

**London Road Cemetery,
Salisbury, Wiltshire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



7550 PRIVATE

J. E. PETERS

1ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

27TH JANUARY, 1918 Age 31

John Edward PETERS

John Edward Peters was born at Failford, near Nahiab, NSW on 27th July, 1886 to parents Francis & Charlotte Mary Peters (nee Mead). (Note: NSW Births, Deaths & Marriages website has the surname listed as "Peaters" registered in 1886 at Taree (based on personal experience – this may be a transcription error ??) (Note: Date of birth listed on NSW Gaol Description & Entrance Book for Maitland, was 27th July, 1885.)

John Edward Peters was on trial on 9th September, 1908 at Taree, NSW charged with maliciously killing a mare. He pleaded guilty. The "*accused bound over (in open Court) in his own Recognizance in the sum of £50 to appear for sentence if called upon to do so.*"

Newspaper item – The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 10 September, 1908:

QUARTER SESSIONS

Taree, Wednesday

At the Quarter Sessions to-day, before Acting Judge Edmunds, John Edward Peters, charged with maliciously killing a draught mare, pleaded guilty, and stated he was willing to give compensation. He was bound over in £50 to appear when called upon.

John Edward Peters was charged with Stealing in a Dwelling on 7th February, 1912 at Taree, NSW. He was committed for Trial at Taree Quarter Sessions on 21st February, 1912.

Newspaper item – The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 22 February, 1912:

QUARTER SESSIONS

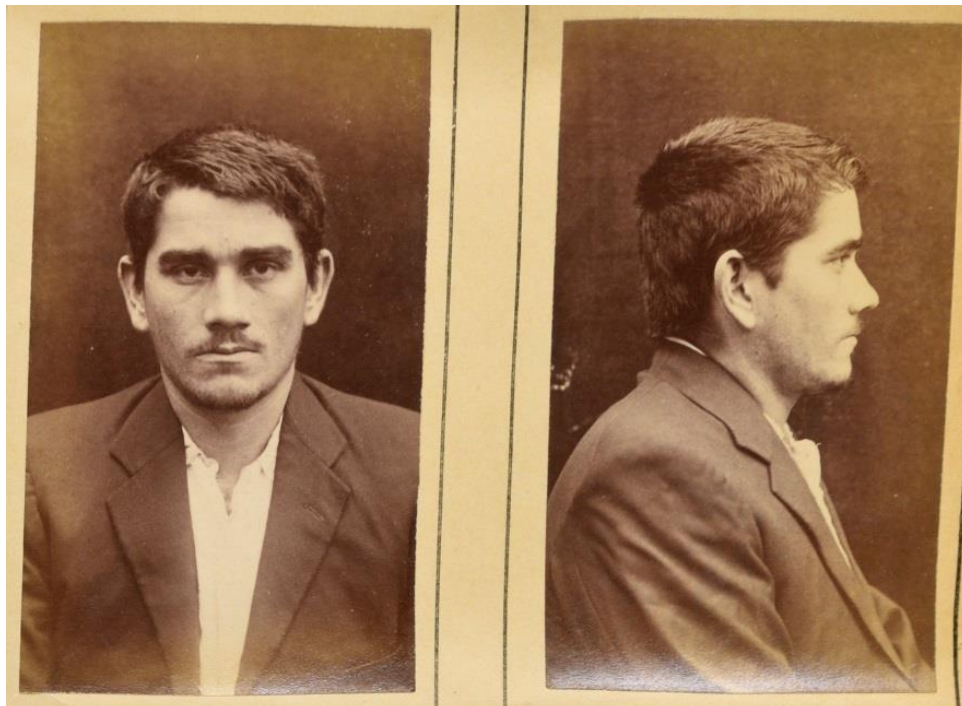
Taree, Wednesday

At the Taree Quarter Sessions to-day, before Judge Edmunds, John Edward Peters was charged with stealing in a dwelling-house. He pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to 12 weeks' imprisonment in Goulburn Gaol.

John Edward Peters was transferred from Goulburn Gaol to Maitland Gaol in March, 1912.

From NSW Gaol Description and Entrance Book for Maitland Gaol:

Colour of hair – black; colour of eyes – brown; Marks or special features – Big toe missing on left foot.....



John Edward Peters (Photo taken 13th March, 1912 at Maitland Gaol, NSW.)

(With thanks to Shayne Cunningham)

John Edward Peters married Henrietta Hickie in 1915. Their marriage was registered in Stroud, New South Wales.

A daughter – Margaret Mary Peters was born on 13th October, 1916 at Dunedoo, NSW.

From New South Wales Police Gazette – 10 January, 1917:

Apprehensions

John Peters, alias John Edward Peters (30), charged with attempting to obtain the sum of £42 from Alexander Turner by false pretences (valueless cheque) has been arrested by Constable Clark, Cowra Police. Committed for trial at Bathurst Sessions. Identical with prisoner tried same name (vide Police Gazette, 1912, page 105).

John Edward Peters was a 30 year old, married, Labourer from Cowra, NSW when he enlisted at Orange, NSW on 30th April, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 7550 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs H. Peters, 165 Dowling Street, off Cleveland Street, Sydney, NSW. John Peters stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service due to his left foot (left great toe amputated 9 years ago – result of an accident.).

Private John Edward Peters was posted to Show Ground Camp at Sydney, NSW on 30th April, 1917 for recruit training.

Private John Edward Peters embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Marathon (A74)* on 10th May, 1917 with the 1st Infantry Battalion, 25th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 20th July, 1917.

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 John Edward Peters was marched in to 1st Training Battalion from Australia on 20th July, 1917.

Private John Edward Peters was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England on 23rd July, 1917 with Pleurisy. He was discharged to duty on 15th August, 1917 & was marched in to 1st Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire the same day.

Private John Edward Peters was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital on 5th September, 1917 with Metatarsalgia (ball of foot becomes painful & inflamed) from 1st Training Battalion. He was discharged to Training Depot on 11th September, 1917 & was marched in to 1st Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire the same day.

Private John Edward Peters was sent sick to Sutton Veny Military Hospital, Wiltshire from 1st Training Battalion on 23rd December, 1917 with Headache & vomiting. He was transferred & admitted to Isolation Hospital, attached to Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 24th December, 1917.

Private John Edward Peters died at 1 am on 27th January, 1918 at Isolation Hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis (some forms recorded he died of Cerebro Spinal Fever).

A death for John E. Peters, aged 31, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

Private John Edward Peters was buried on 29th January, 1918 in London Road Cemetery, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England – Plot number R. 18 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone & a Private Headstone. From the burial report of Private John Edward Peters - *Coffin was good polished wood coffin with chased name plate. The Band of the 1st Training Bn, A.I.F. was in attendance. The Funeral was conducted as a Military one with Gun Carriage. A great number of soldiers and civilians followed the funeral from Salisbury to the graveside where the volleys were fired and the Last Post sounded by men of the deceased soldiers company. The ceremony was conducted by Chaplain Capt. O'Hare. The body being interred in the Roman Catholic section of the Cemetery. The late No. 7550 Pte Peters, John Edward was most popular amongst his comrades who with their officers deeply regret his death.*

Details of the death & burial of the late Private John Edward Peters were sent to his widow – Mrs H. Peters, 6 Rennie Street, Redfern, Sydney, NSW on 11th May, 1918.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private John Edward Peters contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives in Australia to obtain the fullest details possible into his illness, death and burial. A letter was received from Matron, Miss C. Alexander, Salisbury & District Joint Isolation Hospital, dated 22nd March, 1918 which reads: “...I beg to say that early in February I wrote a full account of the illness of death of Pte Peters to his wife in Australia and also to his mother-in-law here in England. I take it therefore that there is no need now to repeat the information.”

Another letter was received from Matron, Miss C. Alexander, Salisbury & District Joint Isolation Hospital, dated 27th March, 1918 which reads: “He was admitted to this Hospital on Christmas Day very ill indeed, too much so to be able to give us the address of his relatives in England. He spoke of them several times, but when we asked for their address he invariably answered that will do when I am better. I eventually wrote to a Mr B. Hickie, at Morfa Camp on the chance of his being a friend, and he was his father-in-law. Pte Peters spoke of his wife and friends several times, but the most of the time he was delirious and could not talk sensibly. He died on the 27th January 1918 and was buried in Stratford-sub-Castle Churchyard, on the 29th. His battalion supplied the Band, Gun Carriage, firing party and bearers and he was buried with full military honours. His grave will be well cared for by the village people and the Government have erected a small wooden cross bearing his name and regiment. If Mrs Peters ever comes to England his grave will be easily found. We were very sorry to lose him at first he seemed to be doing well, but in spite of his splendid physique cerebro spinal was too much. All his kit has been returned to Headquarters in London. I have already sent a picture post card to Mrs Peters, but will enclose another should that not reach her.”

(NOTE: Private John Edward Peters is buried in London Road Cemetery, Salisbury, Wiltshire)

Private John Edward Peters, of Peoples Palace, Pitt St, Sydney, NSW, requested in his Will dated 3rd May, 1917 that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects be given to Hettie Peters, Peoples Palace, Pitt Street, Sydney.

Base Records received advice of the change of address of the widow of the late Private John Edward Peters from People Palace, Pitt St, Sydney, NSW to 20 Bruce St, Waterloo, NSW. The records were noted on 16th January, 1919.

Communications addressed to Mrs H. Peters, 20 Bruce Street, Waterloo, NSW were returned to Base Records marked “Left” in 1921. Base Records wrote to Headquarters, 2nd District Base, Victoria Barracks, Sydney on 30th June, 1921 advising that communications to Mrs H. Peters at Bruce Street, Waterloo had been returned unclaimed & requested any later information. A reply was sent to Base Records on 7th July, 1921 stating the new address for Mrs H. Peters was 55 Bourke Street, Redfern, NSW.

Base Records wrote to Headquarters, 2nd District Base on 11th November, 1922 advising that letters sent to her at Bourke Street, Redfern had been returned unclaimed & again requested further information.

Private John Edward Peters 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 Peters’ widow – Mrs H. Peters, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque normally are recorded on the last page of a Soldiers Service Record – with date they were recorded. No date has been recorded in Private Peters’ file).

Henrietta Peters, Waters Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, wrote to Base Records in January, 1935 stating “When I was leaving Sydney in 1920 I was told that the badge would be sent to me in England but it has not arrived yet it is the only medal I got for my late husband Private John Edward Peters 7550 First Batt AIF I would like it for my child’s sakes. I thought it would have been sent before now thanking you.”

Miss C. M. Peters, Cudgera, via Burringbar, NSW, wrote to Base Records, Canberra on 16th February, 1941 asking “Would you please furnish me with the Regimental number of my brother who was killed in action, France, 1917. He enlisted in Sydney, was born at Nabitac near Taree. He was married, his wife lived in Wauchope. The only number I have was when he wrote from Sutton Veny England. It was then No. 7550 A Coy, 1st N.S.W. T.B. Name. John Edward Peters. Trusting you can furnish the Number and Battalion he was with.” Base Records replied on 24th

February, 1941 stating “ *the full regimental particulars are:- No. 7550 Private John Edward Peters, 1st Battalion, A.I.F. Died of illness, England , on 27/1/18.*”

The Public Trust Office, Sydney, NSW wrote to Base Records on 7th March, 1941 regarding the Estate of C. E. Mead, deceased & requested they “*confirm the death of No. 7550 Private John Edward Peters, 1st Battalion, who died of illness in England on the 27th January, 1918.*” Base Records forwarded on 10th March, 1941 a Certificate of Report of Death of the late No. 7550, Private John Edward Peters, 1st Battalion, Australian Imperial Forces.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John Edward Peters – service number 7550, aged 31, of 1st Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the husband of Henrietta Peters, of 1 Thynnes Court, St. John St., Salisbury, Wilts, England.

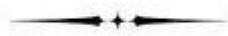
Private J. E. Peters is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 30.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(63 pages of Private John Edward Peters' 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

FOR AUSTRALIA

331ST CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

ILL

Pte JOHN EDWARD PETERS, Sydney

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 16 February, 1918)

CASUALTY LIST NO. 383

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte JOHN EDWARD PETERS, Sydney (previously reported ill, second occasion).

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 16 February, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

PETERS – In sad but loving memory of my dear husband, John Edward Peters, and father of Mary, who died while on active service abroad, January 27, 1918.

For memory is only thought
Which grief can call its own.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 26 January, 1920)

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 J. E. Peters does not have a personal inscription on his headstone

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.

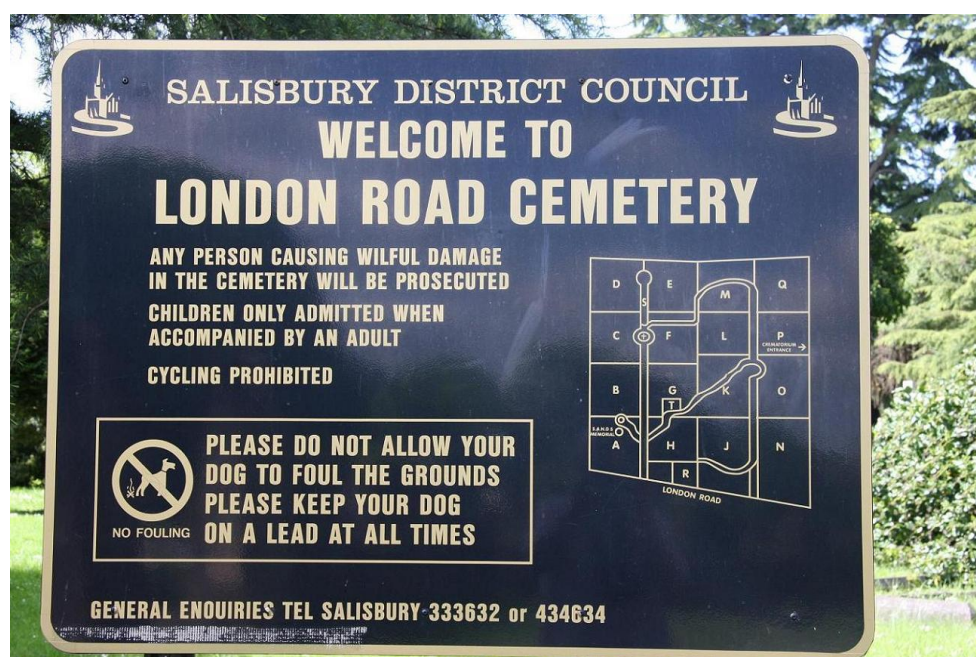
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly 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.

Unusually, Private J. E. Peters has both a Private Headstone & a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone.

London Road Cemetery, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England

London Road Cemetery, Salisbury contains 52 World War 1 burials & 52 World War 2 burials. There are 9 Australian WW1 War Graves & 1 WW2 Australian War Grave in this Cemetery.



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)



(Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Private J. E. Peters' Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone & Private Headstone in London Road Cemetery, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Helen Roberts 2020)



(Photo courtesy of Helen Roberts 2020)



(Photo courtesy of Helen Roberts 2020)

In
Loving Memory
Of
JOHN EDWARD PETERS
Of N.S.W. Australia
Who Departed This Life
On January 27th 1918
Aged 31 Years
Let Thy Perpetual Light Shine On Him O Lord



(Photo courtesy of Helen Roberts 2020)



(Photo from CWGC)