

**Risca Old Cemetery,
Risca, Wales
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1608 Q.M.S.

EDWARD J. WALKER

3RD AUSTRALIAN PIONEER BATTALION

4TH MARCH, 1917 Age 27

Peace Perfect Peace

Edward James WALKER

Edward James Walker was born at Clifton Hill, Victoria on 19th March, 1889 to parents Edward Aquila Walker & Lily Mary Walker (nee Harvey).

Edward James Walker attended school at Northcote, Victoria.

The 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Bourke, subdivision of Northcote, Victoria listed Edward James Walker, Ironmonger, of Ethel Street, Northcote. His parents were listed as Edward A. Walker, Bricklayer & Lily Mary Walker, Home Duties, of Corner Blythe and Ethel Streets, Northcote.

Edward James Walker was a 26 year old, single, Carpenter from (care of Mrs Austin), Glendowner, Jenkin Street, Northcote, Victoria when he enlisted on 24th January, 1916 with the 3rd Pioneer Battalion, 1st Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1608 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Dorothea Francis Walker (care of Mrs Austin), Glendowner, Jenkin Street, Northcote, Victoria.

Private Edward James Walker was posted to "A" Company, 10th Depot Battalion, Ascot Vale on 28th February, 1916. He was transferred to "A" Company, 3rd Australian Pioneer Battalion on 6th March, 1916. Private Walker was promoted to Corporal on 1st April, 1916 while posted with 1st reinforcements, 3rd Australian Pioneer Battalion.

Edward James Walker married Dorothea Frances Ellen Austin on 8th April, 1916.

Corporal Edward James Walker embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Wandilla (A62)* on 6th June, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 26th July, 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.

Corporal Edward James Walker was posted as Acting Corporal on 27th July, 1916 & was to receive Corporal's pay.

Acting Corporal Edward James Walker was to be Temporary Company Quartermaster Sergeant from 19th August, 1916 as Permanent Cadre with Pioneer Training Battalion at Larkhill, Wiltshire under Para 213 AIF.

Temporary Company Quartermaster Sergeant Edward James Walker was to be Acting Company Quartermaster Sergeant with Sergeant's extra duty pay from 16th November, 1916.

Acting Company Quartermaster Sergeant Edward James Walker was sent sick to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 16th February, 1917 from 3rd Pioneer Training Battalion at Larkhill, Wiltshire. He was admitted with Pneumonia (severe) on 19th February, 1917.

Acting Company Quartermaster Sergeant Edward James Walker died at 8.15 pm on 4th March, 1917 at Military Hospital, Fargo, Wiltshire, England from Pneumonia.

A death for Edward J. Walker, aged 27, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire, England.

Temporary Company Quartermaster Sergeant Edward James Walker was buried on 10th March, 1917 in Risca Old Cemetery, Risca, Monmouthshire, Wales – Plot number C. 217. (Family Grave) and has a Private Headstone which was erected by the Sergeants of the Pioneer Training Battalion, A.I.F. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Company Quartermaster Sergeant Edward James Walker contains a request from the Red Cross of behalf his relations in Melbourne into the details of the suffering, death & burial of

Q.M.S. E. J. Walker. A reply was sent from E. M. Bowes, Assistant Matron, Fargo Military Hospital, Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire, England which reads:

"He was admitted on Feb. 16th. He was very ill from the day of admission but we were in hopes of his recovering. The last 2 or 3 days however he got very much worse and died of pneumonia on 4th March. His body was sent to his uncle. H. J. Walker, 4 Tregegar Tce., Risca, Newport, Monmouth. Q.M.S. Walker's aunt came down to see him just a few days before he died and I understand she has written to his relatives in Melbourne. Please convey to his wife our sincere sympathy."

A War Pension was granted to Dorothea Francis Ellen Walker, widow of the late Acting Q.M.S. Edward James Walker, 1608, 3rd Pioneers, in the sum of £2.17.3 per fortnight from 8th May, 1917.

Lily Mary Walker, mother of Edward James Walker, died on 31st March, 1919 at Northcote, Victoria.

Dorothea Francis Ellen Walker remarried in 1920. She married Herbert George Edgar Finger.

Dorothy Finger, remarried widow of the late Company Quartermaster Sergeant Edward James Walker, wrote to Base Records in September, 1923 stating that she had been to the Barracks twice & also filled in forms & still had not received any of the medals due to her late husband. Base Records replied in October, 1923 stating that in regards to the application for the Victory Medal, her late husband was not eligible for it as he did not serve in a theatre of war. Base Records also advised that the British War Medal had already been forward to her in September last, however the receipt had not been signed & returned. A receipt was signed for the British War Medal by Mrs D. F. Finger, dated 8th October, 1923.

Company Quartermaster Sergeant Edward James Walker was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Q.M.S Walker's widow - Mrs D. Finger (remarried), as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent May, 1922 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Company Quartermaster Sergeant Edward James Walker – service number 1608, aged 27, of 3rd Australian Pioneers. He was the son of Edward O. and the late Lily Walker; husband of D. F. Walker, of "Kalimna" Bayswater Rd., Wantirna, Victoria, Australia.

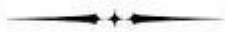
Company Quartermaster Sergeant E. J. Walker is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 173.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(58 pages of Company Quartermaster Sergeant Edward James Walker'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

(Special thanks to Steve Veysey & Bernard Osment for supplying transcripts of Wales' newspaper articles)

RISCA

SOLDIER'S DEATH

The death took place at Larkhill, Salisbury Plain, on Monday, of C. Q. M. S. E. F. Walker, of the Australian Military Forces, son of Mr. Edward Walker, of Melbourne, Australia, and late organist of Bethany Church, Risca. The funeral will take place at Risca Cemetery on Saturday next, at 3 p.m. from the residence of Mr. J. Walker, for Bethany Church, en route for the cemetery. The funeral will be with full military honours.

(South Wales Gazette, Wales – 9 March, 1917)

LATE Q.M.S. WALKER

MILITARY FUNERAL AT RISCA

The funeral took place at Risca on Saturday of Q.M.S. E. J. Walker, of the Australian Forces, son of Mr. Edward Walker, of Melbourne, Australia, at one time organist of Bethany Baptist Church, Risca, but who emigrated to that country many years ago. The deceased passed away at Larkhill Military Hospital, Salisbury Plain, on Sunday, and the body was removed on Wednesday morning to the home of Mr. J. Walker, builder, cousin of deceased. The body was conveyed from the institution on a gun carriage, and the escort consisted of 50 men, under Lieut. A. Cobin all of the Australian Force, with whom the deceased was a particular favourite. A military band played the "Dead March" en route, and the firing party consisted of 19 men. The carriers were S.M. Kent, S.M. Hackett, Sergts. Gardiner, Riley and Asford, and Corporals Mason and Austin, the latter being the deceased's brother-in-law. At Risca the scene was also impressive. A service was held in Bethany Baptist Church, and addresses were delivered by the Revs. T. Thomas and J. Holmes. Regiment Sergt.-major Walker also spoke. The coffin, covered with the Union Jack, was conveyed to the last resting place at Risca Cemetery. A squad of the Royal Defence Corps formed the escort, and furnished the firing party. Regimental S.M. Walder, Sergt.-major Claridge, Sergt.-major Kent, Corpl. A. Walker, M. M., Corporal Mason, and Lance-corpl. Austin personal friends and fellow officers of deceased acted as bearers. The chief mourners were Mr. and Mrs. J. Walker (cousins), Mrs. Tyndall and Mrs. Edward Yendall (cousin), Miss Mabel Walker, and Master Arthur Walker (cousins), Corpl. C. Austin (brother-in-law), and Corpl. A. Walker (cousin). Among the floral tributes was a wreath from Mr. and Mrs. Walker, Mrs. T. Yendall, Mrs. and Mr. Ted Yendall, family at Risca, and from his fellow sergeants of the Australian Force. The service at the graveside was conducted by Rev. J.T. Phillips, Messrs. Pritchard and Tovey carried out the arrangements.

(South Wales Argus, Wales – 12 March, 1917)

RISCA

There was a large attendance at the funeral at Risca yesterday of Quartermaster-Sergeant E. J. Walker, son of Mr. Edward Walker, Melbourne, Australia, a one time organist at Bethany Baptist Church, Risca. Deceased joined the Australian forces and died last week at Larkhill Military Hospital. The body was removed to the house of his cousin, Mr. J. Walker, Risca, and buried with full military honours. Impressive addresses were delivered by the Rev. T. Thomas and the Rev. J. T. Phillips. Representatives of the Australian forces were present.

(South Wales Daily News, Wales – 13 March, 1917)

DIED ON SERVICE

WALKER – On the 4th March, at the Fargo Hospital, England, of pneumonia, Q.M.S. E. J. Walker, dearly beloved husband of Dorothy Walker (nee Austin), Jenkins street, Northcote, aged 27 years.

Each other we have owned,
And dwelt in peace and love;
And now, though called awhile to part,
We hope to meet above.

- (Inserted by his sorrowing wife, Dorothy).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia – 13 March, 1917)

The 280th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Q.M.S. E. J. Walker, Northcote

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria, Australia – 21 March, 1917)

LATE Q.M.S. WALKER

MILITARY FUNERAL AT RISCA

The funeral took place at Risca on Saturday of Q.M.S. E. J. Walker, of the Australian Forces, formerly of Thornbury, son of Mr. Edward Walker, of Melbourne, Australia, at one time organist of Bethany Baptist Church, Risca, but who emigrated to that country many years ago. The deceased passed away at Larkhill Military Hospital, Salisbury Plain, on Sunday, and the body was removed on Wednesday morning to the home of Mr. J. Walker, builder, uncle of deceased. The body was conveyed from the institution on a gun carriage, and the escort consisted of 50 men, under Lieut. A. Cobin all of the Australian Force, with whom he was a particular favourite. A military band played the "Dead March" en route, and the firing party consisted of 19 men. The carriers were S.M. Kent, S.M. Hackett, Sergts. Gardiner, Riley and Asford, and Corporals Mason and Austin, the latter being the deceaseds brother-in-law. At Risca the scene was also impressive. A service was held in Bethany Baptist Church, and addresses were delivered by the Revs. T. Thomas and J. Holmes. Regiment Sergt.-major Walker also spoke. The coffin, covered with the Union Jack, was conveyed to the last resting place at Risca Cemetery. A squad of the Royal Defence Corps formed the escort, and furnished the firing party. Regimental Sergeant major Claridge, Sergt.-major Kent, Corpl. A. Walker, M. M., Corporal Mason, and Lance-corpl. Austin (personal friends and fellow officers of deceased) acted as bearers. The chief mourners were Mr. and Mrs. J. Walker (uncle and aunt), Mrs. Tyndall and Mrs. Edward Yendall (cousin), Miss D. Yendall (cousin) Miss Mabel Walker, and Master Arthur Walker (cousins), Corpl. C. Austin (brother-in-law), and Corpl. A. Walker (cousin). Among the floral tributes was a wreath from Mr. and Mrs. Walker, Mrs. T. Yendall, Mrs. and Mr. Ted Yendall, family at Risca, and from his fellow sergeants of the Australian Force. The service at the graveside was conducted by the Rev. J.T. Phillips.

The firing party were entertained to tea at Bethany Sunday School by the non-commissioned officers mess at Larkhill. The arrangements were made by Miss N. Porter.

(*Preston Leader*, Victoria, Australia – 2 June 1917)

In Memoriam

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

WALKER – A tribute to the memory of our beloved son and brother, also beloved husband of Dorothy (nee Austin), Q.M.S. Edward J. Walker, who died at the Fargo Hospital, England, 4th March, 1917.

Anchored by love, death cannot sever,
We miss him sadly and will for ever.

- Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters.

(*Northcote Leader*, Victoria – 16 March, 1918) & (*Preston Leader*, Victoria – 16 March, 1918)

Photo of Q.M.S. Edward J. Walker's Private Headstone in Risca Old Cemetery, Risca, Monmouthshire, Wales.
(Note: The date of death on the headstone is incorrect – it should read March 4th, 1917)



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)

Risca Old Cemetery, Risca, Monmouthshire, Wales

Risca Old Cemetery, Risca, Monmouthshire, Wales contains 25 Commonwealth War Graves – 20 relating to World War 1 & 5 from World War 2.



Risca Old Cemetery *(Photo by Jaggery)*