

# Sutton Veny War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War 1



3517 PRIVATE

**ALFRED JOHN YEARK**

55TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

13TH NOVEMBER, 1918 AGE 23

*CWGC Headstone for Pte Alfred John Yeark is located in  
Grave Plot # 25. I. 4. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## Alfred John YEARK

Alfred John Yeark was born at Clarence Town, NSW in mid-1895 to parents Christopher John & Wilhelmina Rosanna (Minnie) Yeark (nee Ruprecht). He was a 21 year old, single, Saw-mill Hand from Taree, NSW when he enlisted at Newcastle, NSW on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 1916 with the 55<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 3517 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Minnie Yeark of Taree, NSW.

Private Alfred John Yeark embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Anchises (A68)* on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 1917.

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 Yeark was marched in to 14<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 1917.

Private Yeark was sent sick to Hospital on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 1917 & admitted to Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 1917 with Influenza. He was discharged on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1917 (according to Hospital admissions form, however his Casualty Form – Active Service has date of discharge as 6<sup>th</sup> June, 1917).

Private Yeark proceeded overseas from 14<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion via Southampton on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 1917. He was marched in to 5<sup>th</sup> A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1917. Private Yeark was marched out to his Unit on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 1917 & taken on strength on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 1917 with Reinforcements of 55<sup>th</sup> Battalion in the field.

Private Yeark was written up for an Offence on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1918 – “When on Active Service – entering the town of Boulogne without a pass on 6.1.18.” He was awarded 1 days Field Punishment No. 2.

Private Yeark was sent to Hospital sick on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 1918 & admitted to 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance with Bronchitis. He was transferred to 55<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station then transferred on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 1918 to Ambulance Train 27. Private Yeark was admitted to 9<sup>th</sup> General Hospital on 13<sup>th</sup> August, 1918. He was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Guildford Castle* on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 1918 & admitted to Beaufort War Hospital, Bristol on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 1918 suffering from shell gas poison & bronchitis. He was transferred to 3<sup>rd</sup> Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 1918 & discharged to furlo on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1918.

Private Yeark was on furlo from 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1918 to 16<sup>th</sup> September, 1918.

Private Yeark was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 1918.

Private Yeark was marched in to No.1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1918. He was medically classified as B1 A3 (fit for overseas training camp in two to three weeks) on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1918; B1 A4 (fit for overseas training camp when passed dentally fit) on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 1918 & B1 A1 (fit for light duty only – 4 weeks) on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 1918.

Private Yeark was written up for an Offence at Bath on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 – “Being improperly dressed, wearing Officer’s pattern cap”. He was awarded 1 day Confined to Camp.

Private Alfred John Yeark was admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 1918 with seriously ill with Influenza.

Private Alfred John Yeark died at 02.20 hrs on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Influenza & Pneumonia.

A death for Alfred Yeark, aged 22, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private Alfred John Yeark was buried at 3 pm on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny – Grave no. 25. From the burial report of Pte Yeark – *Coffin was polished Elm with Brass furnishings*

– Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag was conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party and Band from No. 1 Australian Command Depot. 2 Officers and about 100 N.C.O.'s and Men from deceased's late company followed the remains to the graveside. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.

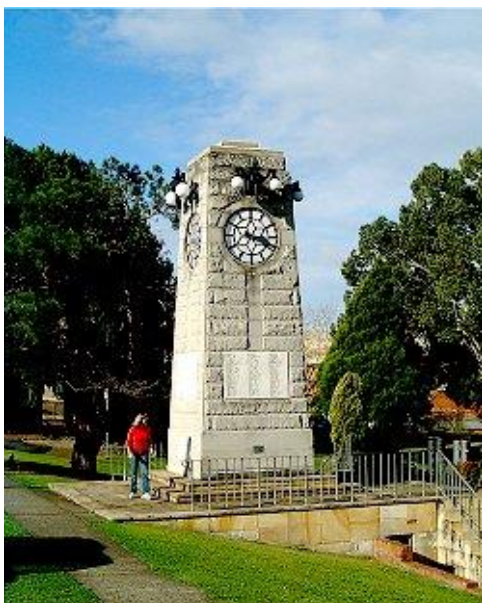
Pte Alfred Yeark requested in his Will dated 10<sup>th</sup> June, 1917 that all his personal Estate be left to his mother – Mrs Minnie Yeark, Taree, NSW.

Pte A. J. Yeark is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 161.



Roll of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. Yeark is remembered on the Taree World War 1 Memorial located in Fotheringham Park, Pacific Highway, Taree, NSW.



Taree World War 1 Memorial (Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW – Mr Andrew Howell)

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

The CWGC lists Private Alfred John Yeark, 3517 of 55<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of John and Minnie Yeark, of Taree, Manning River, New South Wales.

(58 pages of Pte Alfred John Yeark'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.*



## **NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE GAZETTES - 13 December, 1916**

### **DESERTERS from the MILITARY FORCES of the COMMONWEALTH**

#### **From the Military Camp, Liverpool**

Yeark, Alfred, 21 years of age, 5 feet 4 inches high, dark complexion, light brown hair, blue eyes; a native of Clarencetown. Deserted 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1916.



## **Newspaper Reports**

### **AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION**

#### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **WOUNDED**

Pte Alfred Yeark, Taree

*(Northern Star, Lismore, NSW – Monday 14 October, 1918)*

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### **AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION**

#### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **DIED FROM OTHER CAUSES**

Pte Alfred Yeark, Taree

*(Northern Star, Lismore, NSW – Saturday 7 December, 1918)*

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## IN MEMORIAM

YEARK – In loving memory of our dear brother Pte Alfred Yeark, of the 55<sup>th</sup> Battalion, who died of illness in England, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 1918.

Farewell our own dear brother,  
Sweet thoughts of you will keep.  
Although one year has passed away,  
Our grief is just as deep.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, May and George Martin.

*(Dungog Chronicle: Durham and Gloucester Advertiser, NSW – Friday 14 November, 1919)*

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## IN MEMORIAM

YEARK – In loving memory of our dear brother Pte Alfred Yeark, who died of illness in England, 13<sup>th</sup> November, 1918.

Gone is our brother we loved so dear,  
Silent the voice we loved to hear.  
Too far away for sight or speech,  
But not too far for our thoughts to reach.

No one knows the parting,  
Or what the farewell cost,  
But God and His loving angels  
Have gained our brother whom we have lost,  
He died for us.

Inserted by his ever loving sister and brother-in-law, May and George Martin.

*(Dungog Chronicle: Durham and Gloucester Advertiser, NSW – Friday 12 November, 1920)*

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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)*

Private Alfred John Yeark does have a personal inscription on his headstone but does not have the Christian cross like most.

*The Lord Gave And The Lord Hath Taken Away*



Photo of Private Alfred John Yeark'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)

