

**St. George's Churchyard,
Fovant, Wiltshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2440 PRIVATE

K. G. SHARPE

3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS

8TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 27

Till We Meet Again

Kenneth Gordon SHARPE

Kenneth Gordon Sharpe was born at Lobethal, South Australia on 26th July, 1891 to parents Robert and Agnes Sharpe (nee Lockhart).

Kenneth Gordon Sharpe attended Lithgow Street State School, Abbotsford, Victoria.

Kenneth Gordon Sharpe married Eunice Cath Henderson in Victoria in 1911.

Robert Gordon Sharpe, son of Kenneth & Eunice Sharpe, was born in 1911 at Abbotsford, Victoria.

Ronald Dobson Sharpe, son of Kenneth & Eunice Sharpe, was born in 1912 at Collingwood, Victoria.

Magdalene (Maidie) Sharpe, daughter of Kenneth & Eunice Sharpe, was born in 1913, in Collingwood, Victoria.

A death was registered in 1913 for Kenneth & Eunice's son – Ronald Dobson Sharpe.

Eunice Agnes Sharpe, daughter of Kenneth & Eunice Sharpe, was born in 1915, in Collingwood, Victoria

The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Batman, subdivision of Fitzroy North, Victoria listed Kenneth Gordon Sharpe, Labourer, living at 543 Rae Street, North Fitzroy. His wife Eunice Catherine Sharpe, Home Duties, was listed as 74 Barkly Street, North Fitzroy.

Kenneth Gordon Sharpe was a 26 year old, married, Wool carter's Assistant (according to information supplied by his wife – Kenneth Sharpe was a Sheet Metal worker) from 74 Berkley Street, North Fitzroy, Victoria when he enlisted on 4th July, 1916 with the 3rd Pioneer Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Presbyterian & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Eunice Catherine Sharpe, of 74 Berkley Street, North Fitzroy, Victoria. Kenneth Sharpe stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service due to Varicose Veins.

(Note – several pages of Private David Andrew Loudon, 56181, 43rd Battalion, records are included in Private Sharpe's Service Record file. Private Sharpe died the same day as Private Loudon).

Private Kenneth Gordon Sharpe was on Permanent Guard at Domain on 10th July, 1916 to 18th July, 1916. Private Kenneth Gordon Sharpe was sent to Isolation Camp at Ascot Vale on 18th July, 1916 until 25th July, 1916. He was on Permanent Guard from 25th July, 1916 to 2nd August, 1916. Private Sharpe was sent to Isolation Camp again from 2nd August, 1916 to 15th August, 1916. He was transferred to A.I.F. Training Company on 15th August, 1916. Private Sharpe was transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 2nd Pioneers at Seymour on 1st September, 1916. He was transferred to 3rd Reinforcements of 3rd Pioneers at Seymour on 15th September, 1916.

Private Kenneth Gordon Sharpe, Service number 2440, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Karoo (A10)* on 18th September, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 15th 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 Kenneth Gordon Sharpe was marched in to Pioneer Training Battalion from Overseas Reinforcements on 15th November, 1916.

Private Kenneth Gordon Sharpe proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on *Princess Victoria* on 31st December, 1916. He was marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) in France on 1st January, 1917.

Private Kenneth Gordon Sharpe was marched in to Segregation Camp at Etaples, France on 3rd January, 1917 the marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. at Etaples on 28th January, 1917. He was marched out to Segregation Camp on 31st January, 1917 & was marched out to 3rd A.D.B.D. on 25th February, 1917.

Private Kenneth Gordon Sharpe was marched out to join his Unit on 1st March, 1917 & was taken on strength of 3rd Division Pioneer Battalion from 3rd Reinforcements in France on 2nd March, 1917.

Private Kenneth Gordon Sharpe was sent to Hospital sick on 8th August, 1917. He was admitted to 9th Australian Field Ambulance on 8th August, 1917 with "Def. vision" then transferred to 3rd D.R.S. (Divisional Rest Station) on 10th August, 1917. Private Sharpe rejoined his Unit from Hospital on 12th August, 1917.

Private Kenneth Gordon Sharpe was sent to Hospital sick on 15th August, 1917. He was admitted again to 9th Australian Field Ambulance with "Def. Vision" then transferred to 50th Casualty Clearing Station on 18th August, 1917. Private Sharpe rejoined his Unit from Hospital on 22nd August, 1917.

Private Kenneth Gordon Sharpe was written up for a Crime while in France – "*Without urgent necessity, quitting the ranks on 31st October, 1917.*" He was awarded 5 days Field Punishment No. 2 on 4th November, 1917.

Private Kenneth Gordon Sharpe was sent to Hospital sick on 3rd January, 1918 while in France. He was admitted to 11th Australian Field Ambulance on 3rd January, 1918 with "Def. Vision". Private Sharpe was discharged to duty on 5th January, 1918 & rejoined his Unit on 6th January, 1918.

Private Kenneth Gordon Sharpe proceeded on leave to UK from 17th March, 1918 & rejoined his Unit from leave on 4th April, 1918.

Private Kenneth Gordon Sharpe was wounded in action - Gassed (being gassed was classed as wounded) on 26th May, 1918. He was admitted to 11th Australian Field Ambulance then transferred to 49th Casualty Clearing Station. Private Sharpe was discharged to his Unit on 22nd June, 1918 & rejoined his Unit in France on 23rd June, 1918.

War Diary – 3rd Australian Pioneer Battalion

Elangy Tronville. La Motte. Villers Bretonneux

25th to 26th May, 1918 – On this night of 25th/26th MAY, the enemy put down a very heavy and continuous Mustard Gas (Yellow Cross) and H. E. Bombardment. "A" & "D" Coys., plus 1 Platoon of "B" Coy. who were located in the vicinity of O.35.a, sustained many casualties. 127 O.R. were evacuated from the Battln. gassed – chiefly through their eyes being affected by the gas, and Mustard Oil burning.

(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Kenneth Gordon Sharpe was wounded in action (gassed) (2nd Occasion) on 29th September, 1918 in France. He was admitted to 12th Casualty Clearing Station then transferred to 105th Ambulance Train on 30th September, 1918. Private Sharpe was admitted to 7th C.S. Hospital on 1st October, 1918 & was invalided to UK on 3rd October, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Ville de Leige*.

Private Kenneth Gordon Sharpe was admitted to General Military Hospital, Colchester – Gassed - Shell on 3rd October, 1918 & transferred to No. 3 Australian Auxiliary Hospital Dartford on 9th October, 1918. He was discharged on 10th October, 1918 to furlo & then to report to No. 4 Command Depot, Hurdcott.

Private Kenneth Gordon Sharpe was marched in to No. 4 Australian Command Depot, Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 25th October, 1918. Private Sharpe was dizzy & had severe headaches at times. He was medically classified as B1 A2 (fit for overseas training camp in 3 to 4 weeks).

Private Kenneth Gordon Sharpe sent sick to No. 2 Group Hospital at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 29th October, 1918 with Influenza then transferred & admitted to Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire on 30th October, 1918.

Private Kenneth Gordon Sharpe died on 8th November, 1918 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire, England from Influenza & Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Kenneth G. Sharpe, aged 30, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

Private Kenneth Gordon Sharpe was buried at 3 pm on 13th November, 1918 in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England – Plot number I. H. 5. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the

burial report of Private K. G. Sharpe - *Coffin was polished Elm with brass furnishings. Deceased was buried with full Military honours the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun-carriage preceded by a Firing Party and Band from No. 4 Australian Command Depot. Six of deceased's late comrades supported the Pall. The funeral was attended by 2 Officers and 70 N.C.O.'s and Men of No 4 Command Depot. Wreaths from Officers & Comrades No. 4 Command Depot., O.C. and Staff A.B.M.S. London and 3 Comrades were placed on the grave. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Relatives present at the Funeral – Brother – 12396 Cpl. J. G. Sharpe, A.B.M.S. London & Brother – 5417 Pte W. D. Sharpe, 24th Battalion, A.I.F.

3rd Pioneer Battalion

The 3rd Pioneer Battalion was formed in Victoria in March, 1916 & undertook further training in the United Kingdom before arriving in France in late 1916. Trained as infantrymen, they were also tasked with some engineer functions, with a large number of personnel possessing trade qualifications from civilian life. As such, they were designated as pioneer units. In early 1916, the Australian Army was reorganised ahead of its transfer to the Western Front in Europe. A total of five pioneer battalions were raised by the AIF at this time, with one being assigned to each of the five infantry divisions that the Australians deployed to the battlefield in France and Belgium. Tasked with digging trenches, labouring, constructing strong points and light railways, and undertaking battlefield clearance, the troops assigned to the pioneers required construction and engineering experience in addition to basic soldiering skills.

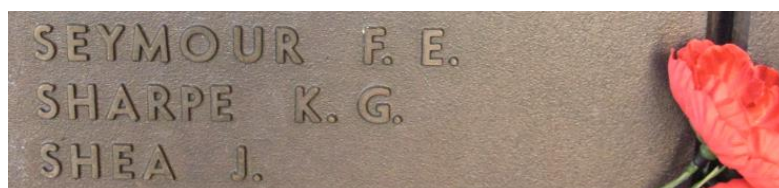
(Pioneer Battalion information from Wikipedia)

Private Kenneth Gordon Sharpe requested in his Will, dated 24th July, 1917 that all his real & personal estate be bequeathed to his wife – Eunice Catherine Sharpe, of 51 Seacomb Street, North Fitzroy, Victoria.

Private Kenneth Gordon Sharpe was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Sharpe's remarried widow - Mrs E. C. White of 73 Middle Street, Ascot Vale, Victoria. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922 & redirected in June, 1923 along with Medals).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Kenneth Gordon Sharpe – service number 2440, aged 27, of 3rd Australian Pioneers. He was the son of Robert and Agnes Sharpe; husband of Eunice C. Sharpe, of 58 Collins St., Thornbury, Victoria.

Private K. G. Sharpe is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 173.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



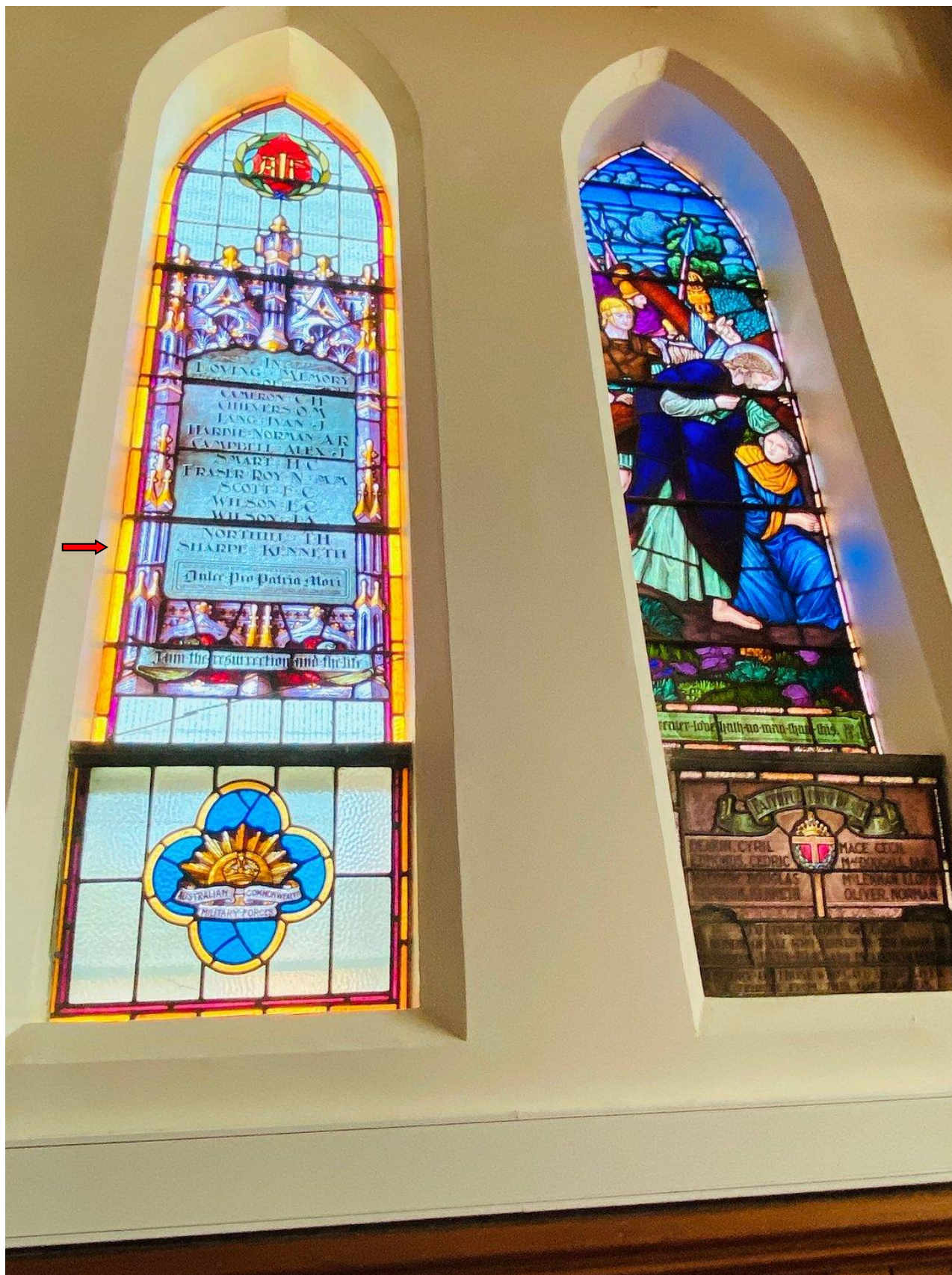
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

K. Sharpe is remembered on the Heidelberg Scot's Presbyterian Church Roll of Honor, located at 187 Burgundy Road, Heidelberg, Victoria.



Heidelberg Scot's Presbyterian Church Roll of Honor (Photo from Tripadvisor -Crystaline4u)

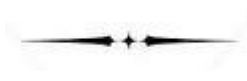
Kenneth Sharpe is remembered on the Heidelberg Scot's Presbyterian Church Memorial Window for WW1, located at 187 Burgundy Road, Heidelberg, Victoria.



Heidelberg Scot's Presbyterian Church Memorial Window for WW1 (Photo from Tripadvisor -Crystaline4u)

(70 pages of Private Kenneth Gordon Sharpe'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

ROLL OF HONOUR

VICTORIAN LIST

WOUNDED

Private K. G. Sharpe, Northcote (gas)

(Weekly Times, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 June, 1918)

DIED ON SERVICE

SHARPE – Died of pneumonia, on 8th November, at Fovant Military Hospital, England, Private Kenneth Gordon Sharpe, 3rd Pioneers' Battalion, beloved husband of Eunice Sharpe, 58 Charles street, Northcote; brother of William D., John G. (on active service), Robert, James and Douglas, and youngest son of R. and A. Sharpe, Greensborough.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 November, 1918)

THE 450th CASUALTY LIST

VICTORIAN NAMES

DIED OTHER CAUSES

Private K. G. Sharpe, Northcote

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria –7 December, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

SHARPE – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private K. G. Sharpe, 2440, 3rd Pioneer Battalion, who died of influenza in Fovant Military Hospital, 8th November, 1918; brother of Robert J. L., W. D., J. G. and D. L., father of Robert Gordon, Maidie and Eunice.

-Inserted by his parents and brothers.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 8 November, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

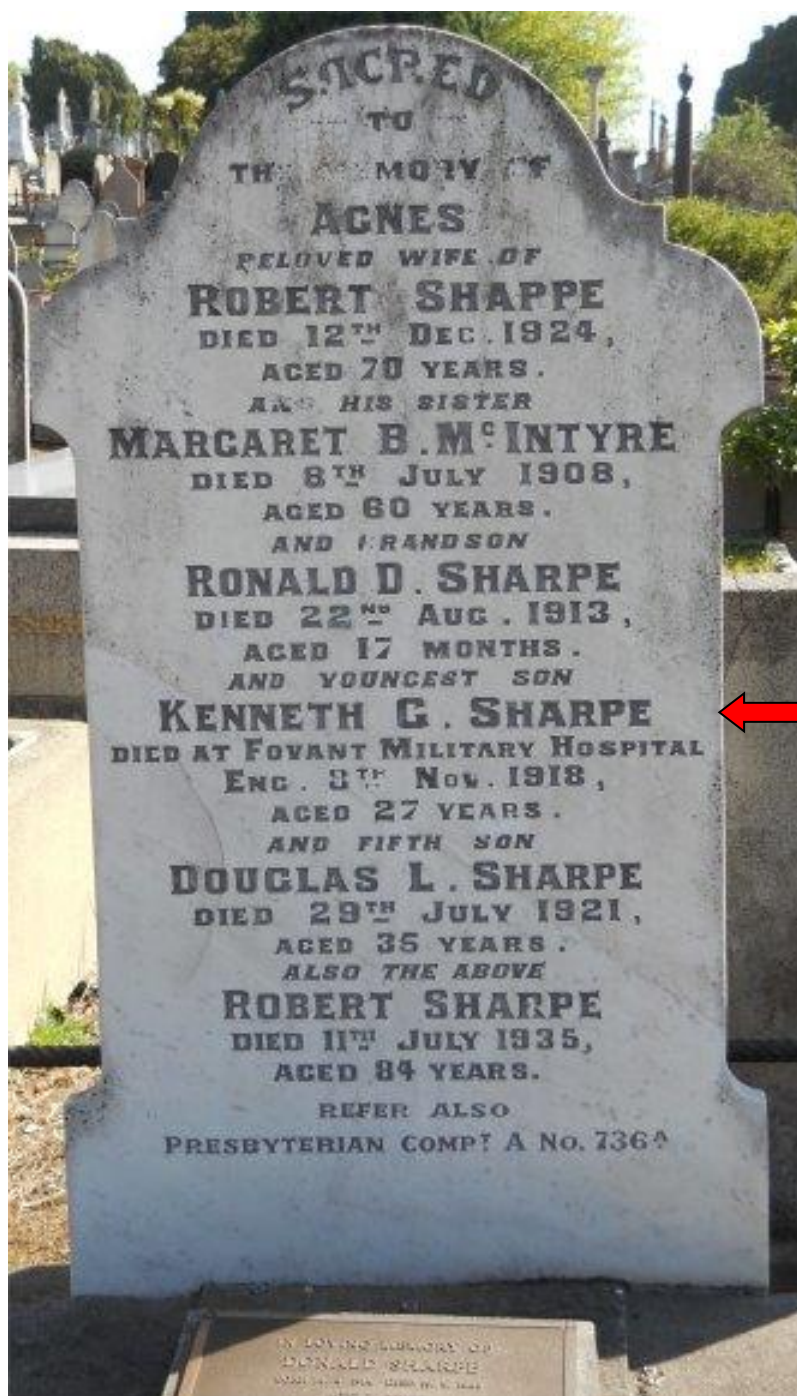
On Active Service

SHARPE – In loving memory of our dear son, Private K. G. Sharpe, 3rd Pioneer Battalion, who died at Fovant Military Hospital in 8th November, 1918, of pneumonic influenza.

-Inserted by his parents.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 8 November, 1920)

Kenneth G. Sharpe is remembered on the family headstone located in Boroondara General Cemetery, Victoria. The headstone also lists his mother – Agnes Sharpe, his aunt – Margaret B. McIntyre, his son – Ronald D. Sharpe, brother Douglas L. Sharpe & his father – Robert Sharpe.



(Photos from Find a Grave – Suzy & Rob)

AND YOUNGEST SON
KENNETH G. SHARPE
DIED AT FOVANT MILITARY HOSPITAL
ENG. 3TH NOV. 1918,
AGED 27 YEARS.

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 K. G. Sharpe does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Till We Meet Again

St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England

There was a 600 bed hutted military hospital at Fovant during the First World War, and the concentration of Australian depots and training camps in the area is reflected in the 63 First World War burials in this churchyard. The war graves form two groups, one west of the church and the other at the east end. There is also one burial of the Second World War. There are 44 War Graves belonging to those who served with the Australian Imperial Force in World War 1.

(Information from CWGC)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00299

(Photo c 1919)



St George's Churchyard, Fovant – War Graves at front *(Churchyard photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey)*

Photo of Private K. G. Sharpe's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England.





Cross of Sacrifice (Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)



St George's Churchyard, Fovant – War Graves at rear *(Churchyard photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey)*