

**Newhaven Cemetery,  
Newhaven, Sussex  
War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**6931 QUARTERMASTER SERGEANT**

**W. A. SHAW**

**ROYAL ENGINEERS**

**26TH MARCH, 1920 Age 33**

## Walter Alfred (Wallie) SHAW

Walter Alfred Shaw was born at Aldershot, Hampshire, England in 1886 to parents Walter and Elizabeth Shaw. He was baptised on 21st November, 1886 at St. Michael the Archangel, Aldershot, Surrey, England. Walter Shaw (senior) was listed as a 2nd Corporal in Royal Engineers.

The 1891 England Census recorded Walter Shaw (junior) as a 4 year old, living with his family at the Royal Engineers, Troop Companies Department Housing, Aldershot, Hampshire, England. His parents were listed as William Shaw (Corporal, Royal Engineers, aged 28, born Staincross, Yorks) & Elizabeth Shaw (aged 27, born Ardsley, Yorks). Also listed was Edith Shaw, older sister of Walter (junior) (aged 6, born Mapplewell, Yorks).

Walter Alfred Shaw enlisted with the British Army on 1st November, 1900 at Aldershot, Hampshire, England. He was a 14 year old Schoolboy & his religion was listed as Church of England. Walter Alfred Shaw requested to join the Royal Engineers & was given a service number of 6931

The 1901 England Census recorded Walter Shaw as a 14 year old, Boy, Royal Engineers living in the Royal Engineers Barracks, Brompton Barracks, Gillingham, Kent, England.

Boy Walter Alfred Shaw was appointed as Bugler on 1st August, 1901.

Bugler W. Shaw, 6931 was tested in Construction School & proved himself as a Skilled Draughtsman on 14th October, 1904.

Bugler Walter Alfred Shaw was posted as Sapper on 1st November, 1904.

Sapper Walter Alfred Shaw appointed Lance Corporal on 21st November, 1905.

Walter Alfred Shaw, No. 6931, Trade and Special qualifications were listed as "Draughtsman – Skilled" on 2nd May, 1905 & "Draughtsman – Superior" on 10th September, 1908.

Lance Corporal Walter Alfred Shaw was awarded 2nd Good Conduct Badge on 19th June, 1906.

Lance Corporal Walter Alfred Shaw was promoted to 2nd Corporal on 15th February, 1909 with 55th Company.

2nd Corporal Walter Alfred Shaw was transferred on 21st February, 1910 to "Eng Clerk. 2nd Cpl."

2nd Corporal Walter Alfred Shaw re-engaged for 12 years on 11th January, 1912 at Liverpool to complete 21 years' service.

2nd Corporal Walter Alfred Shaw was promoted to Engineer Clerk & Draughtsman Corporal on 21st February, 1912.

Engineer Clerk & Draughtsman Corporal Walter Alfred Shaw was promoted to Engineer Clerk & Draughtsman Sergeant on 1st June, 1913.

Engineer Clerk & Draughtsman Sergeant Walter Alfred Shaw was promoted to Engineer Clerk & Draughtsman Staff Sergeant on 1st June, 1916.

Engineer Clerk & Draughtsman Staff Sergeant Walter Alfred Shaw was promoted to W.O.II on 1st June, 1919 & appointed as Engineer Clerk & Draughtsman Q.M.S. (Quartermaster Sergeant) on the same day.

Engineer Clerk & Draughtsman Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Alfred Shaw joined G Depot Company, Chatham, England on 4th November, 1919 from Gibraltar.

Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Alfred Shaw, who was a patient at Kitchener Hospital, Brighton according to Army Form W. 3977B, was about to be brought before an Invaliding Board with a view to discharge from the Service – date stamped 16th February, 1920.

The following letter was written by Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Alfred Shaw:

*"I am apparently suffering from a disease of the chest which causes breathlessness at the slightest exertion. I also experience a dry cough which is at its worst at night and allows very little sleep. If sleep comes I have very heavy*

sweats which stream from the whole body. The condition dates from September 1919 and was seemingly after the after effects of a cold on the chest.

*I was operated on for fistula\_\_\_\_\_ at Gibraltar in April 1919 and the wound took 3 months to heal. The climate of Gibraltar did not suit me and although having no real complaint I was never fit. I have a very deformed chest which may have some bearing on this complaint and its refusal to mend. As I was perfectly fit prior to going to Gibraltar in my opinion the climate is the primary cause of this complaint.”*

**Military History Sheet:**

<b>Country</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
Home	1-11-1900	11-1-1907
S. Africa	12-1-1907	5-4-1910
Home	6-4-1910	13-3-1913
Gibraltar	14-3-1913	3-11-1919
Home	4-11-1919	20-2-1920

Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Alfred Shaw, of G. Company, was discharged from the Royal Engineers on 20th February, 1920 due to debility. He was no longer physically for War Service (para 391 XVI King's Regulations). Quartermaster Sergeant Shaw was aged 33 & his address was listed as 11 Murray Avenue, Newhaven, Sussex, England. He was entitled to a Pension due to his 50% disablement & was granted a weekly rate of 20s, commencing on 21st February, 1920 & to be reviewed in 26 weeks. He had served for 19 years & 112 days & his military character was listed as exemplary.

Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Alfred Shaw died on 26th March, 1920.

A death for Walter A. Shaw, aged 33, was registered in the March quarter, 1920 in the district of Newhaven, Sussex, England.

Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Alfred Shaw was buried in Newhaven Cemetery, Newhaven, Sussex, England – Plot number R.9 and has a Private Grave. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The relatives of the late Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Alfred Shaw were listed as parents – Walter & Elizabeth Shaw of 11 Murray Avenue, Newhaven, Sussex, England; brothers – Harry Frederick (aged 26) & Leslie Reginald (aged 21) of Melbourne, Australia & Edith Annie (aged 35) of 11 Murray Avenue, Newhaven, Sussex, England. No widow or children were listed.

The late Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Alfred Shaw was awarded the Long Service & Good Conduct Medal on 9th May, 1920.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Alfred Shaw – service number 6931, aged 33, of Supernumerary Staff, Royal Engineers. He was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medals. Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Alfred Shaw was the son of Walter and Elizabeth Shaw, of “Osiris” Rennison St., Mordialloc, Victoria. Born at Aldershot, England.

Quartermaster-Sergeant Walter Alfred Shaw is 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: It appears that Quartermaster-Sergeant Walter Alfred Shaw's name on the Commemorative Roll was based on the information that his next-of-kin's address was listed as Australia & therefore the soldier concerned, it was assumed, would be Australian.)*

Walter Shaw (Barrack Warden) & Mrs Elizabeth Shaw (of 11 Murray Ave), parents of the late Quartermaster-Sergeant Walter Alfred Shaw, were listed as passengers on *Narkunda* which departed from Plymouth, England on 10th May, 1921 and they had contracted to land at Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.



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

(Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Alfred Shaw's Army Service & Pension records are available for viewing.)





## Newhaven Cemetery, Newhaven, Sussex, England

Newhaven Cemetery, Newhaven, Sussex contains 72 identified Commonwealth War Graves – 28 from World War 1 (also 1 unidentified sailor of the Royal Navy) & 44 from World War 2 (and 2 unidentified seamen from the Merchant Navy).



**Newhaven Cemetery** (Photo above by Anthony Bysouth; below from CWGC)





Photo of Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Alfred Shaw's grave in Newhaven Cemetery, Newhaven, Sussex, England



*(Photo by Peter Taylor – Find a Grave)*

***In Loving Memory Of Walter Alfred (Wallie) Shaw, Late W.O., R.E., Died 26th March 1920. Aged 33 Years.***