

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



5376 PRIVATE

E. EATON

6TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

8TH OCTOBER, 1919 Age 23

In Memory Of

The Dearly Loved Son Of

Ellen And The Late

David Eaton

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte E. Eaton is located in
Grave Plot # 97. N. 4. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Edward EATON

Edward Eaton was born at Heathcote, Victoria in 1894 to parents David & Ellen Eaton (nee O'Reilly). He was a 21 year old, single Labourer from Heathcote, Victoria when he enlisted at Bendigo, Victoria on 21st February, 1916 with the 6th Infantry Battalion, 17th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 5376 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs E. Eaton of Heathcote, Victoria. Edward's younger brother – Russell David Eaton enlisted a week later.

Pte Edward Eaton (& his younger brother Pte Russell David Eaton, 5375) embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 4th April, 1916. Pte Eaton embarked from Alexandria, Egypt on 31st May, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 12th June, 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 Edward Eaton was admitted to Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 12th July, 1916 from 2nd Training Battalion with V.D. He was discharged to duty on 22nd August, 1916.

Pte Eaton proceeded Overseas to France from Perham on 5th September, 1916. He arrived at the 1st Australian Base Depot at Etaples on the 16th September, 1916 & proceeded to join his Unit. He was taken on strength in the field on 19th September, 1916.

Pte Eaton was admitted to No. 10 Stat. Hospital at St. Omer on 19th October, 1916 then transferred to No. 1 General Hospital at Boulogne with V.D. on 20th October, 1916. Pte Eaton was transferred to No. 18 General Hospital at Camiers on 21st October, 1916 then admitted to No. 51 General Hospital at Etaples on 22nd November, 1916. Pte Eaton joined 1st Australian Base Depot at Etaples from Hospital on 21st December, 1916. Pte Eaton rejoined his Unit in the field on 29th December, 1916.

Pte Eaton proceeded on leave to Paris on 28th September, 1917 & returned on 3rd October, 1917.

Pte Eaton was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance in the field on 3rd November, 1917 with scabies then finally transferred to No. 20 General Hospital at Camiers on 10th November, 1917. He was discharged to duty at Camiers on 14th November, 1917.

Pte Eaton was absent without leave "from Tattoo until apprehended by M.P. at 10.35 & violently resisting arrest 17th November, 1917." He was awarded 28 days Field Punishment.

Pte Eaton was admitted to 53rd Casualty Clearing Station on 1st December, 1917 with an Axillary Abscess. He was transferred to Ambulance train on 2nd December, 1917 & admitted the same day to No. 5 Convalescent Depot at Cayeux.

Pte Eaton rejoined from Hospital at Havre on 3rd January, 1918 & rejoined his Unit in the field on 17th January, 1918.

Pte Eaton was on leave to UK from 27th January, 1918 & rejoined from leave on 12th February, 1918.

Pte Eaton was written up for an Offence – "absent without leave from 0600 on 18th August, 1918 until reporting to 2nd Brigade at 0630 on 25th August, 1918." He was awarded a total forfeiture of 18 days pay.

Pte Eaton was appointed Lance Corporal on 11th September, 1918. He was written up for the crime "when on active services drunkenness on 5th October, 1918." He was reduced to ranks by C. O. 6th Battalion on 10th October, 1918.

Pte Eaton proceeded to UK with 16 Quota draft for return to Australia on 5th March, 1919. He was marched in to the Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery at Heytesbury, Wiltshire on 21st March, 1919.

Pte Eaton was admitted to Hospital at Bulford on 10th April, 1919 with V.D. & discharged on 30th August, 1919 to be admitted to Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford. He was discharged on 27th September, 1919 where he was then admitted to the 1st Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 30th September, 1919 dangerously ill with arsenical dermatitis & Pneumonia.

Pte Edward Eaton was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal as he had entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Eaton's mother – Mrs E. Eaton (sent December, 1921 & December, 1922)

The CWGC lists Private Edward Eaton, 5376, of 6th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of Ellen Eaton, of Heathcote, Victoria, and the late David Eaton.

(58 pages of Pte Edward Eaton'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.



Connected to Pte Edward Eaton:

**Pte Russell David Eaton, 5375, younger brother of Pte Edward Eaton, was wounded in Action on 4th October, 1917 with a gunshot wound to shoulder. He embarked from England on 24th January, 1918 for Australia with a "Gunshot wound Chest. Paralysis." He was discharged from A.I.F. on 29th August, 1918. He was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.

**Pte Hugh Percy Eaton, 3311, 7th Battalion, older brother of Pte Edward Eaton, enlisted on 27th July, 1915. He was wounded in action in France between 23-26th July, 1916 with a gunshot wound to thigh. He was discharged medically from A.I.F. on 17th April, 1917 due to wounds & left Southampton, England for Australia on 14th January, 1917. He was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal.



Newspaper Reports

VICTORIAN CASUALTIES

The deaths of the following Victorian soldiers are recorded in casualty list No. 475 issued Yesterday: Pte E. Eaton, 6th Btn., Heathcote, died of illness 8/10/19;

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – Monday 17 November, 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 Edward Eaton does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Memory Of The Dearly Loved Son Of Ellen And The Late David Eaton

Photo of Pte E. Eaton's Headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)



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

