

**Wigan Cemetery,
Lower Ince, Lancashire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



276 LANCE CORPORAL

S. A. MELLING

1ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

2ND MARCH, 1916 Age 24

Samuel Arnold MELLING

Samuel Arnold Melling was born at Wigan, Lancashire, England on 25th June, 1891 to parents Samuel & Margaret Ellen Melling (nee Rimmer).

The 1901 England Census recorded Samuel Arnold Melling as a 9 year old, living with his family at The Sycamores, Wigan, Lancashire, England. His parents were listed as Samuel Melling (Forgemaster & Iron Manufacturer, aged 54, born Haigh, Lancashire) & Margaret Ellen Melling (aged 47, born Churchtown, Lancashire). Samuel was one of five children listed on this Census (all born at Wigan) – William Alexander Melling (aged 23), Elizabeth Melling (aged 19), then Samuel, Muriel Pierpoint Melling (aged 7) & Charles Alker Melling (aged 4). Two servants were also listed – Cecilia W. Hesketh (Housemaid, aged 19) & Margaret Cunliffe (Kitchen Maid, aged 16).

Margaret Ellen Melling, mother of Samuel Arnold Melling, died in June, 1901 in Wigan, Lancashire, England.

Samuel Arnold Melling attended school at Rydal Mount, Colwyn Bay, North Wales.

[The 1911 England Census recorded Samuel Melling (father) (Forgemaster & Engineer, aged 64) as a widower living with five of his children at The Sycamores, Wigan, Lancashire, England which was an eleven roomed dwelling. The five children were – William Alexander Melling (Secretary to Forgemaster & Engineer, aged 33), Elizabeth Melling (aged 29), John Arthur Melling (Mechanical Engineer, aged 25), Martha Asenath Melling (aged 23) & Muriel Pierpoint Melling (Student, aged 17). Also listed was Alice Southern (servant, aged 36)

According to information provided for the Roll of Honour by Samuel Melling, father of Samuel Arnold Melling, Samuel served for 2 years with the Gloucestershire Yeomanry. He also stated that “*Before settling down on a Farm of his own my son was on a ___ tour commencing with Albany, West Australia, working on various farms & having been in Sydney about 12 mos. he was about to pack for New Zealand when war was declared. He offered himself for enlistment at once...*”

Arnold Melling was a 23 year old, single, Driver from Chisholm Road, Greenarch, NSW when he enlisted at Kensington, Sydney, NSW on 31st August, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 276 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Samuel Melling, of Sycamore, Wigan, England.

Private Arnold Melling embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Afric (A19)* on 18th October, 1914 with the 1st Infantry Battalion “B” Company.

Private Arnold Melling embarked from Alexandria on *Minnewaska* on 5th April, 1915 to join M.E.F. (Gallipoli Campaign).

Private Arnold Melling was appointed Lance Corporal on 1st May, 1915 at Gallipoli Peninsula.

Lance Corporal Arnold Melling was sent to Hospital at Mudros West on 14th September, 1915 with diarrhoea. He was transferred & admitted to 2nd Stationary Hospital at Mudros on 14th September, 1915. Lance Corporal Melling was transferred to Hospital Ship *Aquitania* on 18th October, 1915 & embarked for England on the Hospital Ship *Aquitania* on 21st October, 1915.

1st Battalion

The 1st Battalion was the first infantry unit recruited for the AIF in New South Wales during the First World War.

The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. The battalion took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves, and served there until the evacuation in December. Its most notable engagement at Gallipoli was the battle of Lone Pine in August. Two members of the battalion, Captain A. J. Shout and Lieutenant L.M. Keysor were awarded Victoria Crosses for their valour at Lone Pine, Captain Shout posthumously.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Lance Corporal Arnold Melling was admitted to 2nd Western General Hospital, Manchester, England on 28th October, 1915.

Lance Corporal Arnold Melling died on 2nd March, 1916 at his father's residence – "The Sycamores", Wigan, Lancashire, England from Dysentery.

Lance Corporal Arnold Melling was buried on 6th March, 1916 in Wigan Cemetery, Lower Ince, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, England – Plot number B. N. C. 356 and has a shared Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Newspaper article – *Wigan Observer and District Advertiser* – 11 March, 1916:

Wigan Magistrate's Son at Anzac

DIES AFTER BEING INVALIDED HOME



LANCE – CORPORAL SAMUEL ARNOLD MELLING

The funeral of Lance-Corporal Samuel Arnold Melling, third son of Mr Samuel Melling, J.P., of Wigan, took place on Monday the interment being at the Wigan Cemetery. Lance-Corporal Melling, who died at the family residence, "The Sycamores," Wigan-lane, Wigan on Thursday morning last week, went out to Australia some three years ago to take up farming, and on the outbreak of war he joined the Australian contingent, coming over with the force whose exploits at the Dardanelles made that part of the Gallipoli Peninsula where they were located, and which became known as Anzac, famous in the annals of the war. After seeing much service there from the very beginning of the operations, Lance-Corporal Melling, who had enlisted as a private and had received promotion, was invalided to this country with dysentery, and for a time he was in hospital at Manchester, but later he was transferred to "The Woodlands" War Hospital at Wigan. Later he was given his furlough, being apparently better, and, after visiting some friends, he came to "The Sycamores." He had not been home long however, before he was taken worse, being confined to bed, and he died as stated. He was 24 years of age.

Prior to the interment a private service was held at the family residence, "The Sycamores," followed by a public service at the Wesleyan Church, Standishgate, the officiating clergy being the Rev. S. Mort, superintendent Wesleyan Minister for the Wigan circuit, and the Rev. A. E. Binks, of the Queen's Hall Mission, and two appropriate hymns being sung. A part of wounded soldiers, with about a dozen nurses, from "The Woodlands" red Cross Hospital, Wigan, under the command of Mr Harold Sumner and Dr Fred Angior, attended the service in the

Wesleyan Church, later proceeding to the cemetery, where a guard of honour was formed as the deceased soldier was carried to the grave.

The coffin, which bore the inscription "Samuel Arnold Melling, died 2nd March, 1916. Aged 24 years," was draped with the Union Jack and the Australian Flag were laid together over the hearse. The only floral tributes was a large laurel wreath from the family.

The mourners present were:- 1st carriage, Mr Samuel Melling, J.P. (father), Mis Daisy Melling, Miss Muriel Melling, and Mr Alex. Melling (sisters and brother); 2nd, Mr A. Melling, Mr C. Melling, Mr and Mrs Rawson (Accrington); 3rd carriage, Mrs Lamb, Miss Melling, Miss Rawson, Mr and Mrs R. G. Melling; 4th, Mr and Mrs Pierpoint, Mr and Mrs Alexander; 5th, Rev D. Solemer, Mr W. R. Deakin, J.P., Mr Roberts (Persharn) and Mr J. Worthington; 6th, Gunner Harrisson (Australian contingent). A carriage preceding the hearse contained the Rev. S. Morth and the Rev. A. E. Binks.

Messrs Evans and McClure, of Wigan, were the undertakers.

Newspaper article – Wigan Observer and District Advertiser – 16 March, 1916:

THE LATE LANCE-CORPL. MELLING

Mr S. Melling, J.P., "The Sycamores," Wigan, has received the following letter relative to the death of his son, Lance-Corporal Samuel Arnold Melling:-

Commonwealth of Australia
Australian Military Office, 130, Horseferry-road,
Westminster, London, S.W.
1st Battalion.

10th March, 1916

Dear Sir – I am to state that the sad intelligence regarding the death of No. 276 Private A. Melling, 1st Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, was received with the deepest regret, and that had the date and time of interment been known in time, the High Commissioner for the Commonwealth of Australia would have been represented at the funeral. I am directed to forward the enclosed message of condolence from Their Majesties, the King and Queen.

Yours faithfully, H. C. Smart, per H.,R.,

Officer in Charge of Military Records.

THE MESSAGE

The King Commands me to assure you of the true sympathy of His Majesty and The Queen in your sorrow – Kitchener.

A Memo from Officer in Charge, The Woodlands Hospitals, Wigan, was sent to Officer in Charge, Military Records, Australian Military Office, 130 Horseferry Road, Westminster on 8th March, 1916 which reads:

"L/cpl, Melling was discharged from this Hospital- an Auxiliary to the 2nd Western General Hospital, Manchester, — on January 24th, on a transfer to the Seymour Park Hospital, Manchester, for tests as regards his illness (dysentery). In due course he returned on furlough to his father's house in this neighbourhood, where he died on March 4th. (telegram says 2nd.)

L./cpl, Melling was interred on Monday last, the 6th inst. The interment was carried out by his father.

As Officer-in-Charge of these Hospitals I attended the funeral together with some of the staff and patients and therefore so far as possible gave the interment a semi-military representation.

Hence you will gather it is too late to carry out your wishes and that L/cpl Melling died at his next-of-kin's house.

I propose to inform the father of your wish that the Commissioner should have been represented at the interment and if you desire to express the same direct, the address is S. Melling Esq.,J.P. The Sycamores, Wigan."

Probate details:

MELLING, Samuel Arnold of The Sycamores, Wigan-lane, Wigan, Farmer, Lance-corporal, Australian Imperial Forces died 2 March 1919. Administration Liverpool 3 June to Samuel Melling, Iron Master. Effects £540 6s. 11d

Lance Corporal Samuel Arnold Melling was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Melling's father – Mr S. Melling (in England), as the closest next-of-kin. (Memorial Plaque sent October, 1921).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Samuel Arnold Melling – service number 276, aged 24, of 1st Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Samuel Melling J.P., and Margaret Ellen Melling (nee Rimmer), of The Sycamores, Wigan.

Lance Corporal S. A. Melling is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 30.



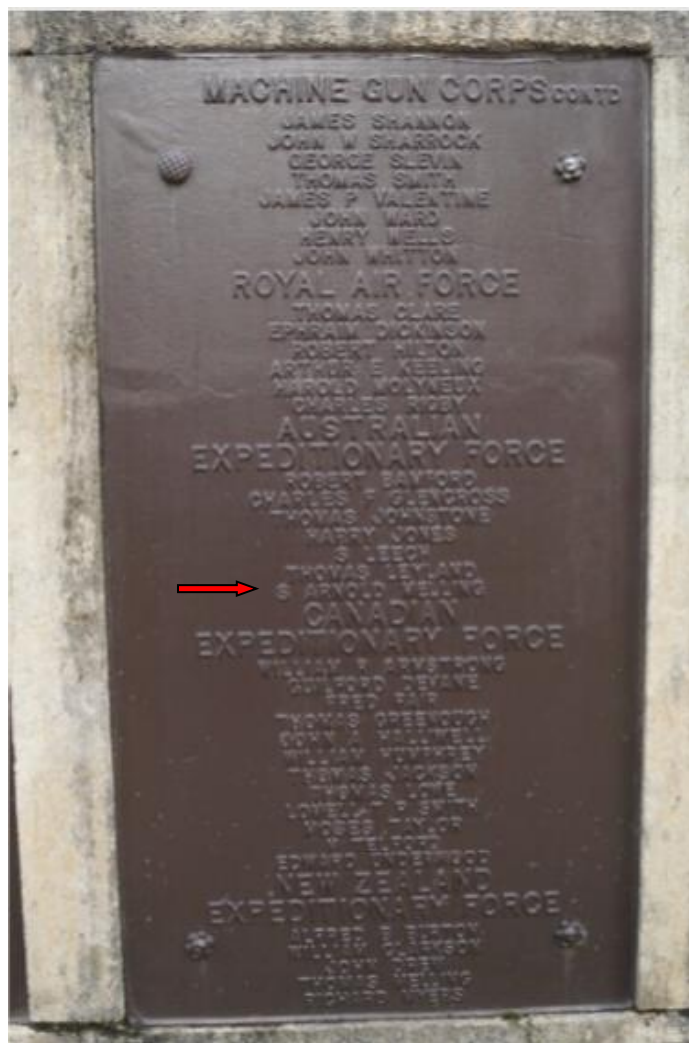
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



S. Arnold Melling is remembered on the Wigan War Memorial / Wigan Cross, located at All Saints Church, Wigan, Greater Manchester, England.



Wigan War Memorial (Photo above by Rept0n1x; Panel photo from IWM)



(39 pages of Lance Corporal Samuel Arnold Melling's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

BIG LIST OF ILL

152ND CASUALTY LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES
DIED OF ILLNESS

L-Cpl. A. MELLING, 1st Batt., England

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 14 March, 1916)

Wigan Cemetery, Lower Ince, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, England

Wigan Cemetery contains 191 Commonwealth War Graves – 108 from World War 1 & 83 from World War 2. Also known as Lower Ince Cemetery.



The former Wigan Cemetery Chapel, now Crematorium *(Photo by David Long)*

Photo of Lance Corporal Samuel Arnold Melling's Shared Private Headstone in Wigan Cemetery, Wigan, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)

In Loving Memory

of

SAMUEL ARNOLD

Lance Corporal Australian Imperial Forces

Third Son of SAMUEL MELLING

Died March 2ND 1916 Aged 24 Years

Samuel Arnold Melling shares his grave with his mother Margaret Ellen Melling, his father Samuel Melling & 7 other Melling family members.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Bob the Greenacre Cat)



(Photo from Find a Grave – Bob the Greenacre Cat)

