

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



19332 BTY. QMR. SERJT.

W. OLIVER

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

24TH JANUARY, 1920 Age 28

"Greater Love

Hath No Man Than This"

A Soldier And A Man

Walter OLIVER

Walter Oliver was born at Springvale, Melbourne, Victoria in 1891 to parents James and Teresa Oliver (nee Simpson).

Walter Oliver attended State School then attended School of Arts, Sydney, NSW.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Surry Hills, NSW listed Walter Oliver, Clerk, of 17 Green's Road.

Walter Oliver was a 24 year old, single, Clerk from 6 Jolimont Terrace, Jolimont, Melbourne, Victoria when he enlisted at Liverpool, NSW on 10th August, 1915 with the 7th Brigade Ammunition Column of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 19332 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs T. Oliver, of 6 Jolimont Terrace, Jolimont, Melbourne, Victoria.

Walter Oliver was posted as Acting Quartermaster Sergeant with "C" Company, 7th Battalion at Warwick Farm on 12th August, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to Liverpool, NSW "B" Company, 2nd Battalion on 12th August, 1915 then transferred to Field Artillery Brigade, 2/4th D.A.C. (Divisional Ammunition Column) on 22nd November, 1915.

Acting Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Oliver was transferred to 7th B.A. Column on 1st April, 1916. He was appointed provisionally as Battery Quartermaster Sergeant on 12th April, 1916.

(Prov.) Battery Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Oliver embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Argyllshire (A8)* on 11th May, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 10th July, 1916. (Prov.) B.Q.M.S. Oliver has been admitted to Ship's Hospital while at Sea on 4th July, 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.

(Prov.) Battery Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Oliver was transferred & taken on strength of 3rd D.A.C. (Divisional Ammunition Column) on 7th August, 1916 from 7th F.A.B..

(Prov.) Battery Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Oliver proceeded overseas to France on 24th November, 1916.

Provisional rank of Battery Quartermaster Sergeant was confirmed on 1st January, 1917.

Battery Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Oliver travelled to Paris on 28th October, 1917 for Furlough & Was on leave in England from 29th October, 1917 & rejoined from furlough on 8th November, 1917.

Battery Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Oliver was on leave to England from 29th October, 1918 & rejoined from leave on 15th November, 1918.

Battery Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Oliver rejoined from leave on 10th April, 1919.

Battery Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Oliver was marched out for return to Australia – Quota 39 & left for England on 28th April, 1919 from A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot). He was marched in to No. 3 Group at Codford, Wiltshire on 29th April, 1919.

Battery Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Oliver was taken off strength of A.I.F. Headquarters, London on 2nd June, 1919 – non Military Employment in UK. He was marched out from Group No 3 at Codford on 4th June, 1919 for Headquarters, London.

Battery Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Oliver was granted leave from 5th June, 1919 to 29th October, 1919 with "pay & subs. Fees £ 10.17.8. Reason Accountancy I.D.2. Attending G. Williams College Y.M.C.A. Tottenham Court Rd. London." His N.M.E. (Non Military Employment -Leave after Armistice - placement within industry) Leave was cancelled on 15th October, 1919.

Battery Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Oliver retransferred to 3rd D.A.C. on cancellation of leave on 15th October, 1919. He was taken on strength of Furlo Dept, London from N.M.E. on 15th October, 1919. B.Q.M.S. Oliver was marched in at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 22nd October, 1919.

Battery Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Oliver was admitted to 1st Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 24th October, 1919 with Asthma. He was transferred to Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire from Sutton Veny on 20th November, 1919 seriously ill with Chronic Bronchitis.

Mrs Oliver, mother of Battery Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Oliver, was advised on 6th December, 1919 that there was no change in the condition of her son. Mrs Oliver was again advised on 24th December, 1919 that there was still no change in her son's condition. Mrs Oliver was advised on 14th January, 1920 that her son's condition was slightly improved.

Battery Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Oliver died at 11.30 am on 24th January, 1920 at Fovant Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Tubercular disease of lungs.

A death for Walter Oliver, aged 28, was registered in the March quarter, 1920 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

Battery Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Oliver was buried on 27th January, 1920 in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England, – Plot number I. E. 5. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of B.Q.M.S. Walter Oliver - *Coffin was Elm with brass mountings. The deceased was accorded a Military funeral. A service was held in St Georges Church, Fovant, and later at the graveside at which members of the Nursing Staff of Fovant Military Hospital were present. The pall bearers and firing party were supplied by Imperial Troops stationed at Fovant. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag. Three volleys were fired over the grave by the firing party. A wreath sent by the Hospital Nursing Staff bore the following inscription "In affectionate remembrance of a brave, true and greathearted Australia, from the Nursing Staff, Fovant Military Hospital." A representative of these Headquarters was present.*

Base Records contacted Mrs T. Oliver, mother of the late Battery Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Oliver, January, 1922 asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself – for instance – was his father still alive, due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. Mrs Oliver replied in January, 1922 that she was the widowed mother of the late Q.M.S. Walter Oliver.

Battery Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Oliver was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to B.Q.M.S. Oliver's mother – Mrs T. Oliver, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent March, 1922 & Plaque sent February, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Battery Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Oliver – service number 19332, aged 28, of 3rd Div. Ammunition Col., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of James and Teresa Oliver, of 6 Joliment Terrace, Joliment, Victoria. Born at Melbourne.

Battery Quartermaster Sergeant W. Oliver is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 21.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(60 pages of Battery Quartermaster Sergeant Walter Oliver'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

DIED ON SERVICE

OLIVER – On the 24th January, at Fovant Camp Military Hospital, England, B.Q.M.-Sgt. Walter Oliver, only son of the late James and Mrs T. Oliver, and loving brother of Ethel, Jolimont terrace, Jolimont.

(The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria – 7 February, 1920)

CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

New South Wales – Q.M. Sgt. W. Oliver (Jolimont, Vic)

(The Farmer and Settler, Sydney, NSW – 13 February, 1920)

BEREAVEMENT CARDS

Mrs OLIVER and Daughter desire to convey their sincere THANKS for letters, cards and personal expressions of sympathy with them in the loss of their dear son and brother, B.Q.M.S. Walter Oliver, Jolimont.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 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)

Battery Quartermaster Sergeant W. Oliver does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

“Greater Love Hath No Man Than This”

A Soldier And A Man

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 Battery Quartermaster Sergeant W. Oliver'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*)