

**St. James Churchyard Cemetery,  
Dover, Kent  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2766 PRIVATE**

**F. R. BERRY**

**36TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**18TH OCTOBER, 1917 Age 23**

*Loved Son Of J. & E. Berry*

*Of St. Peters*

*Dear Reg Was Loved By All*

## Frederick Reginald (Reg) BERRY

Frederick Reginald Berry was born at Hurstville, Sydney, NSW on 13th April, 1894 to parents John and Eliza Berry (nee Knight).

Frederick Reginald Berry attended Tempe Public School, NSW.

Frederick Reginald Berry was a 22 year old, single, Fireman on the Railways from 80 Railway Road, St. Peters, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted on 14th November, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Brigade, 36th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2766 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr John Berry, of 80 Railway Road, St. Peters, Sydney, NSW.

Private Frederick Reginald Berry was posted to Recruits Camp at Showground, Sydney on 14th November, 1916. He was transferred to camp at Liverpool, Sydney with 6th Reinforcements, 36th Battalion on 18th November, 1916.

Private Frederick Reginald Berry embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Beltana* (A72) on 25th November, 1916. Pte Berry had been admitted to Ship's Hospital on 17th December, 1916 with a cold & discharged on 18th December, 1916. He disembarked at Devonport, England on 29th January, 1917.

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 Frederick Reginald Berry was marched in to Details Camp at Fovant, Wiltshire from Australia on 30th January, 1917.

Private Frederick Reginald Berry was marched out from Camp at Sutton Mandeville & marched in to 9th Training Battalion at Larkhill, near Durrington, Wiltshire on 6th March, 1917.

Private Frederick Reginald Berry was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 26th April, 1917. He was discharged on 4th June, 1917.

Private Frederick Reginald Berry was marched in to 9th Training Battalion on 5th June, 1917.

Private Frederick Reginald Berry proceeded overseas to France via Southampton from No. 11 Camp at Durrington, Wiltshire on 16th July, 1917.

Private Frederick Reginald Berry was marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 17th July, 1917. He was marched out to join his Unit on 2nd August, 1917.

Private Frederick Reginald Berry was taken on strength with 36th Battalion in Belgium on 3rd August, 1917.

Private Frederick Reginald Berry was wounded in action in Belgium on 12th October, 1917. He was taken to 11th Australian Field Ambulance then transferred to 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 12th October, 1917. Pte Berry was transferred to Ambulance Train & admitted on 13th October, 1917 to 8th Stationary Hospital with gunshot wounds to right shoulder. Pte Berry was invalided to England on 16th October, 1917 on Hospital Ship Princess Elizabeth.

Private Frederick Reginald Berry was admitted to Military Hospital, Dover, Kent, England on 16th October, 1917, with gunshot wounds to shoulder (severe).

### 36th Battalion

The battalion had to wait until the emphasis of British and Dominion operations switched to the Ypres Sector of Belgium in mid-1917 to take part in its first major battle; this was the battle of Messines, launched on 7 June. With the 9th Brigade held in reserve during the battle for Broodseinde Ridge on 4 October, the 36th's next major battle was around Passchendaele on the 12th. Heavy rain, though, had deluged the battlefield, and thick mud tugged at the advancing troops and fouled their weapons. The 36th secured its objective but with open flanks and ineffective artillery support, was forced to withdraw.

*(Information from The Australian War Memorial)*

Private Frederick Reginald Berry died at 8.30 pm on 18th October, 1917 at Military Hospital, Dover, Kent, England from wounds received in action – gunshot wound to right shoulder.

A death for Frederick R. Berry, aged 23, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Dover, Kent, England.

Private Frederick Reginald Berry was buried at 2 pm on 23rd October, 1917 in St. James Churchyard Cemetery, Dover, Kent, England – Plot number M. K. 21 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Berry - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral. Gun carriage, Band, Firing Party and Bearers were supplied by the 6th Royal Fusiliers stationed at Dover. A service was conducted at the graveside by Rev. F. Thomas (Methodist) 3 Castle Street, Dover. The "Last Post" was sounded by 6 buglers of the Royal Fusiliers. No relatives were present at the funeral. An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F.*

John & Eliza Berry, parents of the late Private Frederick Reginald Berry, wrote a letter to Base Records on 8th March, 1918 which reads: *"I am writing to thank you for your great kindness in forwarding us the particulars of our dear sons funeral. His father & I both being English are pleased to know that he is laid to rest in an English Cemetery & also proud to think that he had a Military Funeral. We had a letter from his Uncle in England telling how exceedingly kind the Dr & staff were to him in the Dover Hospital & we are sure he had every care & they did all that was possible to pull him through & much as we would have liked him spared to come home to us we realise that it was all for the best. Thanking you one & all for your kindness.*

A War Pension was granted Eliza Berry, mother of the late Private Frederick Reginald Berry in the sum of 30/- per fortnight from 23rd December, 1917.

Private Frederick Reginald Berry was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Berry's father - Mr John Berry, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1922 & Plaque sent September, 1922). As the late Private Frederick Reginald Berry's father had died on 21st April, 1920, Eliza Berry signed for receipt of the Victory Medal, Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Frederick Reginald Berry – service number 2766, aged 23, of 36th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Eliza Berry, of 80 Railway St., St. Peters, Sydney, New South Wales.

Private F. G. Berry is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 126.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia









**N.S.W. Government Railways and Tramways Roll of Honour**

*(Photos from NSW War Memorials Register – Jennifer Edmonds)*

F. R. Berry is remembered on the St. Peters Roll of Honour located in St. Peters Town Hall, Corner Swain Street and Unwins Bridge Road, Sydenham, NSW.





**St. Peters Roll of Honour**

*(Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW – David Roden & Peter Levarre-Waters)*

(80 pages of Private Frederick Reginald Berry'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*





**Private Frederick Reginald Berry** (*Photo from Passchendaele Archives*)



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

BERRY – Died of wounds in France, October 18, 1917, Private Reg. Berry, of St. Peters, beloved nephew and cousin of Mr, Mrs and Frank Crabtree, Braemar. Dead, but not forgotten.

BERRY - Died of wounds, October 18, 1917, Private Reginald Berry, of St. Peters, beloved cousin of Will and Maggie Crabtree, late of St. Peters.

BERRY - Died of wounds, October 18, 1917, Private Reginald Berry, of St. Peters, beloved cousin of Arthur and Daisy Bogan, Woollahra.

BERRY – Killed in action, in France, October 18, 1917, Private Fredrick Reginald Berry (Reg), aged 23, dearly loved cousin of Fred and Lizzie Crabtree and little Bill.

Ah, for the shake of a vanished hand,  
And the sound of a voice that is stilled.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 31 October, 1917)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

BERRY – Died of wounds in France, October 18, 1917, Private Fredrick Reginald (Reg) Berry, aged 23. The supreme sacrifice. Inserted by his sorrowing father and mother.

BERRY - Died of wounds in France, October 18, 1917, Private Fredrick Reginald (Reg) Berry, aged 23. Loved by all who knew him. Inserted by his ever-loving brother and sister, Will and Mollie, and little Jack and Reg.

BERRY - Died of wounds in France, October 18, 1917, Private Fredrick Reginald (Reg) Berry. His duty nobly done, God called him home. Loved brother of Eva and Will, and uncle of Walter and Hilda.

BERRY - Died of wounds in France, October 18, 1917, Private F. R. Berry (Reg). No one knows how much we miss you. Inserted by his loving sisters Ruby and Dorothy, and brother Bert, Leslie and Chicken.

BERRY - Died of wounds in France, October 18, 1917, Private Fredrick Reginald (Reg), of St. Peters, beloved nephew of Mr and Mrs Tarrer, Little Bay.

No greater love.

BERRY - Died of wounds in France, October 18, 1917, Private F. R. Berry (Reg).

Loved nephew of Mr and Mrs Turner, Cronulla.

He heard the call and answered.

BERRY - Died of wounds in France, October 18, 1917, Private F. R. Berry (Reg).

Gone from a sad world to a brighter home above.

Inserted by his loving aunt and uncle, Mr and Mrs Crabtree, and family, Braemar.

BERRY - Died of wounds in France, October 18, 1917, Private F. Reg. Berry, cousin of J. H. Downes, (late 1st Field Amb., A.I.F.), and Mrs J. H. Downes, St. Peters. Greater love hath no man.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 10 November, 1917)*

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## LATEST CASUALTIES

### 354th LIST

#### NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of Wounds

Pte F. R. Berry, St. Peters

*(The Land, Sydney, NSW – 23 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)*

Pte F. R. Berry does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Loved Son Of J. & E. Berry Of St. Peters*

*Dear Reg Was Loved By All*

#### **St. James Churchyard Cemetery, Dover, Kent, England**

St. James Churchyard Cemetery, Dover contains 719 identified casualties. There are 8 Australian servicemen from World War 1 buried here – 7 Australian Imperial Force soldiers & 1 Royal Flying Corps.

During the First World War, Dover was a port of embarkation for troops bound for the Western Front and between August 1914 and August 1919 some 1,300,000 Commonwealth sick and wounded were landed there. The port was bombed in 1915 and again in August 1916.

There are 373 identified burials of the 1914-1918 war here. In addition there are 19 unidentified burials, 9 of whom can be named as victims of the Zeebrugge Raid, and these 9 are inscribed on a Special Memorial on the Cross of Sacrifice in the Zeebrugge Plot.

In 1940, Dover was the headquarters for the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk and nearly 200,000 of the 366,000 British and Allied troops brought back during the operation were landed there. Throughout the war Dover was a particular target for the long range guns on the French coast and between September 1939 and May 1945 there were no less than 742 attacks by air raid and shelling.

Most of the 356 Second World War burials are contained in a special war graves plot at the far end of the cemetery. The plot, known as the Dunkirk plot, contains many graves from the Dunkirk operation. 22 of these burials are unidentified. There are also 8 Foreign National war burials and 3 non war service burials in the cemetery.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*



**St. James Churchyard Cemetery, Dover**





Photo of Pte F. R. Berry's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. James' Churchyard Cemetery, Dover, Kent, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Angus882 – Great War Forum)*



Reginald Berry is included on the Australian Cemetery Index for Woronora Cemetery, Sutherland, NSW. He is most likely included on the headstone of his parents who were both buried in Methodist Monumental – Section T – 0018. John Berry died on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 1920 & Eliza Berry died on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1938.

