

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



6180 PRIVATE

H. W. SHARP

20TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

8TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 31

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte H. W. Sharp is located in Grave Plot # 184
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Henry Walter SHARP

Henry Walter Sharp was born at Thornhill, Dumfries, Scotland around 1880, to parents David & Jessie M. Sharp.

The 1881 Scotland Census recorded Henry Walter Sharp as a 1 year old living with his family at Eccles House, Penpont, Dumfriesshire, Scotland. His parents were recorded as David Sharp (Physician Surgeon, aged 40) & Jessie M. Sharp (aged 32). Henry was one of 4 children listed in this Census – Hellen Isa (aged 4), Edeth Elizab. (aged 3), then Henry & Margr. Annie (aged 1 month). Five other people were also included in the household – a patient, sister, 2 Housemaids – Cook & Maid & Nurse.

The 1891 England Census recorded Henry Walter Sharp as an 11 year old living with his family at 2 Mavis Bank, Cherry Hinton, Cambridgeshire. His parents were recorded as David Sharp (Registered Medical Practitioner, aged 50) & Janet Mary Sharp (aged 43). Henry was one of 7 children listed in this Census – Helen Isab. (aged 14), Edith Elizth. (aged 13), then Henry, Margaret Annie (aged 10), Charles David (aged 8), Jessie Mabel (aged 6) & Gertrude Ethel (aged under 7 months). The family had one servant living with them.

(The 1911 Census recorded David & Jessie Margaret Sharp – Henry's parents as having been married for 35 years & had 7 children, all living. They had one daughter living with them – Margaret Annie (aged 30, Assistant to Head of family). Also listed was an Assistant, servant & visitor. The address was Lawnside, Brockenhurst, Hants (a 13 roomed dwelling).

Henry Sharp came to Australia when he was aged around 19 years old, according to information supplied by Charles David Sharp, brother.

Henry Walter/ Walton Sharp was a 31 year old, single, Dairy farmer from Peel Street, West Tamworth, NSW when he enlisted on 12th September, 1916 with the 5th Infantry Brigade, 20th Infantry Battalion, 17th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6180 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – David Sharp – nearest address known, Hampshire, England (From the Roll of Honour – address of David Sharp was Lawnside, Brockenhurst, England).

Pte Henry Walton Sharp embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Ascanius (A11)* on 25th October, 1916 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 28th 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 Henry Sharp was marched in from Australia to 5th Training Battalion, Rollestone, Wiltshire on 29th December, 1916.

Pte Henry Sharp was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital on 29th January, 1917. He was reported seriously ill with Bronchitis & Asthma on 5th February, 1917.

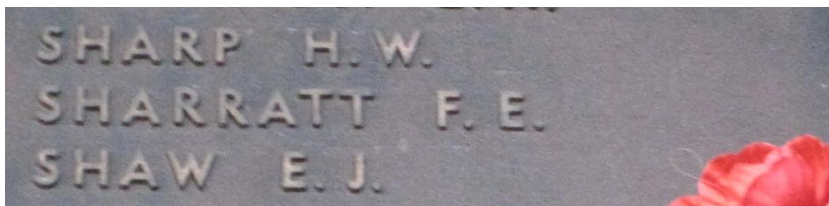
Private Henry Walton Sharp died on 8th February, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital from Pneumonia* (Hospital Admissions form states cause of death was pneumonia – other forms in Pte Sharp’s Service record file state cause of death as Chronic bronchitis & asthma). Pte Henry Walter Sharp was one of six soldiers to die in a period of 24 hours - all related to pneumonia, influenza & bronchitis.

(Pte Thomas Dunn 2323; died 4.00 p.m. 7th February, 1917 / Pte William Razez Robinson 2388; died 4.30 p.m. / Charles Young 6842; died 6.50 p.m. 7th February, 1917 / Thomas Joseph Desmond 2300; died 7 p.m. 7th February, 1917 / Henry Walter Sharp 6180; died 4.20 a.m. 8th February, 1917 & Herbert Hector Seefeldt 6215; died 11 a.m. 8th February, 1917)

A death for Henry W. Sharp, aged 32, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Henry Sharp was buried on 13th February, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 184 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private H. W. Sharp is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 92.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte Henry Walter Sharp is also remembered on the Scottish Roll of Honour at the Scottish National War Memorial located within the walls of Edinburgh Castle.

Pte H. W. Sharp is also remembered on the Hurstville War Memorial located at Memorial Square, Forrest Road, Hurstville, NSW.



Hurstville War Memorial

(Photo (left) from Monument Australia – Peter F. Williams & War Memorials Register NSW (right)– William Wright & Ross Bell))

Pte Henry Sharp 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 Sharp's father – Mr D. Sharp (sent May, 1922 & April, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Henry Walter Sharp – service number 6180 as being 31 years old & served with 20th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of David and J. M. Sharp, of "La Lawnside", Brockenhurst, Hants., England. Born at Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, Scotland.

(38 pages of Pte Henry Walton Sharp's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives

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Henry Sharp's father was David Sharp, well known English physician and Entomologist. (15 August 1840 – 27 August 1922). Sharp's extensive collection, including several thousand types of specimens, is housed at the Natural History Museum, London.

Newspaper Reports

CASUALTIES – 274TH LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte H. W. Sharp, England

(The Land, Sydney, NSW – Friday 2 March, 1917)

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 Durrington War Graves Cemetery. 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 H. W. Sharp does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte H. W. Sharp's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)