

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War 1



2898 PRIVATE

W. B. WAKEFIELD

40TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

7TH NOVEMBER, 1918 AGE 24

His Duty Nobly Done

*CWGC Headstone for Pte W. B. Wakefield is located in
Grave Plot # 27. I. 6. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

William Bertram WAKEFIELD

William Bertram Wakefield was born at Lachlan, Tasmania on 29th August, 1894 to parents William & Annie Eliza Wakefield (nee Cordwell).

Eliza Ann Wakefield, aged 34, died on 26th August, 1909 at Lachlan, Tasmania. Maurice Bevis Richard Wakefield was born on 26th August, 1909.

William Bertram Wakefield was a 22 year old, single Farm Hand from New Norfolk, Tasmania when he enlisted at Claremont, Tasmania on 16th October, 1916 with the 40th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2898 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr William Wakefield of New Norfolk, Tasmania. William Bertram Wakefield had served with Senior Cadets for 2 years.

Private William Bertram Wakefield embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Orsova* (A67) on 6th December, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 17th February, 1917. Private Wakefield had been admitted to Ship's Hospital while at Sea from 10th to 18th January, 1917 for Observation.

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 Wakefield was marched in to 14th Training Battalion on 18th February, 1917.

Private Wakefield was marched in to Camp Details at Sutton Mandeville, Wiltshire from 14th Training Battalion on 7th March, 1917.

Pte Wakefield was marched out to Durrington, Wiltshire on 23rd April, 1917.

Private Wakefield proceeded Overseas to France from No. 12 Camp, Durrington on 23rd July, 1917 via Southampton. He was marched in to 3rd Australian Division Base Depot at Havre, France on 24th July, 1917.

Private Wakefield was taken on strength with 40th Battalion from Reinforcements from 3rd Australian Division Base Depot at Havre, France on 10th August, 1917.

Private Wakefield proceeded on Leave to Paris on 14th March, 1918 & rejoined his Unit from Leave on 22nd March, 1918.

Private Wakefield was wounded in action on 31st August, 1918. He was taken to 37th Casualty Clearing Station then transferred to 11th Stat. Hospital at Rouen, France on 1st September, 1918. Private Wakefield was invalided to UK on 4th September, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Marguerita* & admitted to Boscombe Military Hospital at Bournemouth, Hampshire, England on 5th September, 1918 with a gunshot wound to neck. He was discharged on 8th October, 1918.

Private Wakefield was on furlo from 8th October to 22nd October, 1918.

Private Wakefield was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire from furlo on 22nd October, 1918 & medically classified as B1 A2 (fit for Overseas Training Camp in three to four weeks).

Private William Bertram Wakefield was sent sick to Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny on 4th November, 1918 with Influenza & then transferred & admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 5th November, 1918 seriously ill with Pneumonia.

Private William Bertram Wakefield died at 13.30 hrs on 7th November, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Pneumonia.

A death for William B. Wakefield, aged 24, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private William Bertram Wakefield was buried at 3 pm on 11th November, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 27. From the burial report of Pte Wakefield - *Coffin was polished Elm with Brass Mounts – 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 from No. 1 Australian Command Depot. Six comrades of deceased supported the Pall. 3 Officers and about 30 N.C.O.'s and Men from No. 1 Command Depot followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. A floral wreath from Miss N. Abbott was laced on the grave. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral. Also in attendance at the funeral were Mrs & Miss Abbott (Friends) of 25 Capstone Rd. Bournemouth & Mrs Penfold (Friend) (address as above).*

Pte William Bertram Wakefield requested in his Will, dated 17th July, 1917, that he bequeathed his personal estate to his father – William Wakefield of Lachlan, New Norfolk, Tasmania.

Private W. B. Wakefield is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 133.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. Wakefield is remembered on the New Norfolk Honour Roll located in the RSL Club, 30 George Street, New Norfolk, Tasmania.



New Norfolk Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

W. B. Wakefield is remembered on the Bushy Park Avenue of Honour, Gordon River Road, Bushy Park, Tasmania. The Soldiers Memorial Avenue commemorates those who served in World War One. Over 70 trees were planted on the main road in 1919 to commemorate those who served.



Bushy Park Avenue of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

Pte William Bertram Wakefield was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Wakefield's father – Mr W. Wakefield (Scroll sent December, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The CWGC lists Private William Bertram Wakefield, 2898, of 40th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of William and Annie Eliza Wakefield, of Lachlan, Tasmania.

(46 pages of Pte William Bertram Wakefield'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

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

PERSONAL NOTES

Mr W. Wakefield, of the Lachlan, has received advice from the Base Records Office that his son, Private W. B. Wakefield, has been wounded, and admitted to Boscombe Military Hospital, Bournemouth, England. He is suffering from a gunshot wound in the neck, but it was not stated if the wound was serious.

(*The Mercury*, Hobart, Tasmania – Monday 14 October, 1918)

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

PERSONAL NOTES

Mr. W. Wakefield, of Lachlan has received official information that his son, Private William Bertram Wakefield has died of pneumonia in Sutton Veny Military Hospital. He enlisted in October, 1916, and saw much fighting in France, where he was wounded in September last. An in memoriam service is to be conducted in the Lachlan State-school on Sunday afternoon by the Rev. H. M. Knuckey.

(*The Mercury*, Hobart, Tasmania – Friday 29 November, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

WAKEFIELD – Died in Sutton Veny Military Hospital, England, on 7th November, 1918, with pneumonia. Private W. B. Wakefield, 40th Battalion, A.I.F., eldest son of William Wakefield, of Lachlan, in the 24th year of his age. R.I.P.

(*The Mercury*, Hobart, Tasmania – Friday 29 November, 1918)

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

LIST No. 450

DIED

Pte W. B. Wakefield, Lachlan – 7/11/18, illness

(*The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times*, Tasmania – Saturday 7 December, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

(Died on Active Service.)

WAKEFIELD - A tribute of sincere memory to William Bertram (Bert) Wakefield (late A.I.F.), died in England of illness, November 7, 1918.

How his life was sped we know not,

What the last word, look, or thought;

Only that he did his duty,

Died as bravely as he fought.

From memory's leaves we will never blot

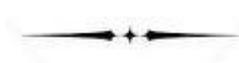
Those little words, forget-me-not.

-Inserted by his sincere little friend, Eddy Townsend, Lachlan.

(*The Mercury*, Hobart, Tasmania – Friday 7 November, 1919)



Private William Bertram Wakefield



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 William Bertram Wakefield does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

His Duty Noble Done



Original Cross marker for Pte William Bertram Wakefield in Churchyard at Sutton Veny



Photo of Private W. B. Wakefield'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)*