

**St. George's Churchyard,
Fovant, Wiltshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2442A PRIVATE

E. C. MANN

4TH AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS

16TH FEBRUARY, 1919 Age 37

At Rest

His Duty Done

Edgar Charles MANN

Edgar Charles Mann was born at Morpeth, New South Wales in 1882 to parents George & Ellen Esther Mann (nee Butler).

Edgar Charles Mann attended Cudgen State School, NSW.

A death was registered in the district of Murwillumbah, NSW in 1898 for Ellen E. Mann, mother of Edgar Charles Mann.

Edgar Charles Mann served in the South African War according to information supplied by his wife for the Roll of Honour.

The 1903-1904 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Rous, subdivision of Cudgen, NSW listed Edgar Charles Mann, Storekeeper, of Terranora. His father George Mann was listed as a Hotel Keeper at Chinderah.

Edgar Charles Mann married Annie Lillie in 1904 in the district of Murwillumbah, NSW.

Births were registered for George Mann (born 1904), Edith L. Mann (born 1906) & Ellen E. "Ellie" Mann (born 1907).

A death was registered in the district of Murwillumbah, NSW in 1909 for Annie Mann, wife of Edgar Charles Mann. She died on 21st May, 1909 at Cudgen.

Edgar Charles Mann married Frances Beatrix Ford on 5th February, 1913 at Brisbane Registry Office, Queensland.

A birth was registered in 1914 for Edgar T. Mann in the district of Murwillumbah, NSW.

Edgar Charles Mann was a 33 year old, married, Carpenter when he enlisted at Brisbane, Queensland on 3rd December, 1915 with the 4th Pioneer Battalion, 4th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2442 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Beatrice Frances Mann, Chinderah, Tweed River, NSW. Edgar Mann stated on his Attestation Papers that he was married with 5 children.

Edgar Charles Mann was posted to 11th Field Company Engineers as Sapper on 1st March, 1916. He was transferred to 5th Reinforcements of 4th Pioneers as Private on 26th June, 1916. Pte Mann was posted with 4th Reinforcements of 4th Pioneer Battalion as Acting Lance Corporal on 5th August, 1916.

Private (as per Nominal Roll) Edgar Charles Mann embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Itonus (A50)* on 8th August, 1916. Pte Mann was written up for a Crime while at Sea – "A.W.L." on 24th August, 1916. He was awarded 96 hours detention by Lt. Col. Dawson. Pte Mann was written up for a Crime while at Sea – "Absent without leave for 7 hours" on 21st September, 1916. He was awarded 7 days Confined to Barracks & forfeited 1 days' pay. Private Edgar Charles Mann disembarked at Plymouth, England on 18th October, 1916.

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.

Acting Lance Corporal Edgar Charles Mann was marched in from Australia to Pioneer Training Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire on 19th October, 1916.

Acting Lance Corporal Edgar Charles Mann was marched in to Australian Details, No. 3 Camp, Parkhouse, Wiltshire from Australia on 3rd November, 1916 from Hurdcott/Fovant. He was marched out to Pioneer Training Battalion at Perham Downs on 12th November, 1916.

Acting Lance Corporal Edgar Charles Mann was written up for a Crime while posted at Perham Downs, Wiltshire – A.W.L. (Absent without leave) from midnight on 16th December, 1916 to 11.00 hrs on 18th December, 1916. He was punished by "reduced to ranks & forfeited 2 days' pay.

Acting Lance Corporal Edgar Charles Mann reverted to rank of Private with 4th Reinforcements of 4th Pioneer Battalion on 18th December, 1916.

Private Edgar Charles Mann proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone from Pioneer Training Battalion at Larkhill, Wiltshire on 20th March, 1917. He was marched in to 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 21st March, 1917.

Private Edgar Charles Mann was taken on strength of 4th Pioneers Battalion from 4th Reinforcements on 14th April, 1917.

Due to duplication of Service/Regimental numbers, an "A" was added to Private Edgar Charles Mann's Service number – from 2442 to 2442A. (no date recorded).

Private Edgar Charles Mann was written up for a Crime - Absent without leave from 22.45 hrs Parade on 2nd June, 1917 until 05.00 hrs on 3rd June, 1917. He forfeited a total of 8 days' pay on 4th June, 1917.

Private Edgar Charles Mann was detached for duty with 4th Field Company, Australian Engineers on 5th August, 1917. He rejoined 4th Pioneer Battalion from detachment on 22nd August, 1917.

Private Edgar Charles Mann was detached for duty with 14th A.A.S.C. (Australian Army Service Corps) on 26th August, 1917. He was attached as Loader from 4th Pioneer Battalion. He was detached for duty to 7th Company on 16th September, 1917 & returned to the Unit (14th A.A.S.C.) on 17th September, 1917. Pte Mann was returned from Detachment to 7th Company A.A.S.C. on 23rd September, 1917.

Private Edgar Charles Mann was attached from 4th Divisional Pioneer Battalion to 1st Divisional Train, A.A.S.C. as loader on 2nd November, 1917 from detachment with 14th A.A.S.C.

Private Edgar Charles Mann ceased to be attached & returned to 4th Pioneer Battalion in France on 10th November, 1917.

Private Edgar Charles Mann was attached as Loader with 14th Coy. A.A.S.C. on 26th November, 1917 & returned to his Unit on 8th December, 1917. He was attached for Duty on 21st December, 1917.

Private Edgar Charles Mann was on leave to England on 16th February, 1918 & rejoined 4th Pioneer Battalion from leave on 8th March, 1918.

Private Edgar Charles Mann was detached for duty with A.A.S.C. in France on 8th March, 1918. He was attached as Loader with 14th A.A.S.C. on 22nd June, 1918.

Private Edgar Charles Mann was on leave to UK from France from 4th January, 1919 to 18th January, 1919.

Private Edgar Charles Mann was marched out to A.G.B.D. (Australian General base Depot) on 27th January, 1919 for return to Australia. Pte Mann embarked for England on 10th February, 1919. He disembarked at Weymouth, England on 11th February, 1919 & was marched in to 3rd Training Brigade Convalescent Camp on the same day.

Private Edgar Charles Mann was sent sick to 2nd Group Clearing Hospital, Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 12th February, 1919 with Influenza. He was transferred & reported as dangerously & seriously ill with Broncho Pneumonia at Fovant Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 13th February, 1919.

Private Edgar Charles Mann died at 23.45 hrs on 16th February, 1919 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire, England from Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Edgar C. Mann, aged 36, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

Private Edgar Charles Mann was buried on 21st February, 1919 in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England, – Plot number I. C. 1. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Mann - *Coffin was Elm with brass mounts. Deceased was buried with full Military honours the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun-carriage preceded by a Firing Party and Band from the Third Training Brigade Hurdcott. Six Australians supported the Pall. Two Officers and about 100 N.C.O.'s and Men followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters A.I.F. depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

4th Pioneer Battalion

The 4th Pioneers were established on 10 March 1916, at Tel-el-Kebir in Egypt, and were subsequently assigned to the 4th Division. Trained as infantrymen, they were also tasked with some engineer functions, with a large number of personnel possessing trade qualifications from civilian life. As such, they were designated as pioneer units. In early 1916, the Australian Army was reorganised ahead of its transfer to the Western Front in Europe. A total of five pioneer battalions were raised by the AIF at this time, with one being assigned to each of the five infantry divisions that the Australians deployed to the battlefield in France and Belgium. Tasked with digging trenches, labouring, constructing strong points and light railways, and undertaking battlefield clearance, the troops assigned to the pioneers required construction and engineering experience in addition to basic soldiering skills.

(Pioneer Battalion information from Wikipedia)

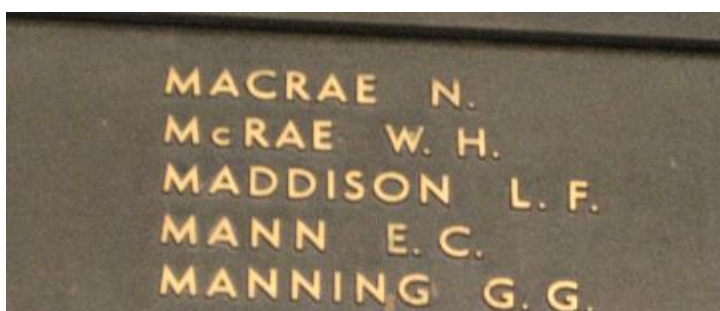
The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Edgar Charles Mann contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives to obtain the fullest details possible into the illness, death and burial of Pte Mann. A reply was received from T. Somerscales for the Matron of Military Hospital, Fovant which reads: *"In reply to your letter of the 13th inst., with reference to 2442 Pte E. C. Mann, 4th Pioneers A.I.F. who died in this Hospital on 16/2/19 this patient was admitted on 13/2/19 suffering from Broncho-pneumonia. He was buried at Fovant on 21/2/19."*

Private Edgar Charles Mann requested in his Will, dated 4th June, 1917, that all his personal estate be bequeathed to his wife – Beatrix Frances Mann, Chindera, Tweed River, NSW.

Private Edgar Charles Mann was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Mann's widow – Mrs B. F. Mann, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent May, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Edgar Charles Mann – service number 2442A, aged 37, of 4th Australian Pioneers. He was the son of George Mann; husband of Beatrice Frances Mann, of Station St., Sunnybank, Queensland.

Private E. C. Mann is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 174.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)

(63 pages of Pte Edgar Charles Mann'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Private Edgar Charles Mann

(Photo from The Queenslander Pictorial, supplement to the Queenslander, 8 July, 1916)

Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

MANN – On the 16th February, at Fovant Camp Military Hospital, England, of broncho-pneumonia, Private Edgar Charles Mann, 4th Pioneers, late of Tweed River.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 28 February, 1919)



PRIVATE EDGAR CHARLES MANN

Husband of Mrs E. C. Mann, Norman Park, late of the Tweed River; died in England from bronchial pneumonia, on 16th February, after over 3 years of active service.

(*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Queensland – 1 March, 1919) & (*The Week*, Brisbane, Queensland – 7 March, 1919)

DEATHS

MANN - 2422 Corporal E. C. Mann, 4/4 Pioneers, died in England on February 16, 1919, eldest son of George Mann, Murwillumbah, NSW.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 12 March, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOUR

Casualty List No. 462

150 Queenslanders Included

DIED, OTHER CAUSES

Edgar Charles Mann, Norman Park, 16/2/19

(*The Week*, Brisbane, Queensland – 4 April, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOUR

MANN – In loving memory of the late Edgar Charles Mann, died 16th February, 1919.

Inserted by his wife and children

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Queensland – 16 February, 1920)

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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 21th July, 1921, to Mrs B. F. Mann, of Mcllwraik Avenue, Norman Park, South Brisbane, Queensland advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone her husband, the late Pte E. C. Mann, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Private E. C. Mann does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

At Rest His Duty Done

St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England

There was a 600 bed hutted military hospital at Fovant during the First World War, and the concentration of Australian depots and training camps in the area is reflected in the 63 First World War burials in this churchyard. The war graves form two groups, one west of the church and the other at the east end. There is also one burial of the Second World War. There are 44 War Graves belonging to those who served with the Australian Imperial Force in World War 1.

(Information from CWGC)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00299

(Photo c 1919)



St George's Churchyard, Fovant – War Graves at front (*Churchyard photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey*)

Photo of Private E. C. Mann's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England.





Cross of Sacrifice (Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)



St George's Churchyard, Fovant – War Graves at rear (*Churchyard photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey*)