

**St. Mary's Churchyard,
Wendover, Buckinghamshire**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



2628 2ND AIR MECH.

S. N. MARSDEN

AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS

5TH APRIL, 1918 Age 21

Nearer My God To Thee

Stanley Noel MARSDEN

Stanley Noel Marsden was born at Church Street, Parramatta, New South Wales on 20th November, 1896 to parents Albert Edward & Emma Marsden (nee Murray). His birth was registered in 1897.

Stanley Noel Marsden attended Public School at Parramatta, NSW. Stanley Marsden had been an apprentice at Clyde Engineering Works, NSW.

Albert Edward Palmer Marsden, father of Stanley Noel Marsden, died on 22nd March, 1916 at Parramatta, NSW.

Stanley Noel Marsden was a 21 year old, single, Engineer from Parramatta, NSW when he enlisted on 30th November, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2628 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Emma Marsden, of 260 Church Street, Parramatta, NSW. Stanley Marsden stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served in Senior Cadets for 4 years & in the Militia for 2 years & was still serving.

Private Stanley Noel Marsden was posted to Show Ground Camp, Sydney, NSW on 3rd December, 1917 for recruit training.

Private Stanley Noel Marsden was transferred to Australian Flying Corps, Laverton on 13th December, 1917 & his rank was to be 2nd Air Mechanic.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Stanley Noel Marsden embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ulysses* (A38) on 22nd December, 1917 with the Australian Flying Corps, No. 2 Special Draft & disembarked at Suez on 16th January, 1918. Air Mechanic 2nd Class Stanley Noel Marsden embarked from Port Said on HMT *Leasowe Castle* on 24th January, 1918 & disembarked at Taranto, Italy. He entrained from Taranto on 7th February, 1918 & detrained at Cherbourg, France on 12th February, 1918. Air Mechanic 2nd Class Stanley Noel Marsden embarked from Cherbourg on 12th February, 1918 & disembarked at Southampton, England on 13th February, 1918.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Stanley Noel Marsden was marched in to A.F.C. (Australian Flying Corps) Training Depot at Wendover, Buckinghamshire, England on 13th February, 1918.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Stanley Noel Marsden was found dead at 6 am on 5th April, 1918 near the railway tracks towards Wendover, near Bacome Railway Bridge.

An Inquest was held on 6th April, 1918 at Wendover with the following report from Sergeant F. Bryant, Bucks Constabulary which reads: "*The Late Stanley Noel Marsden, 2 A/M/ 2628, Australian F.C. – I respectfully beg to report that an inquest was held by Stanley Wilkins, Esq, Coroner for this district, on the body of the above at the King and Queen, P.H. London Road, Wendover, at 4.30 P.M. on Saturday the 6th inst, when the jury found "That the deceased committed suicide whilst of unsound mind."*



King and Queen Pub, Wendover (Photo by Bikeboy)

THIS INFORMATION of Wallace Andrew Mc. Dougal, Frank Harold Farrer, Joseph Rea, Keith Miller Mc. Allister, Arthur Jordan, and Baron Brooke taken and acknowledged on behalf of our Sovereign Lord the King touching the death of Stanley Noel Marsden at the King and Queen Inn, in the parish of Wendover in the County of Buckingham on the 6th. day of April 1918, before me Stanley Edward Wilkins, Gentleman, one of His Majesty's Coroners for the said County on an inquisition then and there taken on view of the body of the said Stanley Noel Marsden, then and there lying dead.

The said Wallace Andrew Mc. Dougal on his oath states:-

I am a Second Lieutenant of the Australian Flying Corps now stationed at Halton Camp and quartered in F. Lines, East Camp. The body the Jury have just seen is that of Second Air Mechanic Stahley Noel, Marsden who was attached to the Australian Flying Corps, East Camp, F. Lines, at Halton. He was about 21 years of age and unmarried. I knew him for 18 months before he left Australia, and he resided at 260. Church Street, Parramatta New South Wales, Australia, and prior to enlisting he was an Engineer's Fitter and Turner. Since he has been in Halton I have frequently spoken to him. He complained of not having received any letters from his mother at home and he seemed very depressed about it. He made the complaint on several occasions and worried about it a great deal. I did not hear him complain of anything else, and I never heard him say he was tired of life or threaten to do away with himself. It is about a month ago that I first became aware that he was at Halton Camp. About two months before he enlisted on the 30th. November 1917 in Australia, he was taken to a private insane hospital. He was there a little over three weeks. He was then serving

as an apprentice and a difficulty arose as to obtaining his indentures and I think this affected his mind which necessitated him being removed to the insane hospital. His father committed suicide early in 1917. He had never been away from his home before, and the fact of not receiving letters completely upset him.

The said Frank Harold Farrier on his oath states:-

I am Air Mechanic of the Australian Flying Corps stationed at East Camp Halton. I was quartered in the same hut as deceased at East Camp, Halton, and slept in the next bed to him, and I last saw him alive about 7.15 on the evening of the 4th. of April when he came into the hut, picked up his overcoat and went out again. He did not then speak to anyone. He should have been back at the Camp in his hut at 9.30 but he did not return. He had been put on a fresh job in the Officer's Mess that day, and I did not think there was anything amiss when he did

not come back to the hut that evening. The deceased has been very depressed for some time past and did not eat his food properly, and I have known him sometimes to miss his meals altogether. When the other members of the hut received letters the deceased had asked whether there were any for him, and those were the only occasions I have known him to open a conversation. He seemed worried when he did not get any letters from Australia. I have been with him five weeks. He was on good terms with all the other members in the hut.

The said Joseph Rea states:-

I am Air Mechanic of the Australian Flying Corps stationed at East Camp. Halton and live in the same hut as the deceased. I sailed from Australia on the same boat and arrived in England on the 13th. of February last and came to Halton Camp the same day. The deceased was quiet and reserved when on the boat, but otherwise was alright, but since he has been at Halton Camp he has been depressed.

He seemed to worry about not receiving any letters from home. He kept to himself and never made friends. He was very inoffensive and was on good terms with all in the hut. I believe he was a teetotaler and I have never known him to take drink.

The said Keith Mc. Allister on his oath states:-

I am Corporal in charge of the Officers' Mess, Australian Flying Corps, at Halton Camp. The deceased commenced duty at the Mess on Thursday last and remained on duty until 20 minutes to 9. He was acting as a waiter. In reply to his question I told him to report at the Officers' Mess at 5.45 a.m. on the morning of the 5th. and he said all right. During the time that he was at the Mess he did his work satisfactorily but I thought he seemed strange.

The said Arthur Jordan on his oath states:-

I am a Platelayer on the Metropolitan and Great Central Railway. About 6 a.m. on Friday the 5th. inst., I was walking on the permanent way between Church cabin and Wendover on the Metropolitan and Great Central Railway going towards Wendover. Church cabin would be about a quarter of a mile from the station on the Missenden side. When I got to Bascombe Railway Bridge I saw a soldier lying on his left side, his head down on his chest and his right at the back of his neck. He was in the six foot way between the pair of up and down lines. His head was pointing towards the right hand rail of the up rails. He was lying in a position at right angles to the metals. I saw he was injured. I spoke to him twice but got no answer. I took hold of his right shoulder and left hand and found he was stiff and cold. Blood was on his face and I formed the opinion that he was dead. About 12 yards away in the six foot nearer the station I saw a

soldier's hat, it was undamaged. I also saw a coat on

coat on the bridge pier on the down side of the bridge on the station side, partly turned inside out. I saw some blood on both sides of the right hand of the up rail. There was no sign of any struggle having taken place. I got assistance and sent for the police and assisted to remove the body to the King and Queen Public house. Bacombe Bridge would be about 500 to 600 yards from the station in the parish of Wendover. There is a roadway over the bridge to Bacombe Lodge and this connects with the London Road. There is no footway by the side of the Bridge down to the line. There were some foot marks from the coat to where the body lay. I identify the coat produced as the coat found on the bridge pier, and the hat produced is similar to the one I saw on the railway line.

The said Baron Brooke on his oath states:-

I am Medical Officer of the Australian Flying Corps stationed at Halton Camp. I had not attended the deceased professionally as far as I know. Last evening the 5th. of April I examined the body of the deceased. He was then quite dead and had been dead several hours. I found the deceased's head almost detached from the body by a jagged wound and was consistent with the deceased having been struck by a railway engine. The wound was on the right hand side. There were some superficial scratches on the right hand but there were no other marks on the body. There was sign of the deceased having suffered from any disease. The cause of death was from the injuries I have described.

AN INQUISITION taken for our Sovereign Lord the King, at
The King and Queen Inn..... In the parish of
WENDOVER.....In the County of Buckingham, on the...
.. sixth....day of.... April A.D. 1918 (and by adjournment on the day of
..... 19... and the day of 19..) before STANLEY EDWARD WILKINS, Esquire, one
of the Coroners of our Lord the King, for the said County of BUCKINGHAM, upon the Oaths of
good and lawful Men of the said County, duly sworn to enquire for our Lord the King on view
of the body of STANLEY NOEL MARSDEN.....
as to his death and those of the said Jurors whose names are hereunto subscribed, upon their
Oaths duly administered do say,
That the said Stanley Noel Marsdenwas found dead on the ..fifth.. day of ...April..
1918 at Bacombe Bridge on the Metropolitan and Great Central Railway line in the County
of Buckingham. That the cause of his death was injuries received as the result of the
deceased being knocked down by a train on the Metropolitan and Great Central Joint Railway
Line.....
and so the Jurors aforesaid upon their Oaths do further say that the said ..Stanley Noel
Marsden being temporarily of unsound mind, did kill himself..... and the Jurors
aforesaid do further say That the said Stanley Noel Marsden was a male person
of the age of about twenty one years and a Second Air Mechanic of the Australian Flying
Corps, stationed at Halton Camp, Bucks, formerly an Engineering fitter residing at 260

Church Street, Parramatta, New South Wales, Australia.

IN WITNESS whereof, as well the said Coroner as the said Jurors have hereunder subscribed th
Hands and Seals, the Day and Year and Place above written.

Stanley E. Wilkins.
CORONER.

S.C. Hayes.
Foreman.

Herbert Jones.

Alfred William Bancroft.

Alfred A. Caudrey.

Sidney Scott.

Arthur Stroud.

Jas. Floyd.

The Casualty Form – Active Service in the Service Record file for Air Mechanic 2nd Class Stanley Noel Marsden recorded his death as “committed suicide whilst of unsound mind result of railway accident” then amended to “committed suicide whilst of unsound mind knocked down by a train at Wendover 5/4/18.”

A death for Stanley N. Marsden, aged 21, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, England.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class Stanley Noel Marsden was buried at 3 pm on 9th April, 1918 in St. Mary's Churchyard, Wendover, Buckinghamshire, England – South part and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of 2nd Air Mechanic Stanley Noel Marsden - Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack Flag. Bugler and Pallbearers were supplied by the A.I.F. stationed at Wendover. A party of A.F.C. members, under the command of Lieut. Frask,

G. N. and MacDougall, D. A. followed the remains to the Cemetery. Prior to the interment a service was held in the Parish Church (St. Mary's) by the Rev. E. F. Odling. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Air Mechanic Stanley Noel Marsden contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives to obtain the fullest details possible into his death. The letter states that "we are informed officially that it occurred accidentally at Wendover as the result of a railway accident and we should be very grateful for any details that you can supply so that we may reply to his relatives in New South Wales." A reply was sent to the Red Cross by Lieutenant & Adjutant, A.F.C. Training Depot, Halton Camp East, Wendover which reads: *"Officially this man was killed accidentally, but there were no eyewitnesses, and evidence points to the fact that he committed suicide, which was the verdict of the Coroner's inquiry. However, I think it would be much kinder to let the matter stand as it is, i.e. "Accidentally killed", don't you ? The body was found by a plate-layer, lying in the 6 foot way on the line near Wendover Station. Marsden was buried in the Wendover Cemetery."*

2nd Air Mechanic Stanley Noel Marsden requested in his Will dated 17th December, 1917 that the whole of his property and effects be given to his mother – Mrs Emma Marsden, 260 Church Street, Parramatta, NSW.

Lieutenant Colonel Wallace Brown, 2nd Military District, wrote to Base Records, Melbourne, Victoria on 8th January, 1919 to advise that *"Mrs E. Marsden of 260 Church Street, Parramatta, NSW called at this Office today regarding the Personal effects of her son, the late No. 2628 2nd Air Mech. S. N. MARSDEN, Australian Flying Corps, who was killed in Railway Accident at Wendover, on the 5th April, 1918. Mrs Marsden states that she is in receipt of a letter from Horseferry Road, London, dated seven months ago (letter not produced) in which it was stated that the effects were forwarded through the Military. Will you kindly advise me if you have received any information concerning these effects."*

Base Records replied to 2nd Military District on 17th January, 1919 to advise that no personal effects of the late No. 2628 2nd Air Mech. S. N. Marsden had been received at their Office, however *"a package containing the property of deceased was included in a consignment of effects shipped per S.S. "Barunga", which vessel was lost at sea with all cargo on its way to Australia, as the result of enemy action."*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Air Mechanic 2nd Class Stanley Noel Marsden – service number 2628, aged 21, of Australian Flying Corps. He was the son of Mrs Emma Marsden, of 260 Church St., Parramatta, New South Wales.

Air Mechanic Class II S. N. Marsden is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 187.

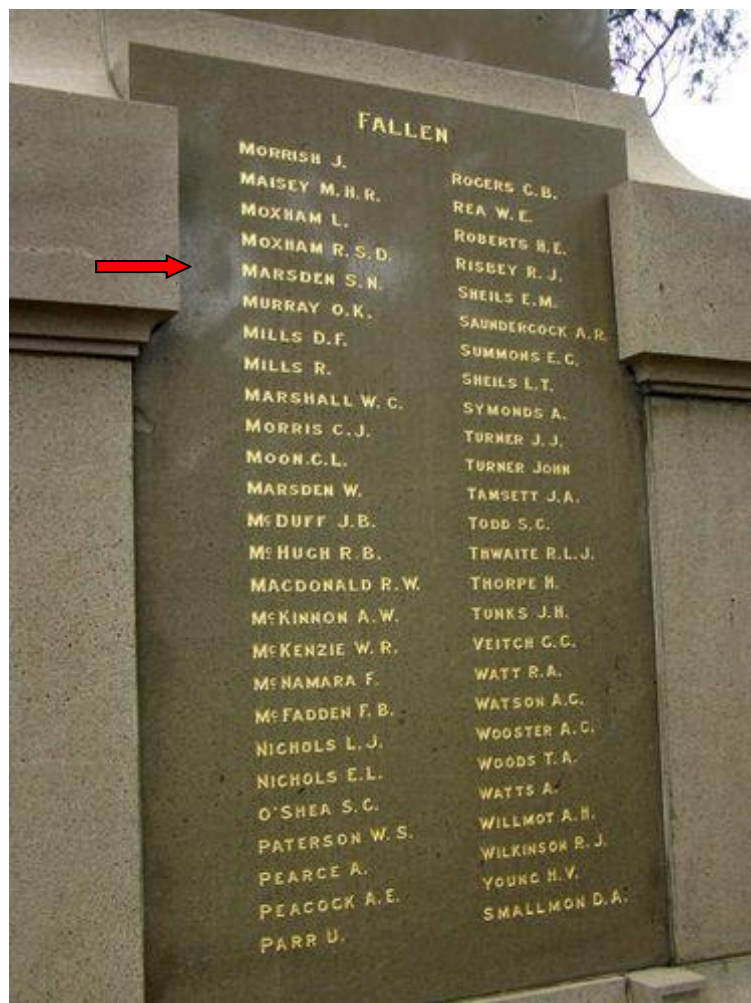


Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

S. N. Marsden is remembered on the Parramatta War Memorial, located in Prince Alfred Park, Church Street and Victoria Road, Parramatta, NSW.



Parramatta War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



S. N. Marsden is remembered on the St. John's Anglican Cathedral Memorial Arch, located in Church Street Mall, Parramatta, NSW.



St. John's Anglican Cathedral Memorial Arch Parramatta (Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



St. John's Anglican Cathedral Memorial Arch Parramatta



St. John's Anglican Cathedral Memorial Arch Parramatta (left side, lower panel)

S. N. Marsden is remembered on the Parramatta and District Great War Roll of Honour, located at the Parramatta Town Hall, Church Street, Parramatta, NSW.



Parramatta and District Great War Roll of Honour (Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW)

(67 pages of Air Mechanic 2nd Class Stanley Noel Marsden'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



Air Mechanic 2nd Class Stanley Noel Marsden

Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

MARSDEN – Killed on active service, April 5, 1918, Private Stanley Noel Marsden (No. 2 Special Draft, Australian Flying Corps), 21 years, third son of Mrs and the late A. E. Marsden, of Parramatta.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 27 April, 1918)

KILLED IN ACTION

STANLEY MARSDEN

The sad news has been received by Mrs A. E. Marsden that her bright young son, Stanley, has been killed. No further information is at present available. Stanley Marsden enlisted and joined the Royal Flying Corps in England. He had not, up to latest news from him, yet left England for the front, and the relatives are inclined to connect an item of news that appeared in Wednesday's cables with the lad's death. The cable reads:- "Two aeroplanes collided in Yorkshire when 20000 feet in the air. Three of the occupants of the machines were killed." Private Stanley Noel Marsden was 22 years of age. He was, before offering his services to his country, an engineer at the Clyde works, where he put in five years. He enlisted on December 12 last and sailed from Melbourne for England 10 days later. He belonged to the No. 2 Special Draft, Australian Flying Corps, as an air mechanic. The last letter received from him stated that he was then preparing for his final flying test. The advice, which was received by the Rev. S. M. Johnstone, simply said:- "No. 2628, Private S. N. Marsden, killed. Please inform his mother, Mrs A. E. Marsden."

(The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Parramatta, NSW – 27 April, 1918)

KILLED IN ACTION

MARSDEN – Killed on active service on April 5, 1918, Private Stanley Noel Marsden, aged 21 years, third son of Mr and the late A. E. Marsden, of Parramatta, NSW, cousin of Sid (on active service), Charlie and the late Roma Marsden.

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 7 May, 1918) & (Western Mail, Perth, Western Australia – 10 May, 1918)

DOUBLE CASUALTY LIST

The following are the casualties contained in the 397th and 398th Lists:—

NEW SOUTH WALES

KILLED

2 A.M. STANLEY NOEL MARSDEN, Parramatta

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 9 May, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

MARSDEN – A tribute of love to the memory of my dear son and our brother, 2nd Air Mechanic Stanley Noel Marsden, Australian Flying Corps, accidentally killed, Wendover, Bucks, April 5, 1918.

Sleep on dear Stan, in that sacred spot,
Where flowers are strewn on a soldier's honoured grave;
Your name is written in letters of love,
So brave and so true,
He ranked as one of the best,
That's why God called him so soon.

Inserted by his fond mother, and brothers and sisters

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 5 April, 1919) &

(The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Parramatta, NSW – 5 April, 1919)

ROLL OF HONOR

MARSDEN – In treasured memory of our dear son and brother, Stanley Noel, 2nd air mechanic, Australia Flying Corps, killed Wendover, April 5th, 1918.

God has him safely in His keeping,
Just on the other side,
Where flowers are strewn in sweet memories

Inserted by his loving mother, brother and sisters.

(The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Parramatta, NSW – 3 April, 1920) &

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 5 April, 1920)

PARRAMATTA SAILORS AND SOLDIERS' WAR MEMORIAL

The following list of names of Sailors and Soldiers, who fell in the Great War, has been prepared for placing on the War Memorial, now being erected, in Parramatta:-

.....

Air Mechanic Stanley Noel Marsden

....

(The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Parramatta, NSW – 24 March, 1923)

2nd Air Mechanic Stanley Noel Marsden is remembered on the family headstone in Mays Hill Cemetery, Paramatta, New South Wales.



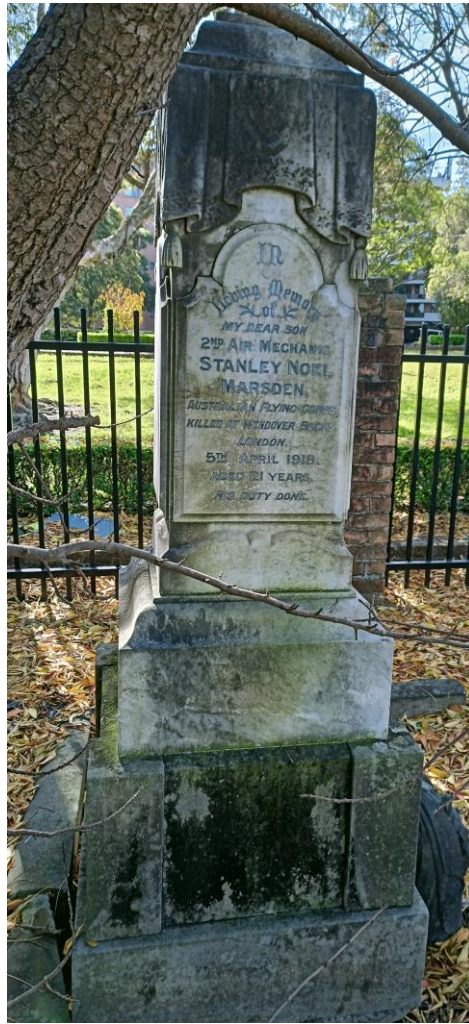
Mays Hill Cemetery (Photo by David Coleman)



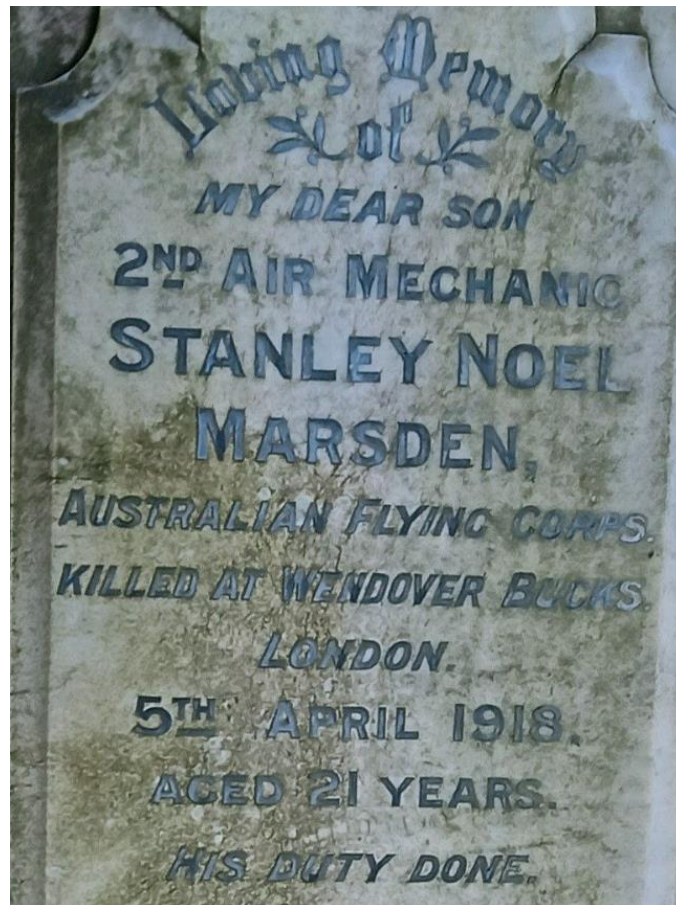
(Find a Grave – Frangipani)



Albert Edward Palmer Marsden & Emmie Marsden



(Photo from Find a Grave – LAH2041)



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)

2nd Air Mechanic S. N. Marsden does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Nearer My God To Thee

St. Mary's Churchyard, Wendover, Buckinghamshire, England

St. Mary's Churchyard, Wendover contains 9 Commonwealth War Graves – only one from World War 1 & eight from World War 2.





The Lych-gate at St. Mary's Churchyard, Wendover (Photo by julia&keld)



St. Mary's Churchyard, Wendover (Photo by julia&keld)

Photo of 2nd Air Mechanic S. N. Marsden's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary's Churchyard, Wendover, Buckinghamshire, England.



(Photo by FamilyHistory Addict – Find a Grave)