

**St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Cemetery,
Moston, Greater Manchester, Lancashire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3950 PRIVATE

A. SWEENEY

20TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

11TH AUGUST, 1916 Age 24

Ambrose SWEENEY

Ambrose Sweeney was born at Manly, NSW in 1892 to parents Hugh and Hannah Sweeney.

Ambrose Sweeney attended St. Athanasius School, Manly.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the district of Middle Harbour, Sub-district of Manly recorded Ambrose Sweeney, Plumber of Condamine Street. There were no other Sweeney's recorded at that address.

Ambrose Sweeney was a 23 year old, single, Plumber from Condamine Street, Manly, NSW when he enlisted at Holsworthy, Sydney on 16th August, 1915 with the 20th Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3950 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs A. Sweeney of Condamine Street, Manly, NSW.

Private Ambrose Sweeney embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Runic (A54)* on 20th January, 1916 & disembarked at Alexandria on 26th February, 1916.

Private Ambrose Sweeney was marched in at Zeitoun on 26th February, 1916.

Private Ambrose Sweeney embarked from Alexandria on H.M.T. *Saxonia* on 27th March, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 3rd April, 1916.

Private Ambrose Sweeney was taken on strength with A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 5th April, 1916.

Private Ambrose Sweeney was taken on strength with 20th Battalion on 12th May, 1916.

Private Ambrose Sweeney was wounded in action on 19th May, 1916. He was taken to Field Ambulance & returned to his Battalion on 20th May, 1916. Notification was sent to his mother – Mrs H. Sweeney on 10th June, 1916 that Pte A. Sweeney had been reported wounded.

Private Ambrose Sweeney was wounded in action on 4th August, 1916. He was taken to 4th Australian Field Ambulance with gunshot wounds to buttock then transferred to 44th Casualty Clearing Station. Pte Sweeney was transferred to 14th General Hospital at Wimereux on 7th August, 1916 & transferred again on 8th August, 1916 to 8th Stationary Hospital. Pte Sweeney embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Cambria* from Boulogne on 8th August, 1916.

Private Ambrose Sweeney was admitted to 2nd Western General Hospital, Manchester on 9th August, 1916 with shell wounds to right thigh – severe.

Private Ambrose Sweeney died on 11th August, 1916 at from shrapnel wounds received in action in France – shell wounds to right thigh – severe.

A death for Ambrose Sweeney, aged 24, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Chorlton, Lancashire, England.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Pte Ambrose Sweeney contains a request on behalf of the Sydney Bureau as the only information that they had recorded was "Died of Wounds in Military Hospital, Manchester".

- Pte W. H. Boyd, 3916, B. Coy, No. 2 A.D.B.D. wrote regarding Pte Sweeney – "*He was wounded at Pozieres on August 4th during the hop-over. I saw him making his way along a sap from the German line to our old front line. I asked him if he had been "knocked". He said "yes, I ought to get to Blighty". That is the last I know of him beyond the fact that word came to the battn, later that he had died of wounds. He did not appear bad when I saw him. He belonged to VIII pl. B. Coy. and came from Manly, Sydney.*"
- Matron from 2nd Western General Hospital, Whitworth Street, Manchester wrote – "*I was greatly surprised to find that you had had no reply to your enquiries about No. 3950 Pte Ambrose Sweeney who died of wounds*"

11.8.16. *He was not a patient in this hospital but in a branch hospital at Alma Park, Levenshulme, Manchester. I sent your last letter on to the sister in charge of that hospital and she tells me that she replied to it and also wrote to the man's friends in Australia, so I think they must now be in possession of details concerning his illness and death, and I sincerely hope that this is so. He was buried at the Southern Cemetery Chorlton M/C as are all the patients who die in this hospital."*

Private Ambrose Sweeney was buried in St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Moston, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, England – Plot number – Soldiers' Plot 184A (Screen Wall). His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. According to the CWGC the casualties of World War 1 are mostly named on a Screen Wall & there are no headstones for those so named.

Pte Ambrose Sweeney was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also to the soldier's closest next-of-kin. A letter was sent to Mrs H. Sweeney in October, 1921 asking if the father of the late Pte Ambrose Sweeney was still living but no reply was received. According to the Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918 War Medals were awarded to a deceased soldier's next of kin in the following order – Widows, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister. A letter was sent to Base Records in April 1923 from Mary Flynn (nee Mary Sweeney) c/- Corrie Rd Post Office North Many stating – *"Kindly send medal of deceased soldier 3950 Pte Ambrose Sweeney 20th Batt. to above address (next-of-kin)."* Base Records sent Mrs Flynn a letter dated 12th April, 1923 requesting information regarding Pte Sweeney's parents & if they still survive & if they were deceased to advise any brothers living, or else the details of the eldest surviving sister. Usually in a soldier's service record file there are copies of signed receipts of the War Medals by the next-of-kin. The Memorial Scroll & Plaque information is recorded with date of despatch & to whom they were despatched to. There are no signed copies of receipts in Pte Ambrose Sweeney's file & the Memorial Plaque has no date recorded just the word "Pending".

Hugh Sweeney, father of the late Pte Ambrose Sweeney, died on 12th July, 1911 & Pte Sweeney's mother – Hannah Sweeney died on 22nd June, 1917. They were buried in Manly Cemetery.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Ambrose Sweeney – service number 3950, aged 24, of 20th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Hugh and Hannah Sweeney.

Private A. Sweeney is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 92.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A. Sweeney is remembered on the Manly ANZAC War Memorial located at the corner of The Corso & Belgrave Street, Manly, NSW.



Manly ANZAC War Memorial

(Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW – David Roden/Peter Levarre-Waters/Elaine Hartman)

(51 pages of Pte Ambrose Sweeney'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

Latest Casualties

179th List

NEW SOUTH WALES

Wounded

A. Sweeney

(The Land, Sydney, NSW – 30 June, 1916)

FOR THEIR COUNTRY

NSW WAR CASUALTIES

A cable has been received by his mother that Private Ambrose Sweeney, of Manly Vale, died in England from wounds received in France.

(*Evening News*, Sydney, NSW – 24 August, 1916)

Latest Casualties

204th List

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of Wounds

A. Sweeney, Manly

(*The Land*, Sydney, NSW – 8 September, 1916)



Pte Ambrose Sweeney



St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Moston, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, England

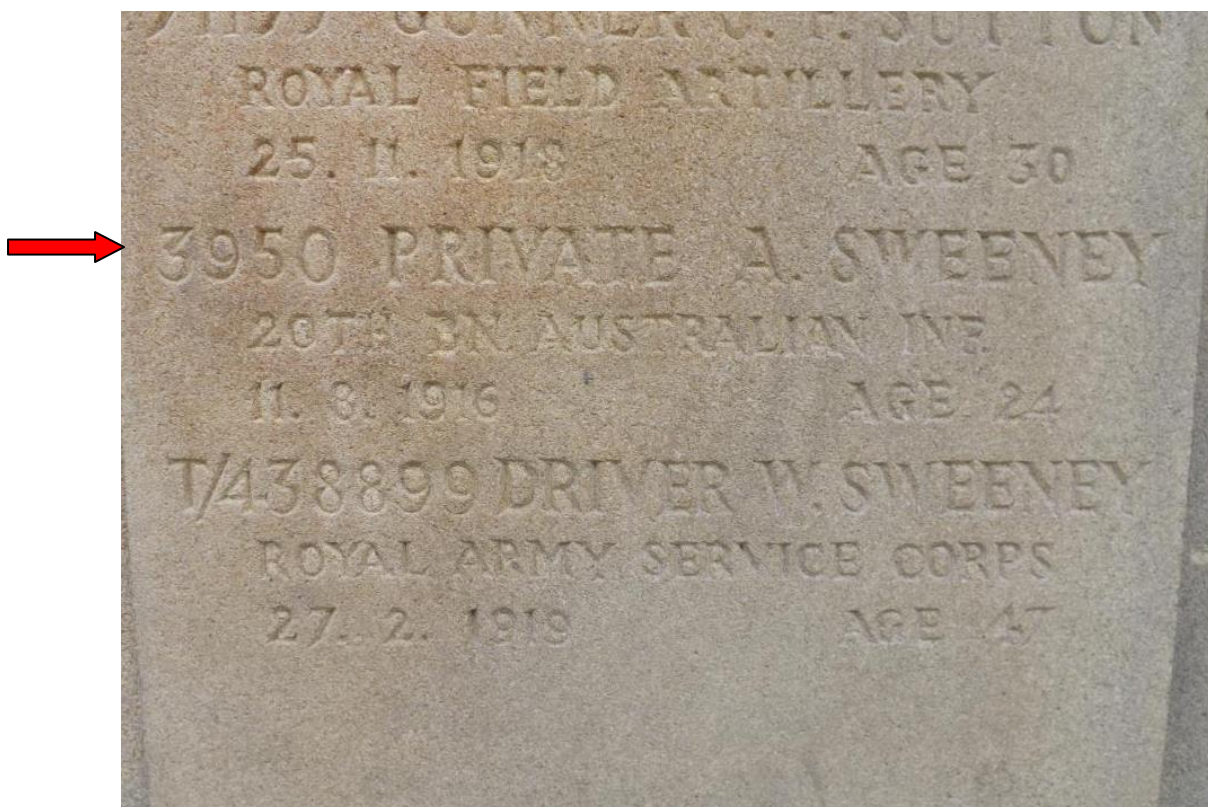
St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Moston contains 358 Commonwealth War Graves from both World Wars – 214 are related to World War 1 & 144 relate to World War 2. There is also 1 Polish Foreign National burial.

The casualties of World War 1 are mostly named on a Screen Wall (including those of eleven Belgium soldiers whose remains have been removed to Belgium). There are no headstones for those so named. There are also scattered burials for both World Wars in the cemetery.

(Information & photo from CWGC)



Photo of Pte A. Sweeney's named on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Screen Wall in St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Moston, Great Manchester, Lancashire, England.



(Photo from Great War Forum – littlemiss)