

**Ocklynge Cemetery,
Eastbourne, East Sussex War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2026 PRIVATE

C. E. EMBLEN

32ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

2ND OCTOBER, 1916 Age 23

*In Memory Of
The Loved Son Of
Mr & Mrs Emblen
Of Adelaide*

Charles Edward EMBLEN

Charles Edward Emblen was born at Sydenham, Kent, England to parents Edward Charles & Alice Emblen (nee Palmer). His birth was registered as Edward Charles Emblen in the March quarter, 1893 in the district of Lewisham, London, England.

The 1901 England Census listed Charles Emblen as an 8 year old living with his family at 34 West Terrace, Failawn Park, Sydenham, Lewisham, London in a 3 roomed dwelling. His parents were listed as Edward C. Emblen (General Labourer, aged 30, born Sydenham, London) & Alice Emblen (aged 30, born Norwood, London). Charles was one of three children listed on this Census – Alice (aged 9, born Beckenham, Kent), then Charles (born Sydenham, London) & Annie (aged 6, born Sydenham, London).

The 1911 England Census listed Edward Charles Emblen as an 18 year old Painter's Labourer living with his family in a 5 roomed dwelling at 27 Kent House Rd, Sydenham, Kent. His parents were listed as Edward Charles Emblen (General Labourer, aged 40) & Alice Emblen (aged 40) Charles' parents had been married for 21 years & had 7 children, with one child deceased. Charles was one of five children listed on this Census – Alice (Dressmaking, aged 19) then Charles, Frank (aged 9, born Sydenham, Kent), Fred (aged 4, born Sydenham, Kent) & Kathleen (aged 2, born Sydenham, Kent).

Chas. E. Emblen, Painter, aged 19 & his family – Edward Emblen (Bricklayer, aged 41), Alice (aged 41), Mary (aged 17), Frank (aged 10), Fred (aged 5) & Kathleen (aged 3) were passengers on the *Irishman* which departed from Liverpool, England on 13th September, 1912 bound for Adelaide & Sydney, Australia.

Charles Edward Emblen was a 23 year old, single, Builder's Labourer from Norwood, South Australia when he enlisted at Adelaide, South Australia on 25th October, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2026 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Alice Emblen of 110 Magill Road, Norwood, South Australia.

Private Charles Edward Emblen embarked from Adelaide on HMAT *Miltiades (A28)* on 7th February, 1916 with 8th Infantry Brigade, 32nd Infantry Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements & disembarked at Suez on 11th March, 1916.

Private Charles Emblen proceeded to join 32nd Battalion from Zeitoun on 1st April, 1916 & was taken on strength with 32nd Battalion at Duntroon Plateau on the same day.

Private Charles Emblen embarked from Alexandria on *Transylvania* 17th June, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 23rd June, 1916.

Private Charles Edward Emblen was wounded in action in France on 20th July, 1916. He was taken to 1st Casualty Clearing Station with a gunshot wound to foot then admitted to 8th Stationary Hospital at Wimereaux on 20th July, 1916. Private Emblen was transferred to No. 1 Ambulance Train then embarked from Boulogne on Hospital Ship *St. Denis* for England on 21st July, 1916.

Private Charles Edward Emblen was admitted to Leaf Military Hospital, Eastbourne on 21st July, 1916 with a gunshot wound to foot (slight).

Private Charles Edward Emblen died on 2nd October, 1916 at Leaf Military Hospital, Eastbourne, East Sussex, England from Appendicitis & Pylephlebitis

A death for Charles E. Emblen, aged 23, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Eastbourne, East Sussex.

Private Charles Edward Emblen was buried on 5th October, 1916 in Ocklynge Cemetery, Eastbourne, East Sussex, England and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A War Pension was granted to Alice Emblen, mother of late Private Charles Edward Emblen, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 2nd December, 1916.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Charles Edward Emblen – service number 2026, aged 23, of 32nd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Edward Charles and Alice Emblen, of 19 Frederick St., Mayland, South Australia. Born in Kent, England.

A letter was sent from Base Records to Mrs A. Emblen, dated 17th April, 1920, advising that the remains of her son, the late No. 2026 Private C. E. Emblen, had been exhumed from the original site where he was buried (Section Z. Grave No. 558) in Ocklynge Cemetery, Eastbourne & re-interred in Grave No. 1437, Section “Y”, Ocklynge Cemetery, Eastbourne. Mrs A. Emblen was advised in the letter “*This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain.*”

A letter was written to Mrs A. Emblen, 19 Frederick Street, Maylands, South Australia, from Base Records, dated 9th November, 1921 stating that their records show that she was listed as the next-of-kin. However, under the “Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918” War Medals were to be given to the closest next-of-kin with the father being given priority over the mother. Base Records were enquiring if Edward Charles Emblen was still alive.

Private Charles Edward Emblen was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Emblen’s father – Mr E. C. Emblen, as the closest next-of-kin (Scroll sent December, 1921 & Plaque sent January, 1923).

Private C. E. Emblen is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 120.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. E. Emblen is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

C. E. Emblen is also remembered on the Norwood War Memorial located on Osmond Terrace near The Parade, Norwood, South Australia.



Norwood War Memorial



(52 pages of Private Charles Edward Emblen'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

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

WOUNDED

Private C. E. Emblen

(Port Pirie and North Western Mail, Sth Australia – 15 August, 1916)

235th CASUALTY LIST

Died of Sickness

2026, Pte C. E. EMBLEN, norwood (died Oct. 2), p.r. wounded and ser. sick

(The Express and Telegraph, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 16 October, 1916)

THE LATE PRIVATE C. EMBLEN

Mr and Mrs E. Emblen, of Magill-road, have received news of the death if their son, Private Charles Emblen, who died of illness following wounds, in England on October 2. He was well known and will be mourned by a large circle of friends, by whom he was highly respected.



Private C. E. Emblen

(Chronicle, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 28 October, 1916)

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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 9th July, 1921, to Mrs A. Emblen of 110 Magill Road, Norwood, Sth Australia, advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of the late Pte C. E. Emblen in Ocklynge Cemetery had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private C. E. Emblen does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Memory Of The Loved Son Of Mr & Mrs Emblen Of Adelaide

Ocklynge Cemetery, Eastbourne, Sussex

Ocklynge Cemetery, Eastbourne, Sussex contains 175 War Graves. There are 129 War Graves from World War 1 & 44 War Graves from World War 2. There is also 1 Belgian & 1 Brazilian Foreign National burials from World War 1. A Cross of Sacrifice stands near the Chapel, facing the main entrance.

During World War 1, Eastbourne contained a very large Military Convalescent Hospital, originally called Eastbourne Military Hospital, which opened in April, 1915. From January, 1917 to October, 1919 it became No. 14 Canadian General Hospital.



Cross of Sacrifice at Ocklynge Cemetery, Eastbourne, Sussex *(Photos from CWGC)*

Photo of Private C. E. Emblen's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Ocklynge Cemetery, Eastbourne, Sussex, England.



(Photo courtesy of Roberto Lagnado)



The four Australian Soldiers together

(L to R): Pte T. R. H. Miles, 46th Battalion (died 16 May, 1917); Pte H. C. Gee, 33rd Battalion (died 21 June, 1917); Pte J. S. Williams, 29th Battalion (died 25 January, 1918); **Pte C. E. Emblen, 32nd Battalion (died 2 October, 1916).**