

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

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3830A PRIVATE**

**O. A. HORSTEN**

**49TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**24TH AUGUST, 1916 Age 28**

*God Alone*

*Who Thought It Best*

*Did Ease His Pain*

*And Gave Him Rest*

## Oscar Alfred HORSTEN

Oscar Alfred Horsten was born at Isisford, Queensland on 21st August, 1888 to parents Ferdinand Nicklous Horsten & Elizabeth Horsten (nee Egloff).

The 1912, 1913 & 1915 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Maranoa, subdivision of Isisford listed Oscar Alfred Horsten, Labourer from Isisford.

Oscar Alfred Horsten was a 27 year old, single, Labourer from Isisford, Central Queensland when he enlisted at Rockhampton on 16th September, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3830 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Elizabeth Horsten, Isisford, Central Queensland.

Private Oscar Alfred Horsten was posted to C Company of 3rd Depot Battalion on 16th September, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 9th Reinforcements of 25th Battalion on 1st December, 1915.

Private Oscar Alfred Horsten embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Wandilla (A62)* on 31st January, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 25th Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements.

Private Oscar Alfred Horsten was allotted to & proceeded to join 49th Battalion on 2nd April, 1916 from Heliopolis. He was taken on strength of 49th Battalion at Serapeum on 2nd April, 1916.

Private Oscar Alfred Horsten proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on *Arcadian* on 5th June, 1916. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 12th June, 1916.

Private Oscar Alfred Horsten was wounded in action on 13th August, 1916 (as per Casualty Form – Active Service, however Statement of Service form recorded he was wounded in action on 12th August, 1916.) He was admitted to 3rd Canadian Stationary Hospital at Boulogne, France on 19th August, 1916 with gas gangrene from a wound in the back. Private Horsten embarked on Hospital Ship *Antwerpen* at Boulogne for England on 21st August, 1916.

### 49th Battalion

The 49th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 27 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 9th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 9th, the 49th was predominantly composed of men from Queensland. The battalion became part of the 13th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division.

Arriving in France on 12 June 1916, the 49th moved into the trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 21 June. It fought in its first major battle at Mouquet Farm in August and suffered heavily, particularly in the assault launched on 3 September. The battalion saw out the rest of the year alternating between front-line duty, and training and labouring behind the line. This routine continued through the bleak winter of 1916-17.....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

### War Diary – 49th Battalion

*Tara Hill - 12th August, 1916:*

*Improved trenches. 4 O.R. wounded. 3 O.R. sick to Hospital.*

*Pozieres – 13th August, 1916:*

*Left Tara Hill at 7 am for Front line – took over line & (ref 1/5000 Maps Pozieres Farme de Mouquet) R.35.C.26, D.97.D 77 D 69 D.59. D 12 from 14th Bn at 10 am. Trenches were in a bad condition owing to heavy shelling & weakness of Bn relieved. no trench existed on R.34.D.97 to R.35.C26. Dispositions were 24 hours from time of relieving:- Front Line – approximate length 600 yds of which R34 D 97 to R.35 C 36 was not entrenched "C" Coy less*

one platoon approximate strength Rifles. Eight Lewis Guns distributed along the line. Support "B" Coy + 1 platoon "C" Coy – approximate strength. Rifles – picks & shovels were taken in front line & communications were immediately improved.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

[Note: An "A" was added to the Service number of Private Oscar Alfred Horsten – date unknown. This usually occurred to a duplication of numbers & probably occurred when he was transferred to 49th Battalion]

Private Oscar Alfred Horsten was admitted to 2nd Eastern General Hospital, Brighton, Sussex, England on 22nd August, 1916 with Gangrene. He was reported to be dangerously ill on 22nd August, 1916.

Private Oscar Alfred Horsten died on 24th August, 1916 at 2nd Eastern General Hospital, Brighton, Sussex, England from wounds received in action in France - shrapnel wounds to back & Septicaemia.

A death for Oscar A. Horsted, aged 28, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Steyning, Sussex, England.

Private Oscar Alfred Horsten was buried in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England – Plot number ZIX.16 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Base Records contacted Mrs E. Horsten, Isisford, Central Queensland, on 27th October, 1921 stating she was noted as the registered next-of-kin of the late Private O. A. Horsten but desired to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically asked if his father was still alive due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Mrs Elizabeth Horsten replied on 6th November, 1921 that "*Elizabeth Horsten, his mother is the nearest blood relation to him.*"

Base Records replied to Mrs Horsten on 24th November, 1921 asking Mrs Horsten if she would "*furnish me with definite information as to whether the father of the late No. 3830A Private O. A. Horsten, 49th Battalion, is living, and if so his present address.*"

Mrs Elizabeth Horsten replied again to Base Records on 4th December, 1921 she stated ...."*he left home on the last day of 1893 and I have not heard from him since, he promised to help to support his six children if he was able but I never received a letter or money from him since.*"

Private Oscar Alfred Horsten was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Horsten's mother – Mrs E. Horsten (as father's whereabouts were unknown), as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent January, 1922 & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Oscar Alfred Horsten – service number 3830A, aged 28, of 49th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Ferdinand Nicklous Horsten & Elizabeth Horsten of Isisford, Queensland.

Private O. A. Horsten is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 148.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

O. Horsten is remembered on the Isisford War Memorial, located on St. Ann Street, Isisford, Queensland.



**Isisford War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia – John Huth)

(40 pages of Private Oscar Alfred Horsten'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*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H06305

**Private Oscar Alfred Horsten**



## Newspaper Notices

### AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

#### LIST No. 211

Died of Wounds

O. A. Horsten

*(Morning Bulletin, Rockhampton, Queensland – 15 September, 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)*

Private O. A. Horsten does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*God Alone Who Thought It Best*

*Did Ease His Pain And Gave Him Rest*

## 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 O. A. Horsten's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brighton City (Bear Road) Cemetery, East Sussex, England.



*(Photo by Terry Denham)*