

**Hartshill Cemetery,  
Stoke-On-Trent, Staffordshire**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2925 PRIVATE**

**C. E. WHITE**

**5TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**2ND AUGUST, 1916 Age 23**

*Died In The Hope  
Of a Glorious Resurrection*

## Charles Ernest (Charlie) WHITE

Charles Ernest White was born at Narracan, Victoria on 13th November, 1892 to parents Stephen and Sarah Alice White (nee Armistead)

The 1914, 1915 & 1916 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Gippsland, subdivision of Moe, Victoria, recorded Charles Ernest White, Farmer.

Charles Ernest White was a 22 year old, single, Farmer from Moe Post Office, Gippsland, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 30th June, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2925 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs White, Moe Post Office, Gippsland, Victoria.

Private Charles Ernest White was posted to 37th Depot on 2nd July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 9th Reinforcements of 5th Battalion on 19th July, 1915.

Private Charles Ernest White embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Star of Victoria (A16)* on 10th September, 1915 with the 5th Infantry Battalion, 9th Reinforcements.

Private Charles Ernest White was taken on strength of 5th Battalion on 7th January, 1916.

Private Charles Ernest White embarked from Alexandria on 25th March, 1916 on Troopship *City of Chester* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 31st March, 1916.

Private Charles Ernest White was attached with Intelligence Platoon from 19th April, 1916 but remained with 5th Battalion for duty while in France.

Private Charles Ernest White was wounded in action in France on 25th July, 1916. He was admitted to No. 19 Ambulance Train on 25th July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to back & then admitted to No. 5 General Hospital at Rouen, France on 27th July, 1916. Private White embarked for England on 28th July, 1916 on Hospital Ship with G.S.W. to Spine. (Note: Statement of Service form recorded Private White embarked on Hospital Ship *Nester* while Casualty Form – Active Service & War Gratuity Schedule both recorded he embarked on Hospital Ship *Western Australia*.)

### 5th Battalion

The 5th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 6th, 7th and 8th Battalions it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.....

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt and, in March 1916, sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion was heavily involved in operations against the German Army. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. After Pozieres the battalion fought at Ypres in Flanders then returning to the Somme for winter.....

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

### War Diary – 5th Battalion

*Forward Line Trenches – Pozieres 25th July, 1916:*

*At 0200 after intensive artillery bombardments rushed and captured first objective O. G. 1. and portion of enemy's communication trench in a N.E. direction almost to its intersection with O. G. 2. Second objective O.G. 2. Was also taken but owing to strong counter attack by enemy accompanied by a strong bomb attack made it advisable to withdraw to O.G. 1. and make sure of holding & consolidating it.*

*Our Casualties were heavy being 6 Officers & 39 ORanks killed, 6 Officers & 242 ORanks wounded, 1 Officer and 158 ORanks missing.*

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

Private Charles Ernest White was admitted to Stoke-on-Trent War Hospital, Newcastle, Staffordshire, England on 29th July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Spine.

Private Charles Ernest White died at 4.10 am on 2nd August, 1916 at Stoke-on-Trent War Hospital, Newcastle, Staffordshire, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W Back. The Hospital Admission form recorded "*Paralysis of lower limbs. Retention of urine. Cystitis. Heart failure, Faecal incontinence. Died 4.10 am from heart failure.*"

A death for C. E. White, aged 23, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire, England.

Private Charles Ernest White was buried in Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England – Grave Site 3rd Class Grave No. 5134.

This is now recorded by CWGC as Grave Reference 15403 & he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Mrs White, Post Office, Moe, Victoria was advised by Base Records on 19th April, 1920 that the remains of her son, the late No. 2925 Private C. E. White, had "*been exhumed from grave No. 5134, Hartshill Cemetery, and re-interred in grave No.15402, Block 39 of the same Cemetery. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain.*"

Newspaper item – *The Narracan Shire Advocate*, Victoria – 16 August, 1916:

## **OBITUARY**

### **PRIVATE C. E. WHITE**

*On Thursday evening, residents of this district were subjected to another severe shock—caused by the news of the death of Private Chas. E. White (son of Mr and Mrs S. White, of Moe). The only information with which the parents were supplied was that their son had died in the military hospital, Newcastle. How he came to be there, or for what reason he was taken to the hospital, is—up to the present—simply a matter for conjecture, as no previous word that he was ill or had been wounded came to hand. The sad tidings, conveyed to the parents and family by the Rev. Lancaster, came as tremendous blow to them, and the sympathy of residents of this and neighbouring districts — throughout which the family is well-known—goes out to them in their great trouble and loss.*

*The late Private White was extremely popular, and held in the highest esteem by all. He was a prominent and enthusiastic member of the local Rifle Club, and one of its best marksmen. He also took a keen interests in the doings of the local branch of the I.O.R., of which he was a member. Though quite a young man he, in many ways, set an example which might well be followed by many of the sterner sex.*

*It is about twelve months since that the deceased soldier responded to his country's call, sailing for the front not long afterwards. Reaching France, he wrote several long and interesting accounts of his travels, one of which was published in these columns a few weeks ago. However, his journey to the scenes of battle has eventuated in his death; he, in common with quite a number from this district, has given his life for his King, and in defence of the Empire and those principles true Britishers hold dear ; he has died in humanity's cause. The sacrifice is great, but how cheerfully he and others have made it! "Charlie's" death -will not only be mourned by the parents, family, and relations; it will be deplored by all who knew him as long as memory lasts !*

Private Charles Ernest White requested in his Will dated 14th April, 1916 that in the event of his death the whole of his property and effects be given to Mr Stephen White (senior), Moe, Victoria.

The National Mutual Life Association of Australia Ltd, Melbourne, wrote to The Secretary, Defence Department on 15th September, 1916 requesting a confirmation of death of Charles Ernest White (Policy No. 97038) & particulars such as next of kin, heigh, weight, colour of eyes & hair etc for identification purposes.

Base Records forwarded a copy of certificate of death of the late Private C. E. White to The National Mutual Life along with identification particulars on 1st December, 1916.

Base Records wrote to Mrs White, Moe P.O. Gippsland, Victoria on 5th July, 1920 stating she was *“registered on the records of the late No. 2925 Private C. E. White, 5th Battalion, as next of kin but, in order that our file may be brought up to date, it is desired to learn whether the above named soldier had any nearer blood relations than yourself, for instance, is his father still alive, if so I shall be much obliged for his name and address at your earliest convenience.”* The letter envelope was re-addressed to Mrs White /o Mrs D. S. Brunton, “Leoni” Brook Street, Hawthorn, Victoria.

Mrs White replied to Base Records stating Private White’s father was Stephen White of “Kevington” 6 Fisher Street, East Malvern.

Base Records wrote to Mrs S. A. White, c/o Mrs D. S. Brunton, “Leoni” Brook Street, Hawthorn, Victoria on 16th August, 1923 asking for the *“present address of Mr S. White, father of the late No. 2925 Private C. E. White, 5th Battalion, as a communication forwarded to him at the address previously furnished by you i.e. “Kevington” 6 Fisher Street, East Malvern, has been returned unclaimed The information is desired on order that I may be in a position to transmit to Mr White the Victory Medal and Memorial Plaque issuable on account of the late soldier’s service. Of course, if he is now deceased the items will be transmitted to you, upon receipt of your advice to that effect.”*

Mrs S. A. White replied to Base Records on 28th August, 1923 stating *“...my husband died nearly two years ago & my present address is Narracan, Gippsland.”*

Private Charles Ernest White was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private White’s father – Mr S. White, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent December, 1921 but was returned unclaimed on 10th May, 1923. Redespached to Private White’s mother - Mrs White in September, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Charles Ernest White – service number 2925, aged 23, of 5th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Stephen and Sarah Alice White, of 6 Fisher St., East Malvern, Victoria, Australia.

Private C. E. White is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 45.



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

C. E. White is remembered on the Moe War Memorial, located in front of Moe RSL Club, Albert Street, Moe, Victoria.



**Moe War Memorial** (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



(68 pages of Private Charles Ernest White'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*





**Private Charles Ernest White**



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **FROM NARRACAN**

#### **H. AND C. E. WHITE**

Messrs H. and C. E. White, who have enlisted for active service were given a send-off at the parents residence on Wednesday evening, 23rd June.

Games of various kinds were indulged in by the young people, and were kept going merrily during the evening.....

After refreshments had been partaken of Mr C. White, on behalf of the guests parents and sister (Miss M. White), presented each with a neat wristlet watch as a small token for remembrance when they are away fighting the Empire's battles, and he wished them a safe journey and a speedy return.

Mr Stephen White said although it was a wrench to let them go, they were proud to know that each had answered the Empire's call in her hour of peril, and hoped that several of those present would yet.....*[remainder of article illegible due to damage to the newspaper]*

*(The Yarragon, Trafalgar and Moe Settlement News, Victoria – 26 August, 1915)*

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We deeply regret to announce the death of Private C. F. white, son of Mr and Mrs S. White, "Maylands," Moe, which recently took place at the Newcastle hospital, England. The Rev. W. E. Lancaster was entrusted with the task of breaking the sad news to the parents yesterday and great sympathy is felt for them in their sudden bereavement.

*(Trafalgar and Yarragon Times, Victoria – 11 August, 1916)*

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### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **853 NAMES IN 196th LIST**

Wounded

Pte C. E. White, Moe

*(The Bendigo Independent, Victoria – 19 August, 1916)*

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### **AUSTRALIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES**

#### **196th CASUALTY LIST**

VICTORIA

DIED, CAUSE NOT STATED

Pte C. E. White, Moe

*(Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria – 19 August, 1916)*

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## **DIED ON SERVICE**

WHITE – On the 2nd August, died of wounds received in France, at Military Hospital, Newcastle, Eng. Charles E. White, dearly loved youngest son of Stephen and Alice White, “Maylands,” Moe, aged 23 years.

His loving smile and kindly ways  
Are pleasant to recall;  
He always had a cheerful word,  
And died, beloved to all.

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 30 August, 1916)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

WHITE – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Charlie, who died of wounds received in France, 2nd August, 1916.

Only a soldier, he heard the call,  
He did his duty – he gave his all;  
One of earth’s brightest, one of the best,  
Like may another, he is laid to rest.

-(Inserted by his loving parents, brothers, and sisters)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 2 August, 1917)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

WHITE – In sad and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Charlie, who died on the 2nd August, 1916, at Newcastle, England, of wounds received in the battle of Pozieres.

Sad and often our thoughts do wander  
To a grave so far away,  
Where they laid our son and brother  
Just two years ago to-day.

-(Inserted by his parents, brothers, and sisters, “Maylands,” Moe.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 2 August, 1918)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

WHITE – In sad and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Charlie, died of wounds August 2, 1916. (Inserted by his loving parents, brother and sisters, late of Moe).

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 2 August, 1920)

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## IN MEMORIAM

### On Active Service

WHITE – In loving memory of our son and brother, Charlie, who died of wounds received in France, on the 2nd August, 1916.

Ever remembered.

-(Father, mother, and Flo, East Malvern)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 2 August, 1921)

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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. 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*)

Private C. E. White does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Died In The Hope Of A Glorious Resurrection*



**Original Grave marker for Private C. E. White**

## Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England

Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent contains 151 Commonwealth War Graves Commission War Graves – 91 from World War 1 & 60 from World War 2. There are 8 Australian WW1 Graves in this Cemetery.



### 8 Australian War Graves in Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent

*(Photo above by ken perkins 2017 – Find a Grave; below by Callan Chevin)*



Photo of Private C. E. White's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England.



*(Photo by Alf -28<sup>th</sup>61st)*