

**Southern Cemetery,
Manchester, Lancashire**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5459 CORPORAL

JOHN SULLIVAN

10TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

18TH FEBRUARY, 1919 Age 27

*The Loving Son Of
Patrick And Mary Sullivan
Of Burnley*

R.I.P.

John SULLIVAN

John Sullivan was born at Burnley, Lancashire, England in 1891 to parents Patrick & Mary Sullivan (nee Murton).

The 1901 England Census recorded John Sullivan as a 9 year old living with his family at 13 Pickup Court, Burnley, Lancashire, England. His parents were listed as Patrick Sullivan (Coal Hower, aged 40 born Burnley, Lancs) & Mary Sullivan (Cotton C__ Winder, aged 36, born Burnley, Lancs). Also listed was John's younger brother – Dan Sullivan (aged 3, born Burnley, Lanc).

[The 1911 England Census listed John's family living at 9 Stanley Court, Burnley which was a 3 roomed dwelling. Patrick Sullivan (Coal Miner Hower, aged 50) & his wife Mary Sullivan (Winder, aged 49) had been married for 30 years & had a total of 4 children, all still living. Only 2 children were living with them at the time of the Census – Daniel Sullivan (At School, aged 14) & May Sullivan (At School, aged 11, born Burnley, Lancashire).]

John Sullivan was a 24 year old, single, Musical Artist from Port Pirie, South Australia when he enlisted at Adelaide on 29th November, 1915 with the 10th Infantry Battalion, 17th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5459 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs M. Sullivan, of 7 Shead Street, Burnley, Lancashire, England. John Sullivan stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 4 months with the East Lancashire Regiment.

Private John Sullivan was posted to "B" Company, 2nd Depot Battalion on 3rd December, 1915. He was transferred to 16th Reinforcements, 10th Battalion at Morphetville on 1st January, 1916. Pte Sullivan was sent to N.C.O. School from 16th January, 1916 to 22nd March, 1916. He was transferred to 17th Reinforcements, 10th Battalion on 23rd March, 1916.

Private John Sullivan embarked from Adelaide on HMAT *Aeneas* (A60) on 11th April, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private John Sullivan was written up on 28th July, 1916 for "while on active service was absent without leave from 06.45 on 28th 1916 until reporting himself back to camp about 22.00" while attached to 3rd Training Battalion at Perham Downs, Wiltshire. He forfeited 2 days' pay & was confined to camp for 7 days.

Private John Sullivan was written up on 5th August, 1916 for being absent without leave from Defaulters Parade from 7.30 pm until 9.30 pm. at 3rd Training Battalion at Perham Downs, Wiltshire. He was confined to camp for 4 days.

Private John Sullivan was written up for overstaying leave from midnight until reporting himself back to camp about 11.00 on 1st September, 1916. He forfeited 1 days' pay. Admonished on 2nd September, 1916.

Private John Sullivan was appointed Lance Corporal on 5th September, 1916 & appointed to Acting Sergeant (without pay) on 6th September, 1916.

Acting Sergeant John Sullivan was written up on 4th November, 1916 for being absent without leave from 12 midnight 2/3rd November, 1916 until 10.30 am on 3rd November, 1916. He was severely reprimanded by Capt. Rumbold & forfeited 1 days' pay.

Acting Sergeant John Sullivan reverted back to the rank of Private on 11th February, 1917 then appointed Temporary Corporal on 12th February, 1917.

Temporary Corporal John Sullivan underwent a course of 17 working days in the Special Supplementary P.T. Sables & Bayonet Training on 9th April, 1917.

Temporary Corporal John Sullivan was appointed Corporal on 1st April, 1917.

Corporal John Sullivan was sent sick then admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 26th July, 1917 with Bronchitis from 3rd Training Battalion, Durrington, Wiltshire. He was discharged to duty on 28th July, 1917.

Corporal John Sullivan was appointed to Acting Sergeant on 1st November, 1917. He was taken to Sutton Veny Hospital in Wiltshire from 3rd Training Battalion with a sprained ankle on 2nd November, 1917. His rank reverted back to permanent cadre of Corporal on 2nd November, 1917. Corporal John Sullivan was discharged from Hospital on 5th November, 1917.

Corporal John Sullivan was marched in from 3rd Training Battalion to 2nd Training Battalion (Camps 2 & 5) at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 7th November, 1917

Corporal John Sullivan proceeded overseas to France from 2nd Training Battalion at Sutton Veny via Southampton on 8th January, 1918. Cpl. Sullivan was marched in from England to 1st A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 9th January, 1918. He was marched out to join his Unit on 11th January, 1918 & was taken on strength with 10th Battalion from Reinforcements in France on 18th January, 1918.

Corporal John Sullivan was detached to 3rd Brigade Concert Party on 19th May, 1918 & rejoined his Unit in the field on 26th May, 1918.

Corporal John Sullivan was on leave to UK from 2nd June, 1918 & rejoined from leave on 20th June, 1918.

Corporal John Sullivan was detached to 3rd Brigade Concert Party on 4th September, 1918.

Corporal John Sullivan was sent sick to Hospital & admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance on 5th October, 1918. He was transferred to 3rd Australian General Hospital on 6th October, 1918 with Venereal Sore. Cpl. Sullivan was transferred to 39th General Hospital at Havre, France on 7th October, 1918 – cause N.Y.D. (Not yet determined).

Corporal John Sullivan was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre, France on 24th October, 1918.

Corporal John Sullivan was reported to be still in Base Depot on 27th January, 1919.

Corporal John Sullivan was marched out to England from Havre, France on 31st January, 1919 & was on leave from 1st February, 1919 to 15th February, 1919.

Corporal John Sullivan was granted leave without pay from 17th February, 1919 till 19th March, 1919.

Corporal John Sullivan died at 1.50 pm on 18th February, 1919 at 14 Ducie Street in the district of Chorlton from Bronchial Pneumonia & Cardiac Asthenia. Ralda Delara was present at the death.

A death for John Sullivan, aged 27, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Chorlton, Lancashire, England.

Corporal John Sullivan was buried on 24th February, 1919 in Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England – Plot number Q. CE. 176 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Cpl. John Sullivan - *Coffin was Elm with brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and conveyed to the graveside, surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent from:- Miss Delora, Cousin Jim, Mr Green, Cousin Mary & Agnes and "His Mates". The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the Last Rites of the Roman Catholic Church were performed by the Rev. Joseph Kelly, of Manchester. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Corporal John Sullivan was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Cpl. Sullivan's father - Mr P. Sullivan, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent & Plaque both sent November, 1922 to Mrs M. Sullivan in England).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Corporal John Sullivan – service number 5459, aged 27, of 10th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Patrick and Mary Sullivan, of 7 Howarth Court, Burnley, Lancs.

Corporal J. Sullivan is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 60.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

John Sullivan is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide, South Australia. The Adelaide National War Memorial 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)

John Sullivan is remembered on the Roll of Honour at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Burnley, Lancashire, England.



(Photo by David Dixon)

(32 pages of Corporal John Sullivan'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

BURNLEY COMEDIAN'S DEATH

The death occurred at Manchester, on Tuesday last, from Pneumonia and gas poisoning, of Corpl. John Sullivan, of the Australian Expeditionary Force, whose parents live at 22, Howard-street, Burnley. Deceased, before the war, was a well-known comedian, and under his stage name of "John Erle" appeared at the Empire and other well-known music halls. He was in Australia when war broke out, and in 1915 he joined the Australian Forces, with whom he went to France and took part in a great deal of fighting being gassed last June, a misfortune which has largely contributed to his death. His name is on the roll of honour at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Burnley. His brother, Daniel Sullivan, was killed 18 months ago, and another brother, James, is now serving in Italy.



Corpl. John Sullivan

(Burnley Express, Burnley, Lancashire, England – 22 February, 1919)

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)

Corporal John Sullivan does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

The Loving Son Of Patrick And Mary Sullivan Of Burnley

R.I.P.

Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England

During the First World War, Manchester contained between thirty and forty war hospitals, including the 2nd Western General Hospital and the Nell Lane Military Hospital for prisoners of war. Many of those buried in the cemeteries and churchyards of the city died in these hospitals. During the Second World War, there was a Royal Air Force Station at Heaton Park, Manchester.

Manchester Southern Cemetery contains burials of both wars, the majority of them scattered. There are also separate plots for First and Second World War burials, but in neither case are the graves marked individually; instead, each plot has a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried there. Each plot has a Cross of Sacrifice. In all, 803 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War, including 1 unidentified, and 475 from the Second World War, including 3 unidentified, are now commemorated in the cemetery; there is also 1 non-war service grave.

The Screen Wall in the Second World War plot also bears the names of 177 servicemen and women whose remains were cremated. Further memorials in this plot commemorate 17 Polish servicemen buried there, and a number of casualties of both wars buried in other cemeteries and churchyards in the Manchester area whose graves could no longer be maintained.

Casualties buried in the following cemeteries and churchyards are now alternatively commemorated on Screen Wall Memorials in Manchester Southern Cemetery:

Ashton-under-Lyne (St Michael) Churchyard Extension
Birch-in-Rusholme (St James) Churchyard
Bury (Brunswick) United Methodist Cemetery
Cheetham Hill (St Luke) Churchyard
Eccles (St Mary) Churchyard
Eccleston (St Thomas) Churchyard Extension
Edgeworth Congregational Chapelyard
Hey (or Lees) (St. John the Baptist) Churchyard Extension
Manchester General Cemetery
Newton Heath (All Saints) Church Cemetery
Openshaw (St Barnabas) Churchyard
Swinton Unitarian Chapelyard.

(Information & photos from CWGC)

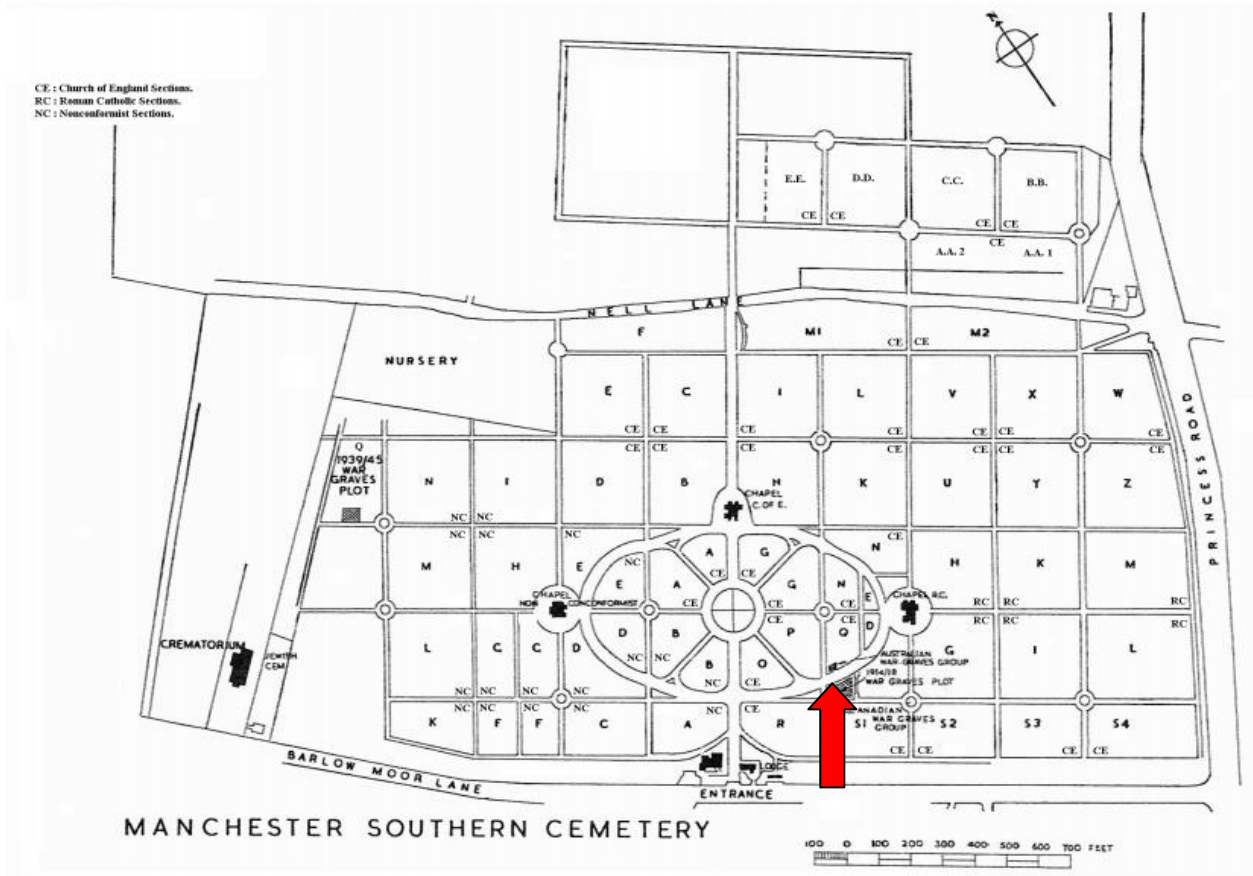


Southern Cemetery, Manchester – showing the 14 Australian War Graves from WW1

Photo of Corporal John Sullivan's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Mike Berrell)



Southern Cemetery, Manchester (Australian War Graves Group marked with arrow)

