

**Reading Cemetery,
Reading, Berkshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3064 PRIVATE

E. OUVRIER

30TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

10TH JUNE, 1918 Age 28

****SERVED AS THOMAS WESTON**

Ernest OUVRIER

Ernest Ouvrier was born at Nelson, near Windsor, NSW on 12th February, 1891 to parents John William and Mary Ouvrier (nee Maguire).

Ernest Ouvrier attended St. Benedict's School, Sydney.

Ernest Ouvrier enlisted under the name of Thomas Weston. Thomas Weston stated he was a 25 year old, single, Shearer from 39 George Street, South Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Casula, Sydney, NSW on 9th February, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 30th Infantry Battalion of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3064 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr John William Weston, of 46 Lincoln Street, Stanmore, Sydney, NSW. Thomas Weston was 5 feet 9 ¼ inches tall, with blue eyes, dark brown hair & a fresh complexion.

Private Thomas Weston was posted to "D" Company at Depot Battalion on 14th February, 1916. He was transferred to "C" Company, 30th Battalion, 6th Reinforcements on 9th March, 1916. Private Thomas Weston was absent without leave on 30th March, 1916 for 1 day & fined 5/-.

Private Thomas Weston embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Nestor* (A71) on 9th April, 1916.

Private Thomas Weston was admitted to 2nd Australian Stationary Hospital at Tel-el-Kebir on 2nd June, 1916 with a fractured wrist. He embarked from Alexandria on 6th June, 1916 on H.M.T. *Franconia* & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 16th June, 1916.

Private Thomas Weston embarked overseas for France from England on 5th September, 1916 from 8th Training Battalion & was taken on strength with 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 6th September, 1916. Private Thomas Weston proceeded from 5th A.D.B.D. on 24th September, 1916 to join his Unit & was taken on strength with his Unit in France on 26th September, 1916.

Private Thomas Weston was written up for an Offence on 10th December, 1916 – "Conduct to the prejudice of good order & military discipline – urinating in a place not set apart for that purpose". He was awarded 7 days Field Punishment No. 2.

Private Thomas Weston was absent from Tattoo Roll Call on 3rd May, 1917. He was awarded 2 days Field Punishment No. 2.

Private Thomas Weston was admitted to Hospital on 13th October, 1917. He was admitted to 69th Field Ambulance on 13th October, 1917 with V.D.G. then transferred to 39th General Hospital. He was marched in from Hospital to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 10th December, 1917. He was marched out to join his Unit on 20th December, 1917 & rejoined his Unit in the field on 22nd December, 1917.

Private Thomas Weston was wounded in action on 14th April, 1918. He was taken to 55th Field Ambulance with shrapnel wounds to left flank then transferred to 49th Casualty Clearing Station on 15th April, 1918 – dangerously wounded. Private Thomas Weston was admitted to 1st General Hospital at Rouen, France on 22nd April, 1918. He was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *St. Andrew* on 28th April, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to abdomen.

War Diary – 30th Battalion 14th April, 1918:

Strength – Officers 44. O.R. 978

Our artillery was quieter during the day, but enemy shelling increased on Bn Sector. Machine guns quiet and enemy attitude very quiet beyond shelling. Enemy seed in posts in P9b. Enemy movement in small parties seen during morning. Visibility was poor during most of day. Our patrols were active during the night but heard or saw no enemy movement. It was noticeable that enemy used more flares than usual during the night. Wiring in front of forward posts was continued.

3 OR evac wounded. 2 OR evac. sick.

(From The Australian War Memorial)

Private Thomas Weston was admitted to Reading War Hospital, Reading, Berkshire, England on 29th April, 1918, with gunshot wounds to abdomen & double pneumonia & was dangerously ill.

Private Thomas Weston died on 10th June, 1918 at Section 6, Reading War Hospital, Reading, Berkshire, England from wounds received in action – Shell wound to abdomen & Septic Pneumonia.

A death for Thomas Weston, aged 27, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Reading, Berkshire, England.

Private Thomas Weston was buried at 11 am on 15th June, 1918 in Reading Cemetery, Reading, Berkshire – Screen Wall. 72. 16451. Those buried in Plot 72 & buried in other parts of the cemetery that do not have headstones marking their graves are named on the Memorial Screen Wall located near the Cross of Sacrifice. Their deaths are still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. From the burial report of Pte Thomas Weston - *Coffin was good, polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack Flag, and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths. Gun carriage, Bugler and Pallbearers were present. About 60 Australian and R.A.M.C. soldiers followed the remains to the Cemetery. 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. Friends present at the funeral – Miss A. E. Horton, 281 Portobello Road, North Kensington, London and Miss Clinton, Padworth Rectory, Reading.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for 3064 Private Ernest Ouvrier (Ernest Weston) contains several reports on his illness, death & burial.

- From Francis Clinton, Padworth Rectory, Royal Barton Hpl. Reading 24/5/1918:

Weston, Pte T. 3064 Wounded – I am very sorry to say that Pte T. Weston No. 3064 30th Battn. Benyon Ward is very dangerously ill. Headquarters have been notified by the Hospital and I have written to his people in Australia and got him fruit and will do all I can. But it is so sad as he seems to have no relatives or friends over here.

- From Miss Francis Clinton, Padworth Vicarage, Reading 31/5/1918:

Weston, Pte T. 3064 – Ill – Re 3064 Pte T. Weston, 30th Battn, Benyon Ward, Royal Berks Hpl. Reading, admitted 29th April. I am thankful to say Weston was a little better yesterday. He has been dreadfully ill, and is still very ill, but the doctor and Sister yesterday did think him a little better. I have seen him ever since he came in, and since he has been so seriously ill, I have been in this week, 3 times, and last week 4 times. The Sister has a wire always ready to send to me, in case Weston should be worse, or should he want me. I got him grapes, and oranges, lime juice, cakes etc. and other ladies have given him jellies, etc. and the Hpl. provide really anything he can take, Champagne, Brands Essence etc. I do think he has had any single thing he would want, as far as he would take it, and he is such a very nice man, no one would help help doing anything they could for him. He has always known me, and if he couldn't talk, he'd like to know I was writing to his people and always sent his love. Yesterday he talked quite a lot, chiefly about your Red Cross in Australia. He seemed to me to have more of a grip on life yesterday and said he felt better. He wanted one of the other men to have some of his flowers and took a great interest in some little cakes I'd taken in. The Sister is doing everything she can, and she and the doctors are anxious to pull him through. Weston is R.C. and his priest has been very attentive.

- From Red Cross Visitor, Royal Berks Hpl. 14/6/1918:

Weston, Pte T. 3064 Wounded – Re 3064 Pte T. Weston, 30th Battn. Died about 10 mins to 9 pm yesterday evening 10th. I was with him till 7 pm and went in again to the Royal Berks Hospital this morning, hoping to find him still alive. I wish I could have stayed with him but "Sister" was with him at the end and said he was absolutely peaceful and she hardly knew when he ceased breathing. He knew me yesterday, but was wandering a good deal. I do wonder if his brother will get here in time for the funeral. He is only a lad on 17. A Miss A. E. Hortin, of 261 Portobello Rd. North Kensington, who seems the only acquaintance Weston had over here, will, I think have the brother, if he likes to go to her. She is a friend of Weston's great pal. All arrangements are going to be made for the Australians to attend the funeral, and No. 1 are going to let me know when the date is settled.

- From Informant P. Clinton, A.R.C.S. Visitor 3/7/1918:

Thomas Weston, 3064 – Died 10-6-18 – He is buried in the corner of the Reading Cemetery reserved for Australians and Canadians. The bearers were 4 Australians for the Royal Berks Hpl. and 2 from other Hpls. A lot of men in Hpl. at Reading attended the funeral and a Representative was sent from Hqts. I, and Miss Hortin, a friend of Weston's

who lives in London, and his night nurse, attended the funeral. The other nurses who had attended him were on duty. It was all very quiet and reverent. Soon after 12 o'clock in Sat. 15th, Miss Hortin, and I and the night nurse brought flowers, and we shall not forget the grave. I have written two letters to his Mother and two to Ouvrier, giving all particulars. I have promised to take a photograph of the grave for Ouvrier. Miss Hortin and I have asked the latter to let us know when he gets leave, so that we can do all we can for the boy."

Pte Thomas Weston was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Thomas Weston's father – Mr J. W. Ouvrier, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent January, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Ernest Ouvrier – service number 3064, aged 28, of 30th Battalion Australian Infantry. Served as WESTON. He was the son of John William and Mary Ouvrier, of 46 Lincoln Street, Stanmore, Sydney.

Private E. Ouvrier (also known as Ernest Weston & served as Thomas Weston) is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 117.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(76 pages of Pte Thomas Weston'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



Newspaper Notices

Week to Week

Mr and Mrs John Ouvrier of Stanmore and formerly residents of this district for many years, received the sad news on Monday that their son. Private Ernest Ouvrier died of wounds on June 10. Ernie was a fine lad and one of the bravest. He was wounded by gunshot in the abdomen about a month ago, and after receiving word that his condition was serious his parents received a reassuring cable about a week before the message came to say he had made the supreme sacrifice. He was a grandson of Mrs Maguire of "Lonsdale Cottage" Windsor, and a nephew of Mr M Maguire, Nelson, Mr S. Maguire, and Mrs F Campbell, Windsor. His brother Frank is still fighting in France.

(Windsor and Richmond Gazette, NSW – 21 June, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

OUVRIER – Died of wounds, June 10, 1918 in Reading War Hospital, England, Ernest, third son of Mr and Mrs John Ouvrier, of Stanmore.

OUVRIER – Private Ernest Ouvrier, 30th Battalion, died of wounds in Reading War Hospital, June 10, 1918. Inserted by his living brothers and sisters

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 29 June, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

OUVRIER – Died of wounds, June 10th, 1918 in Reading War Hospital, England, Ernest, third son of Mr and Mrs John Ouvrier, of Lincoln-street, Stanmore, and grandson of Mrs P. Maguire, of "Lonsdale Cottage", Church-street, Windsor.

(Windsor and Richmond Gazette, NSW – 5 July, 1918)



The late Private Ernest Ouvrier

Mr and Mrs John Ourvier, Stanmore, have received by cable the sad news that their son, Private Ernest Ouvrier, had died in Royal Birk's Hospital, England, on June 10, from wounds recieved on April 15, while in action in France. The fallen hero was 25 years of age, and a general favourite with all who knew him at home and with his comrades-in-

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arms. His brother, Gunner Frank Ouvrier, and he had been fighting side by side in France since they went to the front. The deepest sympathy is felt for his bereaved parents and relatives – R.I.P.

(The Catholic Press, Sydney, NSW – 25 July, 1918)



PRIVATE ERNEST OUVRIER

Pte. Ernest Ouvrier, who was terribly wounded at Ypres on the 14th April last, and died on fifth June in Royal Berks Hospital, Reading, Eng., was the third son of Mr and Mrs John W. Ouvrier, of Stanmore, and formerly of Nelson and Windsor. He enlisted in Sydney on his 25th birthday — 12th February, 1916— and left for the front on 19th April of that year, so that he saw two years of fighting. He was born at Nelson, near Windsor, and a younger brother — Gunner Frank Ouvrier - has been two and a half years in the fighting line. These lads are grandsons of Mrs P. Maguire, of "Lonsdale Cottage," Windsor.

(Windsor and Richmond Gazette, NSW – 23 August, 1918)

Reading Cemetery, Reading, Berkshire, England

Reading Cemetery, Reading, Berkshire contains 248 War Graves, 17 of those being from Australian Forces – World War 1.

The War Graves Plot is situated at the back of the cemetery, in the right hand corner from the entrance. A Screen Wall Memorial commemorates those buried in Plot 72 and those buried in other parts of the cemetery whose graves are not marked by headstones. There are 207 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 41 of the 1939-1945 war. There is also 1 Serbian burial.

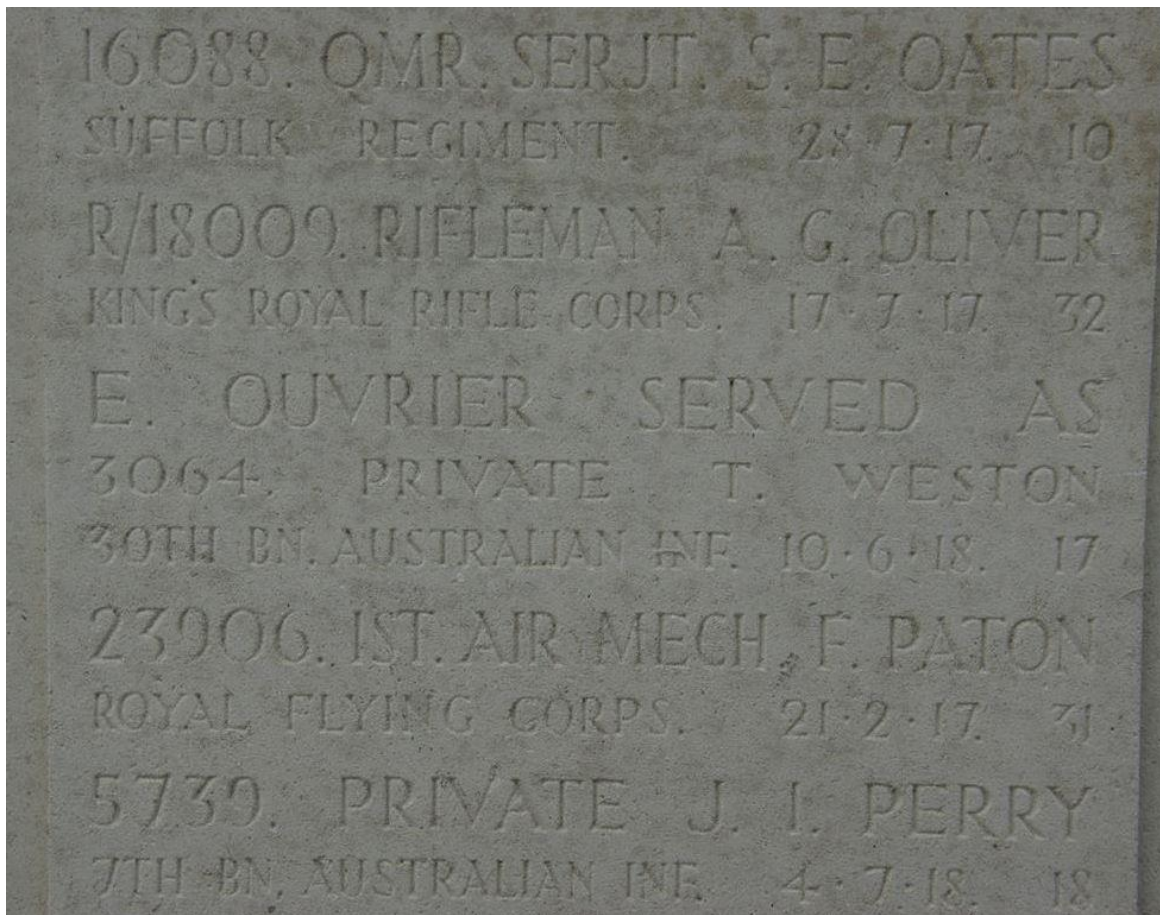
(Information & photos from CWGC)



Cross of Sacrifice & Memorial Screen Wall, Reading Cemetery, Reading, Berkshire *(Photos from CWGC)*



Photo of E. Ouvrier, who served as Private T. Weston's name on the Screen Wall Memorial in Reading Cemetery, Reading, Berkshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Phil Wood)