautifully carried out. There was a full band and firing party from No. 1 Command Depot, the body being carried on a gun-carriage. Many convalescents from Sutton Veny Military Hospital followed the body to the grave, while comrade of the deceased guarded the gun-carriage. The grave is situated last of a row of Australians in the Catholic Portion of the beautiful old village Churchyard of Sutton Veny. The relatives of the deceased soldier can rest assured that all that was possible, both in life and death, was done for him.*

Private Edward Joseph Laracy requested in his Will dated 23rd August, 1917 that all his personal estate be bequeathed to Mrs Richard Laracy of Toowoomba.

A War Pension was granted to Bridget Laracy, mother of late Private Edward Joseph Laracy, in the sum of 14/- per fortnight from 24th January, 1918.

Private Edward Joseph Laracy was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Laracy's father – Mr R. Laracy (sent November 1921 & October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private E. J. Laracy, 3820, of 4th Field Bakery, Australian Army Service Corps, A.I.F. No family details are listed.

Private E. J. Laracy is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 181.



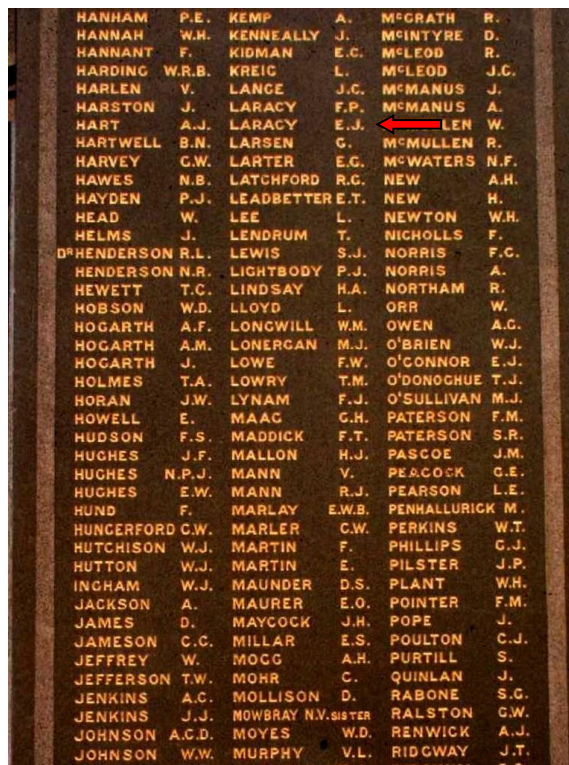
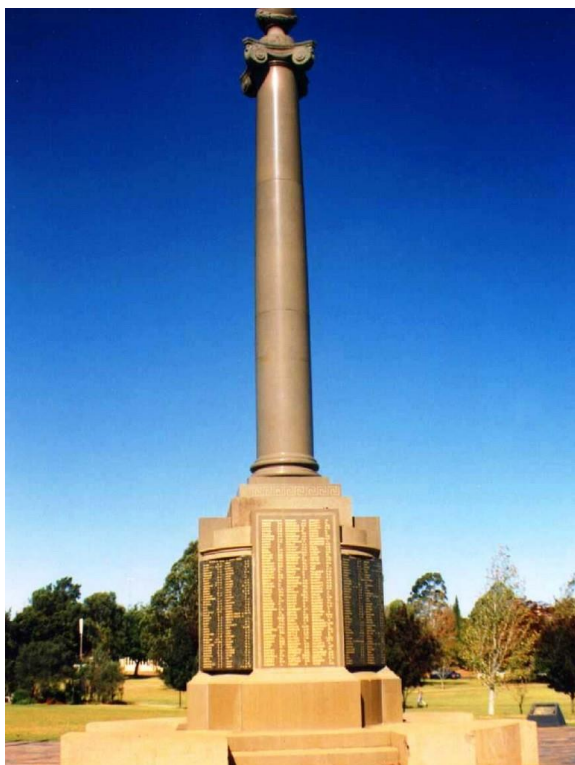
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

E. J. Laracy is remembered on Toowoomba Roll of Honour, located in Toowoomba RSL Club, Ruthven & Herries Streets, Toowoomba, Queensland.



Toowoomba Roll of Honour *(Photo from Monument Australia – John Huth)*

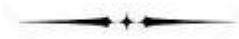
E. J. Laracy & his cousin F. P. Laracy are both remembered on the Toowoomba The Mothers' Memorial located at East Creek park, Margaret Street, Toowoomba, Queensland. The Memorial was built by mothers to honour their soldier sons who did not return from World War 1. (Edward Laracy's mother – Bridget Laracy died on 14th January, 1920. Buried Drayton & Toowoomba Cemetery.)



The Mothers' Memorial, Toowoomba (Photos from Qld Memorials – Shirley & Trevor McIvor)

(46 pages of Private Edward Joseph Laracy's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

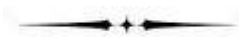
Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives.



Connected to Private Edward James Laracy:-

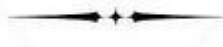
Brother – Private Thomas Joseph Laracy, 2835, 15th Battalion – embarked 22nd December, 1916 for Active Duty abroad & embarked for return to Australia 21st March, 1919. Awarded British War Medal & Victory Medal.

Cousin – Lieutenant Francis Patrick Laracy, 1st Battalion, Reported missing at sea, believed drowned – ex RMS *Leinster* – torpedoed by German U-Boat in Irish Sea. Drowned at Sea 10th October, 1918 by Court of Enquiry. Awarded Military Cross, 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal. Wounded 3 times. Remembered on Hollybrook Memorial, Southampton, England & The Toowoomba Mothers' Memorial.





(The Queenslander Pictorial – 1 April, 1916)



Newspaper Reports

PERSONAL NOTES

At the meeting of the Toowoomba branch of the Hibernian Society this week the president (Bro. M. J. Brosnan) said he regretted to announce the death of Joseph Laracy, who died of pneumonia. He enlisted at Toowoomba a little over two years ago and was a son of Brother Richard Laracy, of St. Patrick's branch. A motion of condolence to deceased's relatives was carried in silence.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – Saturday 1 December, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

CASUALTY LISTS 271 and 272

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private Edward Jos. Laracy, Toowoomba.

(The Northern Miner, Charters Towers, Queensland – Wednesday 19 December, 1917)

RAILWAY GUARD KILLED

CARRIAGE DOOR RESPONSIBLE

Brisbane, Tuesday

Guard Richard Laracy (64), after 37 years in the railway service, died yesterday as a result of injuries received in an accident near Indooroopilly Bridge. While in charge of a mixed train he saw the door of a carriage open and swinging dangerously. He was crawling along the footboard to close the door when a train coming in the opposite direction struck the door and knocked Laracy off. He suffered a fractured skull and died on hospital without regaining consciousness.

(Barrier Miner, Broken Hill, NSW – Tuesday 30 December, 1924)

(Note - Richard Laracy, father of Late Pte Edward Joseph Laracy was buried with his wife on 29th December, 1924 at Drayton & Toowoomba Cemetery. Headstone reads "Accidentally killed at Indooroopilly 27th December, 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 at St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny. 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)

A letter from Base Records to Mr R. Laracy of Perth Street, Toowoomba, Qld, dated 20th July, 1921, advised that a communication from the Defence Department concerning an inscription that could be placed on Pte E. J. Laracy's Headstone in the Churchyard of Sutton Veny had not yet been replied to. The letter advised that if no reply was received within 21 days, it would be taken as indicating that no further action was required.

Private Edward Joseph Laracy does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards. The 26th Division was concentrated at Sutton Veny in April 1915 and No 1 Australian Command was there from the end of 1916 to October 1919. There was also a hutted military hospital of more than 1200 beds at Sutton Veny for much of the war and No 1 Australian General Hospital was stationed there after the Armistice. Sutton Veny (St John) Churchyard contains 168 First World War burials, 167 of them in a plot at the north west corner of the church. Of these, 143 are Australian. There is only one Second World War burial in the churchyard.

(Information & colour photos from CWGC)





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00376



War Graves at Sutton Veny (Photos from CWGC)

Photo of Private E. J. Laracy's Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)