

**St. John the Baptist Churchyard,
Bishopstone (Wilton), Wiltshire, England**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



6606 PRIVATE

C. V. WALKER

9TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

1ST FEBRUARY, 1917

Charles Valentine WALKER

Charles Valentine Walker was born around 1894/1895 in Queensland.

(Note: According to information provided by his foster mother for Roll of Honour – Charles was born at Wycabah & according to details provided by Charles Walker on his Attestation Papers he was born at Mount Morgan. Details regarding his parents are not known.)

Charles Valentine Walker was a 22 year old, single, Labourer from Lyndon, Brixton, Queensland when he enlisted at Longreach, Queensland on 23rd June, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his (foster) mother – Mrs E. Blain, Eurondilla, Longreach, Queensland.

Private Charles Valentine Walker was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 3rd August, 1916. He was transferred to 21st Reinforcements of 9th Battalion on 26th August, 1916.

Private Charles Valentine Walker, Service number 6606, embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Boonah* (A36) on 21st October, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Battalion, 21st Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 10th January, 1917.

9th Battalion

The 9th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. It was the first battalion recruited in Queensland, and with the 10th, 11th and 12th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade.....

(Extract of Battalion information from The Australian War Memorial)

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 Charles Valentine Walker was sent sick to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 26th January, 1917 with Acute Bronchitis (very bad).

Private Charles Valentine Walker died at 1.55 pm on 1st February, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, near Durrington, Wiltshire, England from Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Charles V. Walker, aged 22, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Charles Valentine Walker was buried privately on 5th February, 1917 south of church at St. John the Baptist Churchyard, Bishopstone (Wilton), Wiltshire, England and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. His body had been sent to the residence of Mr Raikes (from later correspondence Mr Raikes was Rev. Raikes & was an uncle of Mrs Blain – adopted/foster mother to Private Walker), Bishopstone, Salisbury. Mr Raikes had been contacted in March, 1917 by Administrative Headquarters A.I.F. to ask for information on the burial date, cemetery & grave site no. of late Private Walker for their records.

A letter was written to Mrs E. L. Bain from Base Records in April, 1922 noting that she was listed as next-of-kin in the capacity of "Mother" by the late Private Walker but due to the fact that Mrs Bain had referred to the late Private Charles Valentine Walker as her adopted son in a previous communication, Base Records were asking for further information as to the details of any blood relations living so that the deceased's soldiers war medals could be distributed. Mrs Blain wrote on the original letter "*The above had only me and that is all the particulars I can give. E. S. Blain.*"

Private Charles Valentine Walker was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also to be sent to Private Walker's next of kin but as Base Records had not received any legal proof of the relationship between Mrs Blain & she had not notified them of any blood relations, all his War items were sent to "Untraceables" in August, 1922.

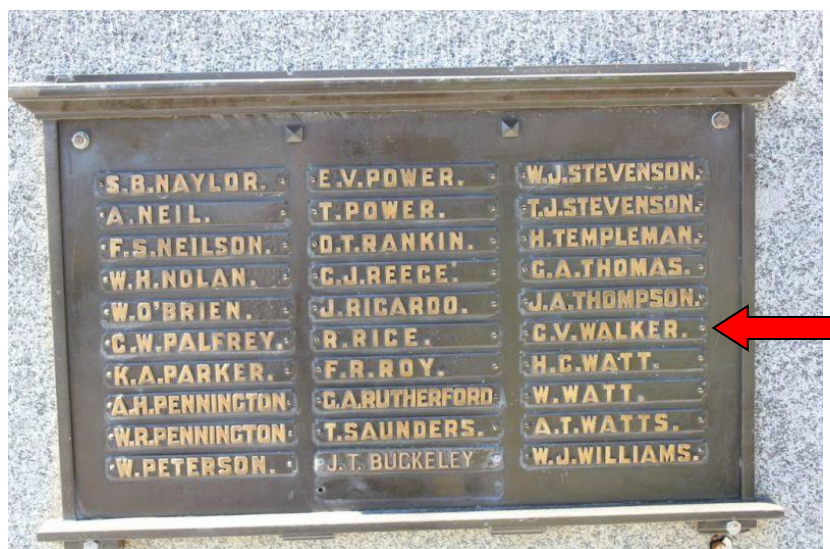
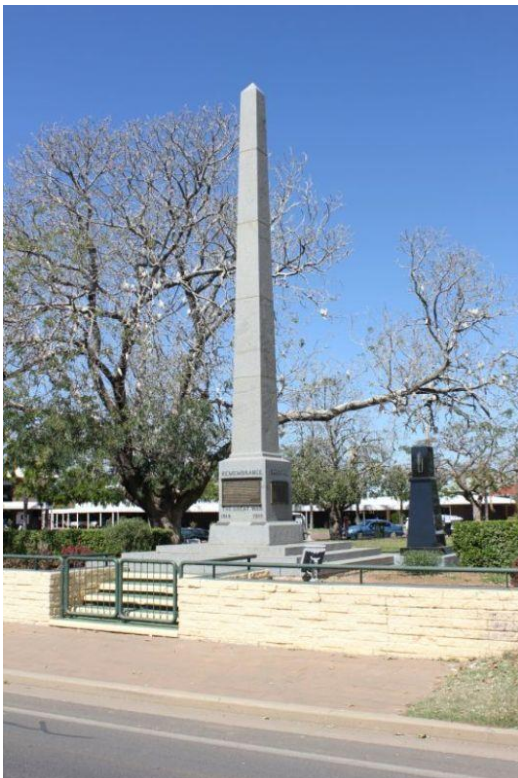
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Charles Valentine Walker – service number 6606 as being 22 years old & served with 9th Battalion Australian Infantry. No family details are listed, only that he was born at Rockhampton, Queensland.

Private C. V. 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 57.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. V. Walker is remembered on the Longreach War Memorial, located in Anzac Memorial Park, Landsborough Highway & Galah Street, Longreach, Queensland.



Longreach War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia – Glen Yeomans/Roger Johnson)

C. V. Walker is remembered on the Barcaldine War Memorial, located on Ash & Beech Streets, Barcaldine, Queensland.



Barcaldine War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



Charles Valentine Walker is remembered on the Ilfracombe War Memorial, located in Ilfracombe Memorial Park, Main Avenue (Landsborough Highway), Ilfracombe, Queensland.



Ilfracombe War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)



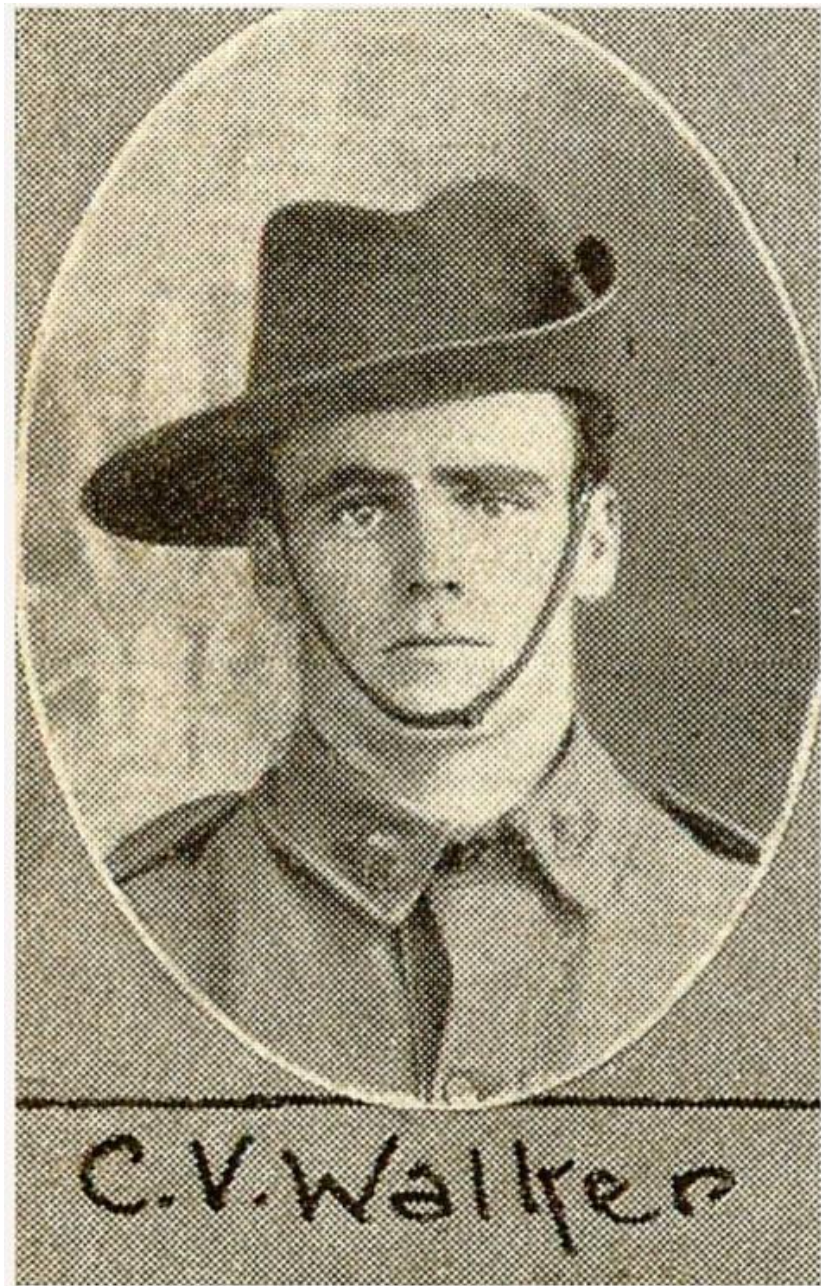
C. V. Walker is remembered on the Ilfracombe District Honour Roll, located in Romani Hall, Main Avenue (Landsborough Highway), Ilfracombe, Queensland.



Ilfracombe District Honour Roll (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Arthur Garland)

(52 pages of Private Charles Valentine 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) & National Archives



(*The Queenslander Pictorial* – 7 October, 1916)



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

Died of Illness

C. V. Walker (Longreach)

(*The Capricornian*, Rockhampton, Qld – 17 February, 1917)

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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 28th June, 1921, to Mrs Blain, of Greenwoods via Hisford, Qld advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of the late Private C. V. Walker had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken. Mrs Blain replied to the letter of June, 1921 around six weeks later but did not make any reference to an inscription.

Private Charles Valentine Walker does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

St. John the Baptist Churchyard, Bishopstone (Wilton), Wiltshire, England

There are two villages named Bishopstone in Wiltshire, one is in Highworth and the other is in Wilton.

There is one Commonwealth War Grave located in this Churchyard.

(Information from CWGC)





St. John the Baptist Churchyard, Bishopstone (Wilton), Wiltshire *(Streetview)*



Photo of Private C. V. Walker's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at St. John the Baptist Churchyard, Bishopstone (Wilton), Wiltshire, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Lady Linda 2020)