

**Walton-on-Thames Cemetery,  
Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, England**

**War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**375430 PRIVATE**

**G. D. H. SEARS**

**ESSEX REGIMENT**

**8TH MAY, 1919**

## Guy Douglas Hackett SEARS

Guy Douglas Hackett Sears was born on 31st December, 1883 in Perth, Western Australia to parents Frederick William (a Litho Artist) & Adelaide Charlotte Sears (nee Baker). His birth was registered in February, 1884 in Perth, Western Australia.

The Sears family had previously lived in Adelaide, South Australia where their first son – Frederick Joseph Sears was born on 27th December, 1881.

Newspaper Birth Notice – The South Australian Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 29 December, 1881:

*SEARS – On the 27th December, at Flinders-street east, Adelaide, S.A. the wife of Frederick W. Sears, of a son.*

The Sears family moved to Brisbane, Queensland later with a daughter – Elsie Dora Sears born on 11th November, 1886 & a son – Stanley Moreton Sears being born on 25th December, 1889. Florence Mona Sears was born on 8th April, 1893 in Queensland.

Newspaper Birth Notice – The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 13 November, 1886:

*SEARS – On the 11th November, at Bowen Hills, the wife of Fred. W. Sears, of a daughter.*

Newspaper Birth Notice – The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 7 January, 1890:

*SEARS – On the 25th December, 1889, at her residence, Austindale, Milton, Brisbane, Queensland, the wife of Fred W. Sears, artist, &c., of a son.*

The Sears family moved to New Zealand where a son – Clive Rewi Sears was born on 2nd June, 1894 at Wellington, New Zealand.

Guy Douglas Hackett Sears married Margaret Souter Lawson on 16th September, 1910 in New York, Manhattan, USA. His residence was listed as 193 Huntington Ave, Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts.

Guy & Margaret Sears had a son – Frederick Lawson Sear – born 2nd June, 1911 at Providence, Rhode Island, USA.

Frederick William Sears, father of Guy Douglas Hackett Sears, died on 10th January, 1912 at London, England.

Guy & Margaret Sears had a daughter – Margaret Sears – born 2nd March, 1913 at St. Pancras, London, England.

Guy Douglas Hackett Sears was aged 32 years & 11 months, married & a Commercial Manager when he attested with the British Army on 11th December, 1915 at Caxton Hall. His address was listed as 49 Leith Mansions, Maida Vale W., Paddington, London, England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Margaret Souter Sears, 49 Leith Mansions, Maida Vale W, Paddington

[Note: Private Guy Douglas Hackett Sears' Service Record file is one of those from the "WW1 Burnt Documents". From National Archives UK: "In September 1940, as the result of a fire caused by an incendiary bomb at the War Office Record Store in Arnside Street, London, approximately two thirds of 6.5 million soldiers' documents for the First World War were destroyed. Those records which survived were mostly charred or water damaged and unfit for consultation and became known as the 'burnt documents'. Commencing in 1996 and with the aid of Lottery funding and volunteers from the Genealogical Society of Utah under an agreement with the Ministry of Defence, the surviving records were the subject of a large microfilming programme designed to capture as much information as possible from these fragile documents and enable them to be permanently preserved." As a result not all his information is clearly visible & only portions of his file can be read clearly]

Private Guy Douglas Hackett Sears was posted to Army Reserve on 12th December, 1915.

Private Guy Douglas Hackett Sears was medically examined at Hammersmith R.O. on 21st June, 1916 & mobilised the same day. He was posted to 6th Battalion, Essex Regiment with a Service number of 375430 on 22nd June, 1916.

Private Guy Douglas Hackett Sears was posted to 66th Provisional Battalion on 6th July, 1916.

### 16th Battalion, Essex Regiment

On 1 January 1917, the 66th Provisional Bn at Fleet became the 16th Essex. It had been formed in June 1915 from Home Service personnel. Under orders of 213th Brigade of 71st Division.

Moved to Colchester in March 1917 and disbanded in December 1917.

*(Information from The Long, Long Trail)*

Clive Rewi Sears, Service No. 6808, The King's (Liverpool Regiment), brother of Guy Douglas Hackett Sears, was killed in action on 16th August, 1916. He is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial, France.

Private Guy Douglas Hackett Sears was appointed as Acting (unpaid) Lance Corporal on 12th October, 1916. Acting (unpaid) Lance Corporal Guy Douglas Hackett Sears was appointed Acting Corporal on 14th November, 1916. He was appointed Acting Lance Sergeant (unpaid) on 14th November, 1916.

Lance Sergeant (unpaid) Guy Douglas Hackett Sears was appointed Acting Sergeant from 17th February, 1917.

Guy & Margaret Sears had a daughter – Louisa Isobel Sears - born 1st May, 1917 at Paddington, London, England.

Acting Sergeant Guy Douglas Hackett Sears reverted to rank of Private on 24th November, 1917 on transfer to 681st Agricultural Company. He was appointed Acting Sergeant on 25th November, 1917.

Acting Sergeant Guy Douglas Hackett Sears reverted to rank of Private on 6th May, 1918 "on ceasing to be Orderly Room."

Private Guy Douglas Hackett Sears was posted to Hounslow Barracks on \_\_ May, 1918(?).

Private Guy Douglas Hackett Sears was transferred to 438 Agricultural Company, Labour Corps with a Service number of 483298 on 14th September, 1918.

Guy Douglas Haskell Sears is listed on the Britain Absent Voters Lists – 1918- 1921 for the North Paddington Division – 49 Leith Mansions, Grantully Road – 483298 Pte., 681 Agric Co.

GRANTULLY ROAD (LEITH MANSIONS).			
5070	Stutfield, Martin	8	Maj., R.T.E.
5071	Howland, Ernest Robert	24	Capt., R.E.
5072	New, Roland Henry	29	Lt., R.A.F.
5073	Hodges, William Seymour	35	Capt., Labour Corps
5074	Siddalls, John	40	R.N.S.
5075	Lowry, Anthony	41	93201 Pte., 30th Middlesex
→ 5076	Sears, Guy Douglas Haskell	49	483298 Pte., 681 Agric. Co.
5077	Corney, Willie Frederic	54	10738 Pte., H.A.C.
5078	Chandler, Harold Morgan	66	Capt., R.E.
5079	Dart, Arthur John Edwin	70	Maj., Chinese Labour Co.
5080	Martin, Solly	81	93526 Pte., 30th Middlesex
5081	Brander, Alex Gordon	95	Lt., R.N.V.R. Transpt. Svce.
5082	Osborne, Thomas Howard	97	7953 Sgt., R.A.F.

Private Guy Douglas Hackett Sears was admitted to The New Zealand Military Hospital, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, England on 27th April, 1919. The Hospital Admissions for recorded "2.5.19 Operation – Cap Allen. Abdomen was opened by upper abdominal incision. Gall bladder small & embedded in mass of adhesions which were separated. No duodenal ulcer. Stomach normal. Appendix was removed – adhesive & atrophic. Colon dropped fixed to posterior abdominal wall by two sutures of thread. 4.5.19 Still vomiting after .....8.5.19 Still vomiting \_\_\_\_\_".

Private Guy Douglas Hackett Sears underwent another operation on 4th (?) May, 1919. The Medical Case Sheet reported "Old incision opened. Small intestine found to be greatly distended and obstructed low down by being kinked in several places by adhesions which bound one loop of the intestine to another. All intestine freed. Gas seen passing into Caecum and \_\_\_\_\_ intestine. \_\_\_\_\_ closed by T & T silk sutures, drain being left in to \_\_\_\_\_ of Douglas. Patients (?) condition very bad during operation, \_\_\_ saline given in theatre. Patient died 7.45pm."

Private Guy Douglas Hackett Sears died at 7.45 pm on 8th May, 1919 at No. 2 New Zealand General Hospital, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, England from Appendicitis & Intestinal Obstruction. He had served for 3 years & 149 days.

A death for Guy D. H. Sears, aged 35, was registered in the June quarter, 1919 in the district of Chertsey, Surrey, England.

Private Guy Douglas Hackett Sears was buried on 10th May, 1919 in Walton-On-Thames Cemetery, Walton-On-Thames, Surrey, England – Screen Wall 912 by Rev. C. Mortimer Jones, Chaplain, New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

#### National Probate Calendar:

SEARS, Guy Douglas Hackett of 49 Leith-mansions, Maida Vale, Middlesex, died 8 May 1919 at Walton-on-Thames, Surrey. Administration (with Will) London 14 June to Margaret Soutar Sears, widow. Effects £1,150.

Private Guy Douglas Hackett Sears was on Home Service only from 11th December, 1915 until his death on 8th May, 1919. According to Army Form B. 2090/21 – he was not entitled to any War Medals.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private G. D. H. Sears – service number 375430, of Essex Regiment – transferred to Labour Corps as 483298. No family details are listed.

At the time of researching (June, 1921) Guy Douglas Hackett Sears was not 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.



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

(9 & 42 pages of Private Guy Douglas Hackett Sears' Service records are available from National Archives UK)

*Information also obtained from the CWGC*

*\*\*\*A special Thank you to Graham Grist for alerting me to this Australian born Soldier. His named has been submitted to the Australian War Memorial for consideration for the Commemorative Roll.*



**Guy Douglas Hackett Sears**



**Frederick William Sears & Guy Douglas Hackett Sears**



## Newspaper Notices

### DEATHS

SEARS – At New Zealand General Hospital, Walton-on-Thames, on 8th inst., Guy Sears, beloved husband of Margaret Lawson, of 49 Leith Mansions, Maida Vale, London.

*(Dundee Evening Telegraph, Dundee, Angus, Scotland - 12 May, 1919)*

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### **Walton-On-Thames Cemetery, Walton-On-Thames, Surrey, England**

This adjoins St. Mary's Churchyard. There are 30 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 3 of the 1939-1945 war commemorated here. Two of these are commemorations to New Zealand soldiers who were patients at the N.Z. Hospital and whose graves are not known. (McDiarmid and Ward). All the New Zealanders are commemorated on a Screen Wall Memorial near their two plots, at the North entrance. *(Information from CWGC)*

The commemoration of the casualties is on Screen Wall monuments rather than individual headstones as some graves contain more than one burial. Two plots containing eight grave spaces are directly in front of the two Screen Walls and the other plots are elsewhere in the graveyard.



**St. Mary's Churchyard Walton-On-Thames** *(Photo by Peter Wood)*

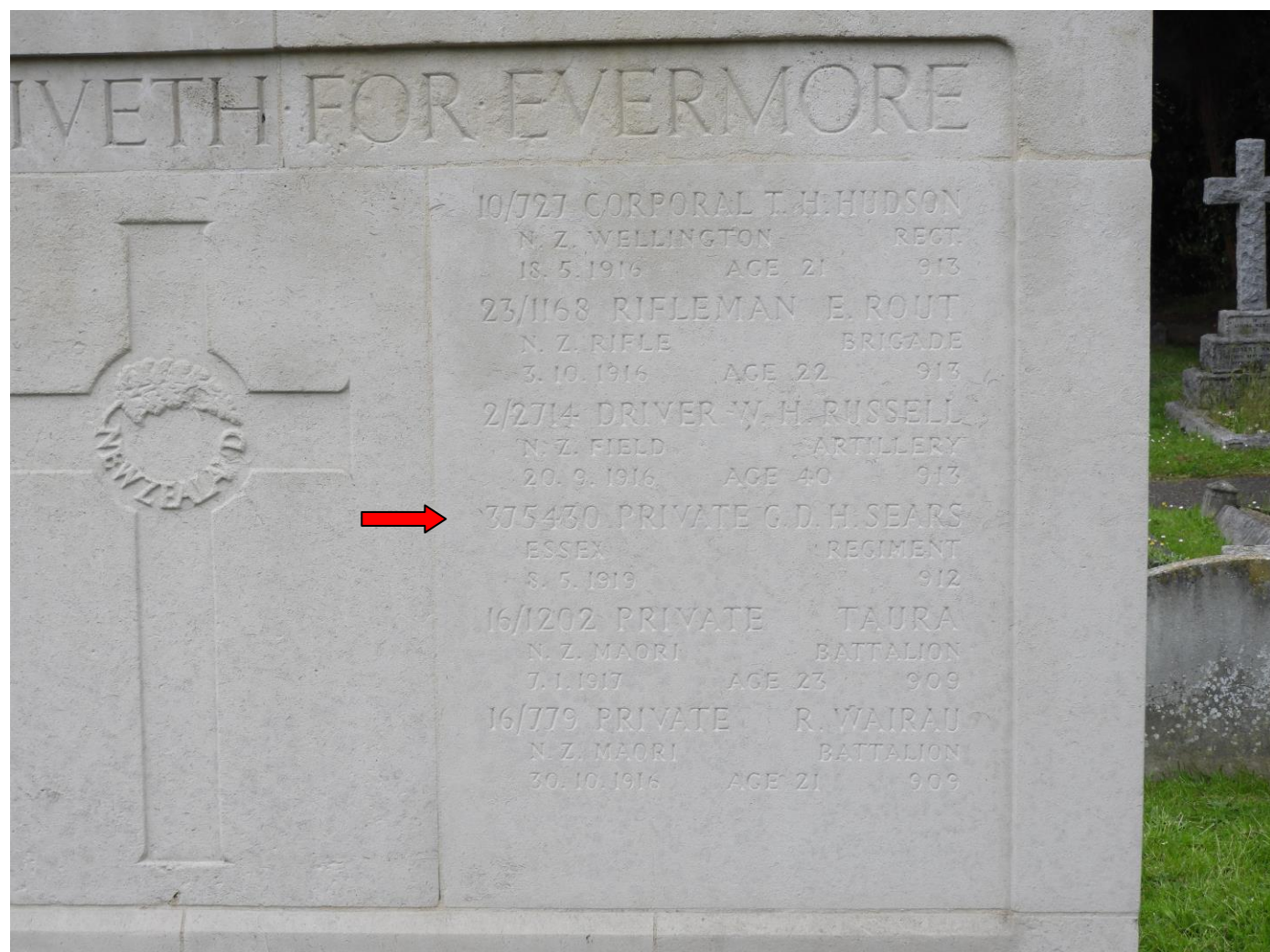


Screen Wall Memorials in Walton-On-Thames Cemetery (Photo courtesy of Graham Grist)



(Photo courtesy of Graham Grist)

Photo of Private G. D. H. Sears' name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall Memorial in Walton-On-Thames Cemetery, Walton-On-Thames, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Graham Grist)