



WWI Casualty

Alfred James Fordham

Surname	Given Names	Rank	Number	Regiment	Attachment	Date of Death		Age at Death	
						Year	Date		
Fordham	Alfred James	Private	3773	56th Battalion, Australian Infantry		1918	24th February	34	
Date of Birth		Place of Birth	Father		Mother		Baptised		
Year	Date		Surname	Given Names	Maiden Name	Given Names	Year	Date	Place
1883		Mucking Ford, Essex	Fordham	James Alfred	Reeves	Mary Ann	1883	27th May	Sts. Peter & Paul, Grays Thurrock, Essex
Census Information									
Year	Surname	Given Names	Status	Age	Occupation	Place of Birth	Relationship to Head		

Merrie Looks Building Estate, Mucking, Orsett, Essex								
1891	Skinner	Alfred	Married	31	General Labourer	Strood, Kent	Head	
	Skinner	Mary Ann	Married	34		Mucking, Essex	Wife	
	Skinner	Norah M.		13		Grays, Essex	[Step] Daughter	
	Skinner	Alice M.		11	Scholar	Grays, Essex	[Step] Daughter	
	Skinner	Alfred		8	Scholar	Grays, Essex	[Step] Son	
	Skinner	Mabel		5	Scholar	Grays, Essex	[Step] Daughter	
OPC Note:- The four children aged 5 to 13 were not the natural children of Alfred Skinner, we have added stepson & daughter to the relationship column. Legal adoption was only established in 1926, the children in this instant were either using their step father's surname or the enumerator assumed the surname as being the same as the head of the household								
1901	Skinner	Alfred	Married	40	General Labourer	Haversham, Kent	Head	
	Skinner	Mary Ann	Married	45		Mucking, Essex	Wife	
	Fordham	Alfred	Unmarried	18	General Labourer	Grays, Essex	Stepson	
	Skinner	May		10		Mucking, Essex	Daughter	
	Skinner	Ellen		8		Mucking, Essex	Daughter	
	Skinner	Harry		7		Mucking, Essex	Son	
	Noakes	Edmond	Unmarried	22	General Labourer	Mucking, Essex	Lodger	
At the time of researching this document no trace of an entry for Alfred has been found in the 1911 Census Returns. It may be that he was serving aboard a ship at the time. Should this information be found at a later date this record will be updated								
Military Service Record								
Enlistment Details								
Year	Date	Place	Age			Trade	Religion	
			Years	Months	Days			
1917	27th September	Darlinghurst, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia	34			Labourer	CofE	
There is evidence that Alfred had a career with the Merchant Naval Service from 1909-1911								
On enlistment he joined the 56th Infantry Battalion, 10th Reinforcements of the Australian Army, (A.I.F.)								
His attestation papers show that he declared having previously served with the Royal Marine Light Infantry but had been discharged due to an accident								
Alfred was sent to England on 31st October 1917 arriving at Devonport, Plymouth, Devon on the 26th December 1917. The day after on the 27th he was transferred to Hurdcott Army Camp.								
On 4th February 1918, Alfred was admitted to the Clearing Hospital at Codford with suspected Tuberculosis. He was transferred to the Military Hospital at								

Sutton Veny on 12th February 1918 with an undetermined illness.										
Physical Description										
Height		Complexion	Eye Colour	Hair Colour	Distinguishing Marks					
Feet	Inches									
Next of Kin										
Surname	Given Names	Status	Relationship	Abode						
Warren	Nora	Married	Sister	3 Washington Road, London						
Details of Death										
Date of Death		Cause of Death	Theatre of War	Ships Name	War Gratuity Paid					Recipient
Year	Date				Year	Date	£	s.	d.	
1918	24th February	Generalised Tuberculosis	Home							
Grave Location										
Cemetery						Plot Number				
Sutton Veny (St. John) Churchyard						325. D. 15.				
War Memorials and Commemorations										
Memorial Name and Location						Panel Number				
Australian National Memorial, Canberra						Panel 62				
Other Significant Information										
Alfred's father died in 1885. His mother remarried in 1890 to Alfred Skinner										
It would appear that Alfred at some point joined the Merchant Navy since at age 25 he was recorded as being a Fireman aboard a ship. A year later he was a trimmer aboard the R.M.S. Orphir sailing to Australia twice from London and on both occasions docked at Sydney. Once arriving on 22nd January and again on 12th May. Recorded as a Donkeyman aboard the Orphir he arrived in Sydney on 31st August 1911. He once more arrived in Sydney on the 21st December 1911, serving as a Greaser aboard the Orama										
Alfred's mother Mary Ann Skinner passed away in 1916										
Alfred was buried on 28th February 1918 with his family in attendance.										
A will dated 31st October 1917 was made leaving his entire estate to his friend, Mrs. Mary Tougher, 134 Bourke Street, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, who was also named as sole executrix.										
Alfred was awarded the British War Medal only as he has not entered a theatre of war										



General View of the Hall of Remembrance, Canberra



Sutton Veny (St. John) Churchyard