

**Christ Church Churchyard,  
Tilstock, Shropshire,  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**1397 GUNNER**

**W. H. HERFORD**

**AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS**

**4TH OCTOBER, 1917 Age 49**

## Walter Harrel HERFORD

Walter Harrel Herford was born at Manchester, Lancashire, England on 21st October, 1867 to parents Charles James and Mary Jane Herford (nee Robberds).

The 1871 England Census recorded Walter H. Herford as a 3 year old living with his family at 39 Acomb Street, Chorlton-on-Medlock, Lancashire, England. His parents were listed as Charles J. Herford (Wine Merchant, aged 54, born Birmingham) & Mary J. Herford (aged 40, born Manchester, Lancashire). Walter was one of seven children listed on this Census (all born Manchester, Lancashire) – Charles H. Herford (Pupil Architect, aged 18), Amy C. Herford (Scholar, aged 16), Hugh Herford (Scholar, aged 14), Phillip A. Herford (Scholar, aged 13), Robert T. Herford (Scholar, aged 11) then Walter & Henry Herford (aged 2). Also listed were 3 Servants – Sarah Ann Shaw (aged 25, born Mansfield, Notts), Sarah Tonge (aged 19, born Clifton, Notts) & Emma J. Davies (aged 14, born Manchester, Lancashire).

The 1881 England Census recorded Walter H. Herford as a 13 year old Scholar, living with his family at 39 Acomb Street, Chorlton-on-Medlock, Lancashire, England. His parents were listed as Charles J. Herford (Wine Merchant & Insurance Agent, aged 64) & Mary J. Herford (aged 50). Walter & his brother Henry J. B. Herford (Scholar, aged 12) were the only children listed at home. Two Servants were also listed – Janet Blue (Cook, aged 48, born Scotland) & Eleanor Carley (Housemaid, aged 18, born Chatteris, Cambridgeshire).

Mary Jane Herford, mother of Walter Harrel Herford, died on 11th May, 1886.

Charles James Herford, father of Walter Harrel Herford, died on 12th January, 1891. His Personal Estate was worth £8,214.

The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Swan, subdivision of Katanning, Western Australia listed Walter Harvel Herford, Farmer, of Grange, Katanning.

Walter Harrel Herford stated he was a 42 year old, single, Farmer from Katanning, Western Australia when he enlisted at Black Boy Hill, Western Australia on 13th August, 1915 with the 3rd Light Horse Brigade, 10th Light Horse Regiment, 11th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1397 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Charles Harold Herford, of Victoria University, Manchester, England. Walter Herford stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served in the Volunteer Regiment for 18 months & on active service with Rhodesia Regiment & Rifles for 6 months.

Private Walter Herford was posted to 3rd Depot Squadron on 13th August, 1915. He was transferred to 11th Reinforcements of 10th Light Horse Regiment on 6th March, 1916 then transferred to 3rd Reserve Light Horse Regiment on 6th March, 1916.

Private Walter Herford embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Benalla* (A24) on 1st November, 1915.

Private Walter Herford was taken on strength with 3rd Reserve Regiment at Heliopolis on 6th March, 1916.

Private Walter Herford was transferred to 4th Divisional Artillery on 1st April, 1916 at Heliopolis. He was taken on strength with 4th D.A.C. & mustered as Gunner.

Gunner Walter Herford was taken on strength with 24th Howitzer Brigade and posted to 112th Battery on 8th April, 1916.

Gunner Walter Herford was transferred & taken on strength with 4th D.A.C. (Divisional Artillery Column) on 23rd May, 1916. He was taken on strength 24th Howitzer Brigade and posted to 112th Battery on 2nd June, 1916.

Gunner Walter Herford proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 3rd June, 1916.

Gunner Walter Herford was transferred to & taken on strength with 12th F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) and posted to 112th Battery on 25th January, 1917.

Gunner Walter Herford was admitted to 1st A.D.R.S. (Australian Divisional Rest Station) on 19th February, 1917 with "Bleeding Piles" then transferred to Field Ambulance on 20th February, 1917. Gunner Herford was transferred to 45th Casualty Clearing Station on 22nd February, 1917 then transferred to Ambulance Train 25 on 23rd February, 1917. He was admitted to 18th General Hospital at Camiers, France on 23rd February, 1917 then transferred on 24th February, 1917 to 11th General Hospital. Gunner Herford embarked from Calais on Hospital Ship Brighton on 9th March, 1917.

Gunner Walter Herford was admitted to Colchester General Hospital, England with Piles on 9th March, 1917. He was transferred to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, Middlesex on 14th April, 1917 with Haemorrhoids. He was discharged on 18th April, 1917. The Hospital Admission form reports that Gunner Herford was operated on to cure his haemorrhoids on 24th March, 1917. His Haemorrhoid's were bleeding for 3 months prior to the operation. Gunner Herford had a severe cold all the winter on the Somme.

Gunner Walter Herford was on furlo from 18th April, 1917 to 3rd May, 1917 & was to report to Command Depot on 3rd May, 1917.

Gunner Walter Herford was report as Absent without Leave from No. 2 Command Depot from 6th May, 1917. He returned from being Absent without leave on 19th May, 1917.

Gunner Walter Herford was medically classified as B2A at Monte Video on 18th May, 1917.

Gunner Walter Herford was written up for a crime at Monte Video – "Absent from Draft Parade at 3.30 pm on 13th July, 1917 until apprehended at 10.30 am on 15th July, 1917". He was awarded 4 days Field Punishment No. 2 & forfeited 7 days pay.

Gunner Walter Herford was written up for a crime while posted at Monte Video – "Absent from Tattoo on 22nd July, 1917 till Reveille on 23rd July, 1917." This was admonished by Capt. G. Johnston. He forfeited 1 days pay.

Gunner Walter Herford was marched out for duty with 29th Training Squadron, A.F.C. at Shawbury on 7th September, 1917.

Gunner Walter Herford was admitted to Military Hospital, Prees Heath, Salop on 10th September, 1917 suffering from Tuberculosis of lung, Pleurisy & Tubercular Pneumonia.

Gunner Walter Herford was reported as dangerously ill on 3rd October, 1917.

Gunner Walter Harrel Herford died at 12.05 pm on 4th October, 1917 at Military Hospital, Prees Heath, Salop (Shropshire), England from Tuberculosis of lung, Pleurisy & Pneumonia. His sister Mrs Reynolds of Priestnall Hey Heaton, Mersham, near Stockport was present at the death.

A death for Walter H. Herford, aged 49, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Whitchurch, Shropshire.

Gunner Walter Harrel Herford was buried at 3 pm on 8th October, 1917 in Christ Church Churchyard Extension, Tilstock, Shropshire, England – Plot number 18 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Gunner Walter Harrel Herford - *Coffin was good Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral, Firing Party, Bearers and Gun Carriage being supplied by 73rd Training Reserve Batt., No. 11 Camp, Prees Heath. A service was conducted at the graveside by Chaplain Rev. T. W. C. Hudson, C. of E. 50th T.R.B. Prees Heath Camp. The "Last Post" was sounded by 16 Buglers of the English Regiment. An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. Names of relatives present at the funeral – Mr H. J. R. Herford (Brother), Prof. C. H. Herford (Brother), Mr H. V. Herford (brother), Miss A. C. Herford (Sister), Mrs Reynolds (sister), Mrs W. H. Jackson (Niece).*

Details from National Probate Calender for Walter Harrell Herford of Prees Heath Camp, Salop, died 4th October, 1917 at Prees Heath Military Hospital, Salop. Administration London 18th June to Henry John Robberds Herford, retired civil servant. Effects £15.

Gunner Walter Harrel Herford was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Herford's brother in England - Mr C. H. Herford, as the closest next-of-kin as both parents were deceased. (Scroll & Plaque both sent September, 1922).

*(Note: The Victory Medal for Pte W. H. Herford was sold at Auction in Melbourne, Australia in July, 2010 for \$120)*

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner Walter Harrel Herford – service number 1397, aged 49, of 12 Bde, Australian Field Artillery attached to 9th Training Squadron, Australian Flying Corps. He was the son of Charles James and Mary Jane Herford.

Gunner W. H. Herford is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 187.



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

W. H. Herford is remembered on the Katanning War Memorial located in Prosser Park, Carew & Cliff Streets, Katanning, Western Australia.



**Katanning War Memorial** (Photo by Derek Graham)

(48 pages of Gunner Walter Harrel Herford'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*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES**

#### **LISTS Nos. 356 and 357**

#### **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

#### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

W. H. Herford

*(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 26 November, 1917)*

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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)*

Gunner W. H. Herford does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

## Christ Church Churchyard Extension, Tilstock, Shropshire, England

There are 22 Commonwealth burials of World War 1 in the churchyard. There are a further 23 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the Extension. The Extension is 100 metres from the Churchyard and across the road. It was opened in 1917.



Christ Church, Tilstock, Shropshire (Photo from CWGC)



Christ Church Churchyard Extension, Tilstock, Shropshire

Photo of Gunner W. H. Herford's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Christ Church Churchyard Extension, Tilstock, Shropshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of S. J. Clark)*