

Codford War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



3961 CORPORAL

CHARLES ZIESLER

51 ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

26TH JUNE, 1918 Age 46

*IN LOVING MEMORY
OF MY DEAR HUSBAND
AND OUR DEAR FATHER*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Cpl Charles Ziesler is located in Main Third Row
(Right hand side)*

*Grave Plot # 49 of Codford War Graves Cemetery (Using Map by Brian Marshall)
(CWGC Reference - Grave # 92)*

Charles Ziesler was born, according to details he provided on his Attestation Papers, near the town of Timaru, New Zealand, to parents William & Lucy Ziesler, however information provided by his wife for the Roll of Honour states Charles was born in England & went to New Zealand when he was very young. He was a 43 year old, married Clerk – Insurance Agent- from Perth, Western Australia when he enlisted on 12th November, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 28th Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 3961 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Martha Mary Ziesler of 68 Outram Street, Perth, Western Australia. Charles Ziesler had married Martha M. Grimwood in Perth in 1909. Information from his Attestation Papers state that Charles' grandfather was Russian.

Pte Charles Ziesler embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Militiades (A28)* on 12th February, 1916 & disembarked Suez on 11th March, 1916.

Pte Ziesler was transferred from 7th Training Battalion at Serapeum, Egypt on 2nd April, 1916. From there he was transferred to 13th Training Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 14th May, 1916.

On 6th June, 1916 Pte Ziesler embarked from Alexandria & disembarked at Plymouth on 16th June, 1916.

Pte Ziesler was promoted to Acting Corporal on 16th August, 1916 at Rolleston. He was transferred to permanent Cadre of 13th Training Battalion at Tidworth on 1st January, 1917 & then promoted to Corporal on 24th January, 1917.

On 22nd October, 1917 Ziesler was transferred to School of Instruction Candahar Barracks, Tidworth.

Cpl Ziesler was appointed Acting Sergeant at Codford on 14th November, 1917. He was marched in to 12th Training Battalion at Codford, from 13th Training on 11th April, 1918 & attached for duty with permanent Cadre of 12th Training Battalion at Tidworth.

Cpl Ziesler was admitted to Brigade Clearing Hospital with influenza on 23rd June, 1918 where his rank reverted to Corporal on admission to hospital. He was then transferred to No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital on 25th June, 1918 with Broncho pneumonia.

Cpl / Sgt Charles Ziesler died at 8.40 p.m. or 9.20 p.m. (both times are stated in Cpl Ziesler's file) on 26th June, 1918 at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital. A Post Mortem was conducted on 27th June, 1918 with cause of death acute bronchitis. Other paperwork in Cpl/ Sgt Ziesler's file state of Broncho pneumonia.

A death for a Charles Zeisler, aged 45, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

From the burial report of Cpl Charles Ziesler – he was buried on 29th June, 1918 at St. Mary's Cemetery Codford, Grave No. 92, Australian Section. *The late Sergeant Ziesler was accorded a full Military funeral, the body being conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage which was*

preceded by a Firing Party and Band. The coffin was of polished elm, with brass mountings. Six N.C.O.'s and men of deceased's Unit acted as Pallbearers.

The Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of deceased's Unit attended as mourners. A large artificial wreath from the members of the Sergeants Mess and floral wreaths from Quarter-master and Staff, 12th Training Battalion, Mr & Mrs Weston and Mrs Vane of Codford were placed on the grave after the "Last Post" had been sounded.

The late Sergeant Ziesler was held in very high esteem by all ranks in the Unit, and always proved himself a keen soldier, a true and sympathetic comrade and a friend in need and deed. His loss to the Unit is very keenly felt.

Charles Ziesler requested in his Will, dated 1st February, 1916, that his real or personal estate be left to his wife – Martha Mary Ziesler & whom he appointed Executrix.

Corporal C. Ziesler is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 154.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)

A memo between the Pay & Accounts Branch of the Military – District Paymaster & the Officer in Charge of Base Records, Melbourne questions the last rank held by Charles Ziesler – 3961. Base Records replied “.....shows his rank as T/Sgt. This has not yet been confirmed.”

Cpl Charles Ziesler was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal as he had entered a theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Cpl Ziesler’s widow – Mrs Martha Mary Ziesler (December, 1921 & November, 1922)

(77 pages of Cpl Charles Ziesler’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

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Newspaper Reports

Social Notes

St. Mary’s Church, Colm-street, West Perth, was the scene of a very pretty but quiet wedding on the 12th inst., the contracting parties being Mr Charles Ziesler, of Perth, and Miss Mattie Grimwood, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Grimwood, of Perth.....

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia, Thursday 4th July, 1918)

BIRTHS

ZIESLER.- ON January 13, the wife of Charles Ziesler, of Hay-street East- a son. New Zealand papers please copy.

(The Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia, Friday 24th January, 1913)

MAINLY ABOUT PEOPLE

The many friends of Mrs Charles Ziesler, of 68 Outram-street, West Perth, will regret to hear of the death of her husband, Charles Ziesler, well known in assurance circles for many years. He succumbed to bronchial pneumonia at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital, London, on June 26, 1918.

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia, Thursday 4th July, 1918)

DEATHS

ZIESLER.- On June 26, 1918, at No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital London Sergeant Charles Ziesler late 51st Battalion of bronchial pneumonia beloved husband of Martha Mary Ziesler and beloved father of Peggy and Ned aged 46 years. Melbourne and New Zealand papers please copy.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia, Thursday 4th July, 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 Codford 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)

Cpl Charles Ziesler does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Cpl Charles Ziesler's Headstone at Codford War Graves Cemetery (Below)



(Photo courtesy of Romy Wyeth)