

# Sutton Veny War Graves

## World War 1



*Lest We Forget*



**2393 PRIVATE**

**A. E. CARSON**

**52ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**9TH JANUARY, 1917 Age 21**

*He Gave His Life*

*For His Country*

*For Honour, Faith And Right*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte A. E. Carson is located in  
Grave Plot # 323. D. 13.\* of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

(\*Note – CWGC has plot number as 323, however Plot number 280 is listed in Pte Carson's service record files)

## Arthur Edward CARSON

Arthur Edward Carson was born on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 1894 at Charters Towers, Queensland to parents William John & Rebecca Carson (nee Ivell/Ibell?). His birth was registered in the name of Edward Albert Carson. He was a 21 year old, single, Labourer from Lea Street, Charters Towers, Queensland when he enlisted at Charters Towers on 2nd February, 1916 with the 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2393 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Rebecca Carson of Lea Street, Charters Towers, Queensland. Arthur had served 4 months in Senior Cadets.

Pte Arthur Edward Carson embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Seang Choon* (A49) on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 1916. Pte Carson was written up for an offence on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 while on board HMAT *Seang Choon* – smoking below decks. He was awarded a forfeiture of 1 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 Arthur Edward Carson was admitted to the Park House Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 from 13<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion. He was transferred to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 with Asthma & Bronchitis.

Private Arthur Edward Carson died on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Asthma.

A death for Arthur E. Carson, aged 22, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Arthur Edward Carson was buried in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 280 (according to information of Pte Carson's Casualty Form. Also no date of burial was recorded).

Private A. E. Carson is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 154.



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

Pte Arthur Edward Carson 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 Carson's mother (father deceased) – Mrs R. Carson (sent July, 1921 & July, 1922)

The CWGC lists Private Arthur Edward Carson, 2393, of 52nd Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of William John and Rebecca Carson, of Lea St., Charters Towers, Queensland.

(36 pages of Pte Arthur Edward Carson'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**

### **SEND-OFF TO PRIVATE A. E. CARSON**

The officers and members of the Charters Towers branch of the Australian Meat Industry Employees' Union, met in the Union Hall, Mosman Street, on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> April, to bid farewell to another of their members, Private A. E. Carson, who has been accepted for service at the front.

The proceedings took the form of a smoke social, which was well attended.

After the usual toasts had been enthusiastically honoured, the President, Mr J. J. Wallace, proposed "Our Comrade," who, he said, was going to try and do his little bit for the Empire, of which they ought to all feel proud, and also of the comrades who had gone willingly to death if need be. Good luck, and a safe return was the wish of every member of the Union.

Mr R. J. St. Clair, Past President, and Mr J. Nankervis, Vice-President, also voiced the sentiments of the Union, and hoped that Comrade Carson would keep in touch with the Charters Towers branch even as the others, who were somewhere east of Suez, "where there ain't no ten commandments."

Various songs and recitations were contributed by Comrades J. Witherspoon, C. Bird, J. Gage, J. Soden, and the evergreen Geo. Murphy.

ON behalf of the officers and members Mr H. Bonnell, Past President, in a neat speech, then presented Comrade Carson with a wristlet watch, and said that as it ticked off the minutes and hours of the campaign he hoped it would always remind him of the comrades left behind. To always remember the fair name and fame of Australia, to respect the King's uniform and to play up and play the game. He wished him God speed and a safe return.

Comrade Carson feelingly responded, thanking the members for the token, which he would always treasure, and no matter how hard the going he would always try and uphold the name of Australia for honor's sake. He sincerely hoped that he would not be too late to participate in the task the Australians have in hand.

After a most enjoyable evening the function was brought to a close with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

*(The Northern Miner, Charters Towers, Qld – Monday 24 April, 1916)*

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## **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

The 266<sup>th</sup> and 267<sup>th</sup> casualty lists were issued to-day.....

There are 147 Queenslanders mentioned.....

Private A. E. Carson (Charters Towers) died of illness.

*(Cairns Post, Qld – Tuesday 23 January, 1917)*

## ROLL OF HONOUR

CARSON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private A. E. (Fred) Carson, who died on 9/1/17, at Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, England, aged 23 years. Grave No. 280.

Only a soldier, he heard the call,  
He did his duty, he gave his all;  
One of earth's brightest, one of the best,  
Like many another, he is laid to rest.

(Inserted by his loving mother, father, sisters and brothers, Mr and Mrs W. J. Carson, Bob, Jack, Mr and Mrs Alix Carson, Mr and Mrs W. Carson, Mr and Mrs J. Soden, Mr and Mrs F. Critchley.)

*(The Northern Miner, Charters Towers, Qld – Wednesday 9 January, 1918)*

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## ROLL OF HONOUR

CARSON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private A. E. (Fred) Carson, who died on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1917, at Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, England, aged 23 years. Grave No. 280.

Gone, dear Fred, yes, gone for ever,  
Gone from this world of sorrow and pain;  
Gone from a mother that loved you so dearly,  
Never on earth to meet again.

(Inserted by his loving mother, father, sisters and brothers, Mr and Mrs W. J. Carson, Bob, Jack, Mr and Mrs Alix Carson, Mr and Mrs W. Carson, Mr and Mrs J. Soden, Mr and Mrs F. Critchley.)

*(The Northern Miner, Charters Towers, Qld – Thursday 9 January, 1919)*

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## ROLL OF HONOUR

CARSON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private A. E. (Fred) Carson, who died on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1917, at Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, England, aged 23 years. Grave No. 280.

He sleeps beside his comrades,  
in a hallowed grave unknown;  
But his name is written in letters of gold  
In the hearts he left at home.

(Inserted by his loving mother, father, sisters and brothers, Mr and Mrs W. J. Carson, Bob, Jack, Mr and Mrs Alex Carson, Mr and Mrs W. Carson, Mr and Mrs J. Soden, Mr and Mrs F. Critchley.)

*(The Northern Miner, Charters Towers, Qld – Friday 9 January, 1920)*

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CARSON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private A. E. (Fred) Carson, who died on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1917, at Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, England, aged 23 years. Grave No. 280.

Only a soldier, he heard the call  
He did his duty; he gave his all;  
One of the earth's brightest – one of the best.  
Like many another, he is laid to rest.

(Inserted by his loving mother, sisters and brothers, Mrs R. Carson, Bob, Jack, Mr and Mrs Alix Carson, Mr and Mrs W. Carson, Mr and Mrs J. Sodan, Mr and Mrs F. Critchley.)

*(The Northern Miner, Charters Towers, Qld – Monday 10 January, 1921)*

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## ROLL OF HONOUR

CARSON – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private A. E. (Fred) Carson, who died on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1917, at Military Hospital, Sutton Veny, England, aged 23 years.

This day recalls sad memories  
Of a loved one gone to rest,  
And those that think of him to-day  
Are those who loved him best.

(Inserted by his loving mother, brothers and sisters.)

*(The Northern Miner, Charters Towers, Qld – Monday 9 January, 1922)*

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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 Arthur Edward Carson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*He Gave His Life For His Country For Honour, Faith And Right*



Photo of Pte A. E. Carson's Headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*





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

