

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War 1



63334 PRIVATE

A. E. SHEPPERD

12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

9TH JANUARY, 1919 AGE 20

*CWGC Headstone for Pte A. E. Shepperd is located in
Grave Plot # 38. G. 9. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Alfred Edward SHEPPERD

Alfred Edward Shepperd was born on 10th June, 1898 at Somerset near Elliott, Tasmania to parents Lewis Herbert and Fanny Shepperd (nee Gale). He was a 20 year old, single, Labourer from Elliott, Tasmania when he enlisted at Burnie, Tasmania on 17th May, 1918 with the 3rd (T) Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 63334 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Mr Lewis Francis Shepperd of Elliott, Tasmania, as their parents were deceased (Lewis Shepperd, aged 53, died 27th November, 1913 & Fanny Shepperd, aged 43, died 5th January, 1914.)

Private Alfred Edward Shepperd embarked from Melbourne on SS *Zealandic* on 5th October, 1918. He was admitted to Ship's Hospital while at Sea from 6th – 18th October, 1918 with Tonsillitis. Pte Shepperd was once again admitted to Ship's Hospital from 31st October to 4th November, 1918 with a sore throat. He disembarked at London, England on 5th December, 1918.

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 Shepperd was marched in from Australia to 1st Training Battalion on 5th December, 1918 & allotted to Reinforcements of 12th Battalion.

Private Alfred Edward Shepperd was sent sick to Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 26th December, 1918 with Influenza. He was seriously ill with Influenza & Pneumonia on 3rd January, 1919 & had been transferred to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

Private Alfred Edward Shepperd died at 17.30 hrs on 9th January, 1919 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Influenza & Pneumonia.

A death for Alfred E. Shepperd, aged 20, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Alfred Edward Shepperd was buried at 2.30 pm on 14th January, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 38. From the burial report of Pte Shepperd - *Coffin was Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun Carriage. Firing Party and Pall Bearers from the 1st Australian Training Brigade were in attendance. Two Officers and about 60 N.C.O.'s and Men of deceased's late Unit attended the funeral. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

A. E. Shepperd is remembered on the Honour Board located in Elliott Memorial Hall, now the Elliott Community Centre, 492 Murchison Highway, Elliott, Tasmania.



Elliott Community Centre

Private A. E. Shepperd is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 67.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte Alfred Edward Shepperd was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Shepperd's eldest brother, Mr Lewis Francis Shepperd, as he was the closest next-of-kin as both parents were deceased (Scroll received August, 1921 & Plaque received December, 1922).

The CWGC lists Private Alfred Edward Shepperd, 63334, of 12th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of Lewis Herbert and Fanny Shepperd. Born at Elliott, Tasmania.

(69 pages of Pte Alfred Edward Shepperd's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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



Newspaper Reports

ROLL OF HONOUR

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte A. E. Shepperd, Elliott, 9/1/19

(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – Wednesday 19 February, 1919)

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 St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny. 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 Alfred Edward Shepperd does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



War Graves at Sutton Veny *(Photos from CWGC)*



Photo of Pte A. E. Shepperd's CWGC headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)