

Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



943 LANCE CORPORAL

N. LIVESEY

12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

19TH – 22ND AUGUST, 1916

Norman LIVESEY

Norman Livesey was born in 1887 at Oswaldtwistle, located between Accrington & Blackburn, Lancashire, England to parents John William and Essie Livesey (nee Ratcliffe). Norman Livesey attended Mount Pleasant Wesleyan School, Accrington.

The 1891 England Census recorded Norman Livesey as a 3 year old living with his family at 38 Catlow Hall Street, Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire. His parents were listed as John Wm. Livesey (Cabinet Maker, aged 23, born Church, Lancashire) & Esther Jane Livesey (aged 26, born Birstall, Yorkshire). Norman was the eldest of 3 children listed on this Census (all born at Oswaldtwistle) – Eva (aged 2) & Jane (aged 3 Weeks). Also listed was Sarah Ratcliffe-John William Livesey's mother- in law (widow, aged 51, Retired Weaver).

A death for Sarah Ratcliffe, aged 57, was registered in the September quarter, 1897 in the district of Blackburn, Lancashire. (*see Headstone photo at end*).

The 1901 England Census recorded Norman Livesey as a 13 year old Manufacturing Chemist Assistant living with his family in a 4 roomed dwelling at 11 Frederick Street, Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire. His parents were listed as John William Livesey (Cabinet Maker, aged 34) & Essie Livesey (aged 36). Norman was the eldest of 4 children listed on this Census – Eva (aged 11), Jane (aged 10) & Dora (aged 2). Also living with the family was a Boarder – Henry Gillibrand (aged 2, born Darwen, Lancashire).

The 1911 England Census listed the Livesey family living in a 4 roomed dwelling at 58 Elizabeth Street, Accrington, Lancashire. Norman's parents were listed as John William Livesey (Cabinet Maker, aged 43) & Esther Jane Livesey (aged 46). John William & Esther Jane Livesey had been married for 24 years & had a total of 5 children, all still living. Three children were listed on this Census – Jane Livesey (Cotton Winder, aged 20), Dora Livesey (Scholar, aged 12) & Constance Livesey (aged 3, born Accrington, Lancashire).

According to information provided by his father for the Roll of Honour, Norman Livesey came to Australia when he was 23 years of age. "N. Livesey" was listed as a passenger which arrived at Fremantle, Western Australia on 7th March, 1911 (which confirms his absence from the 1911 Census). "J. W. Livesey", Joiner arrived at Fremantle, Western Australia on 30th April, 1912. Essie Livesey (aged 44) & 3 daughters – Jennie (aged 21), Dora (aged 14) & Constance (aged 5) arrived at Fremantle, Western Australia in July, 1913.

Norman Livesey was a 27 year old, single, Labourer (Bush Clearing Contractor, other training - Iron Turner) from 27 Robertson Street, East Perth, Western Australia when he enlisted at Helena Vale, Western Australia on 10th September, 1914 with the 12th Infantry Battalion "H" Company of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 943 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. W. Livesey of 27 Robertson Street, East Perth, Western Australia.

Pte Norman Livesey embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Medic* (A7) on 31st October, 1914 and anchored for two days before sailing on 2nd November, 1914.

Pte Norman Livesey embarked from Alexandria, Egypt to join the M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli on 2nd March, 1915.

Pte Norman Livesey was wounded in action at Gallipoli on 6th August, 1915. He was admitted to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station at Anzac then transferred to Mudros. He was transferred to H.M.H.S. (Hospital Ship) *Ascania* on 7th August, 1915 with a shrapnel wound to the head. He was admitted to No. 1 General Hospital, Heliopolis on 11th August, 1915 then transferred to No. 3 Auxiliary Hospital the same day with a shrapnel wound to the head & debility (exhaustion of the nervous system). Pte Norman Livesey was admitted to Helouan Convalescent Depot on 1st September, 1915 then transferred to the Australian & New Zealand Convalescent Hospital the same day. He was transferred to Zeitoun on 18th September, 1915 with debility then transferred to No. 2 Auxiliary Depot at Heliopolis on 29th September, 1915.

Pte Norman Livesey was transferred to Base Details on 5th November, 1915. He rejoined his Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 7th January, 1916.

Pte Norman Livesey proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) at Alexandria on 29th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 5th April, 1916.

Private Norman Livesey was promoted to Lance Corporal on 26th July, 1916.

Lance Corporal Norman Livesey was reported to be wounded & missing between 19th & 22nd August, 1916 in France.

A letter to Mrs E. Livesey at Frederick St, South Fremantle advised that no further news on her son Private N. Livesey had come to hand & he was still reported to be "wounded & missing between 19th and 22nd August, 1916" and that the authorities were doing their utmost to obtain some definite information.

A Court of Enquiry was held on 23rd June, 1917 to officially report that Lance Corporal Norman Livesey was killed in action between 19th & 22nd August, 1916 in France. According to details supplied for the Roll of Honour by Mr John William Livesey, father of late Lance Corporal Livesey – he died on 21st August, 1916 at Mouquet Farm on the Somme. Mr John Livesey also stated in the information for the Roll of Honour that his son was involved in the landing at Gallipoli and was wounded at Lone Pine on 11th August, 1915. He was sent to Cairo for treatment & from there on the Tel-el-Kebir then on to France on 16th March, 1916. He was asked to be Captain more than once.

Over the years Lance Corporal Norman Livesey's parents wrote several letters trying to find out what happened to their son.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Lance Corporal Norman Livesey contains a letter from Mrs Eva Whitton asking for any details to trace her brother – Lance Corporal Norman Livesey. She notes from information she has received that he was wounded then missing on 21st August, 1916 and has hopes that he might be in Germany as a prisoner. The file contains several letters from soldiers who have reported the details they know of L. Cpl. Norman Livesey:

- *"While out with patrol, he was shot through the neck (Mouquet Farm); and appeared paralysed."* – Cpl. Melrose, No. 1 A.G.B.D.
- *"Informant states that on Aug. 21st about 6.20 p.m. at Mouquet Farm, Livesey was wounded in the advance, but was able to walk to Mouquet Farm, where he took refuge in the cellars. Lieut. Hall coming along with the 2nd line was greeted by Livesey, who shouted out to him to keep over more to the right. Our line subsequently withdrew behind Mouquet Farm, and our man saw the Germans next morning taking our wounded away on stretchers."* – Lieut W. H. E. Hall, 12th A.I.F.
- *"Informant states that he last saw Livesey lying in a shell hole badly wounded on the British side of Mouquet Farm about a quarter past five in the afternoon. The Batt. had to retire and the Germans were seen to come out of their trench and take several wounded men in and it is possible that they may have captured Livesey. He was severely wounded in the neck"* – Pte J. G. Watt, 1783.
- *"Livesey was wounded. I saw him hit by shrapnel, this was at Mouquet Farm, but we temporarily lost the position and it was some time after, that the position was regained. Livesey must have fallen into the hands of the Germans. Livesey was not badly wounded I think."* – Lieut. O. J. Roper, 12th A.I.F.
- *"At Mouquet Farm on August 21st I saw Livesey shot in the thigh by a German Officer who was only 20 yards away. I passed him later lying in the same shell hole where he was hit. I asked if he was badly hit and he replied "I don't think so." The Germans got this area again an hour and a half afterwards."* – Hamilton, W. J. 931

In June, 1921, Mr J. W. Livesey received a pro forma letter from Base Records stating that *"I regret very much that, notwithstanding the efforts of our Graves Services Unit, we have so far been unable to obtain any trace of the last*

resting place of your son the late No. 943, Lance Corporal N. Livesey, 12 Battalion, and so that no possible source of information shall be overlooked, I shall be much obliged if you will let me have **on loan**, any letters or communications **that contain any reference to the circumstances surrounding his death, particularly the exact locality at which it occurred, or where he was last seen alive.** Of course any information you may have received as to **his burial** would be of the greatest assistance. The reason these steps are being taken is to identify, if at all possible, those bodies that are being recovered but which have nothing on them to definitely establish identification, and thus obviate the necessity of interring them in the new Military Cemeteries under the heading "An Unknown Australian Soldier."

Lance Corporal Norman Livesey is remembered on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France.

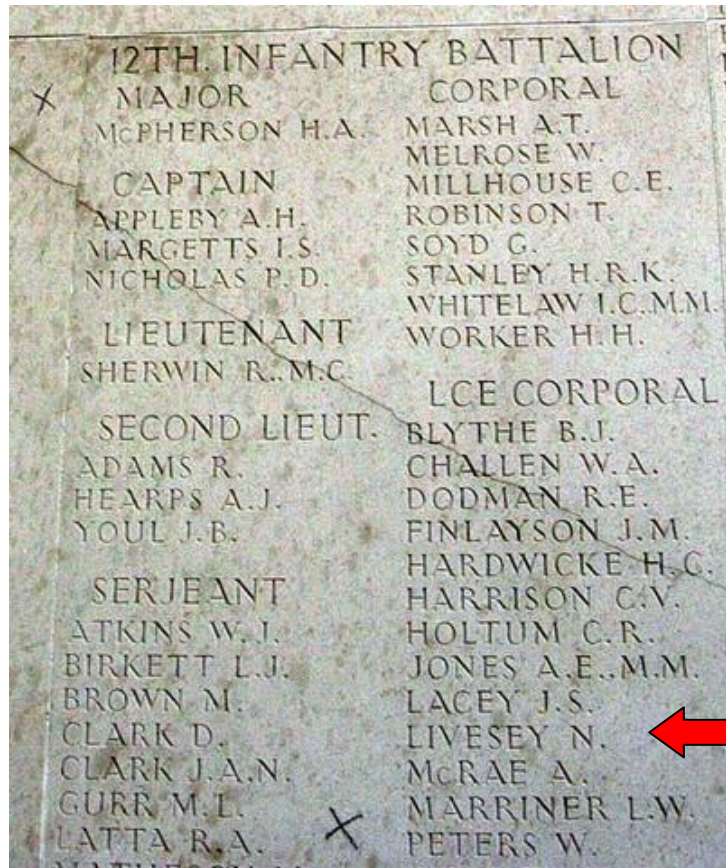
Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France

Villers-Bretonneux is a village 16 kilometres east of Amiens on the straight main road to St Quentin. This memorial stands within Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery. The names are engraved on the memorial in order of battalion, then alphabetically under rank.

The Villers-Bretonneux Memorial contains 10,735 identified Casualties. *(Information & photo from CWGC)*



Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France



(Photo by Have Paws will travel – Find a Grave)

Lance Corporal N. Livesey is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 66.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Lance Corporal Norman Livesey was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to L/Cpl. Livesey's father – Mr J. W. Livesey (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Norman Livesey, 943, of 12th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of John William and Elsie Livesey, of Frederick St., South Fremantle, Western Australia. Born at Accrington, Lancs, England.

A War Pension was granted to Essie Livesey, mother of late Norman Livesey in the sum of 35/- fortnightly from 7th May, 1917.

Mrs Dora Goldsmith, sister of late Lance Corporal Norman Livesey, being the sole next-of-kin, applied for the Gallipoli Medal in March, 1967.

(47 pages of Lance Corporal Norman Livesey'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

YESTERDAY'S CASUALTY LIST

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

12th Battalion – Wounded

N. Livesey, 1st A.G.H., Heliopolis

(Sunday Times, Perth, W.A. – 29 August, 1915)

W.A. CASUALTIES

WOUNDED

N. Livesey (E. Perth), second occasion

(The Daily News, Perth, W.A. – 30 September, 1916)

W.A. CASUALTIES

MISSING

N. Livesey, S. Fremantle, and wounded, previously reported wounded, second occasion.

(The Daily News, Perth, W.A. – 20 March, 1917)

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

KILLED, PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MISSING

N. Livesey (South Fremantle)

(Sunday Times, Perth, W.A. – 29 July, 1917)

Lance Corporal Norman Livesey is remembered on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France & also on the Ratcliffe family Headstone located in Rhyddings Methodist Churchyard, Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire. Joseph R. Ratcliffe & Sarah Ratcliffe were Norman Livesey's maternal grandparents & Charles E. Ratcliffe was his uncle.



(Photo by Berenice)

In Loving Memory Of

Joseph R. Ratcliffe

Schoolmaster 1840-1865

Sarah His Wife 1840-1897

Charles E. Ratcliffe

Schoolmaster & Writer 1863-1922

Norman Livesey

Australian Imperial Forces 1887-1916

