

**St. Thomas's Churchyard,
Garstang, Lancashire
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



6325 PRIVATE

A. E. RICHARDSON

11TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

30TH JULY, 1919 Age 41

Arthur Edward RICHARDSON

Arthur Edward Richardson was born in 1878 at Garstang, Lancashire, England to parents Robert & Elizabeth Richardson (nee Sandham). He was baptised on 27th July, 1878 in St. Helen's Church, Garstang, Lancashire, England.

The 1881 England Census recorded Aurthur Edward Richardson as a 2 year old living with his family at Croston Barn Farm, Cabus, Garstang, Lancashire, England. Arthur's parents were recorded as Robert Richardson (Farmer & Occupier of 82 acres of land, employing one man servant & one woman servant aged 40, born Cockerham, Lancashire) & Elizabeth Richardson (aged 33, born Ellel, Lancashire). Arthur was one of five sons listed on this Census – Richard W. Richardson (Scholar, aged 8, born Cockerham, Lancashire), Thomas Richardson (Scholar, aged 6, Cockerham, Lancashire), John Henry Ricardson (aged 3, born Myerscough, Lancashire) then Arthur (Born Myersough, Lancashire) & Robert Richardson (aged 1, born Cabus, Lancashire). Also listed on this Census were two nephews – Richard Richardson (Scholar, aged 10, born Liverpool, Lancashire) & John Henry Richardson (Scholar, aged 6, born Liverpool, Lancashire). Robert Richardson's widower father-in-law – Thomas Sandham (Agricultural Labourer, aged 77) was also listed along with two servants – Anne Helme (Domestic servant, aged 14) & John Hodson (Agricultural Labourer, aged 39).

The 1891 England Census recorded Arthur Edward Richardson as a 12 year old Scholar, living with his family at Croston Barn, Cabus, Garstang, Lancashire, England. Arthur's parents were recorded as Robert Richardson (Farmer, aged 50) & Elizabeth Richardson (aged 43). Arthur was one of seven sons listed on this Census – Richard William Richardson (Farmer's son, aged 18), Thomas Richardson (Tailor's Apprentice, aged 16), John Henry Richardson (Farmer's son, aged 13), then Arthur, Robert Richardson (Scholar, aged 11), George Richardson (Scholar, aged 9) & Harold Kirby Richardson (Scholar, aged 6). Also listed on this Census were two nephews – Richard Richardson (Joiner's Apprentice, aged 20) & John Henry Richardson (Miller's Apprentice, aged 16). Dinah Hoyles (General Servant, aged 23) was also listed.

The 1901 England Census recorded Arthur E. Richardson as a 22 year old, Tailor, living with his family at Croston Barn, Cabus, Garstang, Lancashire, England. Arthur's parents were recorded as Robert Richardson (Farmer, aged 60) & Elizabeth Richardson (aged 53). Arthur was one of five sons listed on this Census – Richard W. Richardson (Farmer's son, aged 28), Thomas Richardson (Travelling Draper, aged 26), John H. Richardson (Joiner, aged 23), then Arthur & Harold K. Richardson (Farmer's son, aged 16). Also listed was Sarah Huntington (General Servant, aged 15).

Arthur Edward Richardson married Lydia Hornby Carter on 2nd May, 1906 at Salford, Lancashire, England.

A birth was registered in June quarter, 1908 in the district of Leigh, Lancashire for Edith Margaret Richardson.

The 1911 England Census recorded Arthur Edward Richardson as a 32 year old, married Commercial Traveller of Agricultural Implements living with his wife & daughter in his parents' nine roomed dwelling at Croston Barn, Cabus, Garstang, Lancashire. Arthur's wife was listed as Lydia Hornby Richardson (aged 28, born Liverpool, Lancashire) & his daughter as Edith Margaret Richardson (aged 3, born Leigh, Lancashire). Arthur & Lydia had been married for 4 years, having had 3 children in that time with 2 having died. Arthur's parents were recorded as Robert Richardson (Farmer, aged 70) & Elizabeth Richardson (aged 63). Robert & Elizabeth Richardson had been married for 39 years, having had 10 children, 3 of who had since died. Three of Arthur's brothers were also listed on this Census – Richard William Richardson (Farmer's son, working on Farm, aged 38), Thomas Richardson (Farmer's son, working on Farm, aged 36) & Harold Richardson (Farmer's son, working on Farm, aged 26). Margaret Wiseman (General Servant, aged 24) was also listed.

The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Perth, subdivision of Subiaco listed Arthur Edward Richardson, no occupation, of 230 Rokeby Road, Subiaco, Western Australia.

Arthur Edward Richardson was a 37 year old, married, Engine Foreman (listed as Fireman on Embarkation Roll) from 230 Rokeby Road, Subiaco, Western Australia when he enlisted in Perth, Western Australia on 28th March, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 6325 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Lydia Hornby Richardson, 576 Bolton Road, Pendlebury, Manchester, England.

Private Arthur Edward Richardson was posted to 57th Depot on 28th March, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 20th Reinforcements, 11th Battalion on 17th April, 1916.

Private Arthur Edward Richardson embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Clan McGillivray (A46)* on 18th September, 1916 with the 11th Infantry Battalion, 20th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 2nd November, 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 Arthur Edward Richardson proceeded overseas per S.S. *Golden Eagle* via Folkestone from 3rd Training Battalion in England on 17th December, 1916. He joined 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 18th December, 1916 & was marched out to his Unit on 23rd December, 1916. Private Richardson joined 11th Battalion "B" Company in the Field from 20th Reinforcements on 17th January, 1917.

Private Arthur Edward Richardson was wounded in action at Bullecourt, France on 6th May, 1917. He was admitted to 8th Field Ambulance on 6th May, 1917 with a bruised ankle & right arm. He was transferred to 5th Divisional Rest Station on the same day & rejoined his Battalion on 15th May, 1917.

Private Arthur Edward Richardson was admitted to 3rd Field Ambulance on 2nd June, 1917 with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). He was transferred to 1st Divisional Rest Centre. Pte Richardson was transferred to 6th Casualty Clearing Station on 16th June, 1917 then transferred to 8th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 19th June, 1917 with Trench Fever. He was transferred to Convalescent Depot at Rouen on 22nd June, 1917 then transferred to 11th Convalescent Depot at Buchy on 27th June, 1917. Private Richardson was transferred to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre on 21st August, 1917. He proceeded from 1st A.D.B.D. on 29th August, 1917 to join his Unit & rejoined his Unit in the field on 31st August, 1917.

Private Arthur Edward Richardson was listed in Honours & Awards: *Operations at Broodseinde Ridge, Belgium 1st to 9th October, 1917 – Pte RICHARDSON did excellent work as guide and observer throughout the operations. On the evening of the 7th October during a very heavy enemy barrage when the S.O.S. was being sent up on our front he continued to observe and bring back reports on the situation under heavy shelling.*

Private Arthur Edward Richardson was sent sick to Hospital on 19th October, 1917. He was admitted to 50th Casualty Clearing Station on 19th October, 1917 with Bronchitis. Private Richardson was transferred to 16th General Hospital at Le Treport on 23rd October, 1917 & then transferred to No. 3 Convalescent Depot on 11th November, 1917. He was transferred to Base Depot at Havre on 22nd November, 1917. Private Richardson was marched in to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre on 23rd November, 1917. He proceeded to rejoin his Unit on 2nd January, 1918 from 1st A.D.B.D. Private Richardson was sent to Hospital on 3rd January, 1918, enroute to rejoining his Unit. He was admitted to 10th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 3rd January, 1918 with Bronchitis. Private Richardson was discharged to Base Details on 19th January, 1918.

Private Arthur Edward Richardson was medically classified by the Medical Board as B1 & was marched out to Havre on 24th January, 1918. He was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre on 24th January, 1918.

11th Battalion

In 1917 the battalion took part in the brief advance that followed the German Army's retreat to the Hindenburg Line. During a German counterattack at Louverval, France, in April 1917 Lieutenant Charles Pope was killed performing the deed for which he would be awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross. The battalion subsequently returned to Belgium to participate in the offensive that became known as the Third Battle of Ypres.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Arthur Edward Richardson was transferred to England on 20th February, 1918 with Chronic Bronchitis.

Private Arthur Edward Richardson was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset from France on 21st February, 1918.

A Medical Report was completed on Private Arthur Edward Richardson on 26th February, 1918 at No. 2 Australian Command Depot who was reported to be suffering Chronic Bronchitis. It was reported that Private Richardson had bronchitis in childhood then no incidence of bronchitis until he was in France. It was the opinion of the Medical Board that the Bronchitis was aggravated by active service through strain and exposure. The Medical Board recommended that Private Richardson was permanently unfit for General Service & temporarily unfit for Home Service.

Private Arthur Edward Richardson was granted leave in England for Family Reasons from 5th April, 1918 to 19th April, 1918 without pay or allowances.

Private Arthur Edward Richardson returned from leave on 19th April, 1918 & was marched out from Admin. Headquarters to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth for return to Australia.

On 17th May, 1918 a letter was sent to Private Arthur Edward Richardson from John Grundy Limited, Heating and Ventilating Engineers and Ironfounders, Parr Street, Tyldesley advising that his application for employment had been accepted & he could commence work as soon as possible.

Private Arthur Edward Richardson, 11th Battalion, No. 1 Company, Littlemoor Camp, Weymouth, England wrote to the High Commissioner, Commonwealth of Australia on 23rd May, 1918 regarding his request to be discharged in England. [Normally a soldier was discharged when they returned back to Australia – where they had originally enlisted.] *“This morning my application was returned here, not approved, it only got as far as Westham Weymouth and was turned down by the Adjutant No. 2 Command Depot. The C. O. Littlemore approved it. I am enclosing one of the guaranties of work, it is a Munition Factory nr Manchester and only 7 miles from my home. I think it would be a great injustice to me, to send me back at present, as my wife is very very ill and if I was discharged here, instead of being sent back to Western Australia to be discharge it would save the Australian Government the cost of taking me out and it will help me, it means such a lot to me. I am very sorry for troubling you, but the time is getting short. Trusting that it is not too late yet and thanking you anticipation.”*

Private Arthur Edward Richardson, 11th Battalion, No. 1 Company, Littlemoor Camp, Weymouth, England wrote to The Commandant, A.I.F. Headquarters which was received on 25th May, 1918 which reads: *“Sir, I wish to appeal to you to see if I can get my discharge in England. I am Class C 3 & my wife & family are resided at 576 Bolton Rd, Pendlebury, Manchester. I have guarantees of work both in Munition Works, aeroplane works & on the land. I sent in an application here & it was approved by the CO & turned down by the Adjutant No. 2 Command. My wife is in a very critical state of health, as also is my mother who resides at Croston Barn Farm Garstang Lane. My father died while I was in WA & my mother & brother kept the farm going until last Easter, on April 2 they had a sale of stock etc & the estate has not been settled up yet & will not until towards the end of this year. My wife is very very ill, also upset at the prospect of me going away. I do hope you will be able to help me, for it means a big expense to me returning here & then probably going out to Australia again later. I am on boat roll carrier D10 & I wish to be taken off with an ultimate view to discharge. Thanking you very much in anticipation..”*

On 6th June, 1918 a letter was written from the Chairman of the Bolton and District Association of Dairy Farmers stating that it is understood that Pte A. E. Richardson was applying for his discharge in England & that some proof was required that he has some definite means of support in England and that his dependants & connections are in England. The Chairman went on to say that he knew of the whole circumstances & could vouch that Private Richardson has an offer of regular employment.

A letter from the Managing Director of Elton Cop Dyeing Co. Ltd was sent to the High Commissioner, Australia House, London stating that they understood that Private A. E. Richardson had been discharged from the Army & unless he could find immediate employment he would be sent back to Australia. The Managing Director stated that he knew Private Richardson & Private Richardson's brother was currently working for them & they would be very pleased to guarantee him employment in either 'these Works or on the Land'.

A letter dated 2nd July, 1918 from Commandant Brigadier-General to Headquarters, A.I.F. Depots in UK, Bhurtpore Barracks, Tidworth, Wiltshire reads *“...regarding the application for discharge in England from the A.I.F. under the*

Australian Mmunition Workers Scheme of the above named soldier. It is intimated that a communication has been received from the O.C. Australian Mmunition Workers to the effect that he has interviewed Private Richardson and is now willing to enrol him..."

Private Arthur Edward Richardson was discharged from the Australian Imperial Force in the U.K. on 15th July, 1918, taking up employment as an Australian Mmunition Worker, being medically unfit. Private Arthur Edward Richardson had served for 2 years & 110 days.

Private Arthur Edward Richardson was issued the Silver War Badge & Certificate on 15th July, 1918. The Silver War Badge was issued in the United Kingdom and the British Empire to service personnel who had been honourably discharged due to wounds or sickness from military service in World War I.



Silver War Badge

Arthur Edward Richardson was approved for employment under the Australian Mmunition Workers Scheme. He was given a Munitions Worker Number of 2834.

Australian Munitions Workers

Men enlisted under a joint Australian Commonwealth - Imperial Government scheme for providing skilled Australian workers to British war industries during the First World War. Under this scheme the volunteers would receive free passage to Great Britain, an allowance for travel time, a special allowance for the duration of service, and eventual repatriation to Australia. Married men also received a separation allowance, but were required to allot a portion of all their earnings to dependants. The men were expected to work in whatever industries they were directed to by the British Board of Trade, and under the prevailing conditions and wages for the duration of hostilities.

Government newspaper adverts appeared in August, 1916, and the first party of 76 workers departed Australia in September. Groups continued to be recruited and sent at intervals, with the eventual number of workers under the scheme totalling just over 5,000. Almost 1,000 of these had already been working in Britain under private agreements with large firms such as Vickers, and were brought under the conditions of the scheme. An additional 200 former AIF soldiers were also recruited in Britain. Initially only skilled workers were sought, however at the request of the British Government later groups included large numbers of navvies for general labouring.

These men were not members of the Australian Imperial Forces and did not serve in combat units, but were recruited to meet the shortfall in skilled labour that threatened many of Britain's key wartime industries including munitions.

(Source: Australian War Memorial)



Richard William Richardson, eldest brother of Arthur Edward Richardson, died on 5th December, 1918 at Croston Barn, near Garstang, Lancashire. He was buried in St. Thomas's Church, Garstang.

Ex -Private Arthur Edward Richardson died on 30th July, 1919 at Croston Barn Farm, Lancashire, England.

A death for Arthur E. Richardson, aged 41, was registered in the September quarter, 1919 in the district of Garstang, Lancashire, England.

Ex-Private Arthur Edward Richardson was buried on 2nd August, 1919 in St. Thomas's Churchyard, Garstang, Lancashire, England – Plot number E. 78 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Probate details – Arthur Edward Richardson of 576 Bolton Road, Pendlebury, Lancashire, died 30th July, 1919 at Croston Barn Farm, Lancashire. Probate – London 10th January to Lydia Hornby Richardson, widow. Effects £119 10s. 9d.

Lydia Hornby Richardson, widow of the late Arthur Edward Richardson, remarried in 1924 to Joseph Sixsmith in the district of Bolton, Lancashire.

Private Arthur Edward Richardson was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private A. E. Richardson – service number 6325, aged 41, of 11th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the husband of Lydia Hornby Sixsmith (formerly Richardson) of 590 Bolton Road, Pendlebury, Manchester, England.

Private A. E. Richardson is not commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia as he was medically discharged from the Australian Imperial Force before his death.

However, as an Australian Munitions Worker he should* be remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.

(*NOTE - At the time of researching, Arthur Edward Richardson was not included on the Commemorative Roll book but his name was submitted to the Australian War Memorial for research into his eligibility as his Munition Worker file was closed & would need to be opened.)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

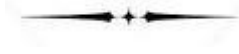


Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial *(Capital Photographer)*

(135 pages of Private Arthur Edward Richardson'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

**** Note – The Service Record file for Arthur Edward Richardson, Australian Munition Worker No. 2834 had not been purchased at the time of researching from National Archives, Australia. Once the file is purchased it is then open for all to view on-line.**



Newspaper Notices

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

308th CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED

Arthur Edward Richardson (England)

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 9 June, 1917)

DEATHS

RICHARDSON – On July 30th, at Croston Barn Farm, Garstang, ARTHUR EDWARD, fifth son of Mrs RICHARDSON, and the late ROBERT RICHARDSON aged 41 years. Interment Saturday, St. Thomas's, Garstang, at 2.30.

(Lancashire Evening Post, Preston, Lancashire, England)

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 A. E. Richardson does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Private A. E. Richardson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Thomas's Churchyard, Garstang, Lancashire, England.



(Photo by Len)

St. Thomas's Churchyard, Garstang, Lancashire, England

St. Thomas's Churchyard, Garstang contains only 2 Commonwealth War Graves – both from World War 1.

