**ROLL OF HONOUR – SX 38810 Pte Samuel Edley EVANS**

**19th December 1945**



**SX38810 PTE S.E EVANS**

(01 Aug 1922 – 19 Dec 1945: Aged 23 yrs)

**Service Details**

Pte Evans was born in Peterborough, South Australia on 01st Aug 1922. Prior to his service, Samuel worked as a Labourer before enlisting on the 09 Jun 1942 at Henley Beach in South Australia aged 19 and was given the Army number S59449, he was later transferred to the AIF, completing his Oath of Enlistment on 05 Jul 1945 and received the service number SX 38810.

Pte Evans was posted to units as a labourer (25 Employment Company) before he was Taken on Strength (TOS) from 1 HQ Aust Army to 17 CRE Works on 26 Oct 1945. He embarked on the Kamibula on the 12 Nov 1945 for Moratai and was stated missing at sea on the 19 Dec 1945 from an aircraft accident. Pte Evans emplaned at Moratai on 19 Dec 1945 for medical evacuation to Darwin. The plane was lost at sea between Ambon and Darwin.

Pte Evans was classified Missing after an Aircraft evacuation flight from Moratai that crashed (No35 Squadron Dakota aircraft A65-83) over the Arafura Sea on 19 December 1945, aged 23 years. Pte Evans at the time of being reported missing was travelling between Ambon and Darwin with 25 other passengers and crew when the Aircraft he was travelling in went down at sea. The cause of death is Accidental (Aircraft accident). Pte Evans was officially presumed deceased on 15 Aug 1946 with the date of death being 19 December 1945. His remains have never been recovered.

*No. 35 Squadron Operations Record Book A50 Entry dated 21 December 1945.*

*In terms of lives lost, the disappearance of A65-83 with twenty-five lives is one of the worst accidents in the history of the RAAF. No trace of the crew or passengers has been found despite an extensive search lasting 17 days.*

Records of Pte Evans service indicate his last posting location being with 17th Commander Royal Engineers Works (17CRE Works) on 26 Oct 1945, and embarked on the Kanibula on the 12 Nov 1945 for Moratai, there is no identified paperwork indicating the member served with the 66th Bn apart from his official certificate of death which was written by the 66th Aust Inf Bn AIF after the members death. Passenger flight details of the ill-fated flight has Pte Evans rank as Sapper.

Pte Evans Cemetery/Memorial sight can be found at:

* Ambon Memorial, Ambon, Maluku, Indonesia (column 6),
* Australian War Memorial Commemorative Area Canberra, Australia (Panel 71, Supplementary Panel 2).
* World War II Honour Roll, National Memorial of SA, North Terrace, Adelaide.
* National Memorial Walk, Brisbane (Memorial plaque)

Pte Evans honours and awards:

* 1939/45 Star
* Pacific Star
* Defence Medal
* War Medal
* ASM

Pte Evans was the Son of Edley Horald Joseph and Sarah Jane Evans of Peterborough, South Australia, and husband of Joyce Reta Evans, of Torrensville, South Australia.

[*https://pacificwrecks.com/aircraft/c-47/A65-83.html*](about:blank)

**Unit:** 66th Battalion, Australian Infantry, 2nd AIF.

**Fate:** Died at sea (between Ambon and Darwin), 19 December 1945.

**Cause of Death:** Accidental (Aircraft accident)

*‘****Lest we forget’***