

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2381 PRIVATE

CHARLES F. GLENCROSS

13TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

6TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 40

Charles Frederick GLENCROSS

Charles Frederick Glencross was born at Wigan, Lancashire, England on 5th January, 1878 to parents Elias Holland Glencross and Margaret Anne Glencross (nee Hodson). He was baptised on 31st March, 1878 at All Saints Church, Wigan, Lancashire, England. The family lived at Hope Street & Elias Glencross was listed as a Draper.

The 1881 England Census recorded Charles Glencross as a 2 year old living with his family at 11 Hope Street, Wigan, Lancashire, England. His parents were listed as Elias Glencross (Silk & Woollen Dyer, aged 38, born Wigan, Lancs) & Margaret Glencross (aged 30, born Leigh, Lancs). Charles was the youngest of four children listed on this Census (all born at Wigan, Lancashire) – Annie Glencross (Scholar, aged 9), William Glencross (Scholar, aged 7), Arthur Glencross (Scholar, aged 5) then Charles.

The 1891 England Census recorded Charles Glencross as a 13 year old Scholar living with his family at 39 Millgate, Wigan, Lancashire, England. His parents were listed as Elias Glencross (Draper, aged 49) & Margaret Glencross (aged 35). Charles was one of five children listed on this Census - Annie Glencross (Draper's Assistant, aged 19), William Glencross (Brewer's Clerk, aged 17), Arthur Glencross (Draper's Apprentice, aged 15) then Charles & Margaret Glencross (Scholar, aged 7, born Wigan, Lancs). Also listed was a Servant – Margaret Wroughton (Cook, aged 59).

Charles Frederick Glencross attended Wigan Grammar School & Manchester University.

Charles Glencross, aged 20, was a member of the General Union of Carpenters and Joiners' Society for 1898 – admitted 18th June, 1898.

Charles Glencross, aged 20, was a member of the General Union of Carpenters and Joiners' Society for 1899 – Wigan Branch.

The 1901 England Census recorded Charles Glencross as a 23 year old, Joiner & Builder, living with his family at 39 Millgate, Wigan, Lancashire, England. His mother was listed as Margaret Glencross (married, aged 49), His father was not listed at the address with the family. Three children were listed on this Census – Annie Glencross (Foremistress Blouse Maker, aged 29), Arthur Glencross (Shipping Clerk in Clothing Factory, aged 25) & Charles. Also listed was John Doran, a Boarder (Grocer's Assistant, aged 30, Widower).

Charles Glencross, aged 24, was a member of the General Union of Carpenters and Joiners' Society for 1902 (Wigan Branch) – admitted 6th October, 1902.

Charles Glencross, Joiner, aged 30, was listed as a passenger on *Drayton Grange* which had departed from Liverpool, England on 3rd March, 1906 & was bound for Las Palmas, Australia & New Zealand. Charles Glencross had contracted to land at Wellington, New Zealand.

The 1911 New Zealand Electoral Roll for the district of Tauranga, region of Bay of Plenty listed Charles Frederick Glencross, Carpenter, of Morrinsville.

[According to information supplied for the Roll of Honour by his sister - Charles Frederick Glencross came to Australia when he was around 25 years.]

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Redfern, NSW listed Charles Glencross, Joiner, of 149 George Street.

C. F. Glencross, aged 36, was a member of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters & Joiners for 1914 – Sydney, NSW Branch, Australia.

Charles Fredrick Glencross was a 37 year old, single, Carpenter from 58 Epsom Road, Waterloo, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 8th June, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2381 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Mrs A. Parson, of Tewksbury Avenue, Manchester, England.

Private Charles Glencross embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Shropshire (A9)* on 20th August, 1915 with the 13th Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements.

Private Charles Glencross joined the 13th Battalion at Mudros on 23rd October, 1915.

Private Charles Glencross was absent from Parade without leave from 19.00 hrs on 2nd January, 1916 till 17.00 hrs on 6th January, 1916 while posted at Ismailia. He was awarded 7 days Field Punishment No. 2 & forfeited 4 days' pay.

Private Charles Glencross proceeded to join the B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 1st June, 1916 on *Transylvania* & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 8th June, 1916.

Private Charles Glencross was wounded in action in France on 15th August, 1916. He was admitted to 26th General Hospital at Etaples, France on 16th August, 1916 with gunshot wounds to hand. Private Glencross embarked from England on Hospital Ship *Brighton* from Calais on 21st August, 1916.

War Diary – 13th Battalion

15th August, 1916 – POZIERES

12.45 am - Heavily counter-attacked front & flanks & compelled to retire onto original position. We bought in all our wounded from enemy trenches.

5 am – Relief by 51st Bn. commenced. We moved to WIRE TRENCH in small parties.

WIRE-TRENCH – 5 pm – Moved from WIRE TRENCH to BRICKFIELDS (near ALBERT).

ALBERT – 7 pm – Commenced march to WARLOY. 50 Reinf. joined at BRICKFIELDS.

WARLOY – 9.30 pm – Joined the Brigade at WARLOY & received a tremendous ovation. Men marched in in great form.

CASUALTIES 15th – Capt. H. L. HENLEY & 5 o'ranks Killed. 5 wounded, 1 missing & 1 Prisoner of War.

(Extract of War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Charles Glencross was admitted to 2nd General Western Hospital at Manchester on 22nd August, 1916 with shrapnel wounds (slight) to right hand. He was transferred to Woodfield Auxiliary Hospital, Oldham on 29th August, 1916.

Private Charles Glencross reported to Perham Downs on 28th October, 1916. He was granted furlough from No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire from 13th October, 1916 & reported back from furlough on 30th October, 1916. He was medically classified as B1 A (not fit for active service for a few weeks).

Private Charles Glencross was marched out from No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs on 30th October, 1916 & marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Wareham, Dorset on 1st November, 1916. He was medically classified as B1 A (not fit for active service for a few weeks).

Private Charles Glencross was written up for an Offence - on 4th February, 1917 "*Neglecting to obey an order given by Military Police.*" He was awarded 48 hours detention by Capt. A. W. Hamilton.

Private Charles Glencross was transferred to 61st Battalion on 23rd March, 1917 while posted at Wareham.

Private Charles Glencross was transferred back to 13th Battalion on 21st April, 1917.

Private Charles Glencross proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 29th April, 1917 from Infantry Draft Depot to reinforce 13th Battalion. He was marched in to 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples France on 30th April, 1917. Private Glencross was marched out from 4th A.D.B.D. to his Unit on 3rd May, 1917 & was taken on strength of 13th Battalion in France on 3rd May, 1917.

Private Charles Glencross was absent without leave from 9 pm on 13th September, 1917 till 9.30 am on 14th September, 1917. He forfeited a total of 5 days' pay.

Private Charles Glencross proceeded on leave from France on 26th January, 1918 (for 2 weeks).

Private Charles Glencross was absent without leave from 7.30 am on 10th February, 1918 to 7.30 am on 28th February, 1918. Pte Glencross had rejoined 13th Battalion on 28th February, 1918. He was awarded 28 days Field Punishment No. 2 & a total forfeiture of 47 days' pay.

Private Charles Glencross was wounded in action (2nd occasion) in France on 8th August, 1918. He was admitted to 13th Australian Field Ambulance on 8th August, 1918 with a "Pent wound Brain" (penetrating wound to brain). Private Glencross was transferred to 61st Casualty Clearing Station with shrapnel wounds to head then transferred to 20th Casualty Clearing Station on 11th August, 1918. He was transferred to Ambulance Train 34 on 20th August, 1918 then admitted to No. 5 General Hospital at Rouen, France on 21st August, 1918. Private Glencross was reported as dangerously ill on 25th August, 1918 & on 1st September, 1918. He was invalided to England on 7th September, 1918.

13th Battalion

In June 1916, the 13th 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 August. In February 1917, Captain W. H. Murray, who had transferred to the 13th from the 16th Battalion, earned the Victoria Cross for his actions during an attack near Gueudecourt. He became one of the most highly decorated officers in the AIF. The 13th 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. The battalion spent much of the remainder of 1917 in Belgium advancing to the Hindenburg Line.

In March and April 1918, the battalion helped to stop the German spring offensive. It subsequently played a role in the great allied offensive of 1918, fighting near Amiens on 8 August 1918. This advance by British and empire troops was the greatest success in a single day on the Western Front, one that German General Erich Ludendorff described as "the black day of the German Army in this war...".

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Charles Glencross was admitted to 1st London General Hospital at Camberwell, London, England on 8th September, 1918 with gunshot wounds to head – severe.

Private Charles Frederick Glencross died at 1 am on 6th October, 1918 at 1st London General Hospital at Camberwell, London, England from wounds received in action – gunshot wounds to head.

A death for Charles F. Glencross, aged 42, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Lambeth, London, England.

Private Charles Frederick Glencross was buried on 10th October, 1918 in Wigan Cemetery, Lower Ince, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, England – Plot number B. C.E. 202 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. The plot also contains the following – Margaret Beatrice Glencross, Mary Ann Glencross, Elias Holland Glencross & Marie Annie Parsons. From the burial report of Private Charles Frederick Glencross - *Coffin was Elm with brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, many being in attendance. The coffin was conveyed to the graveside, surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent from: Mr & Mrs W. H. Glencross, Mr & Mrs A. Glencross, Mr & Mrs Parsons, Messrs H. C. Smith & Coy., Mr C. Lowe, and others. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and Chap Rev. W. E. Blythe of Wigan, Lancs officiated. A temporary oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of Relatives & friends present at the funeral – Mr & Mrs Glencross, Mr & Mrs Parsons, Mr E. C. Lowe, Cpl. Tinsley, of the A.I.F. and two Buglers.

Private Charles Frederick Glencross requested in his Will, dated 5th June, 1917 that all his personal estate be bequeathed to his sister – Mrs Annie Maria Parsons, 4 Queens Drive, Prestwick, Manchester, England.

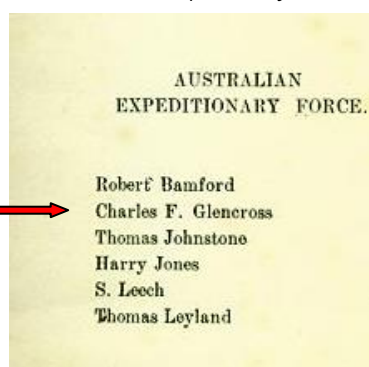
Private Charles Frederick Glencross was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Glencross's sister – Mrs A. M. Parsons, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Charles Frederick Glencross – service number 2381, aged 40, of 13th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Elias Holland Glencross and Margaret Anne Glencross. Born at Wigan, England.

Charles F. Glencross is remembered on the Wigan War Memorial located outside All Saints Church, Wallgate, Wigan, Lancashire, England.



Wigan War Memorial (Photo by Gerald England)



Unveiling of Wigan War Memorial, October 17th, 1925 (page 25)

Charles F. Glencross is remembered on the All Saints Church Roll of Honour, Bishopgate, Wigan, Lancashire, England.



All Saints Church Roll of Honour, Bishopgate, Wigan (Photos from War Memorials Online – Philip Platt)



C. F. Glencross is remembered on the Municipality of Waterloo Roll of Service for the Great War, located at 770 Elizabeth Street, Waterloo, Sydney, NSW. Five timber panels, each with a list of names of veterans - initials and surname - in gold lettering. The names of the veterans are not in alphabetical order.



Municipality of Waterloo Roll of Service (Photo from War Memorial Register of NSW)

Private C. F. Glencross is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 69.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(35 pages of Private Charles Frederick Glencross'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

1734 CASUALTIES

NEW SOUTH WALES

WOUNDED

Pte C. F. GLENCROSS, England

(*The Sun*, Sydney, NSW, Australia – 24 September, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

GLENCROSS – In proud and loving memory of a dear brother, CHARLES FREDERICK GLENCROSS, Australian Imperial Forces, who died in hospital, London, October 6, from wounds received at Villers Bretonneux, Aug. 9, after three years and six months' service. Interred Wigan Cemetery, October 10, - W. and A. PASRSONS. 4, Queen's Drive, Prestwich.

(Manchester Evening News, Greater Manchester, England – 17 October, 1918)

FOR AUSTRALIA

NEW CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF WOUNDS

C. F. GLENCROSS, England (p.r.w.)

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW , Australia – 21 November, 1918)

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 Charles F. Glencross does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

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.



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



The Cross of Sacrifice - Wigan Cemetery *(Photo by David Long)*

Photo of Private Charles F. Glencross's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Wigan Cemetery, Wigan, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, England



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



LOWER INCE CEMETERY



Colour key

- Light Green: Roman Catholic (RC)
- Medium Green: Church of England (CofE)
- Dark Green: Non-Conformist (NC)