Haslar Royal Naval Cemetery, Gosport, Hampshire, England

War Graves

Lest We Forget

World War 1

BENJAMIN BURDEN

CHIEF WRITER ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

DIED

21ST NOV. 1915   AGED 46

Benjamin Frank BURDEN

Benjamin Frank Burden was born on 8th February, 1864 at Gosport, Hampshire, England to parents Benjamin Franklin Burden & Celia Burden (nee Boulter).

The 1871 England Census recorded Frank Burden as a 7 year old Scholar, living with his family at 51 William Street, Landport, Portsea, Hampshire, England. His parents were listed as Franklin Burden (Signalman Railway, aged 30, born Portsea, Hants) & Cealia Burden (aged 29, born Portsmouth, Hants).Frank was one of five children listed on this Census, all born Southsea, Hants – Martha Burden (Scholar, aged 13), Rosena Burden (Scholar, aged 9), then Frank, Caroline Burden (Scholar, aged 5) then Ernest Burden (aged 3).

The 1881 England Census recorded Benjamin Burden as a 17 year old Railway Parcels Clerk, living with his family at 10 Cumberland Road, Landport, Portsea, Hampshire, England. His parents were listed as Frank Burden (Railway Signalman, aged 39) & Ceclia Burden (aged 39). Benjamin was the eldest of four children listed on this Census (all listed as being born at Portsea, Hants) – Benjamin then Ernest (aged 13), John (aged 4) & Richard (aged 9 months).

Benjamin Frank Burden joined the Royal Navy on 7th May, 1885 for a period of 12 years. He was given a service number of 133076 (Portsmouth). His previous occupation was listed as Clerk & he was 5ft 4 in with brown hair, blue eyes & a fresh complexion.

Benjamin Frank Burden was posted to H.M.S. *Duke of Wellington* as Writer 3 on 7th May, 1885 then transferred to H.M.S*. Bacchante* on 18th May, 1885. 3rd Writer Benjamin Frank Burden was transferred to H.M.S. *Briton* on 5th July, 1885 then transferred back to H.M.S. *Duke of Wellington* on 15th July, 1887. He was transferred to H.M.S. *Vernon* on 2nd November, 1887.

Benjamin Frank Burden married Charlotte Elizabeth Maitland in 1888 at Portsea Island, Hampshire, England.

Cecilia Elizabeth Burden's birth, daughter of Benjamin & Charlotte Burden, was registered in September quarter, 1888.

Benjamin Franklin Burden's birth, son of Benjamin & Charlotte Burden, was registered in March quarter, 1890 at Portsea Island, Hampshire.

3rd Writer Benjamin Frank Burden was promoted to 2nd Writer on 6th May, 1890 while still on H.M.S. *Vernon.*

The 1891 England Census recorded Benjamin's wife – Charlotte E. Burden (Head of the household, aged 28) living at 49 Telephone Road, Landport, Portsea, Hampshire, England. Two of Charlotte's children were also listed – Benjamin F. Burden (age 1) & Cecilia Burden (aged 2). Also listed was Jane Maitland (*listed as* Mother-in-law, married, aged 48) & George Joiner, who was listed as a Lodger (Writer, Royal Navy, aged 25).

2nd Writer Burden was transferred to H.M.S. *Camperdown* on 17th November, 1892 then promoted to Chief Writer on 5th May, 1895 still with H.M.S. *Camperdown.*

Lily Gertrude Burden's birth, daughter of Benjamin & Charlotte Burden, was registered in September quarter, 1893. A death was reported in the Births, Deaths & Marriages for Lily Gertrude Burden, on 17th November, 1893, daughter of Frank & Charlotte Burden, aged 6 months.

Chief Writer Burden was transferred to H.M.S. *Grafton* on 1st October, 1895 then to H.M.S. *Victory I* on 21st October, 1895.

Benjamin Franklin Burden, father of Benjamin Frank Burden, died in 1896

May Victoria Burden's birth, daughter of Benjamin & Charlotte Burden, was registered in June quarter, 1897 at Portsea Island, Hampshire.

John Burden's birth, son of Benjamin & Charlotte Burden, was registered in June quarter, 1899 at Portsea Island, Hampshire.

Chief Writer Benjamin Frank Burden was transferred to H.M.S. *Marathon* on 4th February, 1899.

The 1901 England Census recorded Benjamin F. Burden as a 34 year old, married, Chief Writer on board of H.M.S. *Marathon*, Royal Navy which was at Trincomalee, East Indies on the night of Sunday 31st March, 1901. The 1901 England Census recorded Benjamin's wife & children boarding with Jane Maitland (Widow, retired dressmaker, aged 58) at 4 Orchard Road, Kingston and East Southsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England. Charlotte E. Burden was listed as living on own means (aged 39) & her four children – Cecilliar E. Burden (aged 12), Frank B. Burden (aged 11), May V. Burden (aged 3) & John Burden (aged 2).

Chief Writer Benjamin Frank Burden was transferred back to H.M.S. *Duke of Wellington* on 24th December, 1901 then transferred to H.M.S. *Excellent* on 20th February, 1902. He was transferred again on 7th January, 1904 to H.M.S. *Clyde*. Chief Writer Burden was transferred to H.M.S. *Cormorant* on 1st July, 1907 then transferred to H.M.S. *Victory I* on 1st June, 1909. He was transferred to H.M.S. *Excellent* on 18th November, 1910.

The 1911 England Census recorded Benjamin F. Burden as a 47 year old, married, Chief Writer with Royal Navy, living with his family at 26 North End Grove, North End, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England. His wife was listed as Charlotte E. Burden (aged 49, born in parish of Portsea, Hants.) Benjamin & Charlotte had been married for 23 years & had 8 children, 4 having since died. Three children were listed on this Census – Frank B. Burden (Clerk, aged 21, born Portsea, Hants.), May V. Burden (At School, aged 13, born Portsea, Hants.) & John Burden (At School, aged 11, born Portsea, Hants.).

Chief Writer Benjamin Frank Burden was transferred to H.M.S. *Victory* on 14th June, 1913 then to the London Depot on 22nd August, 1913.

Benjamin Frank Burden joined the Royal Australian Navy as Chief Writer on 22nd August, 1913 for a period of 5 years. He was given a service number with the Royal Australian Navy of 8251. At the time he was 5ft 4 inches with grey hair, blue eyes & a fresh complexion. Chief Writer Benjamin Frank Burden was transferred from the London Depot to H.M.A.S. *Australia* on 12th September, 1913 to 30th November, 1913 when he was transferred to H.M.A.S. *Cerberus* on 1st December, 1913. He was transferred to London Depot from 17th July, 1915. The following is in the remarks column of Chief Writer Benjamin Frank Burden's Service Record card: "Approved to be discharged. "Invalided" from day following that of his arrival in Eng."

Chief Petty Officer Writer Benjamin Frank Burden died on 21st November, 1915 at The Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar, Hampshire, England from "scloris of cord" (?).

A death for Benjamin F. Burden, aged 51, was registered in the December quarter, 1915 in the district of Alverstoke, Hampshire, England.

Chief Writer Benjamin Frank Burden was buried on 25th November, 1915 in Haslar Royal Naval Cemetery, Gosport, Hampshire, England – Plot number E. 24. 3. and has an "Admiralty Cross" headstone, provided by the Admiralty. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Probate details:

Benjamin Frank Burden, of 5 Munster Road, North End, Portsmouth, Chief Writer, Royal Australian Navy, died 21st November, 1915 at The Naval Hospital Haslar, Hampshire. Administration Winchester 23rd June to Charlotte Elizabeth Burden, widow. Effects £232 7s. 10d.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Chief Writer Benjamin Frank Burden – service number 8251, aged 51, of H.M.A. London Depot, Royal Australian Navy. He was the husband of Charlotte Elizabeth Burden, of 5 Munster Road, North End, Portsmouth.

Chief Petty Officer Writer B. F. Burden is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 1.

Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(2 pages of Chief Writer Benjamin Frank Burden'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) & National Archives

Newspaper Notices

DEATHS

BURDEN – On the 21st Nov., at Haslar Hospital, Benjamin Frank, the beloved husband of Charlotte Burden, of 5, Munster-road. Late Chief Writer, R.N., and Australian Navy. Funeral at Haslar Cemetery Thursday 2.15. At rest.

(*Portsmouth Evening News*, Hampshire, England – 23 November, 1915 & 24 November, 1915)

Haslar Royal Naval Cemetery, Gosport, Hampshire, England

During both wars, Gosport was a significant sea port and Naval depot, with many government factories and installations based there, as well as the Haslar Naval Hospital. No 5 Squadron Royal Flying Corps were based at Gosport just before the outbreak of the First World War and during the Second World War the town acted as base to No 17 Group Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy Light Coastal Forces.

Haslar Royal Naval Cemetery, which was attached to the Naval Hospital of 2,000 beds, contains 772 First World War graves, 2 of which are unidentified. Most are scattered throughout the cemetery, but the 42 officers and men of HM Submarine "L.55" whose bodies were brought back from the Baltic in 1928 lie together in a collective grave and their names appear on a Screen Wall Memorial.

The Second World War graves number 611, 36 of them unidentified. A number of the graves are scattered throughout the cemetery, but the majority lie together in one or other or five groups, the largest of which contains more than 350 burials, the smallest 25.

There are also 10 Foreign National war burials and 9 non world war service burials here. There are 5 War Graves relating to Australia – 2 from World War 1 & 3 from World War 2.

Haslar Royal Naval Cemetery has many graves which are marked by 'Admiralty Crosses' as they are known. These are headstones provided by the Admiralty after the war. The Admiralty was the authority responsible for the command of the Royal Navy until 1964. The photo below shows the standard Portland stone Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstones on the left & the 'Admiralty Crosses" on the right.

(Information & photo below from CWGC)

Photo of Chief Writer Benjamin Burden's Admiralty Cross in Haslar Royal Naval Cemetery, Gosport, Hampshire, England.

(Photos courtesy of Peter Bennett Private Collection)

HASLAR ROYAL NAVAL CEMETERY