

# Sutton Veny War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War 1



**1197    CORPORAL**

**E. WALKER**

**26TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**23RD SEPTEMBER, 1918    AGE 25**

*Remembered*

*CWGC Headstone for Cpl. E. Walker is located in  
Grave Plot # 357. E. 9. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## Edward WALKER

Edward Walker was born at Yarraville, Victoria in 1893 to parents James and Frances Arndell Walker (nee Drummond). Frances Arndell Walker died on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 1909, aged 52 at Collingwood, Victoria.

Edward Walker was a 22 year old, single, Labourer from Launceston, Tasmania when he enlisted at Claremont, Tasmania on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 1915 with the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion "D" Company of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 1197 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Mrs W. Sydes of P.O., Launceston, Tasmania.

Private Edward Walker embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Aeneas* (A60) on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 1915 & disembarked at Egypt (date not recorded).

Pte Walker entered VD Hospital on 12<sup>th</sup> July, 1915 & was discharged on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 1915.

Pte Walker was to join the M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) – Gallipoli Peninsula & he embarked from Alexandria on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 1915.

Pte Walker was taken to 5<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance while at Gallipoli Peninsula on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 1915 – cause NYD (Not Yet Determined). He returned to duty on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 1915.

Pte Walker disembarked at Alexandria from Mudros on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 1916.

Pte Walker was sent to 6<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 1916 with Ostronia of right tibia then transferred to No. 1 Australian Stationary Hospital at Moascar. He was discharged the same day & proceeded to join B.E.F. from Alexandria on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 1916 (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1916.

Pte Walker was sent to 6th Field Ambulance at Rue Marle on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 1916 – NYD. He was transferred & admitted to 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Stationary Hospital with Onychia on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 1916 then transferred to Australian General Hospital at Wimereux on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 1914 with Ostoematitus. Pte Walker was transferred to No. 5 Convalescent Camp in France on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 1916. Pte Walker was readmitted to Australian General Hospital on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 1916 & transferred to England on Hospital Ship *Cambria* on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 1916. He was admitted to 1<sup>st</sup> Eastern General Hospital on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 1916 & then transferred to No. 1 Auxilliary Hospital in England on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 1916 with Ostoema tibia. He was again transferred to Woodcote Park Hospital, Harefield on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 1916 then transferred to Convalescent Hospital at Epsom on same day.

Pte Walker was written up for an offence while at Perham Downs – absent without leave from 15.00 hrs on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 1916 till reported at 15.00 hrs on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 1916. He was awarded 8 days detention & a total forfeiture of 16 days' pay.

Pte Walker was sent to 7<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1916.

Pte Walker reported back from furlough (Date not shown) & medically classified as A (fit for Active Service).

Pte Walker proceeded overseas to France on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 1916. He was admitted on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1916 to 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisional Base at Etaples then transferred to No. 18 General Hospital at Etaples on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 1916. Pte Walker was then transferred to Base Depot at Camiers on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1916 & proceeded to join his Unit on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 1916.

Pte Walker rejoined his Battalion in France on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 1916.

Pte Walker was sent to 6<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance with Influenza on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 then transferred to 2<sup>nd</sup> Dr Station. He was discharged to duty on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 & rejoined his battalion on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 1917.

Pte Walker was to be Temporary Corporal vice 4893 Cpl Sergison wounded – on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 1917.

Temp Corporal Walker was sent to Division Gas School on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 1917 & rejoined 26th Battalion on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 1917.

Temporary Corporal Walker was appointed to the rank of Corporal on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 1917 vice 4893 Cpl Sergison wounded.

Cpl. Walker proceeded on leave to England on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1917.

Cpl. Walker proceeded to join 7<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion in England on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 1917. He was marched in to 7<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1917. He was then marched out to 5<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 1917.

Cpl. Walker was written up for an offence – “(1) Absent without Leave from midnight on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 1917 till 7.28 am on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1917 (2) Neglect to obey A.I.F. Dep. Orders in UK 22-6-17 in that he at Tidworth 19-11-17 did travel by a train when not in possession of a leave pass entitling him to do so”. He was reprimanded by Major P. J. Higgins on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1917 & forfeited one days' pay.

Cpl. Walker was attached to permanent cadre of 5<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Fovant on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1917.

Cpl. Walker attended the 15<sup>th</sup> Rifle Course at the School of Musketry at Tidworth, Wiltshire from 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November, 1917 & qualified as 1<sup>st</sup> class with a fair working knowledge of Lewis Gun.

Cpl. Walker was sent sick to Bulford Hospital & then admitted to 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 1918 with VD. He was discharged on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1918.

Cpl. Walker was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1918. He was marched out to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 1918 & medically classified as B1 A4 (fit for overseas training camp when passed dentally fit).

Cpl. Walker was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 1918.

Corporal Edward Walker was sent sick to Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny then transferred & admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 1918 with appendicitis. He was reported seriously ill on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 1918.

Corporal Edward Walker died at 8.15 pm on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Appendicitis Generalised Peritonitis.

A death for Edward Walker, aged 25, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Corporal Edward Walker was buried on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 357. From the burial report of Cpl. Walker - *Coffin was good polished Elm with Brass Mountings – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the body being conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party and band of the Australian Overseas Training Brigade. Six of deceased's comrades acted as Pallbearers. A floral wreath from Australians in Sutton Veny Hospital was placed on the grave. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in U. K. were represented at the funeral.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Corporal Edward Walker contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives of Pte Walker asking for the fullest details possible into his death & burial. The Assistant Matron of the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny replied: *“Pte Walker died in this Hospital after an operation for appendicitis. He never recovered from the effects of the operation although he lived for several days. The Sister of the Ward wrote direct to his people. He was buried at Sutton Veny and a large number of patients and men from the Camp attended his funeral, as his death was universally regretted.”*

Corporal Edward Walker requested in his Will, dated 6<sup>th</sup> June, 1917, that all his real & personal Estate be left to his two sisters – Mrs W. Sydes of 9 Ferrall St, Launceston, Tasmania & Mrs R. Mitchell 166 Cromwell St, Collingwood, Melbourne, Victoria to be equally divided between them.

Corporal Edward Walker was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also to be sent to Cpl. Walker's next of kin. Base Records wrote to Mr J. Walker, father of late Cpl. Walker in July, 1921 stating that “upon enlistment Cpl. Walker nominated as next of kin, Mrs W. Sydes, in the relationship of sister, but I am informed she is his step-sister. Will you kindly favour me with advice as to whether you desire deceased's war medals etc or whether you would have any objections to their being handed over to the

nominated next of kin.” The Memorial Scroll was sent to Cpl. Walker’s father – Mr J. Walker in August, 1921 & J. Walker signed as receipt of the Memorial Scroll on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 1921. Base Records were advised by internal memo on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 1921 that Mr J. Walker of Collingwood, father of late Cpl. Walker was now deceased & the next-of-kin was now Mrs Mitchell of Northcote South. Base Records wrote to Mrs Mitchell, sister of late Cpl. Walker in April, 1922 stating that it was understood that the parents of the late Cpl. Walker were deceased & to advise if the soldier had any brothers. Mrs Mitchell replied that she was the eldest sister & there is only a step sister older but her late father (Mr J. Walker) was not her father. It is unclear who received the War Medals of the late Cpl. Walker – usually signed receipts are included in the Service Record file but Cpl. Walker’s Service Record file does not have any signed receipts except for the Memorial Scroll. The Memorial Plaque was recorded as “Pending”.

The CWGC lists Corporal Edward Walker, 1197, of 26th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of James and the late Frances Walker. Born at Yarraville, Victoria.

Corporal E. Walker is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 109.



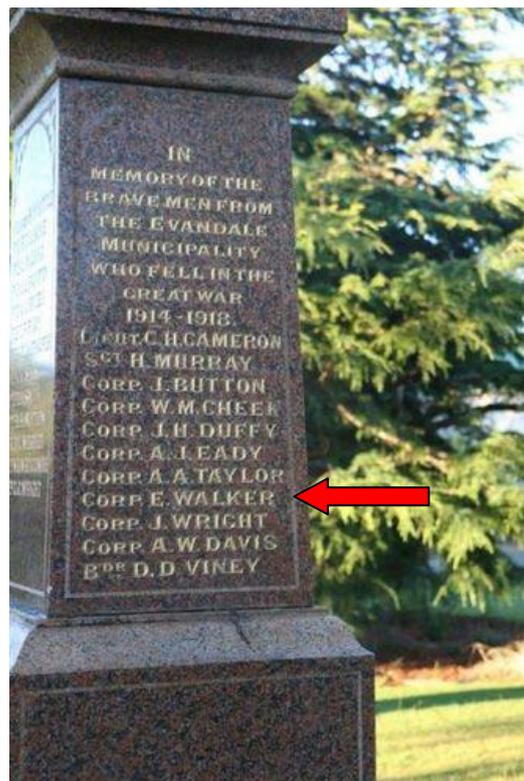
Roll of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Cpl. E. Walker is remembered on St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Honour Board located in St. Andrews Uniting Church, High Street, Evandale, Tasmania.



St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Honour Board (Photo from Monument Australia – John Huth)

Cpl. E. Walker is remembered on Evandale War Memorial located at High Street, Evandale, Tasmania.



**Evandale War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia – John Huth)

(110 pages of Corporal Edward Walker'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing file) & National Archives.*



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **442nd CASUALTY LIST**

#### **TASMANIANS**

#### **DIED OTHER CAUSES**

Cpl. Walker, Edw., Launceston, 23/9/18, illness

(*The Mercury*, Hobart, Tasmania – Tuesday 19 November, 1918)

## 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)*

Corporal Edward Walker does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

### *Remembered*



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



Photo of Corporal E. Walker's CWGC headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*