

# Sutton Veny War Graves

## World War 1



*Lest We Forget*



**4521 CORPORAL**

**F. L. SOWTON**

**27TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**18TH APRIL, 1919 AGE 25**

*Rest In Peace*

*CWGC Headstone for Cpl. F. L. Sowton is located in  
Grave Plot # 83. L. 3. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

## Frank Leslie SOWTON

Frank Leslie Sowton was born in early 1894 at Norwood, South Australia to parents William & Mary Ann Sowton (nee Dunn). He was a 21 year old, single, Printer from 123 Sydenham Road, Norwood, South Australia when he enlisted at Adelaide, South Australia on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 1916 with the 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 4521 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary Sowton of 123 Sydenham Road, Norwood, South Australia (Father deceased). Frank Sowton had served with 1 year with Senior Cadets & then transferred to Civilian Force in which he had served for 4 years & was still serving.

Private Frank Leslie Sowton embarked from Adelaide on HMAT *Shropshire (A9)* on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1916 & disembarked in Egypt (date not recorded).

Private Sowton embarked from Alexandria on H.M.T. *Tunisian* on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 1916. Private Sowton was attached to 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisional Base Depot at Etaples, France on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 1916.

Private Sowton proceeded to join his Unit on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1916 & was taken on strength with 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion from 11<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 1916.

Private Sowton was sent to Hospital in the field in France on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1916 with Trench feet. He was taken to 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance then transferred to 38<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station. Private Sowton was then admitted to No. 5 General Hospital at Rouen on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 1916. He embarked on Hospital Ship *Goorkha* at Havre for England on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 1916. Private Sowton was admitted to 3<sup>rd</sup> Southern General Hospital with Trench feet (slight) on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 1916.

Private Sowton was on furlo from 10<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Private Sowton was marched in from furlo to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Down on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1917. He was medically classified as B1 A.

Private Sowton was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Wareham from Perham Downs on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Private Sowton was admitted to 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford with VD from 7<sup>th</sup> February to 17<sup>th</sup> February, 1917. He was transferred to Parkhouse Hospital on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 & discharged on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 1917.

Private Sowton was marched in from Parkhouse Hospital to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Down on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 1917. He was medically classified as B1 A.

Private Sowton was marched out to 16<sup>th</sup> Brigade at Wareham on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 1917 & transferred to 70<sup>th</sup> Battalion at Wareham from No. 1 Command Depot on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 1917.

Private Sowton was written up on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 1917 at Windmill Hill "for being absent from Inlying piquet after being duly warned on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 1917 (Throwing duty on another)." He was awarded 5 days Confined to Camp & forfeited 1 days' pay.

Private Sowton was written up on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 1917 at Windmill Hill for "(1) being absent from Defaulters Parade 7.30 pm, 8 pm, 8.30 pm & 9 pm. (2) Absent from Defaulters Parade after being duly warned 6pm - 24<sup>th</sup> May, 1917 until apprehended 9.15 pm on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 1917." He was awarded 7 days FP No. 2 (Field Punishment).

Private Sowton was written up for an offence on 4<sup>th</sup> June, 1917 – "Unshaven on 9am parade". He was awarded 2 days Confined to Camp.

Private Sowton was transferred to 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion from 69<sup>th</sup> Draft Battalion on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 1917.

Private Sowton proceeded overseas to France from Hurdcott (69<sup>th</sup> Draft Battalion) via Southampton on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 1917.

Private Sowton was admitted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Divisional Base Depot at Havre on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 1917. He proceeded to join his Unit on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 1917 & was taken on strength with his Unit in Belgium on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1917.

Private Sowton was wounded in action in France on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 1918. He was taken to 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance with a gunshot wound to right wrist. He was then transferred to 20<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Station on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 1918 & transferred to 54<sup>th</sup> General Hospital on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 1918. Private Sowton was transferred to 1<sup>st</sup> Convalescent Depot on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 1918 & then transferred again on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 1918 to Australian Convalescent Depot.

Private Sowton was discharged to Base Depot on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1918 at Havre. He proceeded to join his Unit on 9<sup>th</sup> July, 1918 & rejoined his Battalion in France on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 1918.

Private Sowton was appointed Lance Corporal on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1918.

Lance Corporal Sowton was on leave to England from 26<sup>th</sup> September, 1918 & rejoined from leave on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 1918.

Lance Corporal Sowton was appointed Corporal on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 – vice 2449 Cpl. McDonald killed on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 1918.

Corporal Sowton was marched out from his Unit on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 1919 & embarked for England on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1919. Corporal Sowton disembarked at Weymouth, England on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 1919 & was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot.

Corporal Frank Leslie Sowton was sent sick then admitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1919 dangerously ill.

Corporal Frank Leslie Sowton died at 10.30 am on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 1919 at the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny of Nephritis.

A death for Frank L. Sowton, aged 26, was registered in the June quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Corporal Frank Leslie Sowton was buried on 22nd April, 1919 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 83. From the burial report of Cpl. Sowton - *Coffin was Elm with Brass Mounts – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party from 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Training Brigade. Six of Deceased's late Unit comrades supported the Pall. The "Last Post" was sounded and volleys fired over the grave. A number of Australians followed the remains and were present at the graveside ceremony. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Frank Leslie Sowton requested in his Will, dated 13<sup>th</sup> September, 1917, that he bequeathed all his personal estate absolutely to his mother – Mrs Annie Sowton of Norwood, Sth Australia.

Corporal Frank Leslie Sowton was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Cpl. Sowton's mother – Mrs M. A. Sowton (Scroll sent March, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

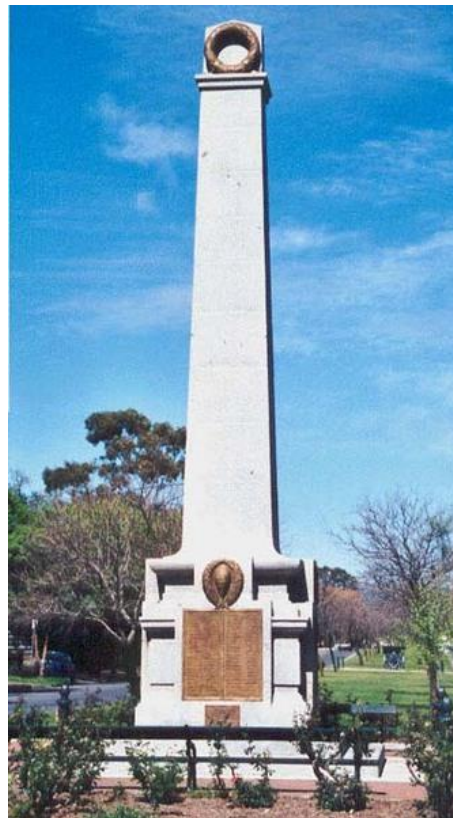
The CWGC lists Corporal Frank Leslie Sowton, 4521, of 27th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of Mary Sowton, of 17 May Terrace, Kensington Park, South Australia; and the late William Sowton. Born at Norwood, South Australia.

Corporal F. L. Sowton is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 111.



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

F. L. Sowton is also remembered on the Kensington & Norwood District War Memorial located on the corner of Osmond Terrace & The Parade, Norwood, South Australia.



**Kensington & Norwood District War Memorial**

*(Photos from RSL Virtual War Memorial)*



F. L. Sowton is remembered on the National War Memorial in Adelaide which commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



**National War Memorial – Adelaide** (Photos by Bilby)

(67 pages of Corporal Frank Leslie Sowton's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives.*



[Connected to Corporal Frank Leslie Sowton:](#)

Brother – Pte Stanley Seymour Sowton, 978, 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. Pte Stanley Sowton returned to Australia on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 1919.

## **Newspaper Reports**

### **DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE**

SOWTON - On the 18th April, in England, from nephritis, after 3½ years active service, Frank Leslie, the beloved youngest son of Mrs. M. Sowton, Sydenham-road, Norwood, aged 26 years. Thy will be done.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – Saturday 3 May, 1919)

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## **A.I.F. CASUALTY LIST**

### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

#### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

Corporal F. L. Sowton, Norwood, April 18

(*Barrier Miner*, Broken Hill, NSW – Tuesday 27 May, 1919)

## HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

SOWTON — In loving memory of our dear brother, Frank (27th Battalion), who died at Sutton-Veny, England, April 18, 1919.

Though death's stern hand divides us,  
Our thoughts still turn to thee;  
And memory fondly lingers,  
On days that used to be.

—Inserted by his brother and sister-in-law, Will and Laura Sowton.

SOWTON — In loving memory of my dear son, Corporal Frank Sowton (27th Battalion), who died in England. April 18th, 1919.

Could I, his mother, have clasped his hand.  
The son I loved so well.  
Or kissed his brow when death was near.  
And whispered "My son, farewell"  
I seem to see his dear sweet face.  
Through a mist of anxious tears,  
But a mother's part is a broken heart.  
And a burden of lonely years.

—Inserted by his loving mother.

SOWTON — In loving memory of our dear brother, Corporal Frank Sowton, died of illness, April 18, 1919.

How our thoughts do often wander to a grave so far away,  
Where they laid our darling brother, just one year ago to-day.

—Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Winnie and Will.

SOWTON— In loving memory of dear Frank, who died of illness in England, April 18, 1919.

While you lie in peaceful sleep,  
Your memory we will always keep.

—Inserted by his loving brother, Stan and Daisy.

*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, Sth Australia – Saturday 17 April, 1920)*

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## HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

SOWTON — In loving memory of my dear son, Corporal Frank Leslie Sowton, 27th Battalion, who died at Sutton-Veny, England, April 18, 1919.

What would I give to clasp his hand,  
His loving face to see;  
Just to hear him, say, "Dear Mother,"  
Which means so much to me.  
My heart's still sore,  
As time goes on I miss you more

—Inserted by his loving mother and brother, Sid.

SOWTON - In loving memory of my dear brother, Frank, who died at Sutton-Veny, England. April, 18, 1919.

As there dawns another year.  
Thoughts of you are ever dear.

—Inserted by Will and Laura.

SOWTON — In fond memory of our dear brother, Frank, 27th Battalion, who died at Sutton Veny, England, April 18. 1919. "Sweet is his memory still." — Inserted by Stan, and Daisy Sowton.

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – Saturday 23 April, 1921)

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## HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

4 notices were placed in 1922

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – Tuesday 18 April, 1922)

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## HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

SOWTON – In loving memory of my dear brother, Frank, who died April 18<sup>th</sup>.

"Dear to memory."

—Inserted by his loving brother, Syd., and Alma.

SOWTON – In loving memory of my our brother, Frank, who died at Sutton Veny, England, April 18th, 1919 (late A.I.F.)

Just a memory, fond and true,  
A token of love, dear Frank, of you.

—Inserted by his Stan and Daisy Sowton

SOWTON – In loving memory of Corporal F. L. Sowton, died in England, April 18, 1919.

A noble hero, true and brave,  
Peacefully sleeps in a soldier's grave.

—Inserted by his sister and brother-in-law, Winnie and Will.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – Wednesday 18 April, 1923)

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\*\*Memorial Notices were also placed in 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927 & 1928

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### 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 at St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny. 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*)

Corporal Frank Leslie Sowton does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Rest In Peace*

Photo of Corporal F. L. Sowton's CWGC headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*





**War Graves at Sutton Veny** *(Photos from CWGC)*

