

**Stourbridge Cemetery,  
Stourbridge, West Midlands, England  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2378 LANCE CPL**

**E. E. REED**

**33RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**26TH APRIL, 1918    Age 31**

*In Memory Of  
My Dearly Loved Husband*

## Ernest Edward REED

Ernest Edward Reed was born Boroughbridge, Yorkshire, England in 1886 to parents Harry & Amelia Reed (nee Lonsdale).

The 1891 England Census recorded Ernest E. Reed as a 4 year old, living with his family at High Street, Boroughbridge, Yorkshire, England. His parents were listed as Harry S. Reed (Painter Gilder & Paper Hanger, aged 28, born Middlezoy, Somersetshire) & Amelia Reed (aged 28, born Boroughbridge, Yorkshire). Ernest was one of three children listed on this Census (all born Boroughbridge, Yorkshire) – Ethel Reed (Scholar, aged 5), then Ernest & Hubert Reed (aged 1). Also listed was William Jewitt (Painter's Apprentice, aged 19).

The 1901 England Census recorded Ernest Reed as a 14 year old, living with his family at High Street, Boroughbridge, Yorkshire, England. His father was listed as Harry Reed (married, Painter, Paperhanger & Decorator, aged 38). Ernest was one of three children listed on this Census – Ethel Reed (aged 15), then Ernest & Hubert Reed (Scholar, aged 11). Also listed was Elizabeth Parkin (Housekeeper servant, aged 30). Ernest's mother was not listed in this household. She was listed as Amelia Reed (Dressmaker, (at home, own account) aged 37) & living at New Row, Boroughbridge, Yorkshire.

Ernest Edward Reed enlisted in the West Yorkshire Regiment on 17th March, 1904 & was given a Service number of 7448. He was an 18 year old Butcher from Boroughbridge, Yorkshire & his next of kin was listed as his father – Harry Reed, High Street, Boroughbridge, Yorkshire. Conditions of serving “3 years with the Colours and 9 years in the Reserve, or, if the man completes his 3 years' service with the Colours while beyond the seas, then for a further period, not exceeding one year, with the Colours, and the remainder of the 12 years in the Reserve.”

Private Ernest Edward Reed was admitted to Hospital at Holywood from 8th March, 1906 to 16th March, 1906 with Eczema.

Ernest Edward Reed married Jeannie Bell at Holywood, Ireland on 15th October, 1906.

Private Ernest Edward Reed, of 2nd Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment, was transferred to 1st Class Army Reserve on 16th March, 1907, having served 3 years.

Private Ernest Edward Reed re-engaged on 7th March, 1908 for a further term of 1 year & was posted to Reserve B.

Private Ernest Edward Reed was released from Army Reserve on 16th March, 1909 in consequence of termination of Engagement.

The 1911 England Census recorded Ernest Reed as a 24 year old, living with his wife – Jennie Reed (aged 26, born Berwick on Tweed) & their son – Ernest Edward Reed (aged 11 months, born Boroughbridge, Yorkshire) in a 3 roomed dwelling at No. 2 Norwood Terrace, Langthorpe, Boroughbridge, Yorkshire – North Riding. Ernest & Jennie had been married for 5 years & had 1 child.

According to information provided by his wife for the Roll of Honour - Ernest Edward Reed came to Australia when he was 25 ½ years old. She stated he had served “in the 2nd West Yorkshire Regiment. 3 years in the colours & 6 years Reserve.”

Ernest Edward Reed, Farmer, & his wife – Mrs Jenny Reed & their son Ernest Edward Reed were passengers on *Narrung*, which departed from the port of London, England on 28th February, 1912 bound for Sydney, Australia.

Private Ernest Edward Reed failed two consecutive occasions in the Army Reserve in England in the months of March, 1912 & June, 1913. He was struck off for absence for two quarters.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Gough, subdivision of Inverell, NSW listed Ernest Reed, Labourer, & his wife Jennie Reed, Domestic Duties, both of Yambo.

Ernest Edward Reed was a 29 year old, married, Painter from Macintyre Street, Inverell, NSW when he enlisted at Inverell, NSW on 29th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2378 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Jenny Reed, of Macintyre Street, Inverell, NSW. Ernest Reed stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served for 12 years with Imperial Service. He had “4 Tattoo marks – 2 on each arm. Right Arm – Horse Shoe & Horse Head. Left Arm - Col. Cordy. Heart & Arrow.”

Private Ernest Edward Reed was posted to A.I.F. Camp at Narrabri, NSW on 29th February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to Armidale Depot Camp, NSW on 18th March, 1916 as Acting Sergeant. Acting Sergeant Reed was transferred to 2nd Reinforcements of 33rd Depot Battalion at Rutherford, NSW on 6th May, 1916. He was transferred to 4th Reinforcements of 33rd Battalion at Rutherford as Acting Sergeant Major from 26th August, 1916.

Acting Sergeant Reed attended the No. 9 School of Instruction as Sergeant & attended Bombing School & Trench Warfare at Liverpool & passed (no date recorded).

Private (as per Embarkation Roll, however he was listed Voyage Only Sergeant on Casualty Form – Active Service) Ernest Edward Reed embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Borda* (A30) on 17th October, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Brigade, 33rd Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th 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.

Voyage Only Sergeant Ernest Edward Reed reverted to rank of Private on 10th January, 1917 on arriving in England. He was marched in to 9th Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire, England on 12th January, 1917.

Private Ernest Edward Reed was written up for an Offence while posted at Durrington Camp, Wiltshire, England – A.W.L. (absent without leave) from midnight on 18th January, 1917 till 2 pm on 19th January, 1917. He was awarded 7 days Confined to Barracks by Major Cooke Russell & forfeited 1 days' pay.

Private Ernest Edward Reed proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 28th March, 1917 from 9th Training Battalion. He was marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 29th March, 1917. Private Reed was to be E.D.P. Corporal (Extra Duty Pay) from 11th April, 1917 & reverted to rank of Private on 15th April, 1917. Private Reed was marched out from 3rd A.D.B.D. to the Front on 16th April, 1917 & was taken on strength of 33rd Battalion in the Field on 18th April, 1917.

Private Ernest Edward Reed was sent sick to Hospital on 28th October, 1917. He was admitted to 9th Field Ambulance on 28th October, 1917 – P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). Private Reed was discharged to duty on 31st October, 1917 & rejoined his Unit in 1st November, 1917.

Private Ernest Edward Reed was to be Lance Corporal from 17th November, 1917 vice McDonald promoted.

Lance Corporal Ernest Edward Reed was sent sick to Hospital on 9th January, 1918. He was admitted to 10th Australian Field Ambulance on 9th January, 1918 with Diarrhoea then transferred to D.R.S. (Divisional Rest Station) the same day. Lance Corporal Reed was transferred & admitted to 50th Field Ambulance on 11th January, 1918 & discharged to duty on 13th January, 1918. He rejoined 33rd Battalion on 13th January, 1918.

Lance Corporal Ernest Edward Reed proceeded on Leave to England from 28th February, 1918. He was reported A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) on 16th March, 1918. Lance Corporal Reed rejoined his Unit from Leave on 21st March, 1918. No disciplinary action was taken.

Lance Corporal Ernest Edward Reed was wounded in action – Gassed on 17th April, 1918. He was admitted to 55th Field Ambulance on 17th April, 1918 having been gassed – shell. Lance Corporal Reed was transferred to Casualty Clearing Station then transferred & admitted to 1st Australian General Hospital at Rouen, France on 18th April, 1918. He was marked for transfer to England on 21st April, 1918 & embarked for England on 22nd April, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Guildford Castle*.

## 33rd Battalion

The 33rd Battalion was formed in January 1916 at a camp established at the Armidale showground in New South Wales. The bulk of the battalion's recruits were drawn from the New England region and thus it was dubbed "New England's Own". The Battalion's first, and only, commanding officer was Lieutenant Colonel Leslie Morshead, who would become famous as the commander of the 9th Australian Division during the Second World War.

The 33rd Battalion became part of the 9th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division. It left Sydney, bound for the United Kingdom in May 1916. Arriving there in early July, the battalion spent the next four months training. It crossed to France in late November, and moved into the trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 27 November, just in time for the onset of the terrible winter of 1916-17.

The Battalion had to wait until the emphasis of British and Dominion operations switched to the Ypres Sector of Belgium in mid-1917 to take part in its first major battle; this was the battle of Messines, launched on 7 June. The battalion held the ground captured during the battle for several days afterwards and was subjected to intense artillery bombardment. One soldier wrote that holding the line at Messines was far worse than taking it. The battalion's next major battle was around Passchendaele on 12 October. The battlefield, though, had been deluged with rain, and thick mud tugged at the advancing troops and fouled their weapons. The battle ended in a disastrous defeat.

For the next five months the 33rd alternated between periods of rest, training, labouring, and service in the line. When the German Army launched its last great offensive in the spring of 1918, the Battalion was part of the force deployed to defend the approaches to Amiens around Villers-Bretonneux. It took part in a counter-attack at Hangard Wood on 30 March, and helped to defeat a major drive on Villers-Bretonneux on 4 April.....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

### War Diary – 33rd Battalion

*Villers Bretonneux 17th April, 1918*

*Dull day – visibility poor. The enemy commenced a very heavy bombardment of gas shells of all calibres up to 5.9s at 4 pm paying most attention to the forward portion of the town. Direct hits were obtained on A. Cos. billets, penetrating into the cellars where the men were asleep, and gassing a number before respirators could be adjusted. The bombardment lasted the whole day but was most intense between 4 am and 1 pm. No gas was detected in the region of the Posts until late in the afternoon when a number of shells fell short of the village. These ceased at 6 pm and the enemy gave his attention to dropping shells at intervals in different parts of the town. The enemy did not discontinue his usual shelling with H.E. although it was not so pronounced as previously. Our casualties through gas were heavy being 13 Officers, 26 N.C.O.'s and 268 men. The gas used seemed to be a mixture as men were affected in the eyes, chest and stomach.*

*(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)*

Lance Corporal Ernest Edward Reed was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital, Stourbridge Section (affiliated with 1st Southern General Hospital, Edgbaston) on 23rd April, 1918 – Gassed (severe).

Lance Corporal Ernest Edward Reed died at 5 pm on 26th April, 1918 at 1st Southern General Hospital, Stourbridge Section, England as a result of being Gassed – Shell Lethal.

A death for Ernest E. Reed, aged 31, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Stourbridge, Worcestershire, England.

Lance Corporal Ernest Edward Reed was buried at 2.30 pm on 30th April, 1918 in Stourbridge Cemetery, Stourbridge, West Midlands, England – Plot number C. 341 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Lance Corporal Reed - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack Flag, and surmounted by several*

*beautiful wreaths. Firing Party and Bugler were supplied by Australian patients in the 1st Southern General Hospital, Stourbridge. Pallbearers by the R.A.M.C. Staff, 1st Southern General Hospital, Stourbridge. Prior to the interment a service was held by Chaplain the Rev. B.S. Ainley, C. F. in the Cemetery Chapel. About 20 Australian Patients in the hospital followed the remains to the Cemetery. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross will be 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 – Father – Mr Harry Reed, Boroughbridge, Yorkshire and Sister – Miss Ethel Reed (same address).*

Ernest Edward Reed requested in his Will, dated 24th January, 1918, that all his real and personal estate be bequeathed to his wife – Jennie Reed, McIntyre St, Inverell, New South Wales, Australia.

Lance Corporal Ernest Edward Reed was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Reed's widow – Mrs J. Reed, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

Base Records wrote to Mrs J. Reed, May Street, Ross Hill, Inverell, NSW on 4th June, 1925 with the following letter: *"You will doubtless be interested to learn that on the occasion of the recent Anzac Day pilgrimage to the graves of Australian soldiers buried in the United Kingdom, the cemetery at Stourbridge, Worcestershire, wherein the remains of your husband, the late No. 2378 L/Cpl. E. E. Reed, 33rd Btn, and other members of the Force are interred was again visited by Mr L. M. Instone, of "Elmdene", Woodfield Avenue, Penn. Wolverhampton, England. The thanks of the Department have been conveyed to Mr Instone for this further evidence of his continued interest in and attention to the graves of our fallen soldiers, and it is thought you may desire to personally express your appreciation of his kindness."*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Ernest Edward Reed – service number 2378, aged 31, of 33rd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Harry and Amelia Reed; husband of Jennie Reed, of May St., Ross Hill, Inverell, New South Wales.

Lance Corporal E. E. Reed is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 122.



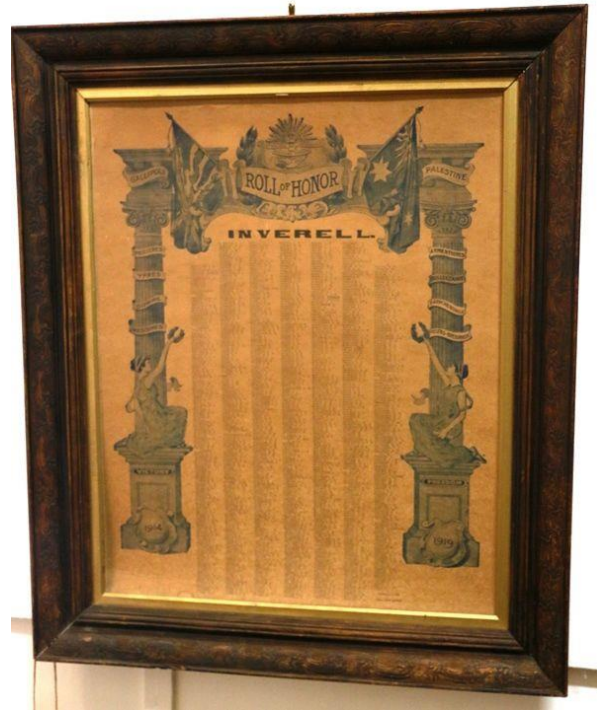
*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

E. E. Reed is remembered on St. Augustine's Great War Roll of Honour, located at 33 Rivers Street, Inverell, NSW.



St. Augustine's Great War Roll of Honour, Inverell (Photo from War Memorials Register NSW)

E. E. Reed is remembered on the Inverell Roll of Honour, located in Inverell R.S.L. Musuem, Inverell Pioneer Village, 64 Tingha Road, Inverell, NSW.



**Inverell Roll of Honour** (Photo by John Huth - Monument Australia)

E. E. Reed is remembered on the Inverell War Memorial, located at Evans & Lawrence Streets, Inverell, NSW.



**Inverell War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia)

Ernest E. Reed is remembered on the Inverell Memorial Olympic Pool First World War Honour Roll, located at Inverell and District Memorial Olympic Pool, 69 Evans Street, Inverell, NSW.



**Inverell Memorial Olympic Pool First World War Honour Roll**

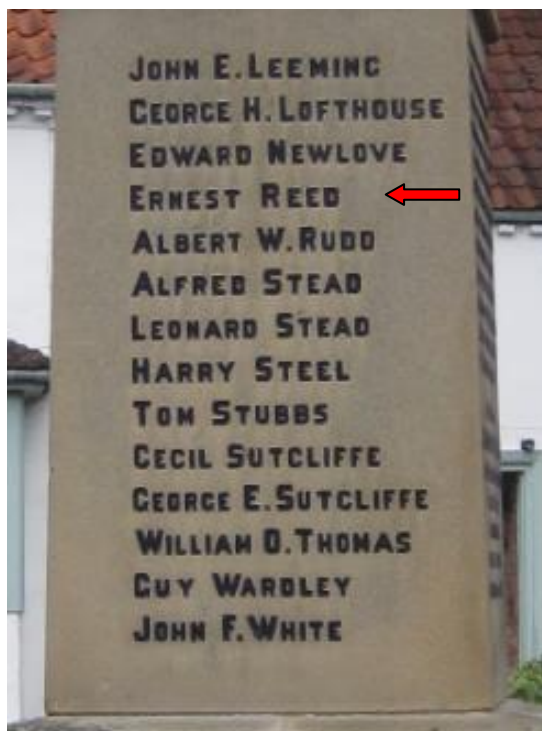
*(Photo from War Memorials Register NSW – Graham Wilson)*



Ernest Reed is remembered on the Boroughbridge War Memorial, located at Hall Square, Boroughbridge, Yorkshire, England.



**Boroughbridge War Memorial** (Photos from War Memorials Online – Simon Armstrong)



Ernest Reed is remembered on the St. James Church Roll of Honour, Church Lane, Boroughbridge, Yorkshire.



**St. James Church Roll of Honour, Boroughbridge** (Photo from War Memorials Online – Simon Armstrong)



(56 pages of Lance Corporal Ernest Edward Reed's 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) & National Archives



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **THE SEND-OFF**

The country-side again flocked to the third contingent of "Kurrajongs." After being marshalled at the Drill Hall, the procession marched to the Railway Station, to the inspiring music of the three combined bands. The mounted police headed the long line followed by the bands (Salvation Army, Austral and Modell— combined, under Bandmaster Ford), then came the "Kurrajongs" with a banner in front; next were the Pipers, the cadets, and the Fire Brigade brought up the rear of the official processions, though the private vehicles extended a considerable distance.

Arriving at the station they were welcomed by an immense crowd. Ald. J. F. O'Connor briefly addressed the recruits, regretting that some of Australia's soldiers had not 'played the game,' and urging them to be true to themselves. Others had gone before them and made an immortal name for Australia, and it was for them to see that the good name was upheld. The trust, good wishes, and admiration of the community went with them as were evidenced by the combined bands and the gaily decorated engine.

After a patriotic selection by the band, during the private farewells, the train left amid great cheering and demonstrations of good wishes. The engine was very artistically and gaily decorated by Messrs. Brand, Allan and Ehsman, the scheme being a Kurrajong tree in front under the Royal Crown, streamers of red, white and blue and many flags and bunches of Kurrajong.

The names of the departing "Kurrajongs" are as follows: —

.....

E. E. REED, Inverell

.....

(*The Inverell Times*, NSW – 29 February, 1916)

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### **Recruiting Depot**

Recruiting in the north continues in the same good old style. Among the many energetic towns is Inverell, whose efforts during the month of February have been noticeable indeed. During the week no less than 48 reported at this depot for training from this town. They are a very fine class of men, and should be heard of during the later stages of this gigantic struggle we are engaged in.

Warialda is also to the fore, having sent along 13 recruits of equally good class.

The number of recruits in camp to date is 201, excluding 14 staff.

The recruits from Inverell are:-.....E. E. Reed,.....

(*The North Western Courier*, Narrabri, NSW – 8 March, 1916)

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### **ROLL OF HONOR**

#### **SERGEANT E. E. REED**

The Vicar Rev. E. H. Stammer, received the sad news on Wednesday that Sergeant E. E. Reed had died on April 26th. The cause of death was not stated, but the cable intimated that the Defence Department were making investigations. The late Sergeant Reed was a Yorkshireman, and with his wife and one child, a boy, came to Australia about six years ago, the greater portion of which time was spent in Inverell. He enlisted about two years ago, and sailed with the 33rd Battalion. A pathetic circumstance surrounding his death is that his wife, who resides in Macintyre-street, received a letter from him last week. He was then on furlough, and staying with his father and mother in Yorkshire. The letter was quite cheerful, and evidently written whilst the deceased was in the best of health

and spirits. The wife and child are quite alone, having no relatives in Australia, but we feel sure the sympathy of all will go out to the grief-stricken widow and boy in the great sacrifice they have been called upon to make.

*(The Inverell Times, NSW – 3 May, 1918)*

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### **Roll of Honor**

REED – In loving memory of my husband Sergt. E. E. Reed, 33rd Batt. A.I.F., died in France, April 26th, 1918.

Sleep on beloved in a far off land  
In a grave we shall never see  
But as long as life and memory last  
We will remember thee.

(Inserted by his loving wife and sons, Ernest Edward Reed).

*(The Inverell Times, NSW – 10 May, 1918)*

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### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **LIST NO. 401**

#### **DIED OF WOUNDS**

Sergeant E. E. Reed, Inverell

*(The Maitland Weekly Mercury, NSW – 25 May, 1918)*

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### **A Widow's Thanks**

Mrs E. Reed, of Macintyre-street, Inverell, and widow of the late Sergt Reed, killed in action, writes:- "With your kind permission, I wish to thank Mrs Thomas and the Mothers' Union for a load of wood, delivered to me free of cost by Mr J. Morrow. It was very acceptable. May God bless the Mothers' Union and the gentlemen who used their axes on Saturday last with so much skill and vigor. I also wish to thank Mr Walter Adams for a load of wood he sent along recently."

*(The Inverell Times, NSW – 14 June, 1918)*

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### **Roll of Honor**

In loving memory of my husband, Ernest Edward Reed, 33rd Batt., A.I.F., who died April 26th, 1918, at the 1st Southern General Hospital, England, from the effects of gas poison received in action at Villers Bretonneau France, on April 23rd, 1918.

He gave his life for his country,  
For honor, faith and right;  
With us his memory ever lives,  
He fought a noble fight.

In a soldier's grave he lies sleeping,  
    One of earth's bravest and best;  
In our hearts we shall miss him forever,  
    Though we know he is only at rest.

(Inserted by his loving wife and son – Jennie and Ernest Reed).

*(The Inverell Times, NSW – 25 April, 1919)*

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### **Roll of Honor**

REED – In loving memory of my husband, Ernest Edward Reed, 33rd Batt. A.I.F., who died April 26th, 1918, at the First Southern General Hospital, England, from the effects of gas poison received in action at Villers Bretonneaux, France, on April 23rd, 1918.

“Waves of sadness still come o'er us,  
Secret tears do often flow;  
For memory keeps our dear one near us,  
Though he died three years ago.

Inserted by his loving wife and son, Jennie and Ernest Reed.

*(The Inverell Times, NSW – 26 April, 1921)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

REED – In loving memory of Sergt.-Major E. E. Reed, who was gassed at Villers-Bretoneaux (France), April 23, 1918 and died April 26, 1918, in Stourbridge Military Hospital, England.

Sleep on, at rest in a far-off land  
In a grave we shall never see;  
But as long as life and memory lasts  
We will remember thee.

(Inserted by his Wife and Son).

*(The Inverell Times, NSW – 25 April, 1930)*

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### **HONOR ROLL**

REED – To the Memory of Sergt. Major E. E. Reed, gassed Villers-Bretonneaux, France, April 23, 1918; died April 26, 1918, Stourbridge Military Hospital, Worcestershire, England.

Time may pass and bring its changes,  
    Fresh with every coming year,  
But your memory will be cherished  
    In the hearts that loved you dear.

(Inserted by Mrs Jennie and Ernest Reed).

*(The Inverell Times, NSW – 27 April, 1931)*

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### 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)*

Lance Corporal E. E. Reed does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Memory Of My Dearly Loved Husband*

### **Stourbridge Cemetery, Stourbridge, West Midlands, England**

The cemetery contains 47 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war, (including those of 13 Australian soldiers, near which a Cenotaph is placed); and a War Cross is erected on the main roadway close to the entrance. The 1st Southern General Hospital had a Section in the Stourbridge Infirmary.

Most of the First World War burials are scattered but 17 form a small plot. The cemetery also contains 20 scattered burials of the Second World War and 1 Non World War burial here. *(Information from CWGC)*



*(Photo by cookie – Find a Grave)*

## Stourbridge Cemetery Overseas Soldiers Sarcophagus

Adjacent to the Plot where the 13 Australian WW1 War Graves are located sits a Sarcophagus Memorial (listed by CWGC above as a Cenotaph) which reads:

*"In Grateful Memory Of Our Comrades From  
Overseas Who Died In The Stourbridge Military  
Hospital During The Great War 1914-19."*

The names of the 13 Australians are listed on the Plaque along with a Soldier from Canadian Contingent & 2 Soldiers from U.S.A.



(Photos courtesy of Peter Bennett)



Stourbridge Cemetery Overseas Soldiers Sarcophagus/Memorial



**Arrow showing the Plot where Australian WW1 War Graves are located**



**Stourbridge Cemetery showing Australian WW1 War Graves**

*(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)*



Photo of Lance Corporal E. E. Reed's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Stourbridge Cemetery, Stourbridge, West Midlands, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett – Private Collection)*