

# Sutton Veny War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War 1



6155 PRIVATE

**F. J. WHITE**

24TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

3RD MARCH, 1917 AGE 22

*CWGC Headstone for Pte F. J. White is located in  
Grave Plot # 283. C. 8. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## Frederick Joseph WHITE

Frederick Joseph White was born on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 1894 at Toxteth Park, Liverpool, Lancashire, England to parents John Huddleston White & Margaret Jane White (nee McCormick). His birth was registered the name of Joseph Frederick White in June quarter, 1894 in the registration district of Toxeth Park, Lancashire.

The 1901 England Census listed Joseph F. White as a 7 year old living with his family at 150 Beaufort St, Toxteth Park, Lancashire, England. His parents were listed as John H. White (Merchant Seaman, aged 31) & Margt. J. White (aged 28). There were 4 children listed on this Census – William J. (aged 8) then Joseph F., Margaret (aged 4) & Madelane A. (aged 1). All the children had been born at Liverpool, Lancashire.

The 1911 England Census listed Frederick White as a 17 year old Shop Assistant in a Tobacconist, living with his family at 2 Robertson Street, Toxteth Park North West, Liverpool, Lancashire, England. His parents were listed as John White (Seaman (with Dredging Harbour Board), aged 41) & Margaret White (aged 38). John & Margaret White had been married for 20 years having had 8 children, with one child deceased. There were 7 children listed on this Census - William (Gold Blocker, aged 18) then Frederick, Margaret (aged 14), Madeline (aged 11), John (aged 9), Albert (aged 2) & Ethel (aged 2 months).

Frederick Joseph White came to Australia when he was 16 years according to the information supplied for Roll of Honour by Margaret White, mother of Frederick Joseph White. She listed his occupation as Seaman.

Frederick Joseph White was a 20 year old (& 5 months), single, Printer from Day Street, City, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Moore Park, Sydney on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 with the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 17<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6155 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his brother – William James White of 2 Robinson Street, Toxteth Park, Liverpool, England. As Frederick Joseph White was under the age of 21 years – the parents' consent was required. Both of Frederick Joseph White's parents were marked as deceased – however Mrs White at least was not deceased.

Private Frederick Joseph White was at Dubbo Depot Battalion, NSW from 4<sup>th</sup> – 19 September, 1916. He was attached to Liverpool Camp, Sydney – 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion "C" Company from 20<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 then transferred to 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 17<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements.

Private Frederick Joseph White embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Private Frederick Joseph White had been written up for an Offence while at Sea – Absent Without Leave from 10.30 pm on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 1916 to 5.30 am on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 1916. He was awarded 4 days confined to ship & deprived of 4 days' pay – Total forfeiture 6 days' pay.

Private Frederick Joseph White was written up again for an offence while at Sea – Overstaying leave from 3.30 pm to 8 pm on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 1916. He was awarded 4 days confined to ship & deprived of 4 days' pay.

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 Frederick Joseph White was written up for an Offence while at Larkhill, Wiltshire – Absent without Leave from midnight on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 1917 till 11 pm on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 1917. He was forfeited a total of 5 days' pay & Confined to Camp for 2 days.

Private Frederick Joseph White was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, near Salisbury on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 1917 with Pleurisy. Private Frederick Joseph White was transferred from Fargo Military Hospital on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 & admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

Private Frederick Joseph White died on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 1917 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Frederick J. White, aged 21, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Pte Frederick Joseph White contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the family in Sydney for all information possible into Pte White's death. Two short notes from A.I.F. Headquarters were returned with minimal information – "Died of Broncho Pneumonia 3-3-17 at Military Hospital Sutton Veny Wilts" & "Buried Sutton Veny Churchyard, Grave No. 283 9-3-17."

Private Frederick Joseph White was buried on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 283.

Private Frederick Joseph White's personal effects from 6<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Larkhill were forwarded to his mother at Liverpool, England.

A letter was written to Base Records on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 1917 from Ada Coles of 15 Uther St, Surry Hills. She wrote asking for information concerning the death of Pte F. J. White & was "surprised because if anything happened to him I should be the first to receive any news of him." She had apparently gone to Victoria Barracks (Sydney) & they told her "not to worry but he was quite alright & when his pay was stopped it was time to make a fuss". Ada Coles received a letter on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 1917 saying that the deceased soldier's pay was to be stopped next month.

A claim for a War Pension was made by Ada Coles of 15 Uther St, Surry Hills. She stated she was the intended wife of the late Private Frederick Joseph White. The claim was rejected on the grounds that the claimant was not dependent within the meaning of War Pensions Act.

Private F. J. White is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 103.



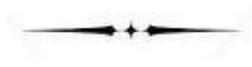
*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

Pte Frederick Joseph White 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 White's mother – Mrs M. J. White in England (both sent June, 1922).

The CWGC lists Private Frederick Joseph White, 6155, of 24th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of John Huddleston White and Margaret Jane White of 2 Robertson St., Liverpool, England.

(36 pages of Pte Frederick Joseph White'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**

#### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

##### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

##### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

F. J. White, England, 3/3/17 (prev. rep. ill)

*(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Qld – Saturday 24 March, 1917)*

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#### **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 Frederick Joseph White does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of F. J. White's CWGC headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*



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

