

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War 1



3160 CORPORAL

C. OWEN

2ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

17TH MARCH, 1919 AGE 29

In The Midst Of Life

We Are In Death

Peace Perfect Peace

*CWGC Headstone for Cpl. C Owen is located in
Grave Plot # 76. K. 5. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Charles OWEN

Charles Owen was born in Newton, Manchester, Lancashire, England on 1st March, 1890 to parents Joseph Thomas & Elizabeth Owen (nee Seddon). His birth was registered in the March quarter, 1890 in the registration district of Prestwich, Lancashire. Charles Owen was baptised on 19th March, 1890 at St. Luke's Church, Miles Platting, Lancashire. The family were living at 19 Edinburgh Street & Joseph Thomas Owen was listed as an Upholsterer.

The 1891 England Census listed Charles Owen as a 1 year old, living with his family at 42 Eliza Ann Street, Manchester, Lancashire, in a 4 roomed dwelling. His parents were recorded as Josh. T. Owen (Upholsterer, aged 23, born Manchester) & Elizabeth Owen (aged 21, born Manchester). Charles was the younger of 2 children listed on this Census – Elizabeth (aged 3, born Manchester). Also listed was Alice Owen (sister of Joseph, aged 20) & John Seddon (Father-in-law of Joseph, Baker, aged 60).

The 1901 England Census listed Charles Owen as an 11 year old living with his family at No. 50 Albion Street, Newton, North Manchester. His parents were listed as Joseph Thomas Owen (Upholsterer-Furniture, aged 33) & Elizabeth Owen (Provision Shopkeeper, aged 31). Charles was the second eldest of 7 children listed on this Census – Elizabeth (aged 13), then Charles, Emily (aged 9), Amy (aged 6), Joseph (aged 5), Albert (aged 2) & Fred (aged 8 months).

The 1911 England Census listed Charles Owen as a 21 year old Ledger Clerk for India Rubber Manufacturing, living with his family at 92 Hall Street, Moston, Manchester in a 5 roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as Joseph Thomas Owen (Fish Dealer, aged 44) & Elizabeth Owen (Fish Dealer, aged 41) Joseph & Elizabeth had been married for 24 years & had a total of 11 children, with one child deceased. Charles was the second eldest of 10 children listed on this Census – Elizabeth (Fish Assistant, aged 23), then Charles, Emily (Domestic help, aged 19), Amy (Hair Frame Coverer, aged 17), Joseph (apprentice Camera Maker, aged 15), Albert (aged 12), Fred (aged 10), Nelly (aged 8), Frank (aged 7) & Harry (aged 5).

Charles Owen, along with his 9 siblings & mother were listed as passengers on the SS *Waimana* which departed from London & arrived in Sydney, Australia on 21st February, 1913.

Charles Owen was a 25 year old, single Clerk (Railway Porter) from Belmore St, Burwood, NSW when he enlisted at Warwick Farm Depot, Sydney, NSW on 5th August, 1915 with the 2nd Infantry Battalion, 10th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 3160 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Joseph Owen of "Moston" Belmore St, Burwood, NSW.

Private Charles Owen embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Warilda* (A69) on 8th October, 1915.

Pte Owen proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Tel-el-Kebir on 14th February, 1916.

Pte Owen joined 1st Training Battalion on 17th April, 1916.

Pte Owen was sent to Hospital on 13th May, 1916 & admitted with VD on 14th May, 1916 to No. 2 A.S.H. (Australian Stationary Hospital). He was transferred to No. 4 Hospital Train on 15th May, 1916 & admitted to No. 1 A.D.H. (Australian Dermatological Hospital) at Cairo on same day. Pte Owen was discharged to Quarante Details at Abbassia on 28th June, 1916. Debility discharged to duty at Details Tel-el-Kebir on 29th June, 1916 then admitted at Ras-el-bir C. Depot same day.

Pte Owen was discharged to Australian Base on 18th July, 1916 & taken on strength at Tel-el-Kebir with 1st Division Details same day.

Pte Owen embarked for Overseas from Alexandria on H. T. *Arcadia* on 29th July, 1916. He was taken on strength from Egypt at Perham Downs, England with 1st Training Battalion on 9th August, 1916.

Pte Owen proceeded Overseas to France on 5th September, 1916. He was taken on strength at Etaples on 6th September, 1916 & joined his Battalion in Belgium on 18th September, 1916.

Pte Owen was sent sick to 2nd Field Ambulance in France on 12th May, 1917 & transferred to No. 9 Casualty Clearing Station on 13th May, 1917. He was transferred & admitted to No. 3 Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne with Trench Fever on 20th May, 1917. Pte Owen was transferred to No. 7 Convalescent Depot on 30th May, 1917.

Pte Owen was marched in from Hospital at Havre on 28th June, 1917 to 1st Australian D.B.D. He rejoined his Battalion in France on 7th July, 1917.

Private Owen was appointed Lance Corporal on 25th July, 1917.

Lance Corporal Owen was promoted to the rank of Corporal on 1st December, 1917.

Lance Corporal Owen was on furlo to UK from 4th December, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion from furlo on 19th December, 1917.

Lance Corporal Owen was reported to be still with his Unit on 19th July, 1918.

Lance Corporal Owen was on leave to Paris from 16th August, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion on 25th August, 1918.

Lance Corporal Owen was on leave to UK from 19th December, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion from leave on 10th January, 1919.

Lance Corporal Owen was marched out from field ready for Return to Australia on 19th January, 1919. He was marched out to England from A.I.B.D. at Havre on 24th January, 1919 & disembarked at Weymouth, England on 25th January, 1919.

Lance Corporal Owen was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill on 25th January, 1919 then marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny on 21st February, 1919.

Lance Corporal Owen was sent sick to 1st Australian General Hospital on 15th March, 1919 & admitted the same day with Tachycardia.

Corporal Charles Owen died at 9.30 p.m. on 17th March, 1919 at the 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of Mitral Insufficiency.

A death for Charles Owen, aged 29, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Corporal Charles Owen was buried on 20th March, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 76. From the burial report of Cpl. Owen - *Coffin was Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being conveyed to the graveside on a Gun-carriage preceded by a Firing Party from 1st Australian Training Brigade, Sutton Veny. Six of Deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall. The "Last Post" was sounded and volleys fired over the grave. a large number of N.C.O.'s and men followed the remains to the graveside and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Corporal Charles Owen has a letter from Acting Registrar for Officer Commanding, 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny which reads: *"The above mentioned soldier was admitted to this Hospital on the 15th March, 1919 from the No. 1 Command Depot. At 9.30 p.m. on the 17th March he died. The final diagnosis being Mitral Insufficiency."*

Corporal Charles Owen was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Cpl. Owen's father – Mr J, T. Owen (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

Corporal C. Owen is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 34.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. Owen is remembered on the Burwood War Memorial Arch located at the entrance to Burwood Park, Burwood, NSW.



Burwood War Memorial Arch

(Photo from Monument Australia – Glen Yeomans)



The CWGC lists Corporal Charles Owen, 3160, of 2nd Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of Joseph Thomas and Elizabeth Owen of "Moston" Esher Street, Burwood, Sydney. Born in England.

(53 pages of Cpl. Charles Owen'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing file) & National Archives.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P05322.001

Corporal Charles Owen (photo taken c 1915)



Newspaper Reports

DIED ON SERVICE

Mr J. T. Owen, of Moston, Esher Street, Burwood, has been notified that his son, Corporal Charles Owen, has died of illness in England. Corporal Owen was late of the 2nd Battalion.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – Friday 4 April, 1919)

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

OWEN – Corporal Charles Owen, 2nd Batt., dearly loved son of Mr and Mrs J.S. Owen, Moston, Esher Street, Burwood, who died of illness in England whilst on embarkation leave, March 18, 1919.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – Monday 7 April, 1919)

Cpl. Charles Owen is also remembered on a Headstone located in St. Thomas Anglican Church, Enfield, NSW, along with his brother – Joseph who died 30th June, 1917, aged 21 & father – Joseph Thomas Owen, died 26th September, 1929, aged 62 years.



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)

Corporal Charles Owen does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In The Midst Of Life We Are In Death Peace Perfect Peace



War Graves at Sutton Veny *(Photos from CWGC)*



Photo of Corporal C. Owen's CWGC headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)