

Wilton War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4157 SECOND CORPORAL

VICTOR STANLEY MADEX

ACCIDENTALLY DROWNED

JUNE 18, 1919

AGED 24 YEARS

In The Midst Of Life We

Are In Death

Victor Stanley MADEX

Victor Stanley Madex was born on 7th June, 1894 at Millicent, South Australia to parents Charles & Annie (Hannah) Madex (nee Williams).

Victor Stanley Madex was a 21 year old, single, Labourer from Beachport, South Australia when he enlisted on 12th August, 1915 with the 27th Infantry Battalion, 10th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4157 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Hannah Madex, of Beachport, South Australia.

Pte Victor Stanley Madex embarked from Adelaide on RMS *Mongolia* on 9th March, 1916.

Pte Victor Stanley Madex was taken on strength with 5th D.A.C. (Divisional Artillery Column) & mustered Gunner at Ferry Post, Egypt on 17th April, 1916. He was posted to No. 2 Sect. on 15th May, 1916.

Gunner Victor Stanley Madex was promoted to Driver, 5th D.A.C. (Divisional Artillery Column) on 16th May, 1916.

Driver Madex proceeded overseas from Alexandria on HMT *Knight Templar* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) on 18th June, 1916. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 25th June, 1916.

Driver Madex was sent to hospital in the field in France on 3rd May, 1917, accidentally injured. He was taken to 2nd Field Ambulance with a fracture dislocation to right elbow. He was transferred to 9th Casualty Clearing Station & admitted to a dislocation of left elbow. Driver Madex was sent by Ambulance Train & admitted to 6th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 5th May, 1917 with a fracture of forearm (accidental). Driver Madex was transferred back to England on 16th May, 1917 & admitted to Military Grove Hospital.

Driver Madex was on furlo from Richmond Hospital from 8th June, 1917 to 22nd June, 1917.

Driver Madex was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 22nd June, 1917.

Driver Madex was marched in to No. 3 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 28th July, 1917. He was medically classified as B. 1. A. 3 (Fit for overseas training camp in two to three weeks).

Driver Madex was medically classified as B. 1. A. 4 on 6th August, 1917.

Driver Madex was detached to Anzac Provost Corps at No. 10 Camp, Hurdcott for temporary duty on 8th August, 1917.

Driver Madex was transferred to Anzac Provost Corps on 31st August, 1917 & taken on strength with Anzac Provost Corps at Tidworth, Wiltshire on 9th September, 1917. Driver Madex was remustered to Private on 11th April, 1918 while at Tidworth, Wiltshire at his own request.

Private Madex was written up for a Crime – “Fovant 12.4.18 AWL from 2400 11.4.18 until reporting to the ord. Cpl. about 7.30 am on 12.4.18.” He was awarded 7 days Field Punishment No. 2.

Private Victor Stanley Madex married Alice Nellie Morris in the Parish Church of Wilton, Wiltshire on 8th May, 1918. Their marriage was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire.

Private Madex was sent sick to Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire on 2nd December, 1918 – cause – N.Y.D. (Not yet determined). He was later admitted with Influenza.

Private Madex was promoted to Acting Lance Corporal on 4th December, 1918.

Acting Lance Corporal Madex was discharged from Hospital on 16th December, 1918 & marched in to Training Depot at Tidworth on 17th December, 1918.

Acting Lance Corporal Madex was still with his Unit at Australian Provost Corps at Tidworth on 31st January, 1919.

Acting Lance Corporal Madex was promoted to 2nd Corporal on 10th February, 1919.

Second Corporal Victor Stanley Madex drowned accidentally on 18th June, 1919 at Bournemouth, Dorset. He was on leave at Bournemouth & was out boating on the afternoon of 18th June, 1919.

A death for Victor S. Madex, aged 24, was registered in the September quarter, 1919 in the district of Christchurch, Hampshire.

Second Corporal Victor Stanley Madex was buried on 30th June, 1919 in a private grave in Wilton Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number B. 254 and has a private headstone. From the burial report of Second Corporal Victor Stanley Madex - *Coffin was best polished Oak. Private Funeral. Floral tributes from Wilton Lodge, R.A.C.B., Wilton and Fovant Detachment of the Military Police, A.I.F.*

Relatives attending the Funeral – Wife – Mrs V. S. Madex, Wilton; Mother-in-law – Mrs James Morris, Wilton; Brother and Sister-in-Law – Mr and Mrs Wm. Morris, Wilton; Brother and Sister-in-Law – Mr and Mrs C. R. Morris, Wilton; Brother and Sister-in-Law – Mr and Mrs A. Morris; Brother-in-Law – Mr Cecil Morris; Brother and Sister-in-Law – Mr and Mrs Davis; Sister-in-Law Mrs Stocker and Mr Stocker; Friends – Mrs Case, Mrs Couldrey, Mr Arthur Couldrey, Mr Gilbert Couldrey, Mr Lowe, Mrs Rutley, Mr and Miss Cannings.

Newspaper item – Hampshire Advertiser, England – 5 July, 1919:

Christchurch

A verdict of “Death from accidental drowning” was returned to the County Coroner (Mr P. B. Ungoldby), at the inquest held at Christchurch, on the 28th of June, on the body of Victor Stanley Madex, a corporal in the Australian Provost Corps., who together with two friends, went on a day’s holiday from his billets, at Wilton, top Bourenmouth, on June 18th.

Pte Victor Stanley Madex requested in his Will, dated 11th July, 1917 that all his personal estate he bequeathed to his mother – Mrs Hannah Madex, Beachport, South Australia. On the reverse of the Will was “*This is to certify that I have made a Will and do not wish to alter same. My Will is in the custody of Mr G. Sphere, Solicitor, of George Street, Millicent, South Australia*” – dated 4th February, 1918 at Fovant.

Second Corporal Victor Stanley Madex is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 185.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

V. S. Madex 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)

Pte V. S. Madex is also remembered on the Soldiers War Memorial located on the Foreshore, Beach Road & Railway Terrace, Beachport, South Australia.



Soldiers War Memorial, Beachport (Photos from Monument Australia – Graeme Saunders)

Second Corporal Victor Stanley Madex was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Second Corporal Madex's widow – Mrs N. Madex, in England. (Scroll & Plaque both sent October, 1922). Mrs Nellie A. Madex married Joseph Thompson in the December quarter, 1921 in the district of Salisbury, Wiltshire.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists 2nd Corporal Victor Stanley Madex – service number 4157, aged 24 years & served with Australian Provost Corps. He was the son of Charles and Hannah Madex; husband of Nellie A. Madex, of 51 West St, Wilton, Salisbury. Born at Beachport, South Australia.

(43 pages of Second Corporal Victor Stanley Madex'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

CPL. V. S. MADEX

Beachport, July 7.

Mrs. H. Madex, of Beachport, has received the sad intelligence from the military authorities that her son, Cpl. V. S. Madex, of the Anzac Provost Police Corps (late 27th Batt.), was accidentally drowned at Bournemouth, England, on June 18th last. Fuller particulars are lacking. Quite a gloom has been cast over the town by the sad news, as, peace having been signed, Mrs Madex was eagerly looking forward to the speedy return of her son, and the news is rendered all the more sad as the deceased had only recently been married in England. Three other brothers have served with the Australian Imperial Forces, whilst another served with the Australian Navy. Great sympathy is felt in the town for the deceased soldier's family, especially for Mrs Madex when it is remembered that five of her sons answered their country's call to arms.

(Border Watch, Mount Gambier, South Australia – 8 July, 1919)

THE AUSTRALIANS CASUALTY LIST No. 468

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DIED OTHER CAUSES

4157 – Second Cpl. V.S. MADEX, England, June 18; drowned

(Observer, Adelaide, South Australia – 19 July, 1919)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

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.

Second Corporal Victor Stanley Madex does not have a CWGC headstone, however his name is listed on the Headstone document list for Wilton Cemetery. His headstone was listed as "No. 4" & was to have the following inscription – "Oh For The Touch Of That Vanished Hand And The Sound Of The Voice Which Is Still". A notation in

pencil at the bottom of the form reads “Stone No. 4 to be refaced & re-engraved for Stone No. 1 (Scott) in Salisbury (London Rd) Cem.”

Wilton Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Wilton Cemetery has thirteen War Graves – eight from World War 1 & five from World War 2. Second Corporal Victor Stanley Madex is the only Australian from either War buried in Wilton Cemetery.



Wilton Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo above from CWGC; below by *julia&keld* 2009)



Photo of Second Corporal Victor Stanley Madex's Private Headstone at Wilton Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo by Linda Robson)

In 2019 the Commonwealth War Graves added a “Gallipoli type” marker to Second Corporal Victor Stanley Madex’s grave at Wilton Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Mo Russell – CWGC)



4157 2nd Corporal

V. S. MADEX

Australian Provost Corps

18th June 1919 Age 24

Oh For The Touch

Of That Vanished Hand

And The Sound Of The Voice

Which Is Still