

**St. Edith's Churchyard,
Baverstock, Wiltshire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4593 PRIVATE

A. PYE

30TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

16TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 24

Rest In Peace

Alfred PYE

Alfred W. Pye was born at Windsor, NSW on 29th January, 1891 to parents Adolphus Clement & Susan (Susannah) Pye (nee Ayres).

Alfred Pye attended school at Eumungerie Public, NSW.

Alfred Pye was a 25 year old, single, Carrier from Eumungerie, via Dubbo, NSW when he enlisted on 1st November, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4593 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Susan Pye, P.O. Eumungerie, via Dubbo, NSW.

Private Alfred Pye embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Beltana* (A72) on 25th November, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 30th Infantry Battalion, 12th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 29th January, 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 Alfred Pye was admitted to Fovant Hospital on 13th February, 1917 from "B" Company, 8th Training Battalion, Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Private Alfred Pye died at 2 a.m. on 16th February, 1917 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire from Pneumonia.

A death for Alfred Pye, aged 25, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Private Alfred Pye was buried in the churchyard of St. Edith's at Baverstock, Wiltshire on 19th February, 1917 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Headstone.

A War Pension was granted to Mrs Susan Pye, mother of late Private Alfred Pye, in the sum of £2 per fortnight, granted from 22nd April, 1917.

Private Alfred Pye was entitled to British War Medal only as he did not enter a Theatre of War, however his Service Record File shows that he was issued the British War Medal (53989) & the Victory Medal (53189). A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Pye's father – Mr A. C. Pye of Eumungerie (January, 1922 & August, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Alfred Pye – service number 4593, as being 24 years old & served with 30th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Adolphus Clement and Susan Pye of Eumungerie, New South Wales. Born at Windsor, New South Wales.

Private A. Pye is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 117.

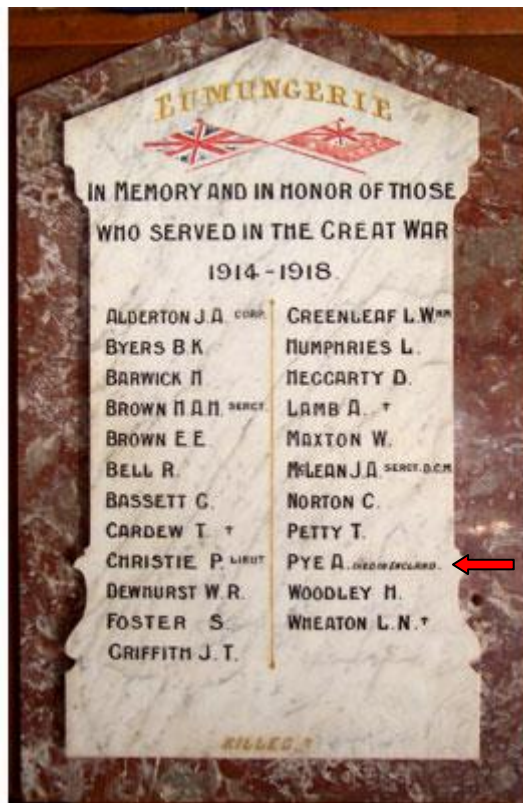


(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. Pye is also remembered on the Eumungerie WW1 Roll of Honour located at Railway Street, Eumungerie, NSW.



Eumungerie WW1 Roll of Honour

(Photo from Register of War Memorials in NSW – Sandra M. Smith)

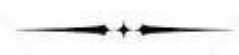
(42 pages of Private Alfred Pye's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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





Private Alfred Pye



Newspaper Reports

OUR SOLDIERS

A few months ago a young man, Alfred Pye, of Eumungerie, dropped the tools of his trade and responded to the still small voice — to him the insistent call of duty. In the fulness of time he arrived in England girt up for the performance of the grim duties that lay ahead, but full of hope. But, alas, his days were already numbered, and he succumbed to pneumonia shortly after his arrival in the old country. The deceased soldier was the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Pye, of Eumungerie, Windsor-born people, who settled in the district many years ago and where most of their family of three sons and three daughters were born. The father was a trusted employee of the firm of E. H. Utley and Co. for over 20 years, and one of the sons Mr. John Pye, is at present employed at that establishment. The young man, who set out on his sacred mission a few months ago made a big sacrifice to do so. He was the owner of a waggon and ten fine horses, and was making big money at the time. But for the sacrifice he has found immortality in the hearts of a grateful Australian people.

(The Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate, NSW – 23 February, 1917)

RETURN THANKS

Mr and Mrs C. PYE and Family wish to return their SINCERE THANKS to all kind friends for letters of sympathy and cards in their recent sad bereavement – the death of their son, Private Alfred Pye, who died in England from illness.

(The Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate, NSW – 2 March, 1917)

CASUALTIES – 276th LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte A. PYE Eumungerie (prev. rep. died, cause not stated)

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Saturday 3 March, 1917)

BISHOP LONG'S VISIT

CONFIRMATION SERVICES

On three occasions on Sunday last the Church of the Resurrection, Gilgandra, was packed to overflowing, special prominence being given to each service by the presence of his Lordship Bishop Long, of Bathurst.....

At the conformation service at Eumungerie on Sunday afternoon 23 candidates came forward. There was an unusually large congregation, the little church being unable to accommodate those present. Added interest was given the service, by the fact that a font given by Mrs Pye and family in memory of her son, Alfred Pye, who died in the military hospital, was consecrated by the Bishop.

(Gilgandra Weekly, NSW – 3 August, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

PYE – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Alfred Pye, who died in England February 16th, 1917.

No loved ones stood around him,

To bid a fond farewell;

No word of comfort could we give

To him we loved so well.

No loving mother's gentle hand

To wipe the death dew from his brow;

No token of love in that far-off land

To mark the spot where he sleepeth now.

Inserted by his loving father and mother, sisters and brothers.

(The Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate, NSW – 15 February, 1918)

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. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock. 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 A. Pye does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Rest In Peace

St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire, England

St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock contains 32 World War 1 War Graves – 3 London Regiment Graves in the south-west corner & 29 Australian War Graves.



St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock (Photo courtesy of Helen Roberts)





St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock (Photos courtesy of Helen Roberts)



Photo of Private A. Pye's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at St. Edith's Churchyard, Baverstock, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey 2012)