

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



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**927 PRIVATE**

**T. E. SHEARING**

**AUST. ARMY MEDICAL CORPS**

**FORMERLY 40TH BN. AUST. INF.**

**26TH NOVEMBER, 1919 Age 25**

*The Dearly Loved Son  
Of Mr & Mrs Shearing  
Of Bagdad, Tasmania*

## Thomas Edwin SHEARING

Thomas Edwin Shearing was born at Bagdad, Tasmania on 6th July, 1894 to parents James and Rebecca Elizabeth Shearing (nee Ward).

James Shearing, father of Thomas Edwin Shearing, died on 6th June, 1897 at Brighton, Tasmania, aged 33 years, of Consumption. Thomas Shearing's sister - Eliza Jane Shearing, died the same day, aged 8 years, of Tubercular Meningitis. Percy Norman Shearing, brother of Thomas Edwin Shearing, was born on 15th August, 1897.

Thomas Edwin Shearing attended State School at Bagdad, Tasmania.

Thomas Edwin Shearing was a 22 year old, single, Farm Labourer from Bagdad, Tasmania when he enlisted on 30th March, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Brigade, 40th Infantry Battalion, "D" Company of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 927 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Rebecca Shearing, of Bagdad, Tasmania.

Pte Thomas Edwin Shearing was written up for overstaying Easter & final leave from 27th April, 1916 to 1st Parade on 1st May, 1916 while posted at Claremont Camp, Tasmania. He was given 7 days Confined to Camp & forfeited 5 days' pay.

Pte Thomas Edwin Shearing was written up for being absent without leave from 1st Parade on 22nd May, 1916 to 1st Parade on 29th May, 1916 while posted at Claremont Camp. He was given 7 days Detention & forfeited 7 days pay.

Private Thomas Edwin Shearing embarked from Hobart, Tasmania on HMAT *Berrima* (A35) on 1st July, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 22nd August, 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 Thomas Edwin Shearing was admitted to 10th Brigade Field Hospital on 1st September, 1916 (Haemorrhoids & Cold).

Private Thomas Edwin Shearing was marched in from 40th Battalion to Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 27th November, 1916.

Private Thomas Edwin Shearing proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone from 10th Training Battalion on 20th April, 1917. He was marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 20th April, 1917. Pte Shearing was marched out to his Unit from 3rd A.D.B.D. on 23rd April, 1917 & joined his Battalion in the field on 24th April, 1917.

Private Thomas Edwin Shearing was attached for duty with 207th Machine Gun Company on 27th May, 1917. He was transferred to 10th Australian Machine Gun Company for duty on 16th June, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion from 10th M.G. Coy. on 20th July, 1917.

Private Thomas Edwin Shearing was wounded in action in France on 4th August, 1917. He was admitted to 4th Field Ambulance on 4th August, 1917 with gunshot wounds to nose then transferred to 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station. Pte Shearing was transferred by Ambulance Train No. 7 on 5th August, 1917 & admitted to 56th General Hospital at Etaples, France on 5th August, 1917. Pte Shearing embarked for England on 11th August, 1917 on Hospital Ship *Stad Antwerpen*.

Private Thomas Edwin Shearing was admitted to Bethnal Green Military Hospital, England on 11th August, 1917 with gunshot wounds to nose. He was transferred to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford on 19th September, 1917 with gunshot wounds to cheek and right side.

Private Thomas Edwin Shearing was admitted & medically assessed at 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford on 19th September, 1917. The Medical Case Sheet for him reads: "*Wounded 4th Aug. Scar on rt Cheek, puffiness & tenderness rt nasillary region. No nasal discharge. Wd Healed.*" On 8th October, 1917 the entry on Pte Shearing's Medical Case Sheet reads: "*Still complains of pain in face.*"

Pte Shearing was discharged from 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford for furlough from 11th October, 1917 to 25th October, 1917 & was then to report to Depot at Hurdcott.

Private Thomas Edwin Shearing was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 26th October, 1917 & medically classified as B1 A3 (fit for overseas training camp in 2 to 3 weeks).

Private Thomas Edwin Shearing was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 30th October, 1917 with VD. He was discharged to Convalescent Training Depot at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 22nd March, 1918.

Private Thomas Edwin Shearing was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 2nd April, 1918.

Private Thomas Edwin Shearing was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 6th June, 1918. He was medically classified as B1 A3 (fit for overseas training camp in 2 to 3 weeks).

A Medical Report was completed on Private Thomas Edwin Shearing on 2nd September, 1918 while posted at No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire. He was described as having the disability of Functional Aphonia (loss of speech). The origin of the disability occurred on 10th March, 1918 at Bulford, England. The disability was aggravated by cold exposure & attributed to War Service. The Medical Board recommended that Private Thomas Edwin Shearing would be permanently unfit for General Service (in the Infantry) but fit for Home Service – C1. The Board recommended that Pte Shearing would be fit for General Service with Army Medical Corp.

Private Thomas Edwin Shearing was transferred & taken on strength of Australian Army Medical Corps Details from 40th Battalion Details at Fovant, Wiltshire on 12th September, 1918.

Private Thomas Edwin Shearing was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 28th October, 1918. He was discharged to Convalescent Training Depot at Parkhouse on 30th October, 1918.

Private Thomas Edwin Shearing was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot on 20th December, 1918.

Private Thomas Edwin Shearing was marched in to A.A.M.C. (Australian Army Medical Corps) Depot from No. 1 Command Depot on 7th January, 1919.

Private Thomas Edwin Shearing was absent without leave from 23.59 hrs on 4th February, 1919 till 10.30 hrs on 6th February, 1919. He was awarded a total forfeiture of 5 days' pay.

Private Thomas Edwin Shearing was marched out from A.M.C. Training Depot at Dartford on 20th February, 1919 & marched in to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford for duty on 21st February, 1919.

Private Thomas Edwin Shearing was admitted to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford on 4th March, 1919 with Jaundice. He was discharged to duty with 3rd A.A. H. Dartford on 7th April, 1919.

Private Thomas Edwin Shearing was taken off strength from Dartford on 10th October, 1919 & marched in from Headquarters to 1st Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 11th October, 1919.

Private Thomas Edwin Shearing was admitted to 1st Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 14th October, 1919 with Pneumonia. Pte Shearing was reported as seriously ill on 2nd November, 1919. It was reported on 3rd November, 1919 that Pte Shearing had a Liver abscess & was to be transferred to Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire.

Private Thomas Edwin Shearing was admitted to Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire on 4th November, 1919. The Admission to Hospital form states "*Pt very ill on admission.*"

Private Thomas Edwin Shearing died at 22.25 pm on 26th November, 1919 at the Military Hospital, Fovant, England, Wiltshire from Malignant Endocarditis & Septicaemia.

A death for Thomas E. Shearing, aged 25, was registered in the December quarter, 1919 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

Private Thomas Edwin Shearing was buried on 29th November, 1919 in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England, – Plot number I. F. 15. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte T. E. Shearing - *Coffin was Elm with brass mountings. The deceased was buried with Military Honours. Firing Party consisted of one Sergeant, 6 Corporal and fifteen Privates. The Last Post was sounded by one Bugler. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack. The coffin was taken to the Church where a short Service was held. About forty members of the British and Australian Forces attended.*

Friends present at Funeral - Miss B. Newman, 3 Winifred Street, Woolwich.

Base Records contacted Mrs R. Shearing, Bagdad, Tasmania, mother of the late Pte T. E. Shearing in February, 1922 asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. Mrs R. Shearing replied to Base Records stating that her husband was dead.

Private Thomas Edwin Shearing was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Shearing's mother – Mrs R. Shearing, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent May, 1922 & Plaque sent December, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Thomas Edwin Shearing – service number 927, aged 25, of Australian Army Medical Corps formerly 40th Bn. Australian Infantry. He was the son of James and Rebecca Elizabeth Shearing of Bagdad, Tasmania.

Private T. E. Shearing is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 183.

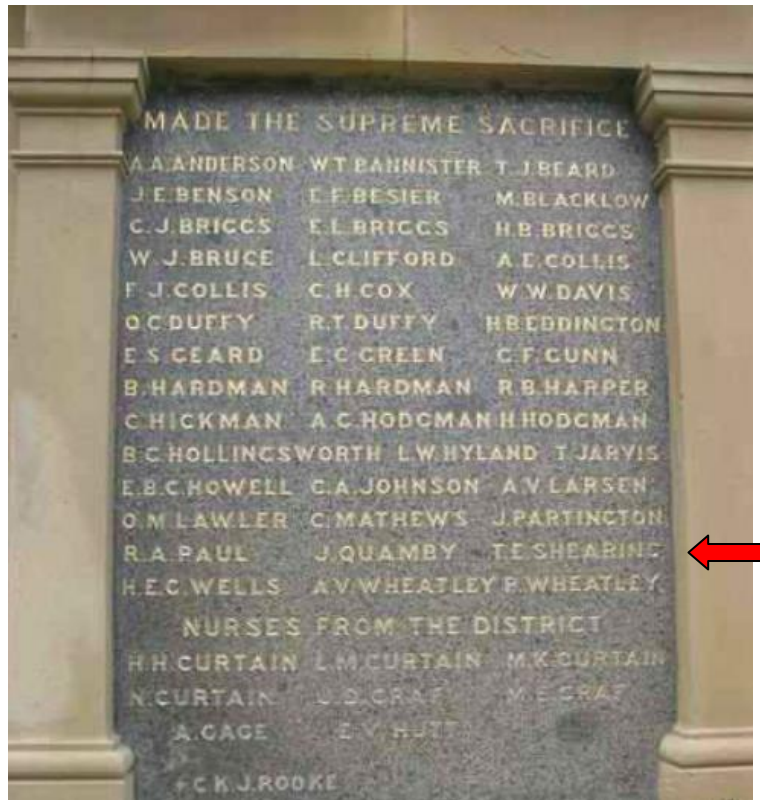


(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



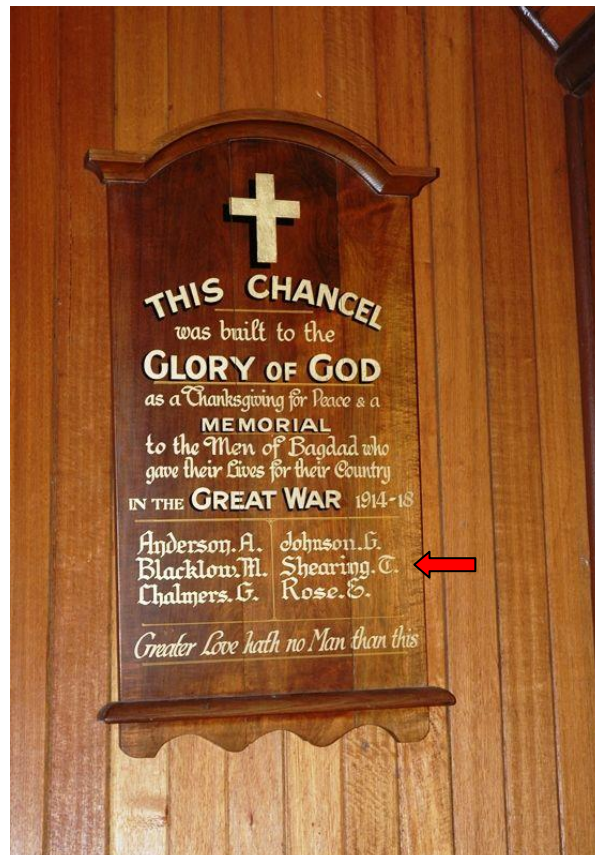
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

T. E. Shearing is remembered on the Municipality of Brighton War Memorial located on Midland Highway, Pontville, Tasmania.



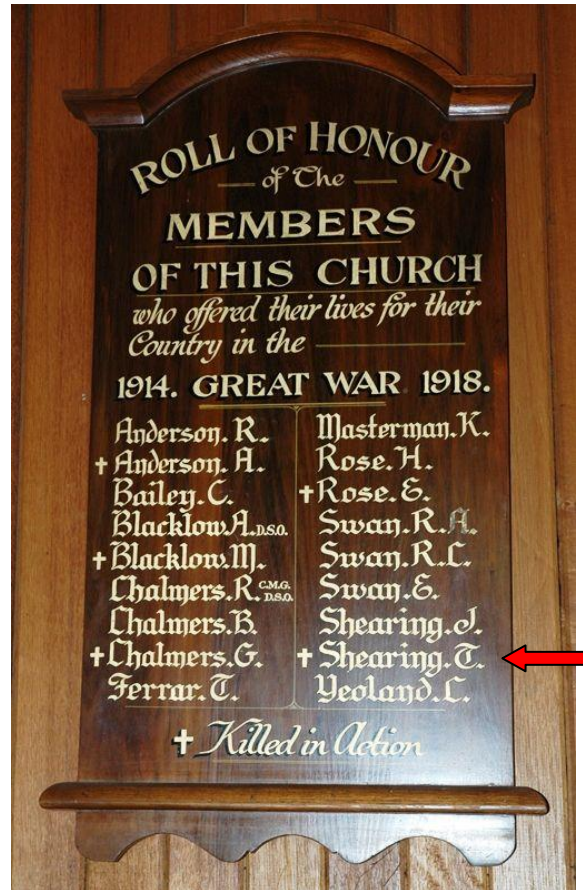
**Municipality of Brighton War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia - Diane Watson)

T. Shearing is remembered on the Bagdad Anglican Church Chancel Plaque located in Bagdad Anglican Church, 40 School Road, Bagdad, Tasmania.



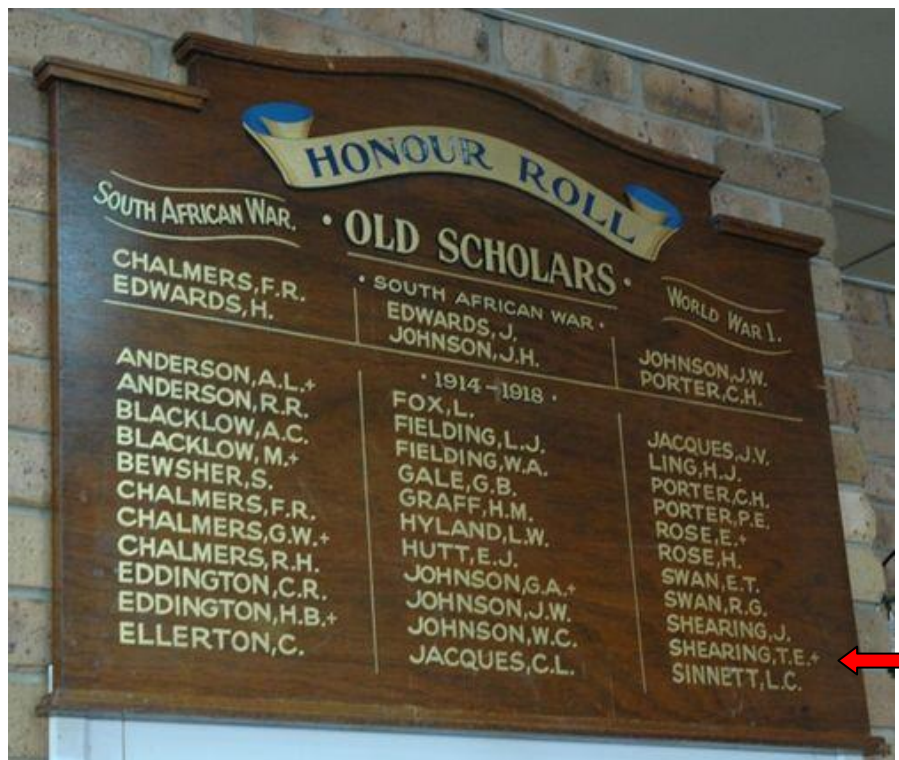
**Bagdad Anglican Church Chancel Plaque** (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

T. Shearing is remembered on the Bagdad Anglican Church Roll of Honour located in Bagdad Anglican Church, 40 School Road, Bagdad, Tasmania.



**Bagdad Anglican Church Roll of Honour** (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

T. E. Shearing is remembered on the Old Scholars Honour Roll, located at Bagdad Community Centre, Midland Highway & Hall Lane, Bagdad, Tasmania.



**Old Scholars Honour Roll** (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

(74 pages of Pte Thomas Edwin Shearing'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*



**Private Thomas Edwin Shearing**

## **Newspaper Notices**

### **DEATHS**

SHEARING – ON November 26, 1919, died (of malignant indocarditis) at Fovant Camp Military Hospital, England, Private Thomas Edwin Shearing (late 40th Batt., A.I.F.), dearly beloved second eldest son of Rebecca Shearing and the late James Shearing, of Bagdad, in the 26th year of his age, after three years and nine months' Active Service. His duty nobly done.

*(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – 4 December, 1919)*

## **A.I.F. CASUALTIES**

### **LIST NO. 477**

Tasmania

Pte T. E. SHEARING, Bagdad, T., A.A.M.C. Dtls, died of illness, 26/11/19 (previously reported ill)

(*Evening News*, Sydney, NSW – 20 December, 1919)

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

SHEARING – In sad and loving memory of my dear son Private T. E. Shearing, 40th Battalion, A.I.F., died of illness in Fovant Hospital, England, November 26, 1919.

We remember the day we parted,

We remember your last good-bye,

Little we thought when we parted

It was your last farewell.

Little did we think when you left us

You were going away to die;

We pictured him safe returning,

And longed for a clasp of his hand,

But God has postponed the meeting

Till we meet in a better land.

His King and country called him,

The call was not in vain;

On Tasmania's roll of honour.

You will find our dear Tom's name.

- Inserted by his loving mother and sisters and brothers and son-in-law, W. Stevenson and W. Manning.

Died on Active Service.

SHEARING – In loving memory of our dear brother, Private T. E. Shearing, died of illness in Fovant Hospital, England, November 26, 1919.

Your death was sudden, brother dear;

It made us weep and cry,

But oh, it is so hard to think

You could not say good-bye.

No one you loved was by your side

To bear your last faint sigh,

To whisper just one loving word

Before you closed your eyes.

He was one of the 40th Battalion

Who back home never came;

On Tasmania's roll of honour

You will find our dear brother's name.

-Inserted by his loving brothers and sisters and brothers-in-law, W. Stevenson and W. Manning.

Died on Active Service.



SHEARING – In loving memory of our dear brother Tom, died of illness in Fovant Hospital, England, November 26, 1919.

Over in England our sad thoughts roam,  
    To a lonely grave so far away;  
Far away from those who loved him  
    Comrades laid him down to rest;  
In a soldier's grave he lies sleeping,  
    One of the bravest and best.

I, mourn for you dear brother,  
    No eyes may see me weep,  
But many a tear I shed for you,  
    When all are fast asleep.

It does not matter how I weep,  
    No matter how I call,  
There's nothing left to answer  
    But your photo on the wall.

- Inserted by his loving sisters and brothers and brothers-in-law, W. Stevenson and W. Manning.

(*World*, Hobart, Tasmania – 26 November, 1920) & (*The Mercury*, Hobart, Tasmania – 26 November, 1920)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **Died on Active Service**

SHEARING – In sad and loving memory of my dear son and brother, Private T. E. Shearing, 40th Battalion, A.I.F., died of illness in Fovant Hospital, England, November 26, 1919.

He was always happy and cheerful,  
    With a heart that knew no fear.  
He stood to face life's battles  
    For all he loved so dear.

No loved ones stood around him  
    To bid a fond farewell;  
No word of comfort could we give  
    To him we loved so well.

- Inserted by his loving mother and sisters and brothers and son-in-law, W. Manning and W. Stevenson.

(*The Mercury*, Hobart, Tasmania – 26 November, 1921)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **Died on Active Service**

SHEARING – In fond and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private T. E. Shearing, died in Fovant Hospital, England, on November 26, 1919.

One of the best, a loving son  
    A brother kind and true,  
So dearly loved, so sadly missed,

© Cathy Sedgwick 2017

By everyone who knew.

A faithful son and a loving brother,  
One who always thought of mother,  
A sweet, good life, that promised well,  
Perhaps it's best, who can tell.

Inserted by his loving mother, stepfather, sisters and brothers and also brothers-in-law, W. Stevenson and W. Manning. Bagdad.

(*The Mercury*, Hobart, Tasmania – 25 November, 1922)

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

SHEARING - In fond and loving memory of my dear son Private T. E. Shearing, 40th Battalion, A.I.F., who died in Fovant Hospital, England, on November 26, 1919.

Your end was sudden, Tom, dear,  
It made us weep and cry;  
But oh, it was hard to think  
We could not say good-bye.

Inserted by his loving mother, sisters and brother, and brothers-in-law, A.S., J.S., R.S., P.S., H.S., D.S., L.S., W.S., N.W.M.

(*World*, Hobart, Tasmania – 26 November, 1923)

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### **Died on Active Service**

SHEARING - In affectionate and loving remembrance of our dear son and brother, Private T. E. Shearing, 40th Battalion, A.I.F., died of illness in Fovant Hospital, England, on November 26, 1919.

Forth to the battle he hastened,  
With many a comrade brave;  
Eager and strong was our loved one,  
Now lying in his grave.

Far from the home of his childhood,  
Away o'er the ocean deep,  
In a foreign land our loved one  
Is sleeping his last sleep.

Days and night our thoughts do wander  
To that grave far, far away,  
Where they laid our darling son and brother  
Just four years ago to-day.  
Sadly missed.

-Inserted by his loving mother, brothers and sisters and brothers-in-law, cousins and nephews.

(*The Mercury*, Hobart, Tasmania – 26 November, 1924)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

SHEARING - In sad and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private T. E. Shearing, 40th Battalion, A.I.F., died of illness in Fovant Hospital, England, November 26, 1919.

He was one of the 40th Battalion,

Who back home never came;

On Tasmania's roll of hour

You will find my dear son and brother's name.

Inserted by his loving mother, Rebecca Elizabeth Shearing, and brothers and sisters and brother-in-law, W.S.W.C.M., and cousins.

*(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – 26 November, 1925)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **Died on Active Service**

SHEARING - In affectionate and loving remembrance of our dear son and brother, Private T. E. Shearing, 40th Battalion, A.I.F., died of illness in Fovant Hospital, England, on November 26, 1919.

It's just seven years ago to-day,

Since our dear son and brother was called away.

God took him home with Him to dwell,

But in our hearts he liveth still.

You faced life's battle bravely, Tom,

And patiently stood the test.

So He folded his arms around you –

He knew you were one of the best.

-Inserted by his loving mother, brothers and sisters and brothers-in-law, cousins and nephews.

*(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – 26 November, 1926)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

SHEARING - In sad and loving memory of my dear son, Private T. E. Shearing, 40th Battalion, A.I.F., who died of illness in Fovant Hospital, England, on November 26, 1919.

He left his home with smiling face,

Not thinking death was near;

Not thinking he would ne'er return

To those he loved so dear.

When my heart is sad and sore

I seem to hear him say;

"Weep not for me, dear mother,

We will meet again some day."

-Inserted by his loving mother, and sisters and brothers and brothers-in-law, Bagdad.

*(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – 26 November, 1927)*

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## IN MEMORIAM

SHEARING - In fond and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private T. E. Shearing, 40th Battalion, A.I.F., died of illness in Fovant Hospital, England, on November 26, 1919.

A gallant hero, true and brave,  
Peacefully sleeps in a soldiers' grave;  
Great is our sorrow, but God knows best,  
He took our dear son and brother home to rest.

We pictured his safe returning,  
And longed for a clasp of his hand;  
But a mother's part is a broken heart  
And a burden of lonely years.

-Inserted by his loving mother, and sisters and brothers and brothers-in-law, Bagdad.

*(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – 26 November, 1929)*

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## IN MEMORIAM

SHEARING - In fond and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private T. E. Shearing, 40th Battalion, A.I.F., died of illness in Fovant Hospital, England, on November 26, 1919.

A gallant hero, true and brave,  
Peacefully sleeps in a soldiers' grave;  
Great is our sorrow, but God knows best,  
He took our dear son and brother home to rest.

We pictured his safe returning,  
And longed for a clasp of his hand;  
But a mother's part is a broken heart  
And a burden of lonely years.

-Inserted by his loving mother, sisters and brothers and brothers-in-law, and cousins and aunts.

*(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – 26 November, 1929) & (The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – 26 November, 1930)*

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\*\*Rebecca Elizabeth Shearing, mother of the late Private Thomas Edwin Shearing, died on 10th May, 1930 at Bagdad, Tasmania.

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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)*

Private T. E. Shearing does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*The Dearly Loved Son Of Mr & Mrs Shearing Of Bagdad, Tasmania*

## 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 & rear** (*Churchyard photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey*)



Photo of Private T. E. Shearing's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England.





**Cross of Sacrifice** (Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)