



Casualty Details

Name: SKERRITT, EDWARD JOHN

Initials: E J

Nationality: Australian

Rank: Private

Regiment/Service: Australian Infantry, A.I.F.

Unit Text: 26th Bn.

Age: 36

Date of Death: 26/03/1917

Service No: 555

Additional information: Son of John Thomas and Elizabeth Skerritt. Born at Folkestone, England.

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Memorial: VILLERS-BRETONNEUX MEMORIAL



Casualty details © CWGC

The AIF Project

Edward John SKERRITT

Regimental number	555
Place of birth	Folkestone, England
School	Board School,
Age on arrival in Australia	32
Religion	Church of England
Occupation	Plumber
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	34
Next of kin	Father, Mr Skerritt, 51 Pavilion Road, Folkestone, England
Enlistment date	7 April 1915

Rank on enlistment	Private
Unit name	26th Battalion, Machine Gun Section
AWM Embarkation Roll number	23/43/1
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Brisbane, Queensland, on board HMAT A60 <i>Aeneas</i> on 29 June 1915
Rank from Nominal Roll	Private
Unit from Nominal Roll	26th Battalion
Fate	Killed in Action 26 March 1916
Age at death	36
Age at death from cemetery records	36
Place of burial	No known grave
Commemoration details	Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France

Villers-Bretonneux is a village about 15 km east of Amiens. The Memorial stands on the high ground ('Hill 104') behind the Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, Fouilloy, which is about 2 km north of Villers-Bretonneux on the east side of the road to Fouilloy.

The Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux is approached through the Military Cemetery, at the end of which is an open grass lawn which leads into a three-sided court. The two pavilions on the left and right are linked by the north and south walls to the back (east) wall, from which rises the focal point of the Memorial, a 105 foot tall tower, of fine ashlar. A staircase leads to an observation platform, 64 feet above the ground, from which further staircases lead to an observation room. This room contains a circular stone tablet with bronze pointers indicating the Somme villages whose names have become synonymous with battles of the Great War; other battle fields in France and Belgium in which Australians fought; and far beyond, Gallipoli and Canberra.

On the three walls, which are faced with Portland stone, are the names of 10,885 Australians who were killed in France and who have no known grave. The 'blocking course' above them bears the names of the Australian Battle Honours.

After the war an appeal in Australia raised £22,700, of which £12,500 came from Victorian school children, with the request that the majority of the funds be used to build a new school in Villers-Bretonneux. The boys' school opened in May 1927, and contains an inscription stating that the school was the gift of Victorian schoolchildren, twelve hundred of whose fathers are buried in the Villers-Bretonneux cemetery, with the names of many more recorded on the Memorial. Villers-Bretonneux is now twinned with Robinvale, Victoria, which has in its main square a memorial to the links between the two towns.

Australian War Memorial

Miscellaneous information from cemetery records	Parents: John and Elizabeth SKERRITT
Family/military connections	Nil.
Other details	Medals: 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

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