Elmswell Cemetery, Suffolk

War Grave

Lest We Forget

World War 1

95   PRIVATE

H. HOWARD

59TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

7TH DECEMBER, 1916   Age 33

The Lord Gave

And The Lord

Hath Taken Away

Harry HOWARD

Harry Howard was born at Haughley, Suffolk, England to parents Henry and Sophia Howard. His birth was registered in the March quarter, 1883 in the district of Stow, Suffolk.

Harry Howard attended Haughley Parish School.

A death was registered in the June quarter, 1886 in the district of Stow, Suffolk for Sophia Howard, aged 36.

The 1891 England Census listed Harry Howard as an 8 year old scholar living with his family at Haughley, Suffolk, England. His father was listed as Henry Howard, a widower (Agricultural Labourer, aged 35, born Haughley, Suffolk). Harry was the youngest of 3 sons listed on this Census, all born at Haughley, Suffolk – George (Feeding Stock, aged 13), Charles (Scholar, aged 14) then Harry.

The 1901 England Census listed Harry Howard as an 18 year old Pantry Boy in the Colonial College (Agricultural Trainings College) at Hollesley, Suffolk. Harry was one of five Pantry Boys. There were 44 Students listed on the Census. Robert Johnson was the Managing Director of the College.
[The 1901 England Census listed Harry's father – Henry Howard (Agricultural Labourer, aged 45) living at Wetherden Road, Haughley, in a 4 roomed dwelling, with his son – Charles (Agricultural Labourer, aged 20).]

Harry Howard enlisted with the Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry on 14th March, 1902 in London. He was aged 18 years & 3 months & was a Barman. Harry Howard was given a service number of 6903. His next-of-kin was listed as his father – Henry Howard of Haughley Green, Haughley, Suffolk. His brothers were also listed – Charles (same address as father) & George – 2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment.

Pte Harry Howard served in South Africa from 8th November, 1902 until 11th November, 1905. He served in Gibraltar from 12th November, 1905 until 2nd September, 1907. Pte Harry Howard then served in Bermuda from 3rd September, 1907 until 26th January, 1910. He was on Home Service from 27th January, 1910 until 13th March, 1914 when he was discharged for time served.

The 1911 England Census listed Harry Howard as a 28 year old Labourer on a Farm, living with his brother & his family at a Farm at Bury St. Elmswell in an 8 roomed dwelling. Harry's brother was George Howard (Stockman on Farm, aged 33) & his wife – Sarah Howard (Aged 24). George & Sarah had been married for 4 years & had 2 children – George (aged 3) & Gertrude (aged 7 months).

[The 1911 England Census listed Harry's father – Henry Howard (Farm Labourer, aged 55) living at Hightown Green Rattlesden, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk. Also living with Henry Howard was his son Charles (Horseman on a farm, aged 31) & his wife Jemima (aged 26) & their 3 children – Charles (aged 5), Thomas (aged 2) & Mary (aged 1 month).]

Mr H. Howard, Farm Hand, aged 31 was a passenger on the *Indrapura* when departed from the port of London on 17th April, 1914 bound for Australia. According to information supplied for the Roll of Honour by Harry's father – Mr Henry Howard, Harry Howard came to Australia when he was 31.

Harry Howard was a 31 year old, single, Farm Labourer, from Heidelberg Road, Fairfield Park, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne on 21st August, 1914 with the 6th Infantry Battalion, "A" Company of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 95 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr H, Howard, of High Town Green, Rattlesden, Suffolk, England. Harry Howard stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry in England for 12 years.

Private Harry Howard embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Hororata (A20)* on 19th October, 1914.

Private Harry Howard was admitted to Casualty Clearing Station at Anzac with gunshot wound to thigh (no date recorded). He was transferred to Hospital Ship *Caledonian* at the Dardanelles on 7th August, 1915 & admitted to 21st

General Hospital at Alexandria, Egypt on 10th August, 1915. Pte Harry Howard embarked from Alexandria on 17th August, 1915 for England on Hospital Ship *Grantully Castle*.

Private Harry Howard was admitted to The King George Hospital, London on 30th August, 1915 with gunshot wounds to thigh and discharged on 10th December, 1915.

Pte Harry Howard proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) with 22nd Draft from Devonport on 22nd February, 1916.

Pte Harry Howard disembarked at Alexandria on 5th March, 1916 having left Devonport, England aboard *Kingstonian*.

Pte Harry Howard rejoined from Base at Serapeum on 11th March, 1916.

Pte Harry Howard proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 25th March, 1916 aboard *Briton*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 30th March, 1916.

Pte Harry Howard was wounded in action on 19th August, 1916.

Pte Harry Howard was admitted to No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station on 19th August, 1916 with gunshot wound to face. He was transferred to No. 6 Ambulance Train & admitted to No. 26 General Hospital at Etaples on 20th August, 1916 with gunshot wound to thigh.

Pte Harry Howard was transferred to No. 6 Convalescent Depot at Etaples on 26th August, 1916.

Pte Harry Howard was transferred to 1st Australian Divisional Base Depot on 5th September, 1916.

Pte Harry Howard was allotted to Reinforcements for 59th Battalion on 7th October, 1916 from 6th Battalion. He was taken on strength with 59th Battalion in France on 8th October, 1916.

Pte Harry Howard's Casualty Form – Active Service stated he was killed in action in France on 30th November, 1916 – this was in error & later corrected to show wounded in action. Pte Harry Howard had been wounded in action three times.

Pte Harry Howard was transferred to 8th Ambulance Train on 1st December, 1916 & admitted to 22nd General Hospital at Camiers, France on 2nd December, 1916 with gunshot wound to right thigh. On 4th December, 1916 Pte Harry Howard was to be transferred to England.

Private Harry Howard embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Brighton* from Calais on 5th December, 1916 with a gunshot wound to right thigh.

Private Harry Howard was admitted to Colchester Hospital, Essex, England on 7th December, 1916 with shrapnel wounds to thigh & right ankle. Pte Howard was reported to be seriously ill.

Private Harry Howard died at 9.25 pm on 7th December, 1916 at General Military Hospital, Colchester, Essex from wounds he had received in action in France – gunshot wounds to right thigh & right ankle.

A death for Harry Howard, aged 34, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Colchester, Essex, England.

Private Harry Howard's body was sent home for burial & was buried on 12th December, 1916 in Elmswell Cemetery, Suffolk (left of path) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Pte Harry Howard requested in his Will, dated 20th April, 1915, that the whole of his property & effects to be given to Mrs G. Howard, White House Farm, Elmswell, Suffolk, England.

Private Harry Howard was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Howard's father – Mr H. Howard, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque both sent to England in August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Harry Howard – service number 95, aged 33, of 59th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Henry and Sophia Howard, of High Town Green, Rattlesden, Suffolk, England. Born at Haughley, Suffolk, England.

Private H. Howard is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 167.
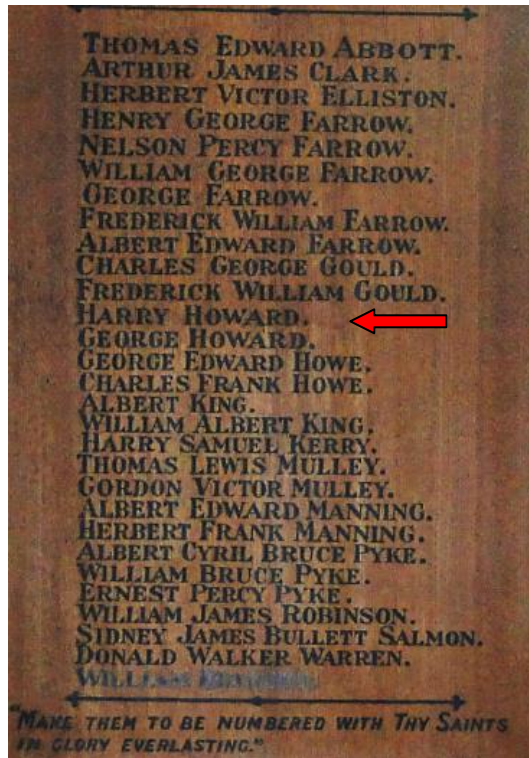

Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Harry Howard is remembered on the Elmswell War Memorial and Roll of Honour located inside the Church of St. John the Divine, Church Lane, Elmswell, Suffolk, England.
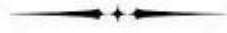

Elmswell Roll of Honour *(Photos by Adrian S. Pye)*

Centre Panel of Elmswell Roll of Honour

(36 pages of Pte Harry Howard'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

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Newspaper Notices

THE 252nd and 253rd CASUALTY LISTS

DIED OF WOUNDS
Private H. Howard, England

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 20 December, 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)*

Pte Harry Howard does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

The Lord Gave And The Lord Hath Taken Away

Photo of Pte H. Howrd's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Elmswell Cemetery, Suffolk, England.

(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett Private Collection)

Elmswell Cemetery, Suffolk

Elmswell Cemetery, Suffolk contains three War Graves, two from World War 1 & one from World War 2.

Elmswell Cemetery, Suffolk *(Photo by John Myers)*