

**St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard,
Harefield, Middlesex, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3004 PRIVATE

C. WALTON

50TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

10TH AUGUST, 1918

Charles WALTON

Charles Walton was born at Port Adelaide, South Australia in 1889 to parents William Pollock Walton & Beatrice Walton.

Charles Walton attended school at St. Oswalds.

Charles Walton was a 27 year old, single, Whipmaker from 5 Castle Street, Adelaide, South Australia when he enlisted on 6th September, 1916 in Adelaide, South Australia with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3004 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Beatrice Walton, of 5 Castle Street, Adelaide, South Australia.

Private Charles Walton was posted to "B" Company, 2nd Depot Battalion on 20th September, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 7th Reinforcements of 50th Infantry Battalion on 10th October, 1916.

Private Charles Walton embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Afric (A19)* on 6th November, 1916 with the 50th Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th January, 1917.

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 Walton was marched in from Australia to 13th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire on 10th January, 1917.

Private Charles Walton was sent sick to Group Hospital at Codford on 5th April, 1917 with Scabies. He was discharged & rejoined 13th Training Battalion on 19th April, 1917.

Private Charles Walton proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 9th May, 1917 from 13th Training Battalion. He was marched in to 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 10th May, 1917. Private Walton proceeded to join his Unit from 4th A.D.B.D on 13th May, 1917 & was taken on strength of 50th Battalion in the Field on the same day from Reinforcements.

Private Charles Walton was reported to be still with his Unit on 26th November, 1917.

Private Charles Walton was sent sick to Hospital on 3rd January, 1918. He was admitted to 4th Australian Field Ambulance on 3rd January, 1918 with Blepharitis (inflammation of the eyelids) then transferred the same day to Casualty Clearing Station. Private Walton was admitted to 55th Casualty Clearing Station on 4th January, 1918 then transferred on 5th January, 1918 & admitted to 3rd Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 6th January, 1918 with Blepharitis. He was transferred on 7th January, 1918 & admitted the same day to 2nd Convalescent Depot at Rouen.

Private Charles Walton was written up for a Crime on 10th January, 1918 – overstaying leave from 8 pm till 9.30 pm (30 minutes). He was awarded 7 days confined to Barracks by Commanding Officer No. 2 Convalescent Depot.

Private Charles Walton was transferred from No. 2 Convalescent Depot at Rouen on 6th February, 1918 to 11th Convalescent Depot at Buchy. He was discharged from 11th Convalescent Depot on 28th March, 1918 to Base Depot.

Private Charles Walton was marched in from Hospital to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 29th March, 1918. He was marched out to his Unit on 5th April, 1918 & rejoined 50th Battalion on 8th April, 1918.

Private Charles Walton was wounded in action on 25th April, 1918. He was admitted to 2/3 Home Counties Field Ambulance on 25th April, 1918 with shrapnel wound/s to arm then transferred the same day to 5th Casualty Clearing Station. Private Walton was transferred & admitted to 11th Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 26th April, 1918. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Aberdonian* on 29th April, 1918.

50th Battalion

The 50th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 26 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits were veterans from the 10th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 10th, the 50th was predominantly composed of men from South Australia. The battalion became part of the 13th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division.....

Early in 1917, the battalion participated in the advance that followed the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, and attacked at Noreuil on 2 April. For his actions at Noreuil Private Joergen Jensen was awarded the Victoria Cross. Later that year, the focus of AIF operations moved to the Ypres sector in Belgium. There the battalion was involved in the battle of Messines between 7 and 12 June and the battle of Polygon Wood on 26 September. Another winter of trench routine followed.

Utilising troops freed by the collapse of Russia in October 1917, the German Army launched a major offensive on the Western Front at the end of March 1918. The 4th Division was deployed to defend positions south of the River Ancre in France. At Dernancourt, on 5 April, the 50th Battalion assisted in the repulse of the largest German attack mounted against Australian troops during the war. The German threat persisted through April, and on ANZAC Day 1918 the 50th participated in the now- legendary attack to dislodge the enemy from Villers-Bretonneux.....

War Diary – 50th Battalion

BLANGY-TRONVILLE

24th, 25th, 26th, 27th April, 1918 – See attached summary of operations near VILLERS-BRETONNEUX

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS 24th April 1918 to 28th April, 1918:

On the 23rd April 1918 the Battalion was billeted in DAOURS, South of PONT NOYELLES & was preparing to relieve on 25th April, a Battalion of the 11th Bde., A.I.F. in the sector held by 3rd Aust. Div., North of SAILLY-le-Sec. Late that night information was received from Brigade Headquarters that a hostile attack was likely next day & the relief was to be put off for about 24 hours.

About 3.30 am on the 24th April, 1918, the enemy commenced a heavy bombardment on a front extending from somewhere North of ALBERT down to about HANGARD

At 4.10 am the C.O. ordered the Battalion to get ready to move in anticipation of an order from Bde. H.Qrs., to go forward. The strength of the Bn. was then 39 Officers, 762 Other Ranks, actually with Unit

(27th April, 1918) On relief 50th Bn. moved to Billets in BLANGY-TRONVILLE last parties settling down there by 5.30 am in 28th April.

Total prisoners captured by us during the operation:-

1 Officer & 20 Other Ranks.....

List of CASUALTIES during recent operations 24th to 27th April, 18.

	<i>Offrs.</i>	<i>O/Ranks</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Killed</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>Wounded</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>181</i>	<i>189</i>
<i>Missing</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Hospital - Sick</i>		<i>7</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Totals</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>247</i>	<i>261</i>

(the Summary of Operations for this period runs for 4 pages – which can be viewed on the Australian War Memorial website)....

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Charles Walton was admitted to Bath War Hospital, England on 30th April, 1918 with shell wounds to right forearm – severe.

Mrs B. Walton, of 5 Castle Street, Adelaide, South Australia, mother of Private Charles Walton, was advised by Base Records on 8th May, 1918 that Private C. Walton had been wounded. She was advised again on 24th May, 1918 that Private C. Walton had been admitted to Bath War Hospital, England suffering from a severe shell wound to right forearm. Mrs Walton was advised on 10th June, 1918 that Private C. Walton was progressing favourably.

Private Charles Walton was transferred to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, England on 19th July, 1918. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*After wd to Ft forearm, developed septic Tonsillitis with Streptococci & Vincents Angina, Blood gave weak positive Wasserman, Anaemia & _____ marked.*"

Mrs B. Walton, of 5 Castle Street, Adelaide, South Australia, mother of Private Charles Walton, was advised by Base Records on 7th August, 1918 that Private C. Walton was convalescent.

Private Charles Walton died at 10.50 pm on 10th August, 1918 at No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield Park, Harefield, Middlesex, England from Secondary Anaemia (post Diphtheritic) & Asphyxia (oedema glottides).

A death for Charles Walton, aged 29, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Uxbridge, Middlesex, England.

Private Charles Walton was buried on 12th August, 1918 in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England – Plot number Aust. 62 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Charles Walton - *A.I.F. Coffin. Funeral was held jointly with that of Pensioner Walter Kelly (late A.I.F.). Officer i/c H. Capt. & Q.M. J.F.S. Murray, M.C. Wreath was supplied by C. Billyard-Leake, Esq. of Harefield. A few of the Staff were present at the funeral also about 50 patients. Firing Party and Bugler supplied by Headquarters. Deceased has another brother in the A.I.F. No. 1751 Pte W. P. Walton. Headquarters Details, 16th Bn, France.*

Names of relatives or friends present at the Funeral – Brother No. 333 Pte Alf Walton, 32nd Battalion, A.I.F.

Private Charles Walton requested in his Will, dated 5th June, 1917, that he bequeathed all his real & personal estate to his mother – Mrs Beatrice Walton, of 5 Castle Street, Adelaide, South Australia.

Base Records contacted Mrs B. Walton, 16 Taragon St., Mile End, South Australia, in May, 1921 enquiring if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically asked if Pte C. Walton's father was still alive 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 Beatrice Walton replied to Base Records stating that Private C. Walton's father was not alive & that she was the nearest blood relation.

Private Charles Walton was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Walton's mother – Mrs B. Walton, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private C. Walton – service number 3004, of 50th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the brother of Mrs A. G. Gneath, of Robe, South Australia.

Private C. Walton is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 151.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. Walton is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.

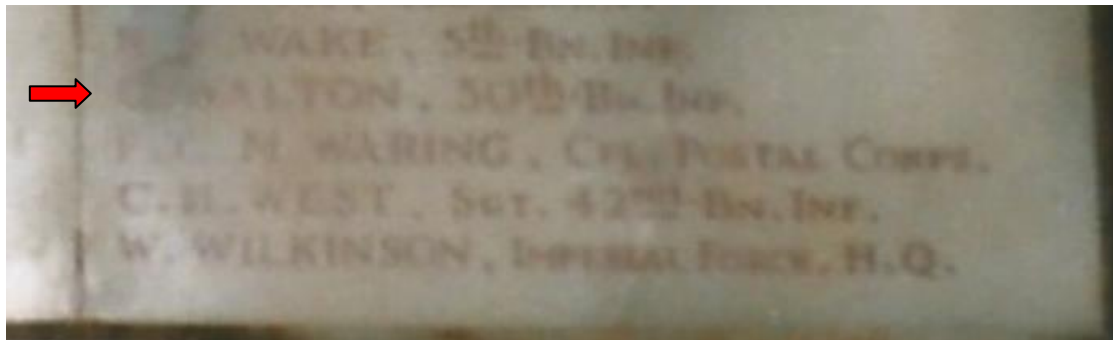


National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

C. Walton is remembered in the Australian Soldiers' Memorial in St. Mary the Virgin Church, Church Hill, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



Australian Soldiers' Memorial, Harefield (Photo from War Memorials Online – B. Wood)

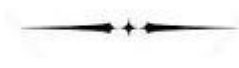


(64 pages of Private Charles Walton's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Private Charles Walton (*Chronicle, South Australia – 31 August, 1918*)



Newspaper Notices

404th CASUALTY LIST

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Wounded

3004. Pte C. WALTON, Adelaide

(*Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 1 June, 1918*)

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

WALTON – Died of wounds in England, August 10, Charles Walton, dearly beloved son of Mrs Walton, of 5, Castle-street, city, aged 29 years.

Thy Will be done.

(*The Express and Telegraph, Adelaide, South Australia – 21 August, 1918*) & (*The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 21 August, 1918*) & (*Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 24 August, 1918*)

THE AUSTRALIANS

CASUALTY LIST No. 426

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DIED OTHER CAUSES

3004. Pte C. WALTON, Adelaide (Aug. 10, died of illness)

(*The Journal*, Adelaide, South Australia – 31 August, 1918)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

WALTON.-In loving memory of our brother Private C. Walton, who died of wounds received in action, August 10, 1918.

The "last post" now has sounded.
He has laid aside his sword,
And God has called him from us
To his nobly won reward.
And this prayer we all are breathing,
Though our hearts are rung with pain.
Rest on in peace, brave soldier boy.
Till the bugle sounds again.

-Inserted by his loving sister, Mary, and brother in-law, Tom.

WALTON.-In loving memory of my dear son, Charlie, who died of wounds, August 10, 1918.

Sadly I miss you and try not to grieve
A little while longer, and I, too, shall leave.

-Inserted by his loving mother.

WALTON.-In loving memory of our dear brother, who died of wounds, August 10, 1918.

A soldier, yes. a hero too,
He played a man's part through and through;
His actions speak, enough his voice is still,
Forget him, no, we never will.

-Inserted by his loving brothers. Will and Alf., late A.I. F.

WALTON.-In loving memory of our dear brother. Charlie, who died of wounds August 10, 1918.

Could I, his sister, have clasped his hand,
The brother we loved so well.
Or kissed his dear brow when death was near
And wished my brother farewell.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in law. Ethel and C. Loverly.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 9 August, 1919)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

WALTON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Charles, who died of wounds, August 10, 1918.

To-day as we glanced at your photo,
In likeness so kind and true,
Do you know how our hearts are aching
And longing, dear Charles, for you?

-Inserted by his loving mother and brother, Alf and Will.

WALTON – In loving memory of our dear brother Charles Walton, who died of wounds received in France, August 10th, 1918.

While you live in peaceful sleep,
Your memory we will always keep.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Tom.

WALTON – In loving memory of our dear brother, Charles, who died of wounds, August 10, 1918.

Love and memory lasts for ever.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Ethel and Tom

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 14 August, 1920)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

WALTON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Charles, who died of wounds in England, August 10th, 1918.

His weary hours and days of toil,
His troubled nights have passed.
The ever-patient, worn-out frame
Has found sweet rest at last.

-Inserted by his loving mother, sister, and brothers and brother-in-law.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 10 August, 1921)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

WALTON – In loving memory of my dear son, Charles, died of wounds, August 10th, 1918.

What would I give to clasp his hand,
My loving son to see.
Just to hear one loving word,
Which means so much to me.
He left his home in health and strength,
To answer his country's call;
He gave his life, he gave his best,
For you, for me, for all.

-Inserted by his loving mother.

WALTON – In loving memory of our dear brother, Charlie, who died of wounds in England, August 10th, 1918.

Sweet is the word of remembrance,
As these few lines will show,
You will always be remembered,
As the years may come and go.

-Inserted by his loving brothers, Will and Alf.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 10 August, 1922) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 19 August, 1922)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

WALTON – In loving memory of our dear brother, Charles, who died of wounds in England, August 10th, 1918.

How sad it was to part with a brother
So near and dear to us.
But sadder still to part without
One farewell word to us.

-Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Marv and Tom, and nephews, Colin, Maurice and Laurel.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 11 August, 1922)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

WALTON – In loving memory of Private Charles Walton, 50th Battalion, A.I.F., died of wounds, England, on the 10th August, 1918.

His hours of suffering are over,
The days of pain are passed,
And he is safe with his Maker,
Resting in peace at last.

-Inserted by his loving mother, sisters and brothers.

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 16 August, 1924)

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*)

Mrs Beatrice Walton, mother of Private Charles Walton, completed the “*Inscriptions on War Graves*” form & requested the following personal inscription to be engraved on her son’s headstone “*In Loving Memory of my Dear Son, who died Aug 18th, 1918. While you lie in Peacefull Sleep Your Memory we Will always keep.*”

Base Records replied to Mrs B. Walton, 16 Taragon Street, Mile End, South Australia, on 1st July, 1920 advising her that the inscription she had chosen exceeded the limit imposed by the War Graves Commission, viz 66 letters & it would be necessary for her to abbreviate the inscription. They also pointed out that the date of death would already be inscribed on the headstone at the expense of the Government & it would not be necessary to include it in the personal inscription.

Private C. Walton does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield contains 126 Commonwealth War Graves.

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

Harefield (St. Mary) Churchyard contains war graves from both world wars. There are 120 First World War graves, mostly those of Australians who died in No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park. Uniquely, their graves are marked by scroll shaped headstones, chosen by the staff and patients at the hospital. In the centre of the Australian plot stands a memorial obelisk which was erected by Sir Francis Newdegate, late Governor of Tasmania and of Western Australia, and Mr. C.A.M. Billyard-Leake, of Harefield Park. The churchyard also contains six graves of the Second World War.

(Information & photos from CWGC)





Photo of Private C. Walton's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St Mary the Virgin Church, Harefield (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photos courtesy of Peter Bennett)





THE ANZAC CEMETERY, HAREFIELD, LAWRENCE, PHOTO