

# Sutton Veny War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War 1



2483 PRIVATE

**A. H. OSTROM**

52ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

13TH MARCH, 1917

*His Duty Nobly Done*

*CWGC Headstone for Pte A. H. Ostrom is located in  
Grave Plot # 282. C. 7. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## Alfred Harold OSTROM

Alfred Harold Ostrom was born in 1893 at Lake Illawarra in the Wollongong district to parents John & Catherine Ostrom (nee Maher). He was a 23 year old, single, Fisherman from Tumbulgum, Tweed Heads, NSW when he enlisted at Brisbane, Queensland on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 1916 with the 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2483 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his brother – John Lewis Ostrom of Tumbulgum, Tweed Heads, NSW.

Private Alfred Harold Ostrom embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Seang Choon (A49)* on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 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.

Pte Ostrom was admitted to Endell St. Military Hospital on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1917 with a cold then transferred & admitted to North Western M.A.B. with Mumps on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Pte Ostrom was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 1917.

Private Ostrom was marched in to 13<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire from No. 1 Command Depot on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 1917.

Private Alfred Harold Ostrom was sent sick to Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 from 13<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion. Pte Ostrom was transferred & admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 1917.

Private Alfred Harold Ostrom died on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Tubercle of Lung.

A death for Alfred Ostrom, aged 23, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Alfred Harold Ostrom was buried on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 282.

Pte Ostrom requested in his Will that Mr John L. Ostrom of Tumbulgum, NSW be named as Executor of his Will.

Private A. H. Ostrom is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 156.



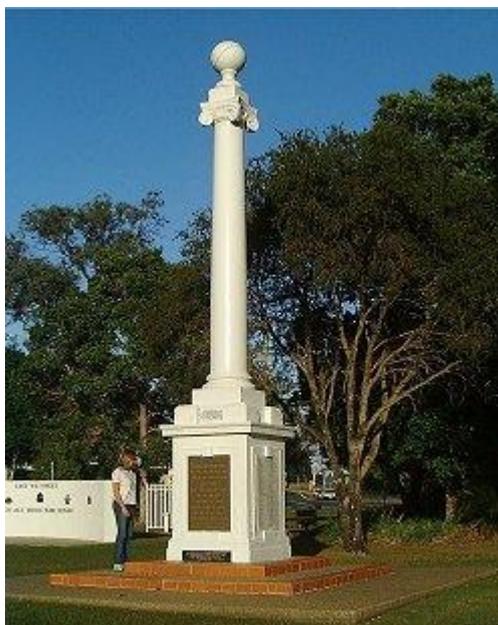
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. H. Ostrom is remembered on the Tumbulgum Memorial Gardens Gates, located at entrance to Sports Field on Bawden Street, Tumbulgum, NSW.



**Tumbulgum Memorial Gardens Gates** (Photo from War Memorial Register NSW – Tweed Shire Council)

A. H. Ostrom is also remembered on the Murwillumbah War Memorial located at Remembrance Place, Tumbulgum Street, Murwillumbah, NSW.



**Murwillumbah War Memorial** (Photo from War Memorial Register NSW – Mr Andrew Howell, Architect)

Pte Alfred Harold Ostrom 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 Ostrom's eldest brother as the closest next-of-kin – Mr Thomas Gordon Ostrom (In a letter to Base Records Thomas Ostrom stated that he was the oldest surviving brother - 8 years older than Pte Ostrom. Their mother died when they were young & their father died in 1915) (Scroll sent March, 1923 & Plaque sent February, 1923). Miss V. Ostrom, of Breakfast Creek, Albion,

Brisbane, Queensland, wrote a letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> October, 1923 placing a claim on the “medals and everything that may be due to him....as I understand I am the next of kin.” According to the “Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918” medals were awarded to the next-of kin in the following order of relationship – widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister.” Miss V. Ostrom was advised that all war mementos had been transmitted to the eldest brother – Mr T. G. Ostrom. Mr J. L. Ostrom of Tumbulgum had received Pte Ostrom’s personal effects that he had with him as he was listed as next-of-kin on the Attestation Papers.

An advertisement was placed in Newspapers (Brisbane Courier in 1922) requesting the next-of-kin of the listed soldiers to contact Officer in Charge, Base Records Melbourne. Pte A. H. Ostrom was one of the soldiers on that list. Mr J. L. Ostrom replied on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 1922 stating he was next-of-kin. John Ostrom, of Tumbulgum, NSW, was listed as Next-of-kin on Pte Ostrom’s Attestation Papers probably due to the fact that his eldest brother – Thomas Gordon Ostrom was on active Service with A.I.F. Thomas Gordon Ostrom, of Mossman via Port Douglas, Nth Queensland, also replied to the advertisement on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1922. In his letter he stated he “was in France when I received word from a Nurse in Sutton Veny Hospital Wiltshire England telling me of the death of my Brother March, 1917 & when I was on leave I got a tomb stone put on the grave which I had a lot of bother over, but the Bank Manager seen that everything was carried out alright as I had no time on account of my leave being up. ...”

The CWGC lists Private Alfred Harold Ostrom, 2483, of 52nd Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F. No family details are listed.

(50 pages of Pte Alfred Harold Ostrom’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.*



**Pte Alfred Harold Ostrom**

Connected to Pte Alfred Harold Ostrom:

Brother – Pte Thomas Gordon Ostrom, 3864, 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Corps Cyclists Battalion. Enlisted September, 1915. Entitled to British War medal & Victory Medal. Returned to Australia September, 1919.



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **LIST NO. 282**

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private A. H. Ostrom (Tumbulgum, NSW)

*(Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate, NSW – Tuesday 27 March, 1917)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

OSTROM – Died of illness in hospital, England, on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 1917, while on active service, Private A. H. Ostrom, of Tumbulgum, Tweed River, aged 23 years.

*(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Qld – Saturday 7 April, 1917)*

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Photo of Private Alfred Harold Ostrom's Private headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire. Pte Ostrom's headstone was organised by his brother – Pte Thomas Gordon Ostrom, who was serving in A.I.F. at the time of his brother's death.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)



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