

**Sutton Veny,
Wiltshire, England**

War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



2483 PRIVATE

A. H. OSTROM

52ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

13TH MARCH, 1917

His Duty Nobly Done

*CWGC Headstone for Pte A. H. Ostrom is located in
Grave Plot # 282. C. 7. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Alfred Harold OSTROM

Alfred Harold Ostrom was born on 4th June, 1893 at Lake Illawarra in the Wollongong district, New South Wales to parents John & Catherine Ostrom (nee Maher).

Alfred Harold Ostrom was a 23 year old, single, Fisherman from Tumbulgum, Tweed Heads, NSW when he enlisted at Brisbane, Queensland on 6th June, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his brother – John Lewis Ostrom of Tumbulgum, Tweed Heads, NSW.

Private Alfred Harold Ostrom was posted to 11th Depot Battalion from 9th June, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 5th Reinforcements of 52nd Battalion from 28th July, 1916.

Private Alfred Harold Ostrom, Service number 2483, embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Seang Choon* (A49) on 19th September, 1916 with the 52nd Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 19th 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 Harold Ostrom was admitted to Endell St. Military Hospital, Codford, England (as listed on Casualty Form – Active Service. Endell Street Military Hospital was in London) on 1st January, 1917 with a cold from 18th Training Battalion then transferred & admitted to North Western M.A.B. with Mumps on 12th January, 1917.

Private Alfred Harold Ostrom was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 9th February, 1917. He was marched in to 13th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire from No. 1 Command Depot on 12th February, 1917.

Private Alfred Harold Ostrom was sent sick to Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny on 14th February, 1917 from 13th Training Battalion. He was transferred & admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 16th February, 1917.

Private Alfred Harold Ostrom died on 13th March, 1917 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England from Tubercle of Lung. (Note: a form in the Service Record file with Burial details recorded Private A. H. Ostrom had died from Bronchial Pneumonia)

A death for Alfred Ostrom, aged 23, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Alfred Harold Ostrom was buried on 15th March, 1917 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England - Grave no. 282. He has a private headstone, however his death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Private Alfred Harold Ostrom requested in his Will that Mr John L. Ostrom of Tumbulgum, NSW be named as Executor of his Will.

An advertisement was placed in Newspapers (*Brisbane Courier* in 1922) requesting the next-of-kin of the listed soldiers to contact Officer in Charge, Base Records Melbourne. Private A. H. Ostrom was one of the soldiers on that list.

Mr J. L. Ostrom replied on 22nd November, 1922 stating he was next-of-kin. John Ostrom, of Tumbulgum, NSW, was listed as Next-of-kin on Private Ostrom's Attestation Papers probably due to the fact that his eldest brother – Thomas Gordon Ostrom was on active Service with A.I.F. Thomas Gordon Ostrom, of Mossman via Port Douglas, Nth Queensland, also replied to the advertisement on 1st November, 1922. In his letter he stated he "*was in France when I received word from a Nurse in Sutton Veny Hospital Wiltshire England telling me of the death of my Brother*

March, 1917 & when I was on leave I got a tomb stone put on the grave which I had a lot of bother over, but the Bank Manager seen that everything was carried out alright as I had no time on account of my leave being up. ...”

Private Alfred Harold Ostrom 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 Ostrom’s eldest brother as the closest next-of-kin – Mr Thomas Gordon Ostrom. (Scroll sent March, 1923 & Plaque sent February, 1923).

(In a letter to Base Records Thomas Ostram stated that he was the oldest surviving brother - 8 years older than Private Ostrom. Their mother died when they were young & their father died in 1915)

Miss V. Ostrom, of Breakfast Creek, Albion, Brisbane, Queensland, wrote a letter dated 11th October, 1923 placing a claim on the “*medals and everything that may be due to him....as I understand I am the next of kin.*”

According to the “Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918” medals were awarded to the next-of kin in the following order of relationship – widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister.” Miss V. Ostrom was advised that all war mementos had been transmitted to the eldest brother – Mr T. G. Ostrom. Mr J. L. Ostrom of Tumbulgum had received Private Ostrom’s personal effects that he had with him as he was listed as next-of-kin on the Attestation Papers.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Private Alfred Harold Ostrom, 2483, of 52nd Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F. No family details are listed.

Private A. H. Ostrom is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 156.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



A. H. Ostrom is remembered on the Tumbulgum Memorial Gardens Gates, located at entrance to Sports Field on Bawden Street, Tumbulgum, NSW.



Tumbulgum Memorial Gardens Gates (Photo AWM Places of Pride – Dom Fountain)



A. H. Ostrom is also remembered on the Murwillumbah War Memorial located at Remembrance Place, Tumbulgum Street, Murwillumbah, NSW.



Murwillumbah War Memorial (Photo from AWM Places of Pride)



O'BRIEN P.
O'SHEA J.C.
OSTROM A.H.

(50 pages of Private Alfred Harold Ostrom'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.



(The Queenslander, Brisbane – 21 April, 1917)



[Connected to Private Alfred Harold Ostrom:](#)

Brother – Private Thomas Gordon Ostrom, 3864, 1st Australian Corps Cyclists Battalion. Enlisted September, 1915. Returned to Australia September, 1919.

Entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.



Newspaper Reports

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST NO. 282

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private A. H. Ostrom (Tumbulgum, NSW)

(Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate, NSW – Tuesday 27 March, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

OSTROM – Died of illness in hospital, England, on 13th March, 1917, while on active service, Private A. H. Ostrom, of Tumbulgum, Tweed River, aged 23 years.

(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Qld – Saturday 7 April, 1917)

Alfred Harold Ostrom is remembered on a headstone located in North Tumbulgum Cemetery, New South Wales along with his father & brother Bert Norman Ostrom.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Keith Harrison)



(Photos from Find a Grave – Lucas 2023)





Also

ALFRED HAROLD OSTROM

Died on Active

Service in England

13th March 1917

Aged 23 Years

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.

Private Alfred Harold Ostrom has a Private 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



Photo of Private Alfred Harold Ostrom's Private headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire. Private Ostrom's headstone was organised by his brother – Private Thomas Gordon Ostrom, who was serving in A.I.F. at the time of his brother's death.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)