

Sergeant Abraham Alexander Marshall

Regimental number: 26/592

4th Battalion, New Zealand Rifle Brigade

born: 22 June 1880 - died: 14 July 1916

Abraham Alexander Marshall, son of Enoch Marshall and Margaret Ship, was born in Tasmania, Australia, on 22 June 1880.¹ The Marshall household consisted of many children: Sarah Caroline (born in Port Sorell, Tasmania, 1872), Letitia (born in 1874), Enoch Henry (1876), Charles Arthur (1878), Abraham, Bertha (1883), George Arthur (1885), Lucy Maud (1887), Thomas Arnold (born in Mersey, Tasmania, 1889), Wilfred John (1891), Mildred Myra Margaret (1893), Albert Morris (1896) and Sydney Alexander Gordon (born in Ulverstone, Tasmania, 1898).²

Enoch Marshall and Margaret Ship were married in Port Sorell, Tasmania, 20 April 1871.³ They are both buried in the Anglican section of the Ulverstone Cemetery. Enoch died in 1924, Margaret in 1931.⁴

Three of their sons went off to Europe during the Great War; two never returned home. The first to enlist was Thomas Arnold Marshall, who served in Europe as a corporal with the 57th Battalion of the Australian International Force. Corporal Marshall was wounded several times and was still seeking veterans' benefits as late as 1959.⁵

Enoch and Margaret's youngest child, Sydney Alexander Gordon Marshall, also enlisted. He was a private in the 40th Battalion of the Australian Infantry with the Australian International Force. Private Marshall died in Belgium, 13 October 1917. He is remembered on the Menin Gate at the Ypres Memorial in Belgium.⁶

Enoch and Margaret's son Abraham was working in Dunedin, New Zealand, when war broke out. He was a salesman for W. J. Ward Clinton. In October 1915, Abraham enlisted with the 4th Battalion, New Zealand Rifle Brigade. In December, he was promoted to Lance Corporal. By March of 1916, Abraham's unit had arrived in the Suez and then left Egypt for France in April.⁷

On the very same day that he was reported wounded (12 July 1916), Abraham had been appointed an acting sergeant. Apparently, military leaders had not yet realized that Abraham was in the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station in Bailleul, France, suffering from a fractured right leg and a wounded left leg. He died of his wounds, 14 July 1916.⁸

Bailleul had become an important hospital centre for not just the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station (CCCS) but also for the 1st Australian and five British Army casualty clearing stations. In July 1916, the 1st CCCS war diary records that the station received 2,810 admissions, of whom 70 died.⁹ The station was likely too busy for more detailed entries in the unit's war diaries.

Sergeant Abraham Alexander Marshall was buried in the Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension (Nord), section II, row E, grave 35.¹⁰ This cemetery contains 4,403 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 17 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War and 154 German burials from both wars.

A fourth son from the Enoch and Margaret Marshall family would see military service, but long after his parents were deceased. Albert Morris Marshall served in the Second World War (service number T29792).¹¹

¹ "Australia, Birth Index, 1788–1922," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 October 2016), entry for Abraham Marshall, Registration place: Port Sorell, Tasmania, Registration number: 2192

² Those birth entries are all found in the aforementioned birth index.

³ "Australia, Marriage Index, 1788–1950," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 October 2016), entry for Enoch Marshall, Registration place: Port Sorell, Tasmania, Registration number: 542

⁴ "Australia, Cemetery Index, 1808–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 October 2016), entry for Margaret Marshall

⁵ "Australia, WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 October 2016), entry for Thomas Arnold Marshall

⁶ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission*, (www.cwgc.org: accessed 5 October 2016), entry for Marshall, Sydney Alexander Gordon, Service No: 452

⁷ "NZDF Personnel Files," *Archives New Zealand* (archives.govt.nz/world-war-one: accessed 5 October 2016), entry for Abraham Alexander Marshall

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ "War Diaries – 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," Library and Archives Canada (collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=2005082: accessed 23 August 2016)

¹⁰ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission*, (www.cwgc.org: accessed 5 October 2016), entry for Marshall, Abraham Alexander, Service no: 26/592

¹¹ "Australia, WWII Military Service Records, 1939–1945," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 October 2016), entry for Albert Morris Marshall