

**Sutton Veny,  
Wiltshire, England**

**War Graves**

**World War 1**



*Lest We Forget*



**7939 PRIVATE**

**G. H. BANTICK**

**12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**4TH JUNE, 1918 Age 21**

*In Sad And Loving Memory*  
*Of Our Dear Son George*

## George Henry BANTICK

George Henry Bantick was born on 20th May, 1897 at Four Mile Beach, St. Mary's near Falmouth, Tasmania to parents George Henry & Harriet Bantick (nee Vincent).

George Henry Bantick attended State School at Falmouth, Tasmania.

Details regarding Larceny & Forgery in December, 1914:

<i>George Henry Bantick.</i> <i>Native.</i>										<i>P. O. Ross.</i> <i>Larceny &amp; Forgery</i> <i>3 months committed for trial</i>				
$\frac{13}{18} \frac{0}{0} (\frac{00}{00}) 17$										$\frac{7}{15} 12-14$ $7-23 13-14$				
TRADE	HEIGHT	YEAR BORN	COMPLEXION	HEAD	HAIR	WHISKERS	VISAGE	FOREHEAD	EYEBROW	EYES	NOSE	MOUTH	CHIN	NATIVE PLACE
<i>Laborer</i>	<i>5'11 1/2"</i>	<i>1897</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Small</i>	<i>Dark</i>	<i>✓</i>	<i>Long</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Dark</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Large</i>	<i>Large</i>	<i>Pointed</i>	<i>Ross (Tas)</i>
<i>Remarks: - Scar on top of head above forehead. Scar inside right thumb.</i> <i>Nail mark left elbow. Scar second knuckle left middle finger.</i> <i>Carved R. &amp; W. Single. C. of E.</i>														
Date of Sentence		Where Sentenced.			Offence.					Sentence.				
<i>15-12-14</i>		<i>P. O. Ross.</i>			<i>Larceny</i>					<i>3 months</i>				
<i>23-12-14</i>		<i>D.</i>			<i>Forgery</i>					<i>committed to S. P. Dept.</i>				



George Henry Bantick was charged in Supreme Court, Hobart, Tasmania on 30th March, 1915 with altering a cheque with intent to defraud. He was sentenced to 12 months.

George Henry Bantick was committed for Trial at Ross, Tasmania on 23rd December, 1915 for forgery.

George Henry Bantick was a 20 year old, single, Farmer from Four Mile Creek, St. Marys, Tasmania when he enlisted at Hobart, Tasmania on 3rd October, 1917 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr George Bantick of Four Mile Creek, St. Marys, Tasmania. George Henry Bantick stated on his Attestation papers that he had never served in His Majesty's Army, the Marines, Militia –etc 92nd Area Exempt. He had also been rejected twice as being unfit for His Majesty's Service due to a weak Heart. Both his parents had to sign their consent to allow their son to enlist in the Australian Expeditionary Force for service abroad as he was under the age of 21.

Private George Henry Bantick was posted to 1st Depot Battalion at Claremont on 17th October, 1917 for recruit training.

Private George Henry Bantick, Service number 7939, embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Nestor (A71)* on 28th February, 1918 with the 12th Infantry Battalion, 27th Reinforcements & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 20th April, 1918.

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 George Henry Bantick was marched in to 1st Training Battalion at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire from Australia on 20th April, 1918.

Private George Henry Bantick was admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 11th May, 1918 with Measles.

Private George Henry Bantick died at 2 a.m. on 4th June, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Measles, Bronchitis, Pneumonia (as verified by a Post Mortem).

A death for George H. Bantick, aged 21, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private George Henry Bantick was buried on 6th June, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 354.

*From the burial report of Private Bantick - Coffin was good polished Elm with Brass Mountings – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours. The band of the 1st Australian Training Brigade preceded the funeral, which was attended by Firing Party, Pall bearers and a company of N.C.O.'s and men from deceased late Unit. Wreathes from Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of 12th Bn. and Australians in Sutton Veny Hospital were placed on the grave after the "Last Post" had been sounded. Deceased was most popular with both Officers and men of his Unit and his loss is very keenly felt.*

Private George Henry Bantick requested in his Will, dated 13th February, 1918, that all his property & effects be given to Harriet Bantick, Falmouth, Tasmania.

Private George Henry Bantick was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Bantick's father – Mr G. H. Bantick (sent July, 1921 & November, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private George Henry Bantick, 7939, of 12th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of George Henry and Harriet Bantick, of Four Mile Creek, Falmouth, Tasmania.

G. H. Bantick is also remembered on the Honour Board at Christ Church, Esk Highway, Cullenswood, in the Break O'Day district, Tasmania.



**Christ Church, Cullenswood**



(Photo from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

Private G. H. Bantick is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 64.



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

(60 pages of Private George Henry Bantick's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

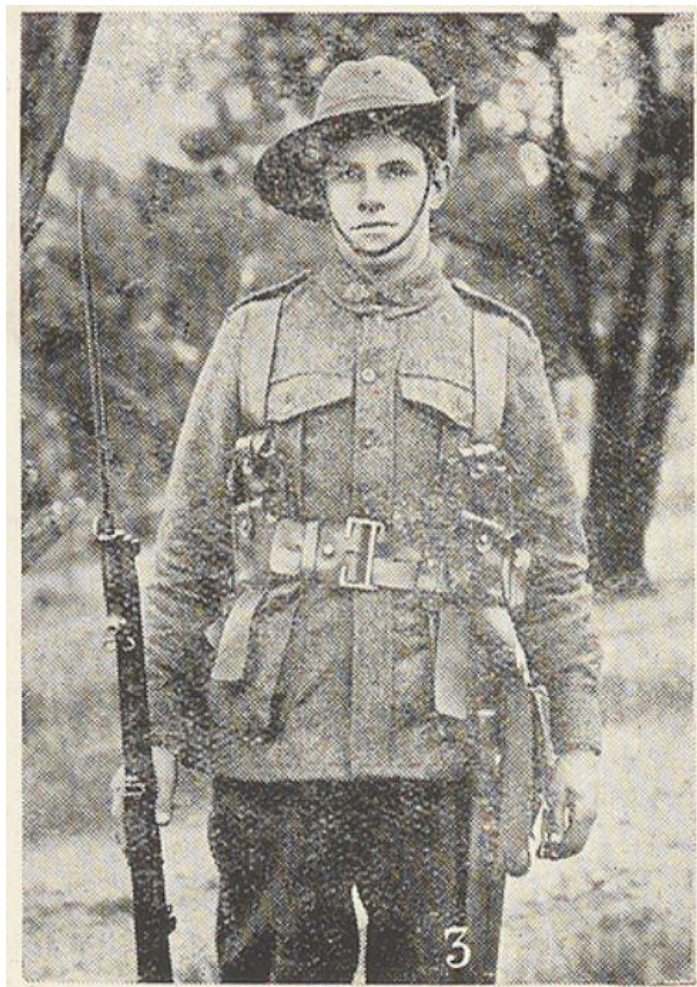
*Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives.*





7—A GROUP AT CLAREMONT. The soldier on the left is PTE. GEORGE BANTICK (aged 20), son of Mr. George Bantick, Falmouth. Photos. by D.I.C., etc.

(Tasmania Weekly Courier – 24 January, 1918)



(*Tasmania Weekly Courier* – 15 August, 1918)



PTE. G. BANTICK,  
Hobart, Died in France.

## Newspaper Reports

### **SUPREME COURT**

#### **THE CRIMINAL SITTINGS**

##### **FORGING AND UTTERING A CHEQUE**

At the Criminal Sittings of the "Supreme Court yesterday, in the first Court before Mr. Justice Dobbie George Henry Bantick, a youth, pleaded guilty to having altered and uttered a cheque for the payment of £2 14s. Mr Davenport Hoggins addressed His Honor in mitigation of the sentence, stating that the youth, 17 years of age, had been thrown on his own resources for the last five years, his parents, living at Pelham, being poor. He altered a cheque from £2 14s to £3 14s., which was, technically, a forgery, but really a petty larceny. Counsel asked that the lad be given another chance.

His Honor said he had very grave difficulty in deciding what was the best thing to do with the accused as to his future, especially as his father seemed to wipe his hands of him altogether and would not become a bondsman for him. He would be sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment, but in the meantime the proper authorities were to try and get the Salvation Army to take care of him, and upon their undertaking to do so he would be released from custody.

(*The Mercury*, Hobart, Tasmania – Wednesday 31 March 1915)

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **TASMANIAN CASUALTIES**

##### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

Pte G. H. Bantick, St. Marys, 4/6/18

(*Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania – Tuesday 25 June, 1918)

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### **IN MEMORIAM**

#### **Died on Active Service**

**BANTICK.**-In sad and loving memory of our dear son and brother, George Henry Bantick, No. 7,939, 12th Battalion, 27th Reinforcements, died 4/6/18, Somewhere in France, aged 21 years.

No mother's care did him attend,

Nor over him did a father bend;

No sister by to shed a tear,

No brother by his words to hear.

Ill and dying in a foreign land,

No father by to take a hand:

No mother near to close his eyes,

Far from his native land he lies.

Had we but seen him yet in life,

    Watched by his dying bed;

Caught the last flickering of his breath,

    And touched his dying head,



We think our hearts would not have felt  
Such bitterness of grief;  
But God had willed it otherwise,  
And now he rests in peace.

No matter how we pray, dear George,  
No matter how we call,  
There is nothing left to answer  
But your photo on the wall.

We are lonely without you, brother darling,  
Grieved to be from you apart;  
In tears we look at your photo.,  
With sad and broken hearts.

We hear no sound of the much-loved voice,  
We hear no footsteps near;  
Only the heart's sad longing  
For the one we loved so dear.

I can always see his angel face,  
Through a mist of sorrowing tears;  
But a mother's part is a broken heart,  
Through many a lonely year.

We'll meet him again in the morning,  
In the dawn of the beautiful day,  
When the time of waiting and watching,  
And all sadness have passed away.

For his duty is done, his rest is won,  
And the horrors of battle for him are o'er;  
In the land of rest, in the home of the blest,  
He has met with those who have gone before.

A noble ending to a beautiful life.

We did not think your time so short  
In this world to remain;  
We thought that when you left us, George,  
You would return again.

Duty called him, he was there,  
To do his bit and take his share;  
His heart was good, his spirit brave,  
He's resting in a soldier's grave.

God knows how much we miss him,  
He counts the tears we shed,

He whispers, Hush! he only sleeps-  
Your loved one is not dead,  
But sleeping over yonder in a Hero's grave.

-Inserted by his loving and sorrowing father, G. H., and mother, H. Bantick, and brothers and sisters, R. V., R. T., H. N., P. O., F. .K., M. P.

*(Examiner, Launceston, Tasmania – Thursday 8 August, 1918)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **Died on Active Service**

BANTICK.- In sad and loving memory of our dear brother and son, George, who died in Sutton Veny Hospital, June 4, 1918.

Days of sadness still come to us,  
Silent tears often flow,  
Your memory keeps you near us,  
Though your grave is miles away.

Inserted by his loving mother and father G. and H. Bantick, sister and brother-in-law, Ruby and Albert Nickel.

*(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – Saturday 4 June, 1921)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **Died on Active Service**

**BANTICK.**-In sad and loving memory of our dear son and brother, George Henry Bantick, No. 7,939, 12th Battalion, 27th Reinforcements, died 4/6/18, Somewhere in France, aged 21 years.

No mother care did him attend.  
Nor over him a father bend;  
No sister by to shed a tear,  
No brother by his words to hear;  
Ill and dying, in a foreign land.  
Far from his native land he lies.

No matter how we pray, dear George,  
No matter how we call,  
There's nothing left to answer  
But your photo on the wall.

We are lonely without you, brother darling,  
Grieved to be from you apart,

Some day, some time, our eyes shall see  
The dear face we hold in memory;  
And Christ shall link the broken chain.  
Still closer when we meet again.

Inserted by his loving and sorrowing father and mother, G. and H. Bantick, brothers and sisters, Ruby, Nedelcia, Richmond, Pearson, Flora, Madge, Roy, Sissie, and little Joyce.

*(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – Monday 5 June, 1922)*

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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 at St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny. 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 George Henry Bantick does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Sad And Loving Memory Of Our Dear Son George*

### **St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England**

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards. The 26th Division was concentrated at Sutton Veny in April 1915 and No 1 Australian Command was there from the end of 1916 to October 1919. There was also a hutted military hospital of more than 1200 beds at Sutton Veny for much of the war and No 1 Australian General Hospital was stationed there after the Armistice. Sutton Veny (St John) Churchyard contains 168 First World War burials, 167 of them in a plot at the north west corner of the church. Of these, 143 are Australian. There is only one Second World War burial in the churchyard.

*(Information & colour photos from CWGC)*





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00376



Photo of Private G. H. Bantick's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*