

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War 1



1687 PRIVATE

C. E. LILLEY

56TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

12TH NOVEMBER, 1918

*CWGC Headstone for Pte C. E. Lilley is located in
Grave Plot # 31. I. 10. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

Charles Edward LILLEY

Charles Edward Lilly was born near Narrandera, NSW in 1883. He was a 32 year old, single, Labourer from Tumut, NSW when he enlisted at Cootamundra, NSW on 18th January, 1916 with the 56th Infantry, 2nd Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 1687 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his brother – William Lilley of Tumut, NSW (Parents deceased). Charles stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected as unfit (Varicocele) for His Majesty's Service at Victoria Barracks, Sydney.

Private Charles Edward Lilley embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Ceramic (A40)* on 14th April, 1916 & disembarked at Port Said, Egypt on 16th May, 1916. He embarked from Alexandria on 21st June, 1916 on H. T. *Ivernia* to join British Expeditionary Force & disembarked at Marseille, France on 29th June, 1916. Pte Lilley was attached to 56th Battalion Reinforcements in France & joined his Battalion on 26th July, 1916.

Pte Lilley was sent to Hospital sick on 11th September, 1916 & admitted with Bronchitis on 12th September, 1916 to 1st A.C.C.S. He was transferred to 7th General Hospital at St. Omer on 14th September, 1916. Pte Lilley was transferred to England from Boulogne on 2nd October, 1916 on Hospital Ship *St. Denis* & admitted to City of Middlesex Hospital. He was then transferred from Naysbury War Hospital to 2nd Auxiliary Hospital for observation on 12th October, 1916 & then transferred to Weymouth for observation on 1st November, 1916.

Pte Lilley was marched in from furlough from No. 4 C.D. on 21st November, 1916. He proceeded overseas to France on SS *Golden Eagle* from Folkestone on 11th December, 1916 & was marched in at Etaples, France on 12th December, 1916. Pte Lilley was marched out to his Unit on 18th December, 1916 & rejoined his Battalion on 20th December, 1916.

Pte Lilley was sent to Hospital sick while in France on 2nd February, 1917. He was admitted to 15th A.F.A. with Orchitis then transferred to 38th Casualty Clearing Station & admitted with Mumps the same day. Pte Lilley was discharged to duty on 23rd February, 1917 & rejoined his Battalion on 24th February, 1917.

Pte Lilley was reported to have sprained his back on 2nd March, 1917 in the Neur Cors Trench while on duty as "Carrying Party". He was sent to 15th Field Ambulance Hospital on 4th March, 1917 & transferred to Casualty Clearing Station on 6th March, 1917 & then transferred to Ambulance Train on 9th March, 1917. Pte Lilley was admitted to 10th General Hospital at Rouen, France with a sprained back on 10th March, 1917. He was transferred to 12th General Hospital on 19th March, 1917 & embarked same day from Havre for England on Hospital Ship *Panama* with Nephritis.

Pte Lilley was admitted to 1st London General Hospital at Camberwell on 20th March, 1917 & transferred to 1st Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield on 27th March, 1917. He was discharged to No. 2 C. Depot at Weymouth on 16th August, 1917.

Pte Lilley was marched in to No. 3 C.D. at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 4th October, 1917. He was medically classified as B1 A1 (fit for light duty only 4 weeks) on 5th October, 1917.

Pte Lilley was sent sick to Fovant Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 6th October, 1917 with Kidney trouble & admitted on 7th October, 1917 with "Movable Kidney". He was discharged to Training Depot & on 15th November, 1917 medically classified as B1 A3 (fit for Overseas training camp in 2 to 3 weeks).

Pte Lilley was marched out to ASC Camp Fovant for temporary duty on 10th December, 1917. He was then marched out to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 23rd January, 1918. He proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 14th February, 1918. Pte Lilley was marched in from England at Havre on 15th February, 1918 & marched out to his Unit on 17th February, 1918. Pte Lilley rejoined his Battalion in the field in France on 21st February, 1918 & was detached with 14th Field Coy. on same day. Pte Lilley rejoined from detachment on 22nd March, 1918. Pte Lilley was again detached to 14th Field Coy Aust. Engineers on 21st May, 1918 & rejoined on 1st June, 1918.

Pte Lilley was wounded in action on 1st September, 1918 & admitted to 10 Casualty Clearing Station with a gunshot wound to right arm. He was transferred to 6th General Hospital at Rouen on 2nd September, 1918 then

transferred on 3rd September, 1918 to 2 C.D. He was again transferred on 4th September, 1918 to 11 C.D. On 12th September, 1918 Pte Lilley was admitted to No. 3 Stat Hospital & then embarked from France for England on 14th September, 1918. Pte Lilley was admitted to War Hospital at Reading on 15th September, 1918 & discharged on 20th September to report to Littlemore Camp at Weymouth on 21st September, 1918.

Pte Lilley was on leave & was to report to No. 1 C.D. Sutton Veny where he was medically classified as B1 A1 (fit for light duty only 4 weeks) on 25th October, 1918.

Private Charles Edward Lilley was admitted to the Group Clearing Hospital at Sutton Veny on 5th November, 1918 with Influenza (Bronchitis) & transferred to Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 7th November, 1918 with Influenza (Pneumonia), seriously ill.

Private Charles Edward Lilley died at 22.10 hrs on 12th November, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Influenza Pneumonia.

A death for Charles E. Lilley, aged 35, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

At some time during his furlough in England Pte Charles Edward Lilley married an Irish lady by the name of Beatty. Beatty Lilley, wife of late Pte Charles Edward Lilley, completed the Roll of Honour information form. She did not know any of the following details about her husband - place of birth, which town he was chiefly connected with, his occupation, his school. A letter attached to the Roll of Honour form by Mrs Beatty Lilley explains – *“I don't know much about my late husband as I come from Ireland & fell in with him in Scotland & was married only a 11 months when he died and he was all the time in France for them 11 months so he had not time to tell me any thing but I regret his death very much as I would have been happy if God had spaird him but he was born in Australia NSW. Yours truly Beatty Lilley”*

Private Charles Edward Lilley was buried on 19th November, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 31. From the burial report of Pte Lilley - *Coffin was good polished Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party from the Australian Overseas Training Brigade. Six of deceased's late comrades supported the Pall. The funeral was attended by One Officer and about 80 N.C.O.'s and Men who followed the remains to the graveside. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Also present at the funeral was Mrs C. E. Lilley (Wife) of 3 Herons Court, Cow Gate, Edinburgh, Scotland and Mrs A. Greechan (Sister-in-Law) of 96 Leith St. Edinburgh.

Pte Charles Edward Lilley requested in his Will dated 17 June, 1918 that all his real & personal Estate be left to his wife – Betty Lilley of 3 Heorns Court, Cow Gate, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Pte Charles Edward Lilley was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Lilley's widow – Mrs B. Lilley in England (both sent November, 1922).

The CWGC lists Private Charles Edward Lilley, 1687, of 56th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F. No family details are listed.

Private C. E. Lilley is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 162.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. E. Lilley is also remembered on the All Saints' Church World War 1 Roll of Honour located at River Street, Tumut.



(Photos from War Memorial Register NSW – Martin Butterfield)



(59 pages of Pte Charles Edward Lilley'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.



Connected to Pte Charles Edward Lilley:

Older brother – Pte William Alfred Lilley, 6539, 2nd Battalion, A.I.F. Enlisted 25th May, 1916, embarked on *Ceramic* on 7th October, 1916. Wounded in Action at Bullecourt, France on 4th May, 1917 with gunshot wound to head & abdomen. Next of Kin – brother – Jonathan Aaron Lilley of Tumut, NSW. Returned to Australia 31st May, 1919. Awarded the British War Medal & Victory Medal.



Newspaper Reports

438th CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

WOUNDED

Pte Chas. Edward Lilley, Scotland

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Thursday 31 October, 1918)

450th CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte Chas. Edward Lilley, Scotland

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Saturday 7 December, 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 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)

Pte Charles Edward Lilley does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Private C. E. Lilley's CWGC headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)



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

