

**Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery,
East Sussex, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3434 PRIVATE

C. CALVO

16TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

22ND DECEMBER, 1920

Charles CALVO

Charles Calvo was born at 7 Hereford Street, Brighton, Sussex, England on 25th November, 1877 to parents William Henry & Elizabeth Calvo (nee York). His birth was registered in the March quarter, 1878 in the district of Brighton, Sussex, England.

The 1881 England Census recorded Charles Calvo as a 3 year old living with his family at 7 Hereford Street, Kemp Town, Brighton, Sussex, England. His parents were listed as William Calvo (Greenwich Pensioner, aged 48, born Portsmouth, Hampshire) & Elizabeth Calvo (aged 41, born Portsmouth, Hampshire). Charles was one of six children listed on this Census (all born Brighton, Sussex) – Elizabeth Calvo (Scholar, aged 12), John Calvo (Scholar, aged 10), Louis Calvo (Scholar, aged 8), Mary Ann Calvo (Scholar, aged 5) then Charles & George Calvo (aged 4 months).

The 1891 England Census recorded Charles Calvo as a 13 year old Toll Boy at West Pier, living with his family at 29 Southover Street, Brighton, Sussex, England. His parents were listed as William Calvo (Naval Pensioner, aged 59) & Elizabeth Calvo (aged 50). Charles was one of six children listed on this Census – Emma Calvo (Domestic Servant, aged 24), John Calvo (Boot Repairer, aged 20), Louis Calvo (Plate Canal (?) Maker, aged 18), Mary Calvo (Domestic Servant, aged 15) then Charles & George Calvo (Scholar, aged 10). Also listed was Ellen Calvo – granddaughter of William & Elizabeth Calvo (aged 7 months).

Charles Calvo signed on with the Royal Navy on 25th September, 1896 for a period of 12 years. He stated his date of birth was 25th September, 1878 & he was employed as a Hotel Porter. Boy 2nd Class Calvo was issued with a number of 189839 (Portsmouth) & served on *Northampton* from 8th May, 1898. He served on several vessels & was promoted up through the ratings until he was an Able Seaman. His last vessel he served on was *Prince George* which he left on 26th June, 1900 & was marked as "Run" (or deserter).

Charles Calvo married Emma Ellen Bowles in 1899 in England. Their marriage was registered in the December quarter, 1899 in the district of Brighton, Sussex, England.

The 1901 England Census listed Charles Calvo as a 22 year old, married, Able Seaman as a member of the crew of H.M.S. *Prince George* which was a 1st Class Battleship of the Royal Navy & part of the Channel Squadron. H.M.S. *Prince George* was positioned at Gibraltar Bay on Sunday, 31st March, 1901 – the night of the 1901 Census.

The 1911 England Census listed Charles Calvo as a 32 year old, married, Labourer living at 30 Blakely Buildings, East Greenwich, London, England in a 3 roomed dwelling with his wife & children. Emma Ellen Calvo (Ironer, aged 32) had been married to Charles Calvo for 12 years & they had five children. Their five children were listed as – Alice Ellen Calvo (At School, aged 10, born Brighton, Sussex), Charles Calvo (At School, aged 9, born Greenwich, Kent), Violet Nellie Calvo (At School, aged 5, born Greenwich, Kent), Thomas Henry Calvo (aged 2, born Greenwich, Kent) & George William Calvo (aged 1, born Greenwich, Kent). Also listed with the family was James Bowles - brother-in-law of Charles Calvo (Lobby Boy, aged 16, born Brighton, Sussex).

Charles Calvo, Farm Hand, aged 34, was a passenger on the *Zealandic* which had departed from the port of Liverpool, England on 4th October, 1913 & arrived at the port of Fremantle, Western Australia on 8th November, 1913.

The Greenwich Workhouse, Woolwich Road, England recorded Thomas Calvo, aged 5, being admitted to the Workhouse on 20th December, 1913 & was discharged from the Workhouse on 22nd December, 1913 as he was destitute & was being transferred to the Infirmary. Charles Calvo, aged 12, was also listed at the same Workhouse & had been admitted on 23rd December, 1913 – destitute. He was transferred to Sidcup.

[Note: The four Calvo children – Charles, Nellie, Thomas & George – from 30 Blakely Buildings were all admitted to the Greenwich Workhouse on 26th July, 1917.]

Charles Calvo was a 36 year old, married, Farm Hand when he enlisted at Perth, Western Australia on 9th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3434 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs E. E. Calvo, 31 Cobden Road, London North, England.

Private Charles Calvo was posted to 21st Depot Battalion on 9th August, 1915 for recruit training. He was posted to 1st Depot Battalion on 23rd August, 1915 then transferred on 27th September, 1915 to 11th Reinforcements of 16th Battalion.

Private Charles Calvo embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Benalla* (A24) on 1st November, 1915 with the 16th Infantry Battalion, 11th Reinforcements.

Private Charles Calvo was taken on strength of 16th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 7th March, 1916.

Private Charles Calvo was admitted to 4th Field Ambulance on 25th March, 1916 with Lumago. He was transferred & admitted to No. 2 Australian Stationary Hospital on 25th March, 1916 & discharged from Hospital at Tel-el-Kebir on 28th March, 1916. Private Calvo rejoined his Unit on 31st March, 1916 at Serapeum.

Private Charles Calvo proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 1st June, 1916. He disembarked at Marseilles, France in 9th June, 1916.

Private Charles Calvo was sent sick to Hospital on 9th October, 1917. He was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance on 9th October, 1917 with a Septic Foot then transferred & admitted to 11th General Hospital at Camiers, France on 10th October, 1917. Private Calvo was transferred to 6th Convalescent Depot on 21st October, 1917. He was admitted to No. 6 Convalescent Depot at Etaples on 21st October, 1917 with I.C.T. (Inflammation of connective tissues) Knee & left foot. Private Calvo was transferred on 22nd October, 1917 & admitted on 23rd October, 1917 to 13th Convalescent Depot at Trouville, France. He was transferred to Base Depot on 6th December, 1917 & marched in to 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France the same day. Private Calvo was marched out to his Unit from 4th A.D.B.D. on 15th December, 1917 & rejoined 16th Battalion on 16th December, 1917.

Private Charles Calvo was on leave from 12th March, 1918.

Private Charles Calvo was illegally absent in France from 29th March, 1918.

16th Battalion

The 16th Battalion AIF was raised from 16 September 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. Three-quarters of the battalion were recruited in Western Australia, and the rest in South Australia. With the 13th, 14th and 15th Battalions it formed the 4th Brigade commanded by Colonel John Monash....

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. While there the AIF expanded and was reorganised. The 16th Battalion was split and provided experienced soldiers for the 48th Battalion. The 4th Brigade was combined with the 12th and 13th Brigades to form the 4th Australian Division.

In June 1916 they sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918, the battalion took part in bloody trench warfare. Its first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley, where Private Martin O'Meara won the battalion's first Victoria Cross. The battalion spent much of 1917 in Belgium advancing to the Hindenburg Line. The battalion, along with most of the 4th Brigade, suffered heavy losses at Bullecourt in April, when the brigade attacked strong German positions without the promised tank support. In March and April 1918, the battalion helped to stop the German Spring offensive.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Charles Calvo was declared by a Court of Inquiry held on 2nd June, 1918 to be an illegal absentee. He had illegally absented himself on 29th March, 1918 by overstaying Leave to UK & was still absent on 7th June, 1918.

Private Charles Calvo was "to undergo stoppages of pay under Section 119 of Defence Act for period of absence 29.3.18 to 1.4.20. "

Illegal Absentee Private Charles Calvo completed a form stating he had first reported back on 27th April, 1920 at Australian Imperial Force Headquarters, Horseferry Road, London. The reason for his absence "Wife deserting, neglect of home & children, & leading a deplorable life with other men and giving me no heart to rejoin my Unit." He

stated he wanted a discharge in the UK for the following reasons *"I have constant work and I feel secure in supporting my children and I feel that in returning to Australia I shall be punished causing severe suffering to my children"*. He did not desire to return to Australia & stated on the form he was married with 6 children. He did not know his wife's address as she was living with another man. Charles Calvo had received instructions to report to Record Office at Horseferry Road, London on 12th May, 1920. He signed stating that the *"foregoing particulars are correct and authorize deduction from my pay account for the periods of illegal absence."* George Calvo witnessed.

Illegal Absentee Private Charles Calvo, "C" Company, 16th Battalion, wrote to Administrative Headquarters, Australian Imperial Force on 30th August, 1920 which reads: *"I am very sorry I am unable to report myself personally owing to my low rate of pay hoping there is no offence in me writing this letter. Having wrote to Horseferry Rd and having explained my case they replied stating my contents were being carried forward. Having had serious trouble with my wife in Western Australia, Egypt also whilst in France. Having received my second leave from France and returning to my home I saw a pitiful sight my wife had left me with four little children and practically no home and not even a bed to lay on and it fairly broke me up so I knocked my head together and looked for a job which I got on Government Works I had to do something to support those four little ones which their wicked mother had left. I have been sorry for what I have done since I should have returned to my Unit had it not been for my wife deserting those four little ones and I am pleased to say that was the only crime against me whilst serving in the Australian Imperial Force. Officers, also N.C.O and Men of C. Coy knew what trouble I had whilst serving in W.A. Egypt also France. I am sorry if I am writing to you to any trouble but having seen the advert in the Daily Express I thought there was no harm in me writing a few lines to your Air. I am sending the reply I received from Horseferry Rd. I should like to get some sort of a discharge so as to show I did a little in the Australian Imperial Forces. My present occupation Gravedigger at the rate of pay £2.7.6. per week and I cannot afford to report myself personally otherwise I would do so. Whilst serving in France I received a prize presented to me by Brigadier General Brawd for looking after and keeping clean the ___cooker in France, My present Address Mr C. Calvo c/o Mrs Raynford 29 Southampton St Brighton Sussex."*

A Court of Enquiry was held to investigate on Illegal Absentee Private Charles Calvo. It was recommended on 13th October, 1920 that he be discharged as of 12th April, 1918 & not be made available for repatriation to Australia.

Charles Calvo, c/o Mrs Raynsford, 29 Southampton Street, Brighton, Sussex, wrote to Administrative Headquarters, Australian Imperial Force on 22nd October, 1920 asking for his discharge papers. He also asked if he was entitled to wear any decorations/ribbons. A reply was sent on 18th November, 1920 along with a Certificate of Discharge which was dated 6th May, 1918

Ex-Private Charles Calvo died on 22nd December, 1920 at The Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, Sussex, England from *"Misadventure whilst under the influence of an Anaesthetic properly administered for the purpose of performing a necessary surgical operation."*

A death for Charles Calvo, aged 42, was registered in the December quarter, 1920 in the district of Brighton, Sussex, England. The Death Certificate recorded Charles Calvo, Grave Digger, aged 42 years, of 29 Southampton Street, Brighton.

Ex-Private Charles Calvo was buried in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England – Plot number ZGW.107 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Charles Calvo would have been entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal but these were automatically forfeited when he was declared illegally absent.

The Australian Staff Corps wrote to Base Records on 7th July, 1924 stating that the widow of the late Private C. Calvo, 3434, 16th Battalion had applied for her late husband's war service medals. The letter went on to so *"As this soldier was an illegal absentee, I should be glad if you would advise me of the ruling of the Standing Medals Board in his case in order that I may inform his widow accordingly. She is now remarried and her name and address is Mrs E. Waller, 12 Ship Street, Canning town."* Base Records replied on 14th August, 1924 that ex-Private C. Calvo automatically forfeited all rights to the award of war medals on account of his illegal absence from 29th March, 1918.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private C. Calvo – service number 3434, of 16th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private C. Calvos is not commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia as he was not serving as a member of the Australian Imperial Force at the time of his death, having been discharged on 6th May, 1918.

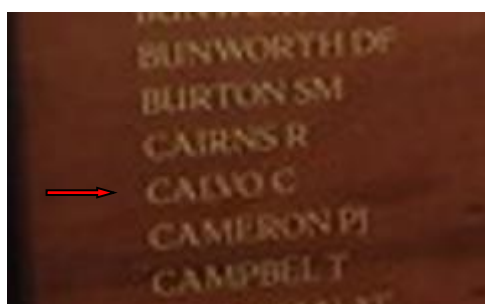


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. Calvo is remembered on the Shire of Kulin Combined Services Honour Board, located in Kulin Memorial Hall, Gordon & Johnston Streets, Kulin, Western Australia.



Shire of Kulin Combined Services Honour Board (Photo from VWMA – Leanne Phillips)



C. Calvo is remembered on Wickepin District Roll of Honour for World War 1, located on Johnston Street, Wickepin, Western Australia.



Wickepin District Roll of Honour for World War 1

(Photo from VWMA – Stefie Green, Customer Service Officer, Shire of Wickepin)

C. Calvo is remembered on the Wickepin District Roll of Honour, located in Wickepin Shire Hall, Johnston, Street, Wickepin, Western Australia.

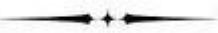


Wickepin District Roll of Honour

(Photo from VWMA – Stefie Green, Customer Service Officer, Shire of Wickepin)

(43 pages of Private Charles Calvo'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



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. Calvo does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England

The cemetery is on the Lewes road. It was opened in 1857, and now covers 44 acres. It climbs the hill Eastward, crossing a public road. A War Cross stands in the cemetery.

There are 275 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and a further 102 of the 1939-1945 war commemorated in this site. The 1939-45 commemorations include 3 unidentified Merchant seamen and 1 unidentified British soldier. There are also 40 Foreign National war burials here and 4 non-war service burials.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photos by julia&keld – Find a Grave)





(Photos from CWGC)

Photo of Private C. Calvo's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England.



(Photo By Terry Denham)