

**Earlham Road Cemetery,
Norwich, Norfolk
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1973 PRIVATE

O. R. MISSEN

21ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

20TH NOVEMBER, 1916 Age 27

He Answered

His Country's Call

He Gave His Life,

His Best, His All

Oliver Richard MISSEN

Oliver Richard Missen was born at Ondit, near Beeac, Victoria on 4th August, 1889 to parents Richard and Ida Missen (nee Judd).

Oliver Richard Missen attended the State School at Beeac, Victoria.

The 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915 & 1916 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Corangamite, subdivision of Beeac, Victoria, listed Oliver Richard Missen, Farmer of Beeac.

Oliver Richard Missen was a 26 year old, single, Farmer when he enlisted at Colac, Victoria on 19th June, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1973 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Richard Missen, of Flowerfield, Beeac, Victoria.

Private Oliver Richard Missen was posted to Depot Battalion on 23rd June, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 3rd Reinforcements of 21st Battalion on 30th June, 1915.

Private Oliver Richard Missen embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Anchises (A68)* on 26th August, 1915 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 21st Infantry Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements.

Private Oliver Richard Missen proceeded from Alexandria to join M.E.F. at Gallipoli. He was taken on strength of 21st Battalion at Anzac on 12th October, 1915.

Private Oliver Richard Missen disembarked at Alexandria from Mudros (after evacuation from Gallipoli) on 7th January, 1916.

Private Oliver Richard Missen proceeded from Alexandria on 19th March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 26th March, 1916.

Private Oliver Richard Missen was wounded in action in France on 3rd August, 1916. He was admitted to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station on 3rd August, 1916 with gunshot wounds to neck. Pte Missen was transferred to 22nd General Hospital at Camiers, France on 4th August, 1916. He was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Stad Antwerpen* from Calais on 2nd September, 1916 with gunshot wounds to right front chest.

21st Battalion

The 21st Battalion was raised, as part of the 6th Brigade, at Broadmeadows in Victoria in February 1915. Its recruits hailed from all over the state. The later enlistment of these men, and their average age of 29, would seem to indicate a more considered decision to enlist that set them apart from those who did so amidst the heady enthusiasm of late 1914.

The 21st Battalion arrived in Egypt in June 1915. As part of the newly raised 2nd Australian Division, it proceeded to Gallipoli in late August. It was an eventful trip, the battalion's transport was torpedoed near the island of Lemnos and had to be abandoned. The battalion finally landed at ANZAC Cove on 7 September. It had a relatively quiet time at Gallipoli, as the last major Allied offensives had been defeated in August.

After evacuation from Gallipoli in December 1915, the 21st Battalion arrived in France in March 1916. In April, it was the first Australian battalion to commence active operations on the Western Front. During the battle of Pozieres it was engaged mainly on carrying duties, but suffered its heaviest casualties of the war during the fighting around Mouquet Farm.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 21st Battalion

Pozieres – 3rd August, 1916

“B” Company and Lewis Machine Gun section relieved night 2nd/3rd. Lewis Gun Officer Lt. Stone Kille.

12 Reinforcements received. One Company 46th Battn. attached for duty. Re-equipment and reorganization carried out.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Mr R. Missen, "Flowerfield", Beeac, Victoria was advised on 23rd August, 1916 that his son was reported to be dangerously ill with gunshot wound to neck & chest. Mr R. Missen was advised on 8th September, 1916 that his son was now pronounced out of danger.

Private Oliver Richard Missen was admitted to Norfolk & Norwich War Hospital, Norwich, Norfolk, England on 2nd September, 1916 with bomb wounds to chest.



Mr R. Missen, "Flowerfield", Beeac, Victoria was advised on 29th September, 1916 that his son had been admitted to Norfolk War Hospital on 2nd September, 1916. Mr R. Missen was advised on 31st October, 1916 that his son's condition was improving.

Private Oliver Richard Missen died at 12.25 pm on 20th November, 1916 at Norfolk & Norwich War Hospital, Norfolk, England from Cerebellar Abscesses & Empyema, result of wounds.

A death for Oliver Nussen, aged 27, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Norwich, Norfolk, England.

Private Oliver Richard Missen was buried on 23rd November, 1916 in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England – Section 24, Grave number 230.

A letter was sent on 20th April, 1920 from Base Records to Mr R. Missen, father of the late Private O. R. Missen, advising that "*now in receipt of further advice which shows that his remains have been exhumed from the former site, and re-interred in Grave No.691 Section 54, Norwich Cemetery, Norwich. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain.*"

Private Oliver Richard Missen has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Oliver Richard Missen contains several enquiries from the Red Cross regarding Pte Missen's condition which was replied to stating his progress was slow. A letter is also included from Secretary, Norfolk & Norwich Hospital which reads: "*I regret to have to inform you of the death at this Hospital in Novr. 20th., of Pte Oliver Missen, 1973, C. Coy. 21st Battn. A.I.F. As I know from my previous correspondence with you that you desire that the relatives of Australian soldiers should be given full information in these case, I beg to inform you that the Sister of the ward in which Pte Missen was a patient has written direct to his mother at Flowerfield, Beaac, Victoria, giving all details of Pte Missen's illness and last hours. The Sister has also sent her a few personal belongings of Pte Missen's, and I am forwarding to you to-day, by parcel post, a bag of letters etc., which you may desire to send to Australia. I understand the Australian Headquarters in Horseferry Road, sent a cable notifying Pte Missen's death to his father on the 20th inst.*"

Private Oliver Richard Missen was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Missen's father – Mr R. Missen, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent May, 1922).

Ida Gladys Harbour, of Coulston Street, Beeac, Victoria, applied for the Gallipoli Medallion on 12th July, 1967 on respect of the service of her brother - Private Oliver Richard Missen & being the next-of-kin as her parents were both deceased.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Oliver Richard Missen – service number 1973, aged 27, of 21st Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Richard and Ida Missen, of "Flowerfield," Beeac, Grenville, Victoria, Australia.

Private O. R. Missen is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 94.



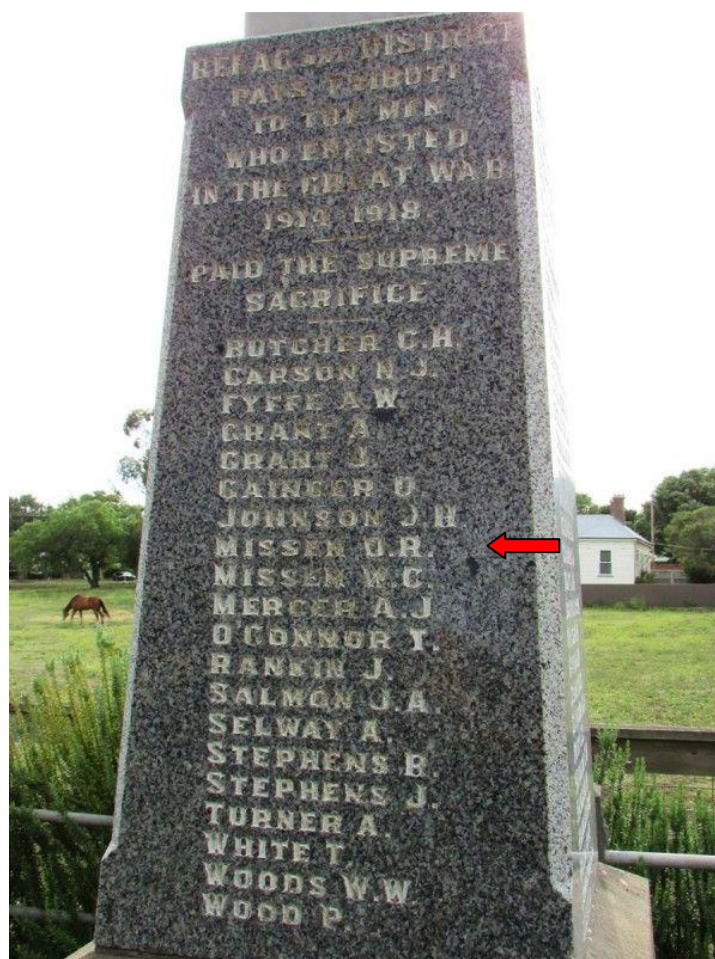
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



O. R. Missen is remembered on the Beeac War Memorial, located on Main (Colac – Ballarat Road) & Lang Streets, Beeac, Victoria.



Beeac War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



O. R. Missen is remembered with a tree on the Avenue of Honour, Wallace Street, Beeac, Victoria.



Avenue of Honour, Wallace Street, Beeac (Photos from Monument Australia)



O. R. Missen is remembered on the Beac Methodist Church Honour Roll, located in St. Andrew's Uniting Church, Beac, Victoria.



Beac Methodist Church Honour Roll (Photo from Victorian Heritage Database)

O. R. Missen is remembered on the Shire of Colac Honour Roll, located in Colac R.S.L. Club, 21 Murray Street, Colac & also a copy is held in the Colac & District Historical Society's History Centre, Colac Performing Arts & Cultural Centre, Gellibrand & Rae Streets, Colac, Victoria.



Shire of Colac Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia)

O. R. Missen is remembered on the Colac War Memorial, located in Memorial Square, Murray Street, Colac, Victoria.

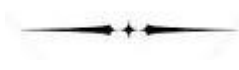


Colac War Memorial



(71 pages of Pte Oliver Richard Missen'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



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DA09822

Private Oliver Richard Missen



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DASEY1306

Private Oliver Richard Missen



Private Oliver Richard Missen



Newspaper Notices

CASUALTIES

Mr Richard Missen, of "Flowerfield," Beeac, has received a telegram from the Defence Department, stating that his son, Private Oliver Richard Missen, is dangerously ill, having received gunshot wounds in neck and chest. Private Missen saw active service in Gallipoli until the evacuation, and has been in France since the end of March.

(*Colac Reformer*, Victoria – 31 August, 1916)

CASUALTIES

The 228th list, showing 770 names, represent fresh casualties was released by the Defence Department last night.The following district names appear on the list....Private O. R. Missen, Beeac, pronounced out of danger, previously reported wounded and dangerously ill.

(*Colac Reformer*, Victoria – 5 October, 1916)

DEATHS

MISSEN – Died at Norwich War Hospital, Norfolk, England, November 20th, 1916, of gunshot wounds received at Pozieres, France, on August 3rd, late 21st Battalion, Private Oliver Richard Missen, aged 27 years, dearly beloved eldest son of Richard and Ida Missen, Flowerfield, Beeac, also loved brother of Florrie, Chester, Irene, Stanley, Ida, Milton, and Addie.

An Anzac Hero.

He has given his life for his country;

Now he's resting from suffering and care;

But we'll meet in that brightest to-morrow,

In the light of God's throne over there,

For ever with the Lord.

(*Spectator and Methodist Chronicle*, Melbourne, Victoria – 29 November, 1916)

DEATHS

MISSEN – Died at Norwich War Hospital, Norfolk, England, November 20th, 1916, of gunshot wounds, received at Pozieres, France, on August 3rd, late 21st Battalion, Private Oliver Richard Missen, aged 27 years, dearly beloved eldest son of Richard and Ida Missen, "Flowerfield," Beeac, also loved brother of Florrie, Chess, Irene, Stan, Ida, Milton, and Addie.

An Anzac Hero.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

(*The Colac Herald*, Victoria – 29 November, 1916)

COLAC DISTRICT HONOUR ROLL



PRIVATE O. R. MISSEN, of Beeac.

Died of wounds received in action at Pozieres.

(*Colac Reformer*, Victoria – 5 December, 1916)

CASUALTIES

The 246th list, containing 649 names, representing fresh casualties was released by the Defence Department last night.....The following district names appear on the list....Private O. R. Missen, Beeac, died of wounds.

(*Colac Reformer*, Victoria – 5 December, 1916)

BEEAC RED CROSS

The members of this branch keep working steadily, and a good result (reports the secretary, Mrs C. Angwin) has been achieved during the past month. One of our active members, Mrs R. Missen, has suffered a sad bereavement in the loss of her loyal brave son Private O. R. Missen — a true Anzac — who died of wounds (received at Pozieres, in France) in hospital in England, on November 20th, after three and a half months' illness. To Mr and Mrs Missen and family the truest sympathy of the Beeac branch is tendered.

(*Colac Reformer*, Victoria – 16 December, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

MISSEN – In loving memory of Private O. R. Missen, 21st Battalion A.I.F., who died in Hospital, England, on November 20th, 1916, of wounds received at Pozieres, France, dearly beloved eldest son of Mr and Mrs R. Missen, Flowerfield, Beeac, and loved brother of Florrie, Chess, Rene, Stan, Ida, Milton, and Addie.

An Anzac Hero.

He died the helpless to defend,
A noble soldier, noble end.

(*Spectator and Methodist Chronicle*, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 November, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

MISSEN – In loving memory of Private O. R. Missen, No. 1973, 21st Battalion, who died of wounds received at Pozieres on November 20th, 1916, at Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, England.

Our Anzac Hero.

He answered his country's call,

He gave his life, his best, his all.

-Inserted by his loving father, mother, sisters and brothers, "Flowerfield," Beeac.

(*The Colac Herald*, Victoria – 20 November, 1918) & (*Colac Reformer*, Victoria –21 November, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

MISSEN – In loving memory of our dearly loved son and brother, Pte O. R. Missen, late 21st Battalion, A.I.F., who died of wounds received at Pozieres on November 20, 1916.

So dearly loved and sadly missed.

Some day we'll understand.

-(Inserted by father, mother, sisters and brothers, "Flowerfield," Beeac.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 20 November, 1919)

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. R. Missen does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

He Answered His Country's Call

He Gave His Life, His Best, His All

Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich contains 533 Commonwealth War Graves.

The cemetery was laid out in 1856 and casualties of the South African War were buried in the oldest part. Nearly half of the 1914-1918 burials are to be found in two military plots; one in the North-Eastern part and the other in the Western part of the burial ground. Ground immediately adjoining the latter was reserved for service burials of the 1939-1945 War and is now combined with it to form the 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 War Graves Plot. The Cross of Sacrifice, which honours the servicemen of both Wars who are buried in the cemetery, stands in the plot, and carved upon two of the panels of its base are the dates 1914-1918 and 1939-1945. There are now nearly 350, 1914-1918 and nearly 200, 1939-1945 war casualties commemorated in this site. In addition, a special memorial is erected to one soldier buried among civilian air raid victims in a grave on which it was not possible to erect a headstone.

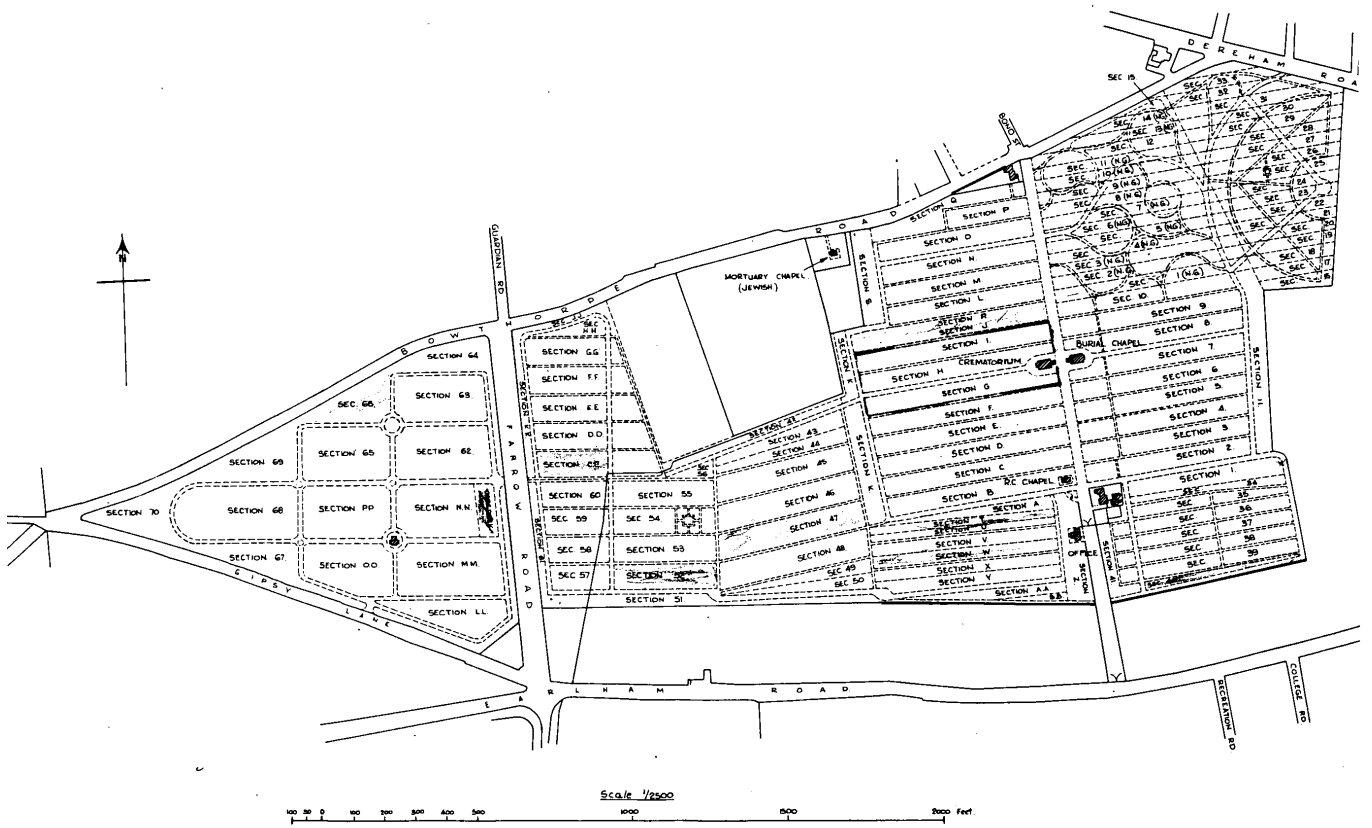
(Information & photo from CWGC)



Photo of Private O. R. Missen's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Earham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England.



(Photo by Jennifer Hart – Find a Grave)



Map of Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

