

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



2899 PRIVATE

A. WARD

42ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

9TH APRIL, 1917 Age 34

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte A. Ward is located in Grave Plot # 231
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Albert WARD

Albert Ward was born in 1882 at Rotherham, Yorkshire, England to parents James Aslin Ward & Annie Ward. His birth was registered in the March quarter, 1882 in the district of Rotherham, Yorkshire West Riding.

The 1891 England Census recorded Albert Ward as a 9 year old living with his family at 201 Wellgate, Rotherham, Yorkshire. His parents were listed as James A. Ward (Plumber, aged 55, born Rotherham, Yorks.) & Annie Ward (aged 50, born London). Albert was the youngest of 4 children listed on this Census – all born at Rotherham, Yorks. Arthur (aged 15, Ironmonger), Alfred (aged 130, Annie (aged 11) then Albert.

Albert Ward came to Australia when he was 16 years old, according to information supplied by his father for Roll Of Honour.

Albert Ward was a 34 year old, single, Labourer from Deagon, Sandgate, Queensland when he enlisted on 12th September, 1916 with the 42nd Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2899 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – James A. Ward of Deagon, Sandgate, Queensland.

Pte Albert Ward embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Demosthenes (A64)* on 23rd December, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 3rd March, 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.

Pte Albert Ward was marched in from Australia to 11th Training Battalion, Durrington, Wiltshire on 6th March, 1917.

Pte Albert Ward was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire with Bronchitis on 28th March, 1917.

Private Albert Ward died at 9.40 am on 9th April, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Bronchitis.

A death for Albert Ward, aged 34, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Albert Ward was buried on 12th April, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 231 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte *Coffin was Elm 1st Class condition. Pte Ward was accorded Military funeral and buried with all possible Military Honours. Twelve men from his Company acted as firing party and six of his personal friends as pall bearers. A presentation wreath along with several flowers was placed on the grave. The Rev. K. D. Norman Officiated.*

Private A. Ward is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 136.

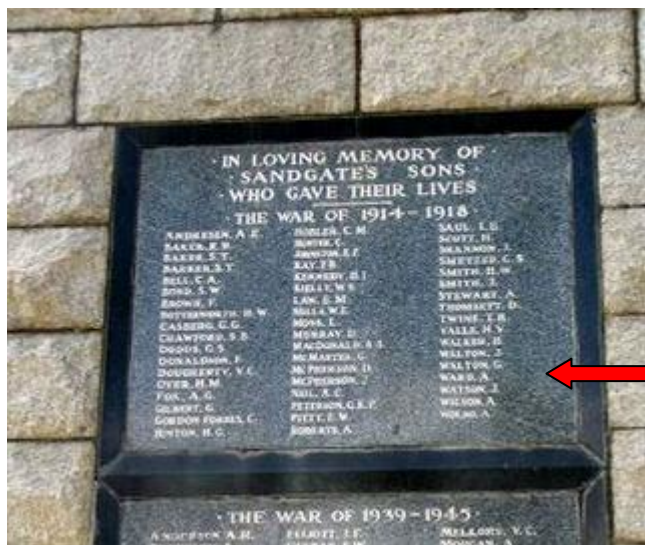


(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. Ward is also remembered on the Sandgate War Memorial located in Sandgate Memorial Park, Seymour Street, Sandgate, Brisbane, Queensland.



Sandgate War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – Diane Watson)

Pte Albert Ward 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 Pte Ward's father – Mr J. A. Ward (sent August, 1922 & July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Albert Ward – service number 2899, as being 34 years old & served with 42nd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of James Aslin Ward and Annie Ward, of Deagon, Sandgate, Queensland.

(47 pages of Pte Albert Ward'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

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Newspaper Reports

ROLL OF HONOUR

288TH CASUALTY LIST

DIED – OTHER CAUSES -QUEENSLAND

A. Ward, Sandgate, illness

(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – Saturday 21 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. Ward does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte A. Ward's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)