

Durrington War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



6644 PRIVATE

A. E. WOLSTENHOLME

6TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

24TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 36

Peace Perfect Peace

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte A. E. Wolstenholme is located in
Grave Plot # 212 of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Albert Edwin WOLSTENHOLME

Albert Edwin Wolstenholme was born at Howlong, New South Wales in 1881 to parents Matthew J. & Mary J. Wolstenholme.

Albert Edwin Wolstenholme was a 34 year old, single, Butcher from Lawson, Blue Mountains, New South Wales when he enlisted on 1st September, 1914 with the 14th Infantry Battalion, 15th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2221 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs M. J. Wolstenholme from Lawson, NSW (later 15 Dunnlane Street, Camperdown, Sydney, NSW) (Father was deceased in 1890). Albert Wolstenholme had served 9 months in the South Africa campaign.

Pte Albert Edwin Wolstenholme embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Wandilla* (A62) on 17th June, 1915. (Pte Albert Edwin Wolstenholme's Service records are incomplete – they do not record where & when he embarked. He also is listed on 3 different Embarkation Rolls).

Pte Albert Edwin Wolstenholme was admitted to Abbassia Detention Hospital, Egypt on 10th August, 1915 with Venereal Disease. He was returned to Australia on *Wiltshire* on 31st August, 1915 from Suez & disembarked at Melbourne on 25th September, 1915. Pte Wolstenholme returned to duty on 9th October, 1915 with 3rd Military District.

Albert Edwin Wolstenholme re-attested on 5th February, 1916 owing to the loss of his original Attestation Papers. He was a 34 year old, single, Surveyor's Chainman from Sydney, New South Wales. He was given the service number of 6644 with the 6th Infantry Battalion, 21st Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). Pte Wolstenholme was admitted to Clearing Hospital, Broadmeadows, Victoria on 28th March, 1916 then transferred to Isolation Hospital, Langwarrin, Victoria the same day. He was discharged on 10th September, 1916.

A communication from Base Records dated 15th September, 1916 in Pte Wolstenholme's Service Record File states that he was supposed to embark from Adelaide on HMAT *Anchises* on 16th March, 1916 but failed to show. No further information was included in the Service Record file.

Pte Wolstenholme embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Nestor* (A71) on 2nd October, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 16th November, 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 Albert Edwin Wolstenholme was marched out to Fovant, Wiltshire from No.3 Command Depot on 21st November, 1916.

Private Albert Edwin Wolstenholme was written up for 2 offences while at Durrington, Wiltshire on 15th January, 1917 – 1. Appearing on parade with hair longer than allowed by regulation. 2. Appearing on parade improperly dressed. He was awarded 3 days Confined to Camp as punishment.

Private Albert Edwin Wolstenholme was sent sick to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from 2nd Training Battalion, No. 5-6 Camps, Durrington on 17th February, 1917. He was admitted seriously ill the same day.

Private Albert Edwin Wolstenholme died at 11.25 p.m. on 24th February, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Lobar Pneumonia. Pte Thomas Arthur Jones, 6751, died at 11.15 pm on 24th February, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Acute Polyneuritis. They are both buried next to each other in Durrington Cemetery.

A death for Albert Wolstenholme, aged 35, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Albert Edwin Wolstenholme was buried on 28th February, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 212 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The late Pte Albert Edwin Wolstenholme's mother did not know that her son had died until she wrote to Base Records on 6th March, 1917, advising them that she had changed her address from Lawson to Camperdown, Sydney. The Army had notified her that her son was in hospital suffering from Pneumonia but since that notification she had moved & they were unable to locate her.

Pte Albert Edwin Wolstenholme was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal due to his first enlistment. They were inscribed with his original service number of 2221. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Wolstenholme's mother – Mrs M. J. Wolstenholme (sent August, 1921 & December, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Albert Edwin Wolstenholme – service number 6644 as being 36 years old & served with 6th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Matthew James and Mary Jane Wolstenholme of Lawson, New South Wales. Born at Howlong, New South Wales.

Private A. E. Wolstenholme is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 49.

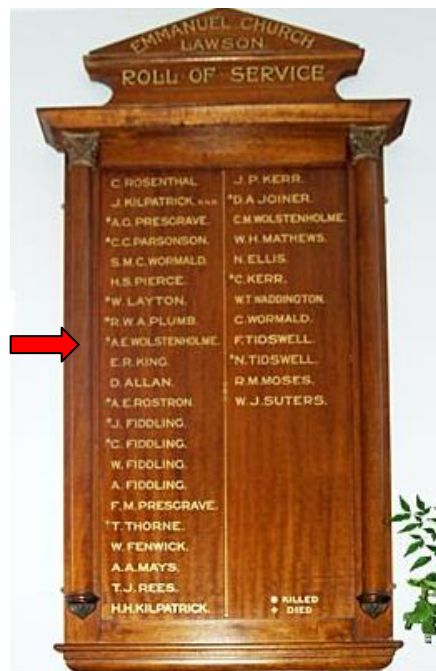


(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. E. Wolstenholme, along with his brother C. M. Wolstenholme (who survived the War), are both remembered on the Lawson Emmanuel Anglican Church Roll of Service located in Lawson Anglican Church, Honour Ave, Lawson, NSW.



Emmanuel Church, Lawson Roll of Service (Photo from Register of War Memorials NSW – Peter Levarre-Waters)

A. Wolstenholme is also remembered on the Blue Mountains District ANZAC Memorial Hospital and Honour Roll located at the corner of Woodlands Road & Great Western Highway, Katoomba, NSW.

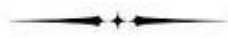


Blue Mtns District Hospital Honour Roll

(Photo from Register of War Memorials NSW – David Roden & Peter Levarre-Waters)

(72 pages of Pte Albert Edwin Wolstenholme'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 Reports

LAWSON

Word has been received from headquarters of the death of Pte A. E. Wolstenholme, of the 6th Battalion. Deceased, who was the son of Mrs M. J. Wolstenholme, of Lawson, died in the military hospital at Spargo, on the 24th February, pneumonia being the malady which laid him low. The sad news was conveyed to the grief-stricken mother by the Rev. E. C. Robison, and general sympathy is extended in her bereavement.

(The Blue Mountain Echo, NSW – Friday 16 March, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

WOLSTENHOLME — Pte ALBERT EDWIN WOLSTENHOLME, of pneumonia, in England, after two years' active service, the beloved son of Mrs. J. W. Wolstenholme, of Lawson, brother of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Morris, Albion-street, Katoomba and uncle of Pte. W. Voysey (on active service), aged 35 years.

Soldier, rest; thy warfare's o'er; the Lord gave and the Lord hath taken.

In a hero's grave he lies.

Inserted by his sorrowing mother, sister and brother Charlie (on active service).

(The Blue Mountain Echo, NSW – Friday 16 March, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

WOLSTENHOLME -Private Albert Edwin Wolstenholme, 6th Battalion A.I.F., who has been on active service for two years, died pneumonia 24/2/17 military hospital, Fargo, England. He also served in the Boer War with his brothers Charlie (now on active service In France), and Walter. Son of Mrs. M. J. Wolstenholme of Lawson, age 35 years.

In a far-off lonely grave

Lies a soldier brave and true.

Inserted by his loving mother, sister, Louisa, brothers, Charlie (on active service), Walter, and Ernie.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Monday 2 April, 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 at Durrington War Graves Cemetery. 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)

Pte A. E. Wolstenholme does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Peace Perfect Peace



Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire *(Photo by Dave Healing 2013)*

Photo of Pte A. E. Wolstenholme's Headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)