

Walter James PUNTER

At KES:

Born in Kensington in 1877 Walter was an orphan. His brother Albert Henry, whose name also appears on the War Memorial, also came to KES.

Walter was in the care of his aunt and grandmother when he came in 1888. His occupation was shoemaker and he was described as very good. He left in 1892 to a situation with a Pawnbroker in Tottenham.

As below, there would appear, however, to have been two W J Punters!

Date of Death: 26th October 1955

Place: Wellington New Zealand

It is a fact that a W J Punter from that contingent did die at Gallipoli. However he was from Queensland, only a young man, his Christian name was William, and his parents' names were different too. The Roll of Honour gives his regiment as the Australian Contingent.

So what happened to our Walter after he left KES? In 1911 he was the manager of a pub in Kensington, then as a publican he emigrated to New Zealand in 1912. He also took two years off his age! During the years 1914-18 he volunteered for the New Zealand Defence Corps. In records his occupation is given as Vulcanising Mechanic. He married in 1917 and died aged 76 (actually 78) in 1955 in Wellington.

Obituary

Obituary - KES Magazine

We were deeply grieved to hear of the death at the Dardenelles of Punter who had joined the Australian Contingent, and we extend our sympathy to his family and relatives. He was ever to the fore when in school and became a monitor. In after years he settled in Australia and was doing well.

(As above, this would appear not to be the Walter Punter who was at KES and went to New Zealand (as opposed to Australia.)