

**All Saints Churchyard Extension,  
Orpington, Kent, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3016 PRIVATE**

**C. H. BEARMAN**

**42ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**12TH FEBRUARY, 1918 Age 19**

*We Cannot Lord Thy Purpose*

*See*

*But All Is Well That's Done*

*By Thee*

## Charles Henry BEARMAN

Charles Henry Bearman was born at Sundridge, Kent, England to parents Edward Robert & Charlotte Bearman (nee Sutton). His birth was registered in March quarter, 1899 at Sevenoaks, Kent England.

The 1901 England Census recorded Charles Bearman as a 2 year old, living with his family at High Street – Victory Yard, Sundridge, Kent, England. His mother was listed as Charlotte Bearman (wife, aged 39, born Sevenoaks, Kent). Charles was the youngest of six children listed on this Census (all born Sevenoaks, Kent) – Rose Bearman (aged 13), Minnie Bearman (aged 10), Edward Bearman (aged 8), Nelly Bearman (aged 6), Sidney Bearman (aged 4) & Charles. Their father was not listed in this household in this Census.

A death was registered in March quarter, 1910 in the district of Sevenoaks, Kent, England for Edward R. Bearman, aged 50.

The 1911 England Census recorded Charles Bearman as an 11 year old, at school, living with his family at Otford, Kent, England in a 3 roomed dwelling. His widowed mother was listed as Charlotte Bearman (Charwoman, aged 47). Charles was one of four children listed on this Census – Sidney Bearman (Errand Boy (Grocery), aged 14, born \_\_\_\_, Kent), then Charles (born Sundridge, Kent), Ivy Bearman (At School, aged 7, born Sundridge, Kent) & Victor Bearman (At School, aged 6, born Sundridge, Kent).

Charles Henry Bearman attended Otford Council School, Kent, England.

According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour – Charles Bearman came to Australia when he was 15 years old. A “*Chas H. Bearman*”, aged 16, O.S. (Ordinary Seaman) was listed as crew on Star of England which had departed from the port of Melbourne to Sydney, NSW on 14th March, 1915.

Charles Henry Bearman was aged 19 years & 10 months, single, & a Labourer from Winton, Queensland when he enlisted at Charters Towers, Queensland on 4th December, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Charlotte Bearman, Chapel Cottage, Oxford, Kent, England. He stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 12 months in Navy (Training).

Private (Bugler) Charles Henry Bearman was posted to 11th Depot Battalion (O Company) on 12th December, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 7th Reinforcements of 42nd Battalion on 27th January, 1917.

Private Charles Henry Bearman, Service number 3016, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Wiltshire (A18)* on 7th February, 1917 with the 42nd Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 11th April, 1917. (Note: The Statement of Service form in the Service Record file for Private Charles Henry Bearman recorded “*Embarked at Melbourne per H.M.A.T. A 70 Ballarat on 19/2/17*” All other forms have he embarked on *Wiltshire*.)

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.

Private Charles Henry Bearman was marched in to A.I.F. Details at Fovant, Wiltshire, on 11th April, 1917 from H.M.A.T. *Wiltshire*. He was marched out to Durrington Camp – 11th Training Battalion, Wiltshire on 23rd April, 1917.

Private Charles Henry Bearman was written up for an Offence at Durrington – A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from noon on 23rd September, 1917 to midnight on 24th September, 1917. He was awarded 7 days confined to Barracks by Lieutenant Colonel Mansbridge & forfeited 2 days pay.

Private Charles Henry Bearman was marched in to 9th Training Battalion at Fovant from 11th Training Battalion (Casualty Form Active Service recorded “*11th Tng Batt Fovant*”) on 5th November, 1917

Private Charles Henry Bearman was sent sick to Fovant Hospital on 30th January, 1918 from 9th Training Battalion. He was admitted to Salisbury Isolation Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire the same day with C.S.F. – slight (Cerebro Spinal Fever).

## 42nd Battalion

The 42nd Battalion was raised at Enoggera, on the outskirts of Brisbane, in December 1915 and became part of the 11th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division. Due to sharing its numeric title with the famous Scottish regiment the Black Watch, the battalion became known as the "Australian Black Watch". This association was recognised with a bagpipe band.

After training in Australia and Britain, the 42nd deployed to France on 26 November 1916 and entered the frontline for the first time on 23 December. The winter of 1916-17 was horrendous, and the 42nd spent much of it in the front line, the remainder being spent alternating between training and labouring in the rear areas.....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Charles Henry Bearman died at 11.30 pm on 12th February, 1918 at Isolation Hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England from Cerebro Spinal Fever. (Note: The Hospital Admissions form notes recorded he "died 13.2.18." A Telegram was sent from Matron, Isolation Hospital, Salisbury at 11.40 am & was received at Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F., London at 12.35 pm on 13th February, 1918 which reads "3016 Pte Charles Henry Bearman 7/42 Battalion A.I.F. died at 11.30 last night from No. 5 mother informed.")

A death for Charles H. Bearman, aged 19, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

Private Charles Henry Bearman was buried at 12 noon on 16th February, 1918 in Orpington Churchyard, Orpington – Soldiers Corner (not numbered).

*From the burial report of Private Charles Henry Bearman - Coffin was good Polished Elm with brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack Flag. Several beautiful wreaths were placed on the coffin by the mother and sisters. Band, Firing Party, Buglers and Pallbearers were supplied by the Canadian Regt. stationed at Orpington. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside. The grave will be turfed immediately and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of relatives and friends present at the Funeral. Mother – Mrs Bearman, No. 1 Rothersay Villas, Orpington, Sisters – Misses Nellie & Ivy Bearman, Brother – Mr Victor Bearman, Step-brother – Alfred Syrett, 1 Rothersay Villas, Orpington. Sister – Mrs Bown, 2 Mayne House, Huntley St., London & Mrs Neale, 87 Veluka, Tonbridge.

Private Charles Henry Bearman's burial place is now recorded by CWGC as All Saints Churchyard Extension, Orpington, Kent, England – Plot number B. 11 and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Public Curator's Office, Brisbane, Queensland, wrote to Base Records on 17th July, 1918 requesting a Certificate of Death of 3016 Private Charles Henry Bearman, 42nd Battalion.

Base Records replied to The Public Curator on 24th July, 1918 enclosing "*herewith certificate of report of death of the late No. 3016 Private C. H. Bearman, 42nd Battalion.*"

Private Charles Henry Bearman was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Bearman's mother – Mrs C. Bearman, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Charles Henry Bearman – service number 3016, aged 19, of 42nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Edward & Charlotte Bearman, of Bank Hart Cottage, Orpington, Kent, England.

Private C. H. Bearman is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 135.



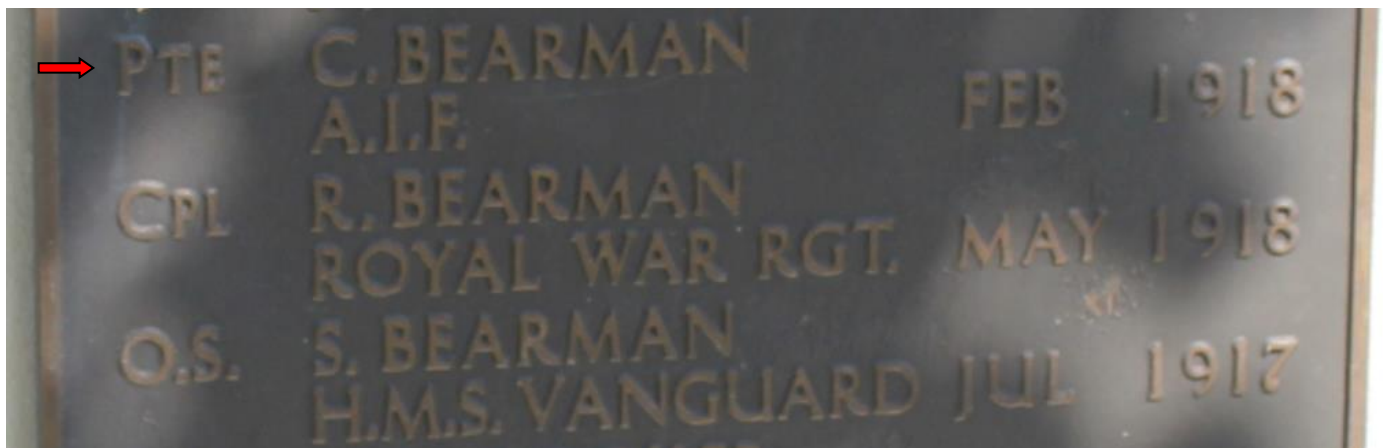
*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

C. Bearman is remembered on the War Memorial Cross, located on The Green, St. Bartholomew's Church, Otford, Kent, England.





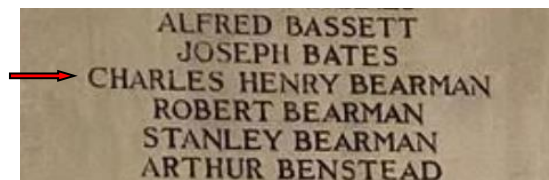
War Memorial Cross, Otford (Photos from War Memorials Online – David Larkin)



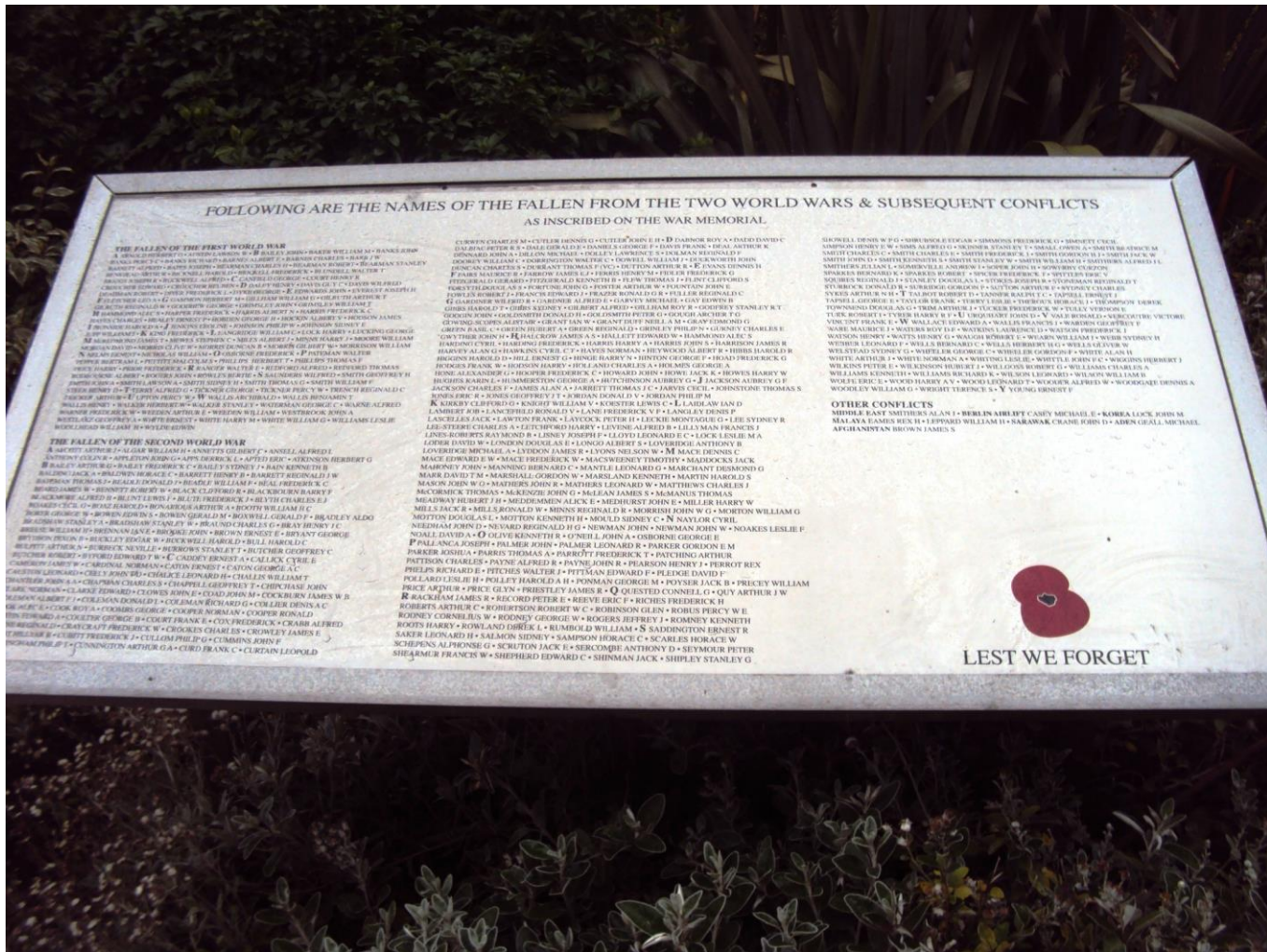
Charles Henry Bearman is remembered on the Orpington War Memorial, located at the junction of High Street, Station Road, Spur Road & Sevenoaks Road, Orpington, Kent, England.



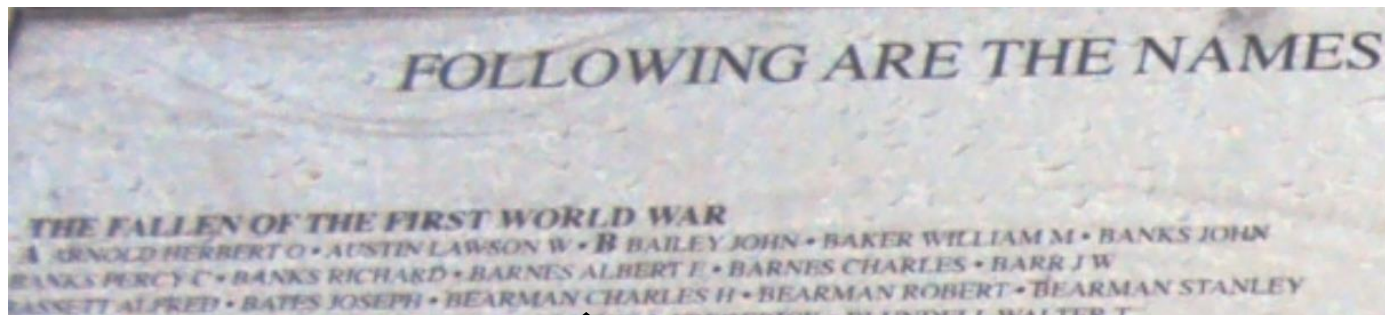
**Orpington War Memorial** (Photos from War Memorials Online)



Charles H. Bearman is also remembered on the road side board detailing the names on the Orpington War Memorial.



(Photo from War Memorials Online – Terry Giles)



(42 pages of Private Charles Henry Bearman'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

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Messrs J. F. Wilkinson, **C. H. Bearman**, M. N. Carrol, W. S. Field, G. S. Beckett of Winton, and W. H. Simpson, of Charters Towers, volunteered (and passed the medical test to-day (Monday))....

*(The Evening Telegraph, Charters Towers, Queensland – 4 December, 1916)*

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### **FAREWELL TO VOLUNTEERS**

The following volunteers:- Messrs H. Phillipson, J. B. Surgeon, O. H. Toll, G. S. Schafer, J. Collinson, S. J. Lewis, G. Moran and J. R. Diehm of Charters Towers, and Messrs J. F. Wilkinson, **C. H. Bearman**, M. N. Carrol, W. S. Field, G. S. Beckett of Winton, were farewelled at the railway station this (Tuesday) morning by His Worship the Mayor, in the presence of a large crowd, prior to their departure by the 7.40 a.m. train to catch the Canberra for Brisbane.

*(The Evening Telegraph, Charters Towers, Queensland – 5 December, 1916)*

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### **THE ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **CASUALTY LIST No. 384**

#### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

Chas. Henry Bearman, England, 12/2/18

*(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 26 February, 1918)*

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### 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. 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)*

Private C. H. Bearman has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone with the following inscription:

*We Cannot Lord Thy Purpose See  
But All Is Well That's Done By Thee*





Original cross marker for Private C. H. Bearman



## All Saints Churchyard Extension, Orpington, Kent, England

During the First World War, the Ontario Hospital was at Orpington from February 1916 to September 1917, when it became No 16 Canadian General Hospital. The hospital closed in September 1919. The hospital made a number of burials in a section of the extension to Orpington (All Saints) Churchyard, which was for many years known as Ontario Cemetery. This Extension contains 116 burials, 88 of which are Canadian. The extension as a whole contains 129 First World War burials and another 14 from the Second World War. The Commission also cares for 70 non-war service graves in the extension.

*(Information from CWGC)*



**All Saints Churchyard (left) & Extension (right), Orpington** *(Google Street view)*



**All Saints Churchyard Extension, Orpington** *(Photo from Find a Grave – Mark Hornsby)*



*(Photos from CWGC)*



Photo of Private C. H. Bearman's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in All Saints Churchyard Extension, Orpington, Kent, England.



(Photo – Find a Grave - PEH)