

**St. Michael's Churchyard,
South Malling, East Sussex, England**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3039 PRIVATE

C. GODDEN

41ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

3RD JULY, 1919 Age 25

Charles GODDEN

Charles Godden was born in 1894 at Duddon, Broughton in Furness, Lancashire to parents Charles Edward & Sarah Ann Godden (nee Fendick).

The 1901 England Census recorded Charles Godden as a 7 year old, living with his family at Queensland Dairy Farm, Stoneham, South Malling, Sussex, England. His parents were listed as Charles E. Godden (Dairy Farmer, aged 40, born Rotheringdean, Sussex) & Sarah A. Godden (aged 42, born Brandon, Norfolk). Charles was one of four children listed on this Census – Charlotte E. Godden (aged 14, born Fulham, London), Mabel H. Godden (aged 12, born Broughton-in-Furness, Lancashire) then Charles & William Godden (aged 2, born Broughton-in-Furness, Lancashire).

Charles Godden attended school at Castlegate, Lewes, Sussex, England.

The 1911 England Census recorded Charles Godden as a 17 year old Milk Cart Driver, living with his family at Queensland Dairy Farm, Stoneham, South Malling, Sussex, England. His parents were listed as Charles E. Godden (Dairy Farmer, aged 50) & Sarah Ann Godden (aged 53). Charles was one of three children listed on this Census – Mabel Godden (Dairy Work, aged 22), then Charles & William Godden (At School, aged 13).

Charles Edward Godden, father of Charles Godden, died on 16th July, 1911, at Lewes, Sussex, England.

According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour – Charles Godden came to Australia in 1914. He had been a member of the Hertfordshire Territorials. Charles Godden, aged 20, was a passenger on *Miltiades* which had departed from the port of London, England & arrived at Brisbane and Sydney, (as listed on records) Australia on 14th September, 1914.

Charles Godden was a 23 year old, single, Farmer from Terranora, NSW when he enlisted at Lismore, NSW on 4th November, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3039 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Sarah A. Godden, Norlington Lane, Ringmere, near Lewes, County Sussex, England. Charles Godden stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 3 months with Territorials in England.

Private Charles Godden was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 30th November, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 7th Reinforcements of 42nd Battalion on 6th January, 1917.

Private Charles Godden embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Wiltshire (A18)* on 7th February, 1917 (as per Embarkation Roll, however the Statement of Service form recorded he embarked from Melbourne, on H.M.A.T. *Ballarat (A70)* on 19th February, 1917) with the 42nd Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 11th April, 1917.

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 Godden was marched in to A.I.F. Details at Fovant, Wiltshire, England on 11th April, 1917 from Australia.

Private Charles Godden was marched out from Details at Fovant & into 11th Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire on 23rd April, 1917.

Private Charles Godden proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 23rd July, 1917 from 11th Training Battalion at Larkhill. He was marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 24th July, 1917. Private Godden was marched out from A.D.B.D. on 8th August, 1917 to join his Unit & was taken on strength of 42nd Battalion in the Field on 11th August, 1917 from 7th Reinforcements.

Private Charles Godden was on furlough to England from 3rd March, 1918 & rejoined his Unit on 21st March, 1918. (Casualty Form – Active Service – typed version recorded he was on furlough to England on 3rd March, 1918 & rejoined from furlough on 21st February, 1918)

Private Charles Godden was wounded in action on 28th May, 1918. He was admitted to 10th Australian Field Ambulance on 28th May, 1918 with mustard gas then transferred & admitted to 55th Casualty Clearing Station on 30th May, 1918. Private Godden was discharged from Casualty Clearing Station on 15th July, 1918 & rejoined his Unit from wounded on 22nd July, 1918.

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.

In 1917, the operations of the 3rd Division were focussed on the Ypres sector of Belgium. The 42nd participated in major battles at Messines on 7 June, Warneton on 31 July, Broodseinde on 4 October, and Passchendaele on 12 October. Even though the battalion was in a reserve role, the battle of Passchendaele proved particularly costly. It lost over a third of its strength, principally from German gas attacks, and trench foot caused by the sodden condition of the battlefield.

Belgium remained the scene of the 42nd Battalion's activities for the next five months as it was rotated between service in the rear areas and the front line. When the German Army launched its last great offensive in March 1918, the battalion was rushed south to France and played a role in blunting the drive towards the vital railway junction of Amiens.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

42nd Battalion War Diary

Quarry – 28th May, 1918:

Battalion in live astride of Villers Bretonneux. Very little shelling of forward areas. B. HQ subjected to strafe in the evening during which Capt Dunbar was wounded in the arm causing a good deal of inconvenience a new Adjutant and works Officer having to be brought on to B. HQ.

Lt A. C. Dibden took over Q'side of Adjutant work and Capt McDonnell of Company took charged of Works. Lt York (?) taking command of "C" Coy.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

[Note: - the 42nd Battalion War Diary recorded on 25th May, 1918 "....at 5.30 pm enemy shelled battalion area with mustard gas, bombardment lasted until six (?) fixture commencing again at 8.30 and continuing until 11pm, a very heavy concentration pervaded the atmosphere and gas masks had to be worn throughout. Mingled with gas was a percentage of H.E. which was directed mainly on roads making transport movement difficult with a result that rations for companies were somewhat delayed eventually being delivered at midnight..."]

On the 26th May, 1918 the 42nd Battalion War Diary recorded "At 3 am gas bombardment recommenced and continued until six am. Up till this time men had not been able to take any sleep having been in gas masks for a period of eight hours. Only seven casualties were reported up till 8am, however when the men got into their shelters and went to sleep the sun began to take effect and bring the gas like likewise the wind being choppy clouds of gas were continually driven out of the wood over the men who awoke to find their eyes affected the irritation increasing later. By the end of the day both A & B Companies who were bivouacked in a valley were evacuated Officers and men were exemptions of O.C. "A" Company."]

Private Charles Godden was appointed Lance Corporal from 17th August, 1918.

Lance Corporal Charles Godden was appointed Corporal from 13th September, 1918

Corporal Charles Godden, "C" Company, 42nd Battalion, requested in writing, that he revert to rank of Private at his own request. The request was approved & Corporal Godden reverted to the rank of Private from 23rd October, 1918.

Private Charles Godden was transferred from 42nd Battalion to 41st Battalion on 23rd October, 1918. He was taken on strength of 41st Battalion the same day.

Private Charles Godden was granted UK Leave from 10th February, 1919 & rejoined his Battalion from Leave on 27th February, 1919.

Private Charles Godden was admitted to 11th Australian Field Ambulance on 14th April, 1919 for an XRay to 4th finger of right hand. He was transferred & admitted to 3rd Australian General Hospital in France for an Xray on 14th April, 1919. Private Godden was transferred to Ambulance Train 9 & embarked for England on 29th April, 1919.

41st Battalion

The 41st Battalion was raised at Bell's Paddock Camp in Brisbane in February 1916 with recruits from Brisbane, northern Queensland and the northern rivers district of New South Wales. It formed part of the 11th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division.....

The 41st participated in its last major action of the war between 29 September and 2 October 1918 as part of the Australian-American operation that breached the formidable defences of the Hindenburg Line along the St Quentin Canal. The battalion was out of the line when the war ended, and was disbanded in May 1919.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

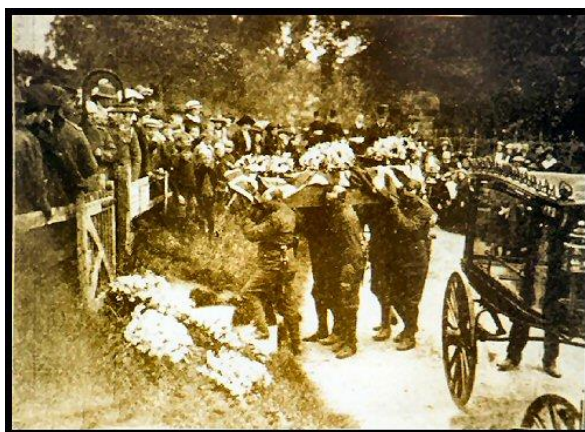
Private Charles Godden was admitted to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent, England on 30th April, 1919 with a fractured finger on right hand. The Hospital Admissions form recorded fractured left finger & Neurasthenia. He was transferred to The County of Middlesex War Hospital, Napsbury, St. Albans on 15th June, 1919 with Acute Mania

Private Charles Godden died at 1.45 pm on 3rd July, 1919 at County of Middlesex War Hospital, Napsbury, St. Albans, England from Acute delirious Mania.

A death for Charles Godden, aged 25, was registered in the September quarter, 1919 in the district of St. Albans, Hertfordshire, England.

Private Charles Godden was buried on 8th July, 1919 in "Old Mawling Churchyard, Lewes, Sussex" – now listed as St. Michael's Churchyard, South Malling, East Sussex, England and now has a Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. From the burial report of Private Charles Godden - *Coffin was Elm, brass fittings. Deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent from:- "Aunt & Uncle", Cousins, Sisters, and Brothers, "Mother", "Aunt Kate & Cousin", "Uncle Charley", "Mrs King, and all at No. 8." The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the burial service conducted by Chap. Marriott. An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. Headquarters, London, who were also represented at the funeral.*

Names of Family & Friends present at the Funeral – Mrs Godden, Miss Godden, Pte Godden, Mrs King, Mr & Mrs King Jnr, 6 Australian Comrades, and many others.



Funeral of Private Charles Godden *(Photo from Ringmer.info)*

Private Charles Godden requested in his Will dated 19th July, 1917 that he bequeathed all his real estate & personal estate to his mother – Mrs Sarah Anne Godden, Norlington Lane, Ringmer, Nr Lewes, Sussex, England.

Private Charles Godden was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Godden's mother – Mrs S. A. Godden, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in November, 1922).

Mr R. Park, "The Rocket", Billinudgel, North Coast, NSW wrote to Headquarters, 1st District Base, Sydney on 3rd July, 1923 with the following *"I am writing in reference to British War Medals, Victory Medals & 1914/15 Stars, awaiting distribution to men who have served abroad. Mrs Sarah Godden, Norlington Lane, Ringmer, nr Lewes, Sussex, England would be pleased to hear if your son Private Charles Godden, is entitled to any of the medals."*

Base Records wrote to Mrs S. Gooden regarding the letter sent by Mr Park on 18th July, 1923 stating *"...to advise you that the British War and Victory Medals issuable on account of the service of your son, the late No. 3039 Private C. GODDEN, 41st Battalion, have ben forwarded to A.I.F. Headquarters, Australia House, London, for transmission to you. Your son was not eligible for the issue of the 1914/15 Star owing to the fact that he did not serve on the strength of a unit in a theatre of war prior to 31st December, 1915."*



British War Medal, Victory Medal & Memorial Plaque for Charles Godden (Photo from Ringmer.info)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private C. Godden – service number 3039, of 41st Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private C. Godden is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 134.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. Godden is remembered on the Burringbar War Memorial, located in Memorial Reserve, Broadway, Burringbar, NSW.



Burringbar War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



C. Godden is remembered on the St. Mary's Church Roll of Honour, Church Hill, Ringmer, Sussex, England.



St. Mary's Church Roll of Honour, Ringmer (Photos from War Memorials Online – Susan Featherstone)



Charles Godden is remembered on the Ringmer Village War Memorial, located on Village Green, Lewes Road, Ringmer, East Sussex, England.



Ringmer Village War Memorial (Photos from War Memorials Online – David Larkin)



(52 pages of Private Charles Godden'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

Australia's War Losses

THE 414th CASUALTY LIST

WOUNDED

QUEENSLAND

2nd C. Godden (England), gas

(The Farmer and Settler, Sydney, NSW – 2 August, 1918)

THE HONOUR ROLL

CASUALTY LIST No. 469

DIED, OTHER CAUSES

Charles Godden, 41st Btn., England, 3/7/19 (illness, prev. rep. injured)

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 29 July, 1919)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Private C. Godden has a Private Headstone.

St. Michael's Churchyard, South Malling, East Sussex, England

St. Michael's Churchyard, South Malling contains 7 Commonwealth War Graves – 6 relating to World War 1 & 1 from World War 2.



(Photos from Find a Grave – DS51)



Photo of Private C. Godden's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Michael's Churchyard, South Malling, East Sussex, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave – DS51)



(Photo from Find a Grave – Wertypop)



(Photo from Find a Grave – DS51)