

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



2557 PRIVATE

S. J. CARN

40TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

5TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 18

The Lord Gave

And The Lord Hath Taken Away

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte S. J. Carn is located in Grave Plot # 176
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Sydney John CARN

Sydney John Carn was born at Mt. Nicholas near Fingal, Tasmania, Australia in 1898 to parents Charles George and Mary Ann Carn. He was an 18 year old, single, Railway Employee from Penguin, Tasmania when he enlisted at Claremont on 3rd October, 1916 with the 40th Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2557 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Charles George Carn of Penguin, Tasmania. Sydney had previously served with Cadets.

Pte Sydney John Carn embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Ulysses (A38)* on 25th October, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 28th December, 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 Sydney John Carn was marched in to 10th Training Battalion, Durrington. He was admitted sick to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 25th January, 1917 & reported seriously ill with Broncho -pneumonia on 26th January, 1917.

Pte Sydney John Carn died at 11 a.m. on 5th February, 1917 of Broncho-pneumonia at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire.

A death for Sydney J. Carn, aged 18, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Pte Sydney John Carn was buried on 8th February, 1917 in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire - Plot number 176.

Pte Sydney John Carn requested in his Will dated 19th October, 19__ that he appoints Charles George Carn of Penguin, Railway Ganger to be the executor of his Will. He bequeathed all his real and personal estate to his mother – Mary Carn of Penguin.

Private S. J. Carn is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 132.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte Sydney John Carn was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Carn's father – Charles George Carn (January, 1922 & November, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Sydney John Carn – service number 2557 as being 18 years old & served with 40th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Charles George and Mary Ann Carn of Devonport, Tasmania.

(49 pages of Pte Sydney John Carn'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

PENGUIN ENLISTMENTS

The following passed for active service at Penguin last week :- W. Ray, Geo. F. Stone and S. J. Carn.

(The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, Tasmania Monday 11 September, 1916)

ENTERED CAMP AT CLAREMONT

The following are the names and addresses of the men (33) who entered the Claremont Camp on Wednesday :-

S. J. Carn, Penguin

(Examiner, Tasmania Tuesday 6 October, 1916)

DEATH

Carn, Sydney John, dearly beloved eldest son of Charles & Mary, Penguin on 5 February at Fargo Military Hospital of bronchial pneumonia, aged 18 years 8 months.

(The Weekly Courier, Tasmania 15 February, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR Casualty List No 273

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

Died of Illness

Pte S. J. CARN, Penguin. 5/2/17

(Examiner, Tasmania Tuesday 20 February, 1917)

RETURN THANKS

Mr. and Mrs. C. Carn and family, of Penguin, desire to return sincere thanks to their kind friends and relations for letters, cards, and kind expressions of sympathy in their sad bereavement in the death of their son and brother, Private S. J. Carn, died in England on February 5, 1917.

(Examiner, Tasmania Wednesday 14 March, 1917)

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

Lieutenant H. W. McBean has addressed the following letter to Mr. and Mrs. Carn, of Penguin, from Durrington Camp, England:---"With much regret I have to advise you of the death of your son, S. J. Carn, who died of pneumonia at the Military Hospital, Fargo, on February 6, 1917, after a short illness. He passed quietly away, suffering no pain. He was buried at the Australian Military Cemetery, Durrington, on February 8, and was escorted to the grave by a firing party

and escort composed of his comrades in the battalion. On behalf of myself and my unit I have to extend to you our deepest sympathy. Your son was very popular with all members of the unit, and respected by all who knew him. His death is a great loss to the Australian military forces, and terminated a career in which he showed great promise.

(Examiner, Tasmania Tuesday 20 April, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

CARN – In sad and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Pte Sydney John Carn, who died of bronchial pneumonia on February 6th, 1917.

No one knows how much we miss him,
 No one knows what bitter pain
We have suffered since we lost you;
 Home has never been the same.

One of the best that God could send-
 A loving son, a faithful friend;
Forget him? No, we never will!
 We loved him here; we love him still.

Far, far from the home of his childhood,
 Away o'er the ocean so deep,
In a foreign land our loved one
 Is sleeping his last long sleep.

A faithful brother, so true and kind;
 No friend on earth like him we find.
Twelve months have passes, and none can tell
 The loss of one we loved so well.

Inserted by his loving father, mother and brother. Flowerdale

(Examiner, Tasmania Wednesday 6 February, 1918)



Pte S. J. Carn & his place of Burial in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.

(Photos from *Weekly Courier*, Thursday 26 September, 1918 courtesy of Launceston LINC Library)

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 S. J. Carn does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

The Lord Gave And The Lord Hath Taken Away

Photo of Pte S. J. Carn's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)