

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



1127 PRIVATE

R. BURTENSRAW

38TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

6TH MARCH, 1917 Age 20

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte R. Burtenshaw is located in Grave Plot # 217
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Reginald BURTENSRAW

Reginald George Burtenshaw was born in 1896 at Eastbourne, Sussex, to parents George & Alice Eleanor Burtenshaw (nee Harris). His birth was registered in March quarter of 1896 in the district of Eastbourne, Sussex.

The 1901 Census for England recorded Reginald G. Burtenshaw as a 5 year old living with his family - parents - George Burtenshaw (Bath Chairman, aged 37) & Alice Burtenshaw (aged 33) & younger sister Doris A. Burtenshaw (aged 2) at 161 Langney Road, Eastbourne, Sussex.

The 1911 Census for England recorded Reginald Burtenshaw as a 15 year old Errand Boy for the Baker living with his family in 3 roomed dwelling at 17 Dudley Terrace, Eastbourne, Sussex. His parents were recorded as George Burtenshaw (Bath Chair Man, aged 49) & Alice Burtenshaw (aged 43). George & Alice had been married for 22 years & had 3 children – all still living. Reginald had 2 younger sisters – Doris (aged 12) & Kate (aged 8).

Mr R. Burtenshaw, aged 17 & an Errand Boy was recorded as a passenger on the *Port Lincoln* bound for Australia, embarking from the port of London on 29th July, 1913. He was recorded as arriving in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia on 10th September, 1913.

Reginald Burtenshaw was a 20 year old, single, Porter from 23 Nightingale Street, Balaclava, Victoria when he enlisted at Prahran on 8th March, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Brigade, 38th Infantry Battalion "D" Company of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 1127 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – George Burtenshaw of 89 Dudley Road, Eastbourne, Sussex, England. Reginald had previously been rejected for Service due to his chest measurement according to details he supplied on his Attestation Papers.

Pte Reginald Burtenshaw was admitted to hospital on 11th June, 1916 at Broadmeadows for 4 days with an abscess. He was discharged on 15th June, 1916.

Pte Reginald Burtenshaw embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Runic (A54)* on 20th June, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 10th August, 1916.

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.

Pte Reginald Burtenshaw was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 23rd August, 1916.

Pte Reginald Burtenshaw was taken off strength at Larkhill on 12th October, 1916. He was taken on strength 3rd Divisional Amalgamated Training Battalion at Codford from 37th Battalion on 8th November, 1916 & then marched into 38th Battalion on same day.

Pte Reginald Burtenshaw was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire on 22nd December, 1916 – spending 75 days in hospital. He was reported seriously ill on 2nd March, 1917.

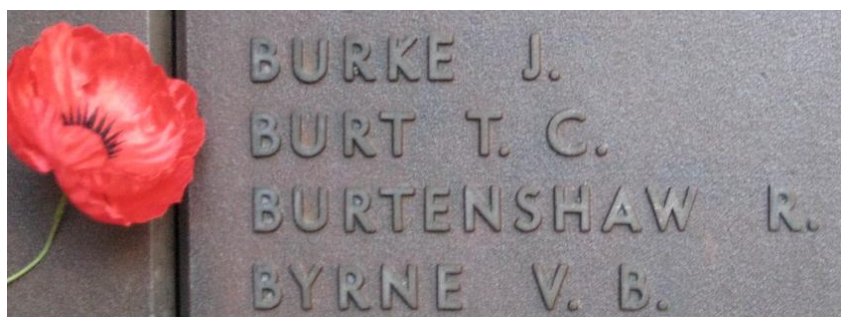
Pte Reginald Burtenshaw died at 1.20 a.m. on 6th March, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital of Tubercle of Lung.

A death for Reginald G. Burtenshaw, aged 20, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Pte Reginald Burtenshaw was buried on 10th March, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – plot number 217.

A War Pension was granted to Alice Burtenshaw, mother of late Pte Reginald Burtenshaw in the sum of 15/- per fortnight to commence on “16.5.17. Rev. 22.5.19.”

Private R. Burtenshaw is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 129.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Reginald Burtenshaw is also remembered on the Eastbourne War Memorial in Sussex, England located at the top of the stairs in the Town Hall.



(Photos by Chris Comber – 2009)



Pte Reginald Burtenshaw was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Burtenshaw's father – Mr G. Burtenshaw (both July, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Reginald Burtenshaw – service number 1127 as being 20 years old & served with 38th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of George and Alice Burtenshaw of 89 Dudley Road, Eastbourne, Sussex, England.

(34 pages of Pte Reginald Burtenshaw'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

ON THE FIELD OF HONOUR

280TH OFFICIAL LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS – VICTORIA

Pte Burtenshaw, R. England

(The Ballarat Courier, Victoria Tuesday 20 March, 1917)

NOTICE – A rule to administer the estate of each of the undermentioned deceased persons has been granted to me, and creditors, next of kin and all others having claims against the estate of any of the persons so mentioned are required to send particulars of their claims to the curator of the estate of deceased persons, 483 Collins Street, Melbourne, on or before the 22nd April, 1918 or they may be excluded from the distribution of the estate when the amounts are being distributed:-

REGINAL BURTENSHAW, late of A.I.F. abroad, soldier, formerly of 28 Nightingale Street, Balaclava, porter, died 6th March, 1917 intestate.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria Friday 8 March, 1918)

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 Durrington War Graves Cemetery. 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 R. Burtenshaw does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte R. Burtenshaw's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)