

**Islington Cemetery & Crematorium,  
Islington, Middlesex, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**4241 SERGEANT**

**F. V. SEARLE**

**47TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**22ND AUGUST, 1916 Age 29**

## Frank Victor SEARLE

Frank Victor Searle was born at 50 Dorset Street, Essex Road, London North, England to parents John & Margaret Susannah Elizabeth Searle (nee Meredith). His birth was registered in March quarter, 1888 in the district of Islington, London, England.

The 1891 England Census recorded Frank Searle as a 4 year old Scholar, living with his family at 42 Dorset Street, Islington, London, England. His parents were listed as John Searle (Carpenter, aged 52, born Islington, London) & Margaret Searle (aged 36, born Limehouse, London). Frank was one of six children listed on this Census (all born Islington, London) – John S. Searle (Scholar, aged 12), Charles W. Searle Scholar, aged 10), Bert Searle (Scholar, aged 9), Harry Searle (Scholar, aged 7), then Frank & Samuel Searle (aged 2).

Frank Victor Searle attended St. Paul's School, Canonbury, London, England.

The 1901 England Census recorded Frank Searle as a 13 year old, living with his family at 42 Dorset Street, Islington, London, England. His parents were listed as John Searle (Carpenter, aged 50) & Margaret Searle (aged 47). Frank was one of eight children listed on this Census (all born Islington, London) – Charles Searle (Printer, aged 19), Bert Searle (Printer, aged 18), Henry Searle (Confectioner, aged 16) then Frank, Samuel Searle (aged 11), Alfred Searle (aged 8), Louise Searle (aged 5) & Frederick Searle (aged 2).

According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour – Frank came to Australia when he was 22 years old.

The 1913 & 1915 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Lilley, subdivision of Windsor, Queensland, recorded Frank Victor Searle, Salesman, of Laura Street, Woolloowin. Also listed at Laura street – Charles William Searle & Florence Rosina Searle.

Frank Victor Searle was a 27 year old, single, Carter from Laura Street, Woolloowin, Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted in Brisbane, Queensland on 25th August, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4241 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs M. Searle, 42 Dorset Street, Islington, North London, England.

Private Frank Victor Searle was posted to 13th Reinforcements of 15th Battalion (no date recorded).

Private Frank Victor Searle embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Kyarra (A55)* on 3rd January, 1916 with the 4th Infantry Brigade, 15th Infantry Battalion, 13th Reinforcements as Acting Corporal & disembarked at Alexandria on 19th February, 1916.

### 15th Battalion

The 15th Battalion AIF was raised from late September 1914, six weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. Three-quarters of the battalion were recruited as volunteers from Queensland, and the rest from Tasmania. With the 13th, 14th and 16th Battalions it formed the 4th Brigade, commanded by Colonel John Monash.....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Acting Corporal Frank Victor Searle joined 47th Battalion at Serapeum on 1st April, 1916. He reverted to rank of Private on 2nd April, 1916.

Private Frank Victor Searle was to be Corporal from 1st May, 1916.

Corporal Frank Victor Searle was admitted to 12th Field Ambulance on 19th May, 1916 with Gastritis. He was discharged to Lines on 24th May, 1916 & rejoined his Unit at Serapeum on the same day.

Corporal Frank Victor Searle proceeded from Alexandria on 2nd June, 1916 on Troopship *Caledonia* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 9th June, 1916.

Corporal Frank Victor Searle was appointed Lance Sergeant from 6th July, 1916 while posted in France.

© Cathy Sedgwick 2022

Corporal Frank Victor Searle was promoted to Temporary Sergeant on 7th August, 1916.

Temporary Sergeant Frank Victor Searle was wounded in action in France on 10th August, 1916. He was admitted to 44th Casualty Clearing Station on 10th August, 1916 with "Vertebra" then transferred to St. John's Ambulance on 13th August, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wounds) to Head & Spine. Temporary Sergeant Searle was admitted to 13th General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 14th August, 1916 with G.S.W. left Leg. He embarked from Calais, France on 18th August, 1916 for England on Hospital Ship *Brighton* with Shrapnel wounds to Back, Hand & Knee.

#### **47th Battalion**

The 47th Battalion was raised in Egypt on 24 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately half of its new recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 15th Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 15th, the new battalion was composed mostly of men recruited in Queensland and Tasmania. The new battalion was incorporated into the 12th Brigade of the Australian Division.

Arriving in France on 9 June 1916, the 47th entered the trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 3 July. It participated in its first major battle at Pozieres. Initially, the battalion provided working parties during the 2nd Division's attack on 4 August, and then, with its own division, defended the ground that had been captured. The 47th endured two stints in the heavily-contested trenches of Pozieres, as well as a period in reserve.

After Pozieres, the battalion spent the period up until March 1917 alternating between duty in the trenches and training and rest behind the lines.....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

#### War Diary – 47th Battalion

*7th August, 1917 – Pozieres:*

*At 6.30 am received message to reinforce front line occupied by 8th Battn, despatched "C" Coy at 6.40 am. Three platoons returned at 7.15 am and the other remaining.*

*At 2.30 pm commenced relief of front line occupied by 48th Battn relief was completed by 4.30 pm. A and D Companies occupying front line. O.G. 1 and B. Coy in close supports in TRAMWAY TRENCH. One platoon of C Coy which reinforced the 48th Battalion at 6.40 am was sent back to join up with the remainder of "C" Coy at SUNKEN ROAD C Coy remained in support.*

*The relief of the 48th Battalion was carried out under a heavy bombardment by the enemy and considerable casualties were inflicted on the Battalion.*

*The frontage taken over from the 48th Bn was, front line R.35 C 8 ½ O to communication trench R. 35 C.4.8 – R 35 c.2.6.*

*Active patrolling was kept up, and trenches and communications were improved, The enemy's bombardment was heavy throughout the period the Battalion occupied the above position.*

*12th August, 1916 – Pozieres:*

*The 48th Battalion relieved his Battalion at 6.30 am relief was completed at 7.30 am and Battalion returned to SUNKEN ROAD as reserve to front line.*

*(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)*

[Note: In a request for the Death Certificate of his brother – Sergeant Frank Victor Searle, on 13th September, 1916, Charles William Searle, Laura St, Woolloowin, Brisbane stated that his brother No. 4241 was attached to "C" Company, 47th Battalion.]

Sergeant Frank Victor Searle was admitted to King George Hospital, London, England on 18th August, 1916 with G.S.W. Back & Paraplegia. His condition was listed as severe. On 19th August, 1916 Sergeant Searle was reported to be seriously ill with G.S.W. to Spine & Paraplegia.

Sergeant Frank Victor Searle died on 22nd August, 1916 at King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London, England from wounds received in action in France - G.S.W. to Spine & Paraplegia.

A death for Frank V. Searle, aged 29, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Lambeth, Greater London, England.

The Officer in Charge Records, Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F., wrote to Officer Commanding, King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London on 9th January, 1917 regarding the late No. 4241 Sergeant F. V. Searle, 47th Battalion, A.I.F. : *"Information has been received from your Hospital, that the body of the above deceased soldier was removed to his relatives residence at No. 42 Dorset Street, Essex Road, Islington N. As the names of the relatives were omitted in your report, could this Office be advised of same at your earliest convenience, please."*

Base Records wrote to Mr Searle, 42 Essex Road, Islington, London on 26th January, 1917 with the following: *"The King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London advise that the body of the late No. 4241 Sgt. Searle, F. V. 47th Battalion, A.I.F., was sent to your residence for interment. I would esteem it a great favour if you would supple this office as to the following particulars, Grave Site, Grave Site No. Cemetery, and date if Burial for records purposes in this office."*

Mrs M. Searle, 42 Dorset St, Essex Road, Islington, London replied to Base Records on 29th January, 1917 advising *" .... As regards the interment of the body of my late son Sergt F. V. Searle, 47th Battalion A.I.F. he was buried at Finchley Cemetery in Church Ground grave No. 20367 Section O on August 28th, 1916. You sent your letter to 42 Essex Road, Islington but the letter reached me quite safe. Please note my address is 42 Dorset St, Essex Road."*

Sergeant Frank Victor Searle was buried on 28th August, 1916 in Finchley Cemetery, Church Ground, England – Grave No. 20367 Section O.

Base Records were advised on 16th May, 1919 by Administrative Headquarters, Australian Imperial Force, 130 Horseferry Road, London with the following: *"Late 4241 Sgt Searle, F. V. 47th Bn. A.I.F. You are advised that the above-named has been exhumed from common grave No. 20367 Section 07, and re-interred in a separate single grave No. 7865 P. Section 07, in Islington Cemetery, East Finchley, London."*

Sergeant Frank Victor Searle's grave is now recorded by Commonwealth War Graves Commission as located in Islington Cemetery & Crematorium, Middlesex, England – Plot number O. 7. 7865 and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A War Pension was granted to Margaret Susan Elizabeth Searle, 42 Dorset Street, Essex Road, Islington, mother of the late Sergeant Frank Victor Searle, in the sum of £2.12.3 per fortnight from 22nd October, 1916.

Base Records wrote to Mr C. W. Searle, Laura Street, Wooloowin, Queensland on 19th October, 1921 requesting *"...the present address of the parents of the late No. 4241 Sergeant F. V. Searle, 47th Battalion, or if they are deceased kindly advise me whether the late soldier has any brothers older than yourself – stating the name and address of the eldest. This information is required in order that War Medals etc., issuable on account of the abovementioned late soldier's service may be properly disposed of..."*

A reply was sent to Base Records on 28th October, 1921 advising that the address of the mother of the late No. 4241 Sergeant F. V. Searle was - Mrs Searle 42 Dorset St, Essex Rd, Islington N. London, England.

Sergeant Frank Victor Searle was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sergeant Searle's mother – Mrs M. Searle, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in July, 1922).

Mrs Florence Rosina Searle, Laura St, Woolloowin, Brisbane, Queensland, wrote to the Officer in Charge of 1914-18 War Medals on 18th October, 1944 with the following letter: *“Dear Sir, May I ask if there are any medals standing to the credit of my late Brother-in-law Sgt Frank Victor Searle – late No 4241 – 15th Battalion 4th Infantry Brigade A.I.F. I am claiming on behalf of my husband lately deceased as only living relative in Australia. Hoping my request is not out of order.”*

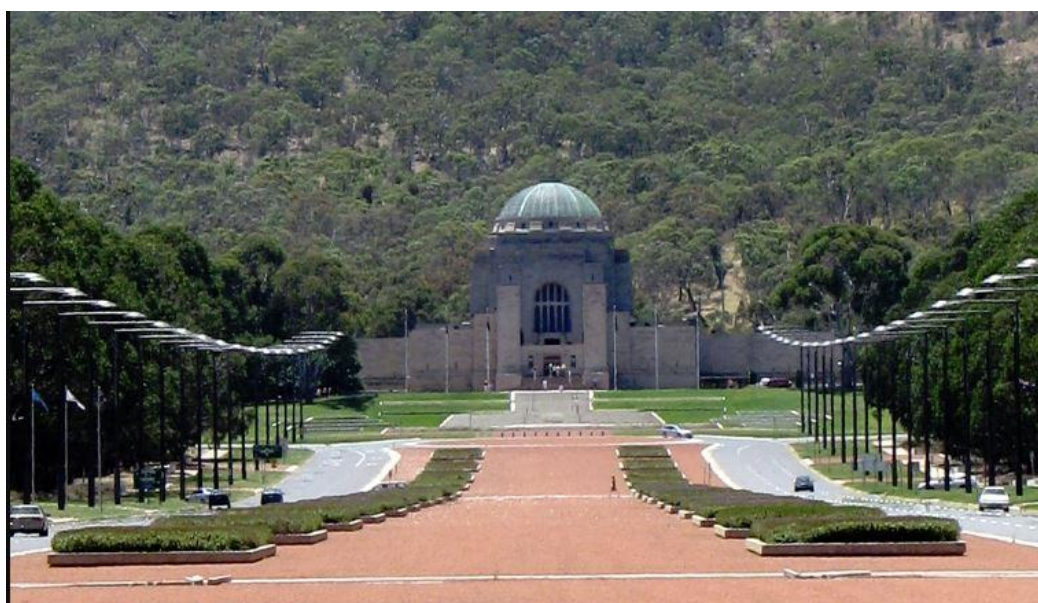
Base Records replied to Mrs F. R. Searle on 27th October, 1944 advising *“...that all medals etc., in respect of the service in the A.I.F. 1914-18 of No. 4241 Sergeant Frank Victor Searle, 47th Battalion, have been issued to the Mother of the soldier, Mrs M. Searle, of 42 Dorset Street, Islington, London.”*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant Frank Victor Searle – service number 4241, aged 29, of 47th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of John & Margaret S. E. Searle, of 42 Dorset St., Islington, London.

Sergeant F. V. Searle is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 144.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*





F. V. Searle is remembered on the Windsor War Memorial, located in Memorial Park, Lutwyche Road & Roblane Street, Windsor, Queensland.



**Windsor War Memorial** (Photo above from Monument Australia; below from Queensland War Memorial Register)





F. D. Searle is remembered on the Queensland Railways Toowoomba Employees Roll of Honour, located at Toowoomba Railway Station, Railway Street, Toowoomba, Queensland.



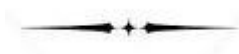
**Queensland Railways Toowoomba Employees Roll of Honour** (Photos from AWM Places of Pride)



**Queensland Railways Toowoomba Employees Roll of Honour** *(Photo from Monument Australia)*

(57 pages of Sergeant Frank Victor Searle'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*







**Frank Victor Searle** (*Photos from Find a Grave – Jack Edwards*)



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **Roll of Honour**

#### **206th and 207th Lists**

QUEENSLAND

WOUNDED

Sgt F. V. Searle, England, and seri. ill

*(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 7 September, 1916)*

---

### **Roll of Honour**

#### **210th List**

QUEENSLAND

DIED OF WOUNDS

Sgt F. V. Searle, England, 23/8/16, prev. rep. W. and ser. III;

*(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 12 September, 1916)*

---

### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

SEARLE – In loving memory of our dear brother, Sergeant F. V. Searle, who died of wounds in King George's Hospital, London, 22nd August, 1916.

His duty ended.

God called him home to rest.

Inserted by his sorrowing brother and sister-in-law, Charlie and Florrie Searle, Woolloowin.

*(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 12 September, 1916) & (The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 16 September, 1916) &*

*(The Week, Brisbane, Queensland – 22 September, 1916) & (The Queenslander, Brisbane, Queensland – 23 September, 1916)*

---

### **IN MEMORIAM**

SEARLE – In loving memory of our friend Sgt. F. V. Searle, who died of wounds in King George's Hospital, London, on August 22nd, 1916.

Inserted by his friends, Pte and Mrs T. A. Skinner, and Miss Gasson, "Paparoon" Clayfield

*(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 22 August, 1917) & (The Queenslander, Brisbane, Queensland – 1 September, 1917)*

---

## 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)*

Sergeant Frank Victor Searle has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone but has no inscription.

## **Islington Cemetery & Crematorium, Middlesex, England**

Islington Cemetery contains 344 First World War graves and 265 from the Second World War, all scattered throughout the cemetery. A screen wall in the western part bears the names of those whose graves could not be marked individually, together with the names of two casualties from the Second World War whose remains were cremated at Islington Crematorium.

*(Information from CWGC)*

)



**Islington Cemetery & Crematorium** *(Photos from Find a Grave – Bob Dennis)*





**Islington Cemetery & Crematorium** (Photo from CWGC)





**Cross of Sacrifice** *(Photos from CWGC)*







*(Photo from Find a Grave – Martin Harrop)*



**The two Australian WW1 War Graves in Islington Cemetery & Crematorium**

**Sergeant F. V. Searle (left) & Private F. J. Read (right)**

*(Photo from Find a Grave – A. Dorrell)*



Photo of Private F. V. Searle's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Islington Cemetery & Crematorium, Middlesex, England.



*(Photo from Find a Grave - DeeBee)*



(Find a Grave – Lord & Lady Dodd)