

**Shorncliffe Military Cemetery,
Folkestone, Kent
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



14482 SAPPER

A. E. W. WARD

AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

13TH FEBRUARY, 1919 Age 36

The Lord Giveth

And The Lord Taketh Away

Blessed Be His Name

Albert Edward William WARD

Albert Edward William Ward was born at Weldborough, Tasmania on 22nd December, 1883 to parents William Howard & Selina Ward (nee Butler).

Albert Edward William Ward was a 32 year old, single, Labourer from Innisfail, Queensland when he enlisted at Townsville, Queensland on 27th November, 1915 with the Field Company Engineers – July, 1916 Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 14482 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Selma War, Queenstown, Tasmania.

Sapper Albert Edward William Ward was posted to Field Engineers at Engineer depot, Moore Park on 27th November, 1915 for recruit training.

Sapper Albert Edward William Ward embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Vestalia* (A44) on 11th July, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9th September, 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.

Sapper Albert E. W. Ward proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 8th February, 1917 on S.S. *Invicta*. He was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 9th February, 1917.

Sapper Albert E. W. Ward was transferred to 1st Division Engineers on 11th February, 1917 while based at A.G.B.D. Etaples.

Pioneer Battalions

Trained as infantrymen, they were also tasked with some engineer functions, with a large number of personnel possessing trade qualifications from civilian life. As such, they were designated as pioneer units. In early 1916, the Australian Army was reorganised ahead of its transfer to the Western Front in Europe. A total of five pioneer battalions were raised by the AIF at this time, with one being assigned to each of the five infantry divisions that the Australians deployed to the battlefield in France and Belgium. Tasked with digging trenches, labouring, constructing strong points and light railways, and undertaking battlefield clearance, the troops assigned to the pioneers required construction and engineering experience in addition to basic soldiering skills.

(Pioneer Battalion information from Wikipedia)

Sapper Albert Edward William Ward was posted to 2nd Field Company Engineers on 21st February, 1917. Sapper Albert E. W. Ward was taken on strength from Reinforcements of 2nd Field Company on 21st February, 1917.

Sapper Albert E. W. Ward was with his Unit on 25th January, 1918.

Sapper Albert E. W. Ward was on leave to UK from 20th February, 1918 & returned from leave on 8th March, 1918.

Sapper Albert E. W. Ward was detached to C.R.E (Commander, Royal Engineers) on 1st January, 1919.

Sapper Albert E. W. Ward was on leave from France from 26th January, 1919 to 9th February, 1919. He was granted an extension of Leave till 11th February, 1919 by Admin Headquarters.

Sapper Albert Edward William Ward was admitted to Military Hospital, Shorncliffe, Kent, England on 12th February, 1919 with Influenza, while on leave from France.

Sapper Albert Edward William Ward died at 16.15 hrs on 13th February, 1919 at Shorncliffe Military Hospital, Kent, England from Pneumonia.

A death for Albert E. W. Ward, aged 30, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Elham, Kent, England.

Sapper Albert Edward William Ward was buried on 18th February, 1919 in Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Folkestone, Kent, England – Plot number R. 732 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Sapper A. E. W. Ward - *Coffin was good, Oak. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and conveyed to the graveside, where the "Last Post" was sounded and the Rev. Higgins F. H. P. of the A.I.F. officiated. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

On 12th July, 1917 Sapper Albert Edward William Ward advised that he had previously made a Will & was left in the custody of Mrs W. H. Ward (his mother), Queenstown, Tasmania. The 1st Military District, Australian Military Forces wrote to Base Records, Melbourne advising that the Will of Sapper A. E. W. Ward was reported to have been lost & with the approval of the Minister the amount held by the Department of £73.5.2 would be divided in equal shares between the soldier's parents – William Howard Ward (father) of All Nations Hotel, Weldborough, Tasmania & Selina Ward (mother) of Alfred Street, Queenstown, Tasmania.

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. Base Records contacted Mr William Howard Ward, father of the late Sapper Albert Edward William Ward, regarding the dispersal of the War Medals awarded on account of his son's service. Mr W. Ward advised Base Records in May, 1922 that the War Medals could be posted to Mrs Ward.

Sapper Albert Edward William Ward was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sapper Ward's mother – Mrs S. Ward (Scroll sent November, 1922 & Plaque sent December, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sapper Albert Edward William Ward – service number 14482, aged 36, of 2nd Field Coy., Australian Engineers. He was the son of William H. and Selina Ward, of Alfred St., Queenstown, Tasmania. Born at Weldborough, Tasmania.

Sapper A. E. W. Ward is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 25.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. E. W. Ward is remembered on the Innisfail Roll of Honour, located in the Shire Hall, 70 Rankin Street, Innisfail, Queensland.



Innisfail Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – John Huth)

Newspaper Notices

NORTHERN VOLUNTEERS

..the following volunteers left for Enoggera camp:-

....

Innisfail – Albert Edward William Ward.

(Townsville Daily Bulletin, Queensland – 29 November, 1915)

Local and General

Next-of-Kin Wanted

The late No. 14,482 Sapper A. E. W. Ward, 2nd Field Company Engineers (enlisted in 1st military district) recorded as next-of-kin Mrs S. Ward (mother), Queenstown, West Coast, but communications so addressed have been returned unclaimed. The officer in charge of base records, Melbourne, will be pleased if Mrs Ward, or anyone knowing her present address, will communicate with him at the earliest possible moment.

(Zeehan and Dundas Herald, Tasmania – 23 December, 1920)

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)

Sapper A. E. W. Ward does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

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Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Folkestone, Kent, England

Shorncliffe Military Cemetery belongs to the Ministry of Defence and contains war graves of both World Wars. It is close to the military camp at Shorncliffe, 2 miles west of Folkestone

During the First World War a number of Canadian military establishments were centred on Shorncliffe. There were camps and a Machine Gun School which were served by the Shorncliffe Military Hospital (later No. 9 Canadian General), the Moore Barracks Military Hospital (later No. 11 Canadian General), and other Canadian hospitals. The Canadian Army Medical Corps Training Depot was at or near Shorncliffe during almost the whole of the war. On three occasions Canadian soldiers were killed during air raids on Shorncliffe.

Shorncliffe Military Cemetery contains 471 First World War burials, more than 300 of them Canadian. Second World War burials number 81, including 1 unidentified U.K. soldier and 1 Polish Foreign National. The cemetery also contains a screen wall on which are commemorated 18 Belgians originally buried in a mausoleum, now demolished.

There are 11 Australians from World War 1 buried in this Cemetery – 2 with Royal Air Force.

(Information from the CWGC)



Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Folkestone *(Photo courtesy of Paul Kendall)*



Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Folkestone (Photo above courtesy of Paul Kendall & below Stephen Summerfield)



Photo of Sapper A. E. W. Ward's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Folkestone, Kent, England.





Cross of Sacrifice *(Photo courtesy of Paul Kendall)*