

**Southampton Old Cemetery,
Hampshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2362 PRIVATE

A. E. MASTERS

38TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

3RD OCTOBER, 1918 Age 20

Alfred Edwin MASTERS

Alfred Edwin Masters was born at Sale, Victoria in 1898 to parents Edwin & Julia Masters (nee Smith).

Alfred Edwin Masters was an 18 year old, single, Bank Clerk from Rosedale, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 2nd September, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2362 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Edwin Masters, Rosedale, Victoria. Alfred Masters stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 3 years with Senior Cadets & was still serving.

As Alfred Edwin Masters was under the age of 21, both his parents were required to sign their consent for their son to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service abroad. Edwin Masters & Julia Masters both signed their consent on 31st August, 1916.

Private Alfred Edwin Masters was posted to "A" Company, 23rd (Depot) Battalion at Royal Park on 27th September, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 4th Reinforcements of 38th Battalion on 6th October, 1916.

Private Alfred Edwin Masters embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Port Lincoln (A17)* on 20th October, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Brigade, 38th Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements. He was transferred to *Willochra* at Sierra Leone on 4th December, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 29th December, 1916.

Private Alfred Edwin Masters was marched in to 10th Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire from Australia on 29th December, 1916.

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 Alfred Edwin Masters was sent sick to Parkhouse Hospital, Wiltshire on 6th March, 1917. He was admitted to Fargo Hospital, Wiltshire on 6th March, 1917 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined) then later diagnosed with Orchitis. Private Masters was discharged on 17th March, 1917.

Private Alfred Edwin Masters was to be Acting Lance Corporal from 29th March, 1917 while posted with 10th Training Battalion.

Acting Lance Corporal Alfred Edwin Masters was on Command at Bombing School, Lyndhurst from 12th August, 1917 & rejoined 10th Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire on 26th August, 1917.

Acting Lance Corporal Alfred Edwin Masters was on Command at Officers' Training School, Candahar Barracks, Tidworth, Wiltshire from 10th September, 1917. He was marched in to 10th Training Battalion on 23rd October, 1917.

Acting Lance Corporal Alfred Edwin Masters reverted to the rank of Private on 6th November, 1917 while posted at Sutton Mandeville, Wiltshire on proceeding overseas.

Private Alfred Edwin Masters proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 6th November, 1917 from Sutton Mandeville. He was marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 7th November, 1917. Private Masters was marched out to the Front from 3rd A.D.B.D. on 10th November, 1917 & was taken on strength of 38th Battalion in the Field on 18th November, 1917 from Reinforcements.

Private Alfred Edwin Masters was wounded in action on 29th July, 1918. He was admitted to 10th Australian Field Ambulance on 30th July, 1918 with Shrapnel wounds to chest then transferred the same day to 5th Casualty Clearing Station. Private Masters was transferred & admitted to 11th Stationary Hospital in France on 6th August, 1918 then embarked for England on 21st August, 1918 on Hospital Ship *West Australia*.

38th Battalion

The 38th Battalion was formed on 1 March 1916 at a camp established on the Epsom Racecourse at Bendigo in Victoria.....

Belgium remained the focus of the 38th Battalion's activities for the next five months, until it was rushed south to France in late March 1918 to meet the German Army's Spring Offensive. *(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Alfred Edwin Masters was admitted to University War Hospital, Southampton, England on 22nd August, 1918 with G.S.W. (guns shot wound/s) to Back & Chest.

The Hospital Admissions form recorded: "G.S.W. Chest Penetrating ____ Injury to Spine. Paraplegic" "wounded in action by machine gin bullet on 29.7.18..... paraplegia, loss of sensation from middle of both thighs downwards.....29.8.18 Operation – Major Cowen removed bullet.....5.9.18 wound of operation healed, stitches removed. 15.9.18 Sensation over whole of rt lower limb slight voluntary movement of toes. Sensation in Lt thigh as far as knee.... Urine – some blood occasionally. To be transferred to No. 3 Aust Hosp Dartford....."

Sheet 2 reads: "He was not transferred to Dartford. He made favourable progress until the 2.10.18 when symptoms of septic absorption commenced. Frequent vomiting which finally became faeculent & _____. Severe haematuria (?)."



Private Alfred Edwin Masters died at 5.45 pm on 3rd October, 1918 at University War Hospital, Southampton, Hampshire, England from G.S.W. to Spine, Cystitis & Septic Absorption.

A death for Alfred E. Masters, aged 19, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Southampton, Hampshire, England.

Private Alfred Edwin Masters was buried on 5th October, 1918 in Southampton Old Cemetery, Hampshire, England – Plot number B 9. 174 and is included on the Family headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. From the burial report of Private Alfred Edwin Masters - *Coffin was Elm, brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral. The coffin was draped with the "Union Jack", and surmounted by many beautiful wreaths, sent from relatives and friends of the deceased. The burial service was conducted at the graveside by the Rev: W. T. Brooke, of Southampton. Many relatives and friends were in attendance. 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:

(Uncles) Mr G. Hardy, Swanage, Dorset, Mr J, Masters, Mr & Mrs F. Masters, Mr & Mrs Cummins, Master R. Hardy, and No. 3487 Pte Donnison, 8th Battalion, Mr Hattum, 126 Mary St, Southampton.

© Cathy Sedgwick 2021

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Alfred Edwin Masters contains several letters with updates of the condition of Private Masters.

- Transferred to University War Hospital Southampton 22 August, 1918 – G.S.W. back & chest seriously wounded. (Certified by A.I.F. Headquarters 28th August, 1918).
- G.S.W. Spine & paraplegia – bullet removed & Laminectomy performed. Condition though very serious is so far satisfactory, but stationary. (Certified by letter from C.C. 2nd September, 1918)
- Condition as satisfactory as possible under circumstances. (Certified by Letter from C.C. 14th September, 1918)
- Not now in critical condition – is in quite good spirits. Will probably be removed from University W. Hpl, S'hampton to an Aust Hp. – Will be in Hpl many months, perhaps a year. Some relatives near, who visit him constantly. (Certified by Red X Visitor 19th September, 1918)
- Letter from A. Macques – Sister in Charge of Hut 5, University Hospital, Southampton: *"I had Pte Masters in my ward as a patient. I am sorry to tell you that he was shot in back, which injured the spine and caused him to become paralised, and had he lived there would have been very little chance of his complete recovery. The Doctor operated and removed the bit of shell from the spine, and for a time he seemed a little better but later on Septic trouble set in which caused his death. His uncle saw to the funeral which of course was a Military one. Everything that could possibly be done for him was done. Please convey my deepest sympathy to his parents in this great loss."*

Private Alfred Edwin Masters requested in his Will, dated 9th June, 1917, that in the event of his death he bequeathed the whole of his property & effects to his mother – Mrs Julia Masters of Rosedale, Gippsland, Victoria.

Private Alfred Edwin Masters was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Masters' father – Mr E. Masters, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

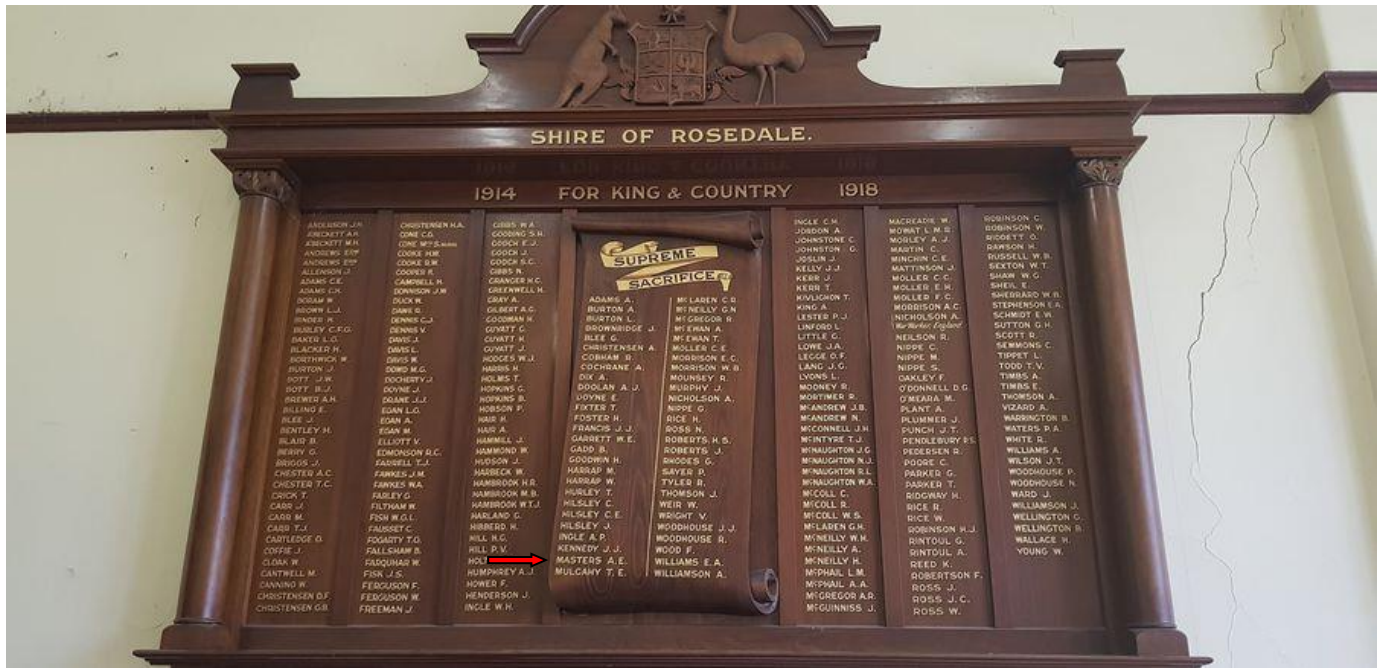
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Alfred Edwin Masters – service number 2362, aged 20, of 38th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Edwin & Julia Masters.

Private A. E. Masters is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 130.



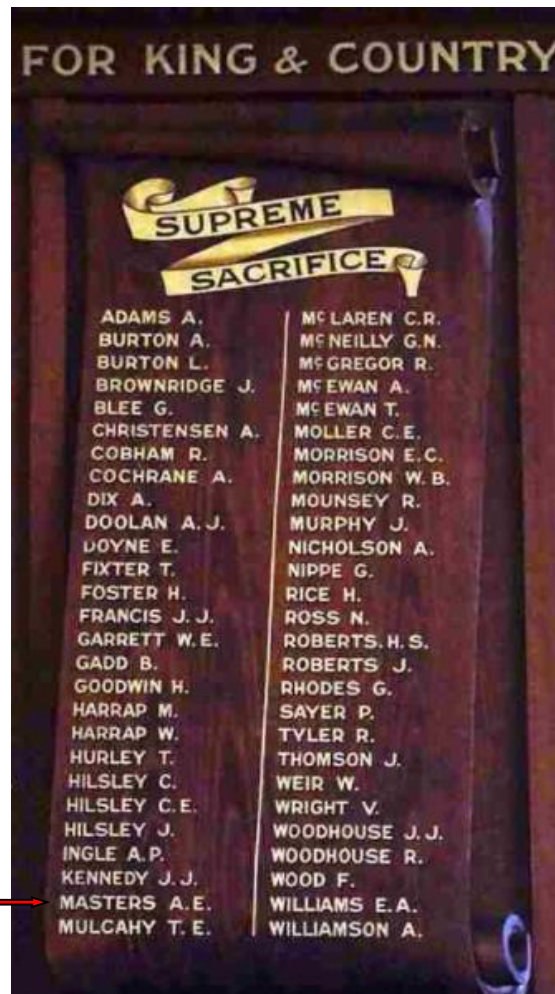
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. E. Masters is remembered on the Shire of Rosedale Honour Roll, located in former Shire Hall, Prince Street, Rosedale, Victoria.

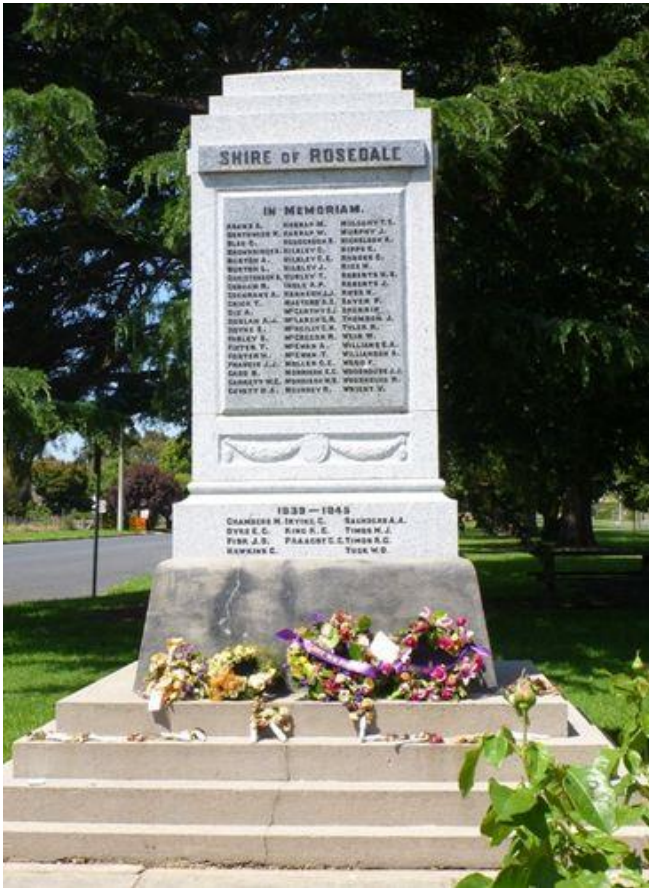


Shire of Rosedale Honour Roll

(Photo above from VWMA – Leanne Phillips; below from Monument Australia)



A. E. Masters is remembered on the Rosedale War Memorial, located on Lyons Street, Rosedale, Victoria.

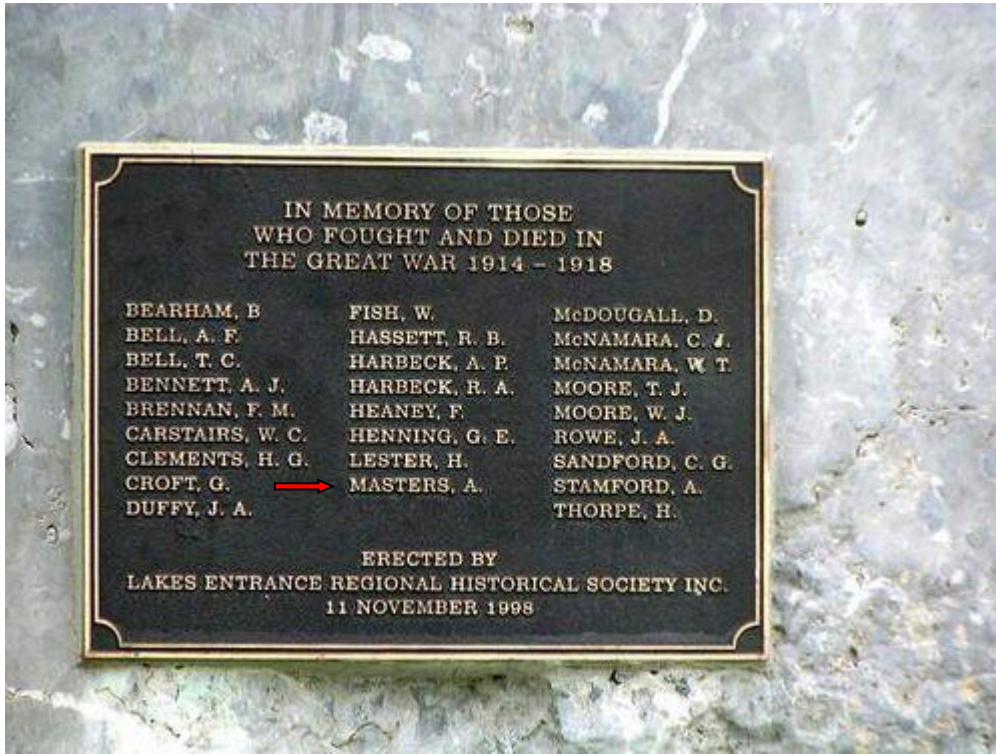


Rosedale War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)

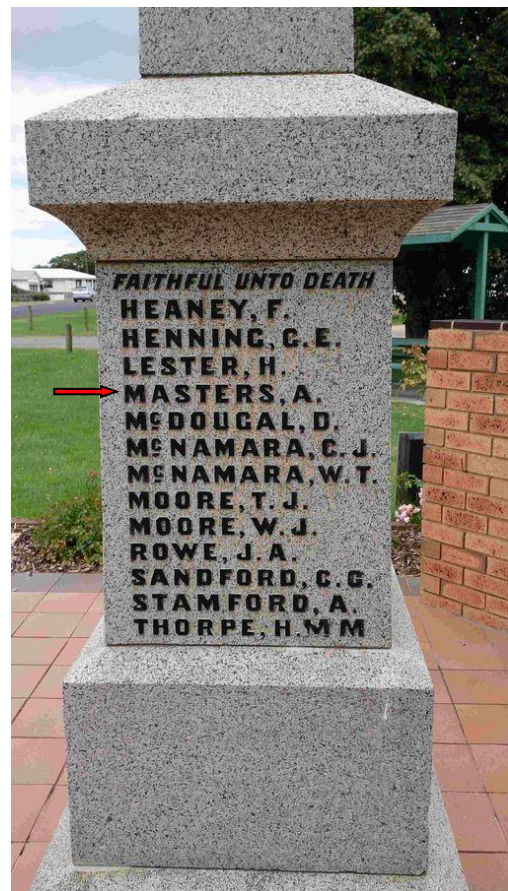
A. Masters is remembered on the Lakes Entrance World War One Memorial, located at The Esplanade, Lakes Entrance, Victoria.



Lakes Entrance World War One Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Diane Watson)

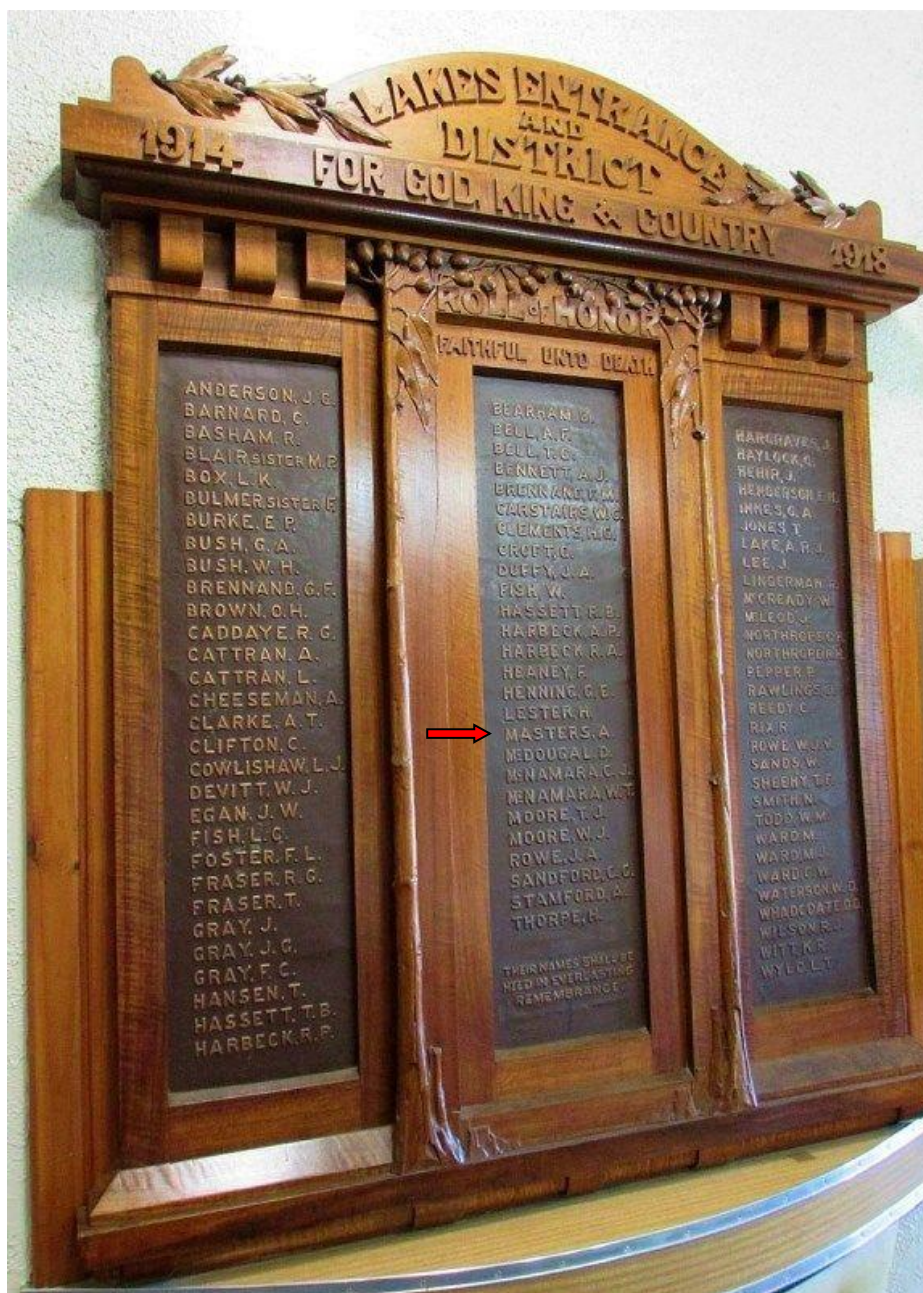


A. Masters is remembered on the Lakes Entrance & District War Memorial, located at Marine Parade, Lakes Entrance, Victoria.



Lakes Entrance & District War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)

A. Masters is remembered on the Lakes Entrance & District Roll of Honour, located in Lakes Entrance RSL, 221 Esplanade, Lakes Entrance, Victoria.



Lakes Entrance & District Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

(58 pages of Private Alfred Edwin Masters' 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

VICTORIA'S ROLL OF HONOR

424th CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED

A. E. Masters, Rosedale (dang)

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 August, 1918)

DIED ON SERVICE

MASTERS – On the 2nd October, at University War Hospital, Southampton, Eng., died of wounds, Private A. E. Masters, beloved son of Capt. And Mrs E. Masters, Lakes Entrance, aged 20 years.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 12 October, 1918) & (*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 12 October, 1918)

BEREAVEMENT CARDS

CAPTAIN and Mrs MASTERS desire to sincerely THANK their many friends for kind expressions of sympathy by letters and cards in their recent sad loss of their son, Pte A. E. Masters. Will all friends kindly accept this intimation?

Glenara, lakes Entrance.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 16 November, 1918)

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

442nd Casualty List

DIED FROM WOUNDS

Pte A. E. MASTERS, Rosedale

(*Bendigo Advertiser*, Victoria – 19 November, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

MASTERS – In loving memory of our beloved son, Alf., 38th Batt., died on the 3rd October, 1918, at Southampton, England, from wounds received in France; also our beloved nephews, Lieut. Walter and Jim Roadknight.

They were so dear to us.

-Inserted by his loving parents and brothers, uncle and auntie.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 3 October, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

MASTERS – In proud and loving memory of our beloved son, Alf., died of wounds at University War Hospital, Southampton, October 3, 1918.

Peace, perfect peace.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 2 October, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

MASTERS – In proud and loving remembrance of my son, Alf., died of wounds, 3rd October, 1918; also my beloved husband, Captain Masters, passed away 25th March, 1921.

Father and son reunited.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 4 October, 1921)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

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.

Mrs J. Masters, Glenara, Lakes Entrance, wrote top Base Records on 27th July, 1921 with the following details: "*My son, Alfred Edwin Masters, was buried in his grandmother's grave in Southampton Cemetery, there is already a Headstone on it & I do not wish to have any more added to it.*"

Private Alfred Edwin Masters has a Private Headstone.

Southampton Old Cemetery, Hampshire, England

This cemetery, on the Common, belongs to the Corporation. It was made in 1846 under Act of Parliament, and it now covers 27 acres. It contains 104 scattered Commonwealth war graves of the 1914-18 War, a plot of 21 1914-18 War Belgians and 15 Commonwealth war graves of the 1939-45 War.

(Information from CWGC)



Southampton Old Cemetery *(Photos from Find a Grave – Julia&keld)*





Cross of Sacrifice (Photo above – Friends of Southampton Old Cemetery; below CWGC)

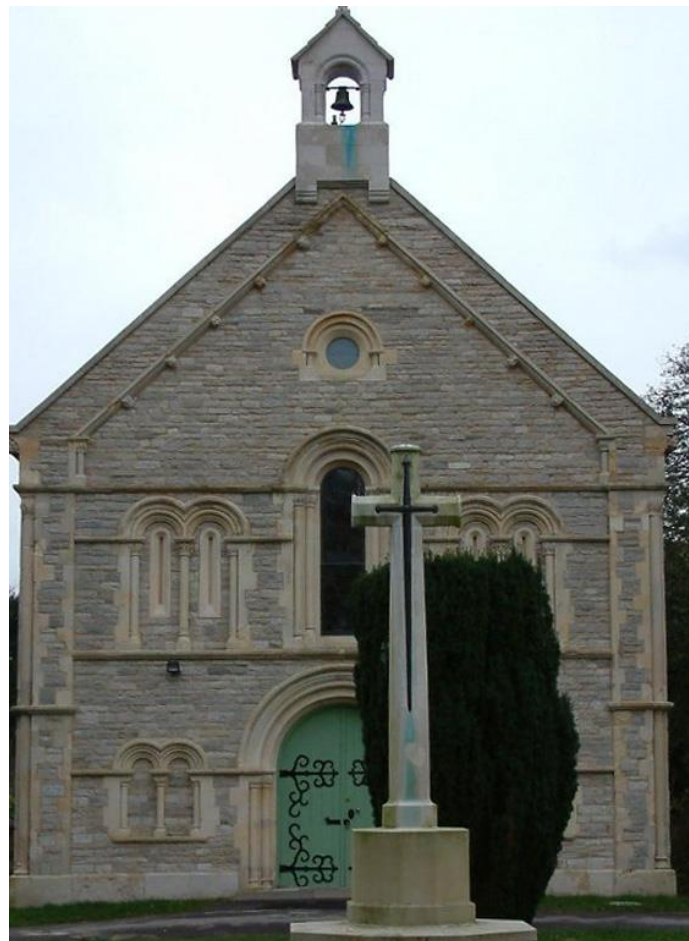
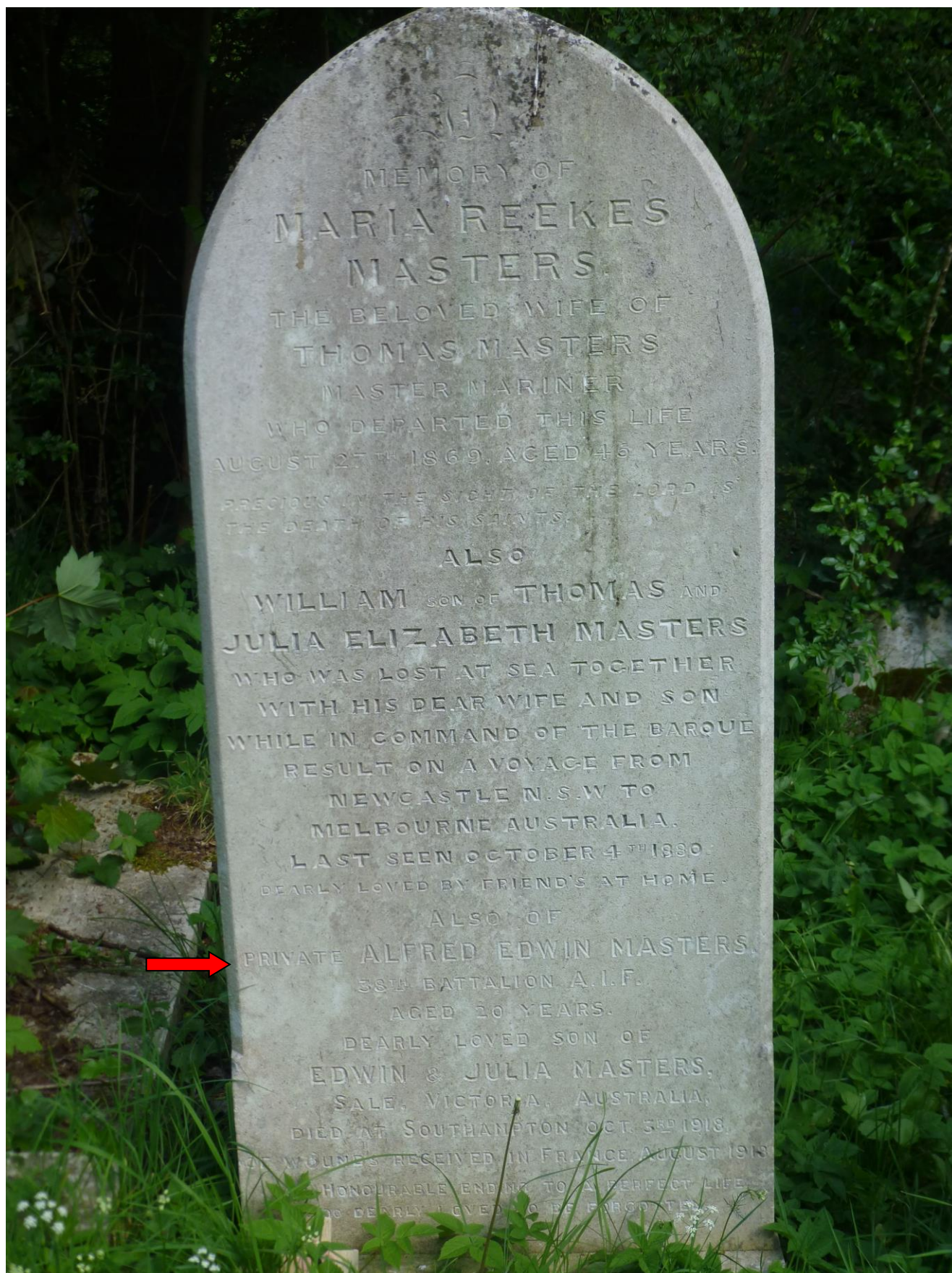
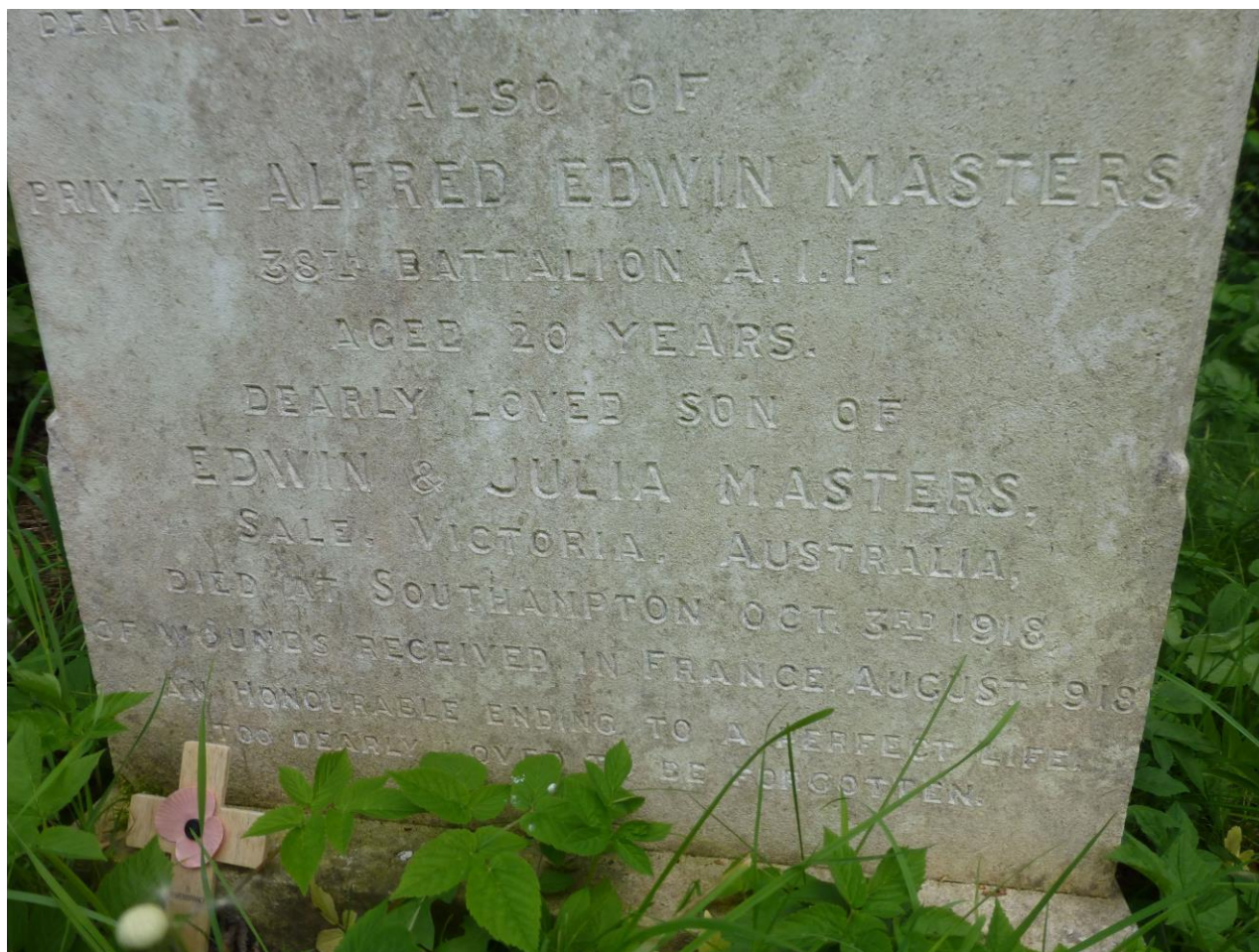


Photo of Private Alfred Edwin Masters' name on Family Private Headstone in Southampton Old Cemetery, Hampshire, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave – JackieC – 28 Nov 2017)



(Photo from Find a Grave - JackieC)

Also of

PRIVATE ALFRED EDWIN MASTERS

38TH Battalion A.I.F

Aged 20 Years

Dearly Loved Son of

EDWIN & JULIA MASTERS

Sale, Victoria, Australia

Died at Southampton, Oct. 3RD 1918

Of Wounds Received in France, August 1918.

An Honourable Ending to A Perfect Life.

Too Dearly Loved To Be Forgotten



(Photo from Find a Grave – Katiekins57 – 14 Feb 2018)