

# Exeter Higher Cemetery, Devon

## War Graves



*Lest We Forget*

### World War 1



457A PRIVATE

**J. BOYD**

*(Real Name – FREDERICK JAMES BOYCE)*

23RD COMPANY, AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN CORPS

26TH MARCH, 1918

## Frederick J. BOYCE

### *served as James BOYD*

Frederick J. Boyce's birth was registered in the district of Scone in 1889 to parents Joseph & Margaret Boyce (nee Wright).

Frederick J. Boyce attended Wickham School, NSW.

Frederick J. Boyce enlisted under the name of James Boyd & stated he was born at Goulburn, NSW. He stated he was a 25 year old, married, Labourer from Hamilton, via Newcastle, NSW when he enlisted on 17th April, 1916 with the 14th Machine Gun Company, 7th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 457 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Marion Boyd of 43 Swan Street, Hamilton, via Newcastle, NSW.

Private James Boyd embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Ulysses (A38)* on 25th October, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 28th December, 1916.

Private James Boyd was marched in Details at 6 & 7 Camp at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 29th December, 1916.

Private James Boyd was transferred to 3rd Divisional Machine Gun Company on 12th February, 1917. He was taken on strength from 14th Machine Gun Company to 3rd Divisional Machine Gun Company on 13th February, 1917.

Private James Boyd was mustered to Driver to complete establishment on 15th June, 1917.

Driver James Boyd was written up for an Offence – A.W.L. (Absent without leave) while at Parkhouse from 11.55 pm on 10th August, 1917 to 3.30 pm on 11th August, 1917. He was awarded 5 days C.B. (Confined to Barracks) & forfeited 2 days pay.

Driver James Boyd proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 7th September, 1917.

Driver James Boyd was written up for overstaying leave pass from 8.30 pm to 9 pm on 11th September, 1917. He was awarded 7 days FP No. 2 (Field Punishment No. 2).

Driver James Boyd was re-allotted his regiment/service number to 457A.

Driver James Boyd was sent to Hospital sick on 5th February, 1918. He was admitted to 10th Australian Field Ambulance on 5th February, 1918 suffering from Nephritis (inflammation of kidneys). Driver James Boyd was transferred to 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 7th February, 1918 then transferred & admitted to 53rd General Hospital on 26th February, 1918.

Driver James Boyd was invalided to England from France on 1st March, 1918 & admitted to War Hospital, Exeter, Devon on 2nd March, 1918 with Nephritis - severe. *“Owing to his condition (Nephritis) and the uncertainty of his recovery from the operation he was not operated in till the symptoms forced it on 22.3.18.... about 26' if the intestine (was) resected. There was a temporary improvement but gradually toxæmia symptoms developed and the patient died at 4.10 am today.”*

Mrs Marion Boyd was advised by Base Records that *“Now reported Driver James Boyd admitted first March to War Hospital Exeter England Nephritis.”*

Mrs Marion Boyd was advised by Base Records that *“Now reported Driver James Boyd undergone operation condition critical. Twentythird March.”*

Mrs Marion Boyd was advised by Base Records that *“Driver James Boyd dangerously ill Nephritis Intestinal obstructions. Nineteenth March. Prograss Report is expected.”*

Driver James Boyd died at 4.30 am on 26th March, 1918 at No. 1 Section, War Hospital, Exeter, Devon, England from Nephritis.

A death for James Boyd, aged 28, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Exeter, Devon.

Driver James Boyd was buried at 4.10 pm on 28th March, 1918 in Exeter Higher Cemetery, Devon, England – Plot number 157 and has a simple granite marker headstone. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. From the burial report of Driver James Boyd - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack Flag. Gun Carriage was supplied by the R.F.A. stationed at Topsham, Exeter. Pallbearers were supplied by the Devon Regt. stationed at Exeter. A party of Australian soldiers, patients in the No. 1 Section V.A.D., Hospital, Exeter, followed the remains to the Cemetery. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

James Boyd requested in his Will, dated 29th August, 1917, that he bequeathed all his real & personal estate to his wife – Marian Boyd of 43 Swan Street, Hamilton, Newcastle, NSW. She was also appointed as executrix of the Will.

A letter was sent to Base Records, dated 9th August, 1918, from District Paymaster, 2nd Military District stating that they had received communication from Mrs Marian Boyce relative to the correct name of No. 457 James Boyd (deceased) – *"I am the widow of the late soldier Driver James Boyd whose name was not Boyd but Frederick Joseph Boyce his number and rank is No.457, Driver James Boyd, 23rd late 14th Machine Gun Company died from Nephritis in England. My address is Mrs Marian Boyce High Level Bridge Maitland Road, Islington, Newcastle."*

Mrs Boyce was advised by Base Records on 7th August, 1918 to forward a Statutory Declaration declaring the facts.

A Statutory Declaration was completed by Mrs Marian Boyce on 24th September, 1918 stating *"my husband whose name was Frederick Joseph Boyce enlisted under the name of James Boyd and is identical with Driver James Boyd No. 457, 23rd M.G.C. A.I.F."*

Base Records advised Mrs Boyce in November, 1918, that the name of her husband, the late No. 457A. Driver Frederick Joseph Boyce, 23rd Machine Gun Company had been correctly noted on the records. (Note: - The Australian War Memorial – Roll of Honour has the name as Frederick James Boyce, 457A, 23rd Australian Machine Gun Company.)

A War Pension was granted to Marian Boyd (correct name Marian Boyce), widow of the late James Boyd (correct name Frederick Joseph Boyce) 457 Driver 23rd, late 14th Machine Gun Company, in the sum of 43/- per fortnight granted from 6th June, 1918. A Pension was also granted to Frederick Joseph Boyce, son of Frederick & Marian Boyce, in the sum of 20/- per fortnight granted from 6th June, 1918. A birth had been registered in 1913 in the district of Newcastle for Frederick J. Boyce, parents Frederick J. & Mary Boyce.

Driver J. Boyd, alias F. J. Boyce, was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque in the name of Driver J. Boyd were also sent to Driver Boyd/Boyce's widow – Mrs M. Boyce, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1922 & Plaque sent February, 1923). Mrs Boyce wrote to Base Records in July, 1922 regarding the name on the Memorial Scroll - *"Dear Sir, I wish you had put Driver F. J. Boyce the correct name instead of J. Boyd Yours sincerely M. Boyce"*. A reply was sent to Mrs M. Boyce c/o Mrs J. Parkinson 2 Marmboo Street, Mayfield, NSW which reads in part – *"...the name inscribed on these memorials is that under which the soldier served and died and no variation to this rule is permissible."*



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver J. Boyd – service number 457A, of 23rd Coy., Australian Machine Gun Corps. No family details are listed.

Driver F. J. Boyce is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 177.



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

F. Boyce is remembered on the Hamilton Municipal District Roll of Honour which is located at Fort Scratchley Military Museum, corner of Fort Drive and Nobby's Road, Newcastle, NSW.



**Hamilton Municipal District Roll of Honour**

*(Photo from Register of War Memorials in NSW – Mr Robert McLardy)*



F. Boyce is also remembered on the Hamilton War Memorial, located in Gregson Park, Tudor & Steel Streets, Hamilton, NSW.



**Hamilton War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia – Sandra Brown)

(104 pages of Driver James Boyd'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

### Latest Casualty List

#### NORTHERN NAMES

The 390th casualty list includes:-

.....Driver J. Boyd (Hamilton)

(Daily Observer, Tamworth, NSW – 18 April, 1918)

## ROLL OF HONOUR

DRIVER BOYCE – In sad and loving memory of our dear brother-in-law, Driver Fred Boyce, who died of wounds received in France March 26, 1918.

To-day as we look at your photo,

A soldier so young and so true,

Do you know that our hearts are aching

And longing, dear Fred, for you.

You fought in the battle, and we know

That you fought bravely and true,

You fought for your home and your country,

And the flag at the Red, White and Blue.

Into the field of battle.

He bravely took his place,

And fought and died for England,

And the honour of his race.

He sleeps not in his native land,

But 'neath a foreign sky,

Far from those who loved him best.

But in a hero's grave he lies.

Inserted by his loving sister-in-law and brother-in-law, and mother-in-law, Mrs. M. Maxwell, William Hansen, and Maggie and little son, Freddie Boyce and nephews and niece, Lambton.

*(Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate, NSW – 26 March, 1920)*

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Frederick James Boyce is remembered on his son's headstone in Sandgate Cemetery, Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia.



*(Photo from Find a Grave – nettlyne)*





**Boyce Grave in Sandgate Cemetery, NSW** (Photos courtesy of Gary Mitchell)

*In Loving Memory of*

*My Dear Son*

*FREDERICK J. BOYCE*

*Died 24TH Dec. 1932 Aged 19 Years*

*Also His Beloved Father*

*Killed In Action 26TH March 1918*

*Aged 27 Years.*





### **Exeter Higher Cemetery, Devon**

Exeter Higher Cemetery, Devon contains 340 War Graves. Of the 219 First World War burials in Exeter Higher Cemetery, more than 180 form two war graves plots near the entrance. The Second World War plot contains most of the 121 Second World War burials. The rest of the graves are scattered throughout the cemetery. The Second World War plot also contains 62 war graves of other nationalities, most of them Polish and German.  
*(Information & photos from CWGC).*

There are 9 War Graves which belong to the Australian Forces – Army, Air & Navy. Six are from World War 1 & three are from World War 2, from Royal Australian Air Force.

A Memorial, which is located near the two chapels, contains the names of those buried in the circular plot surrounding the Memorial. The plot of land in front of the chapel was set aside by the Council as a commemorative plot early in World War 1. The burials are marked by simple granite slabs listing only the soldier's name.

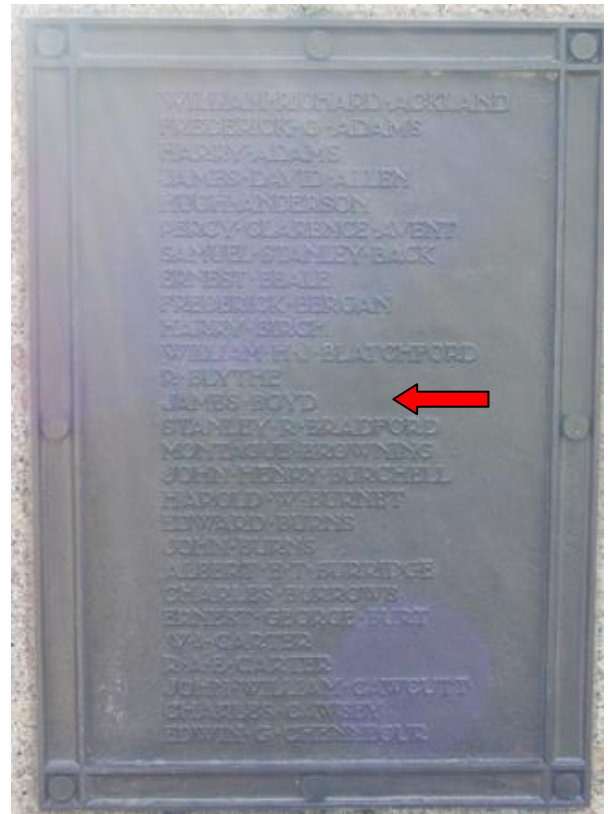
A letter was sent to Mrs Carter, mother of the late Private R.A.E. Carter, A.I.F., dated 11th October, 1922 which reads: *“With further reference to your letter of the 7th June, enquiry has been made with regard to the grave of Private R.A.E. Carter in Exeter Higher Cemetery with the result that it has been discovered that all the private memorials erected over the graves of soldiers, in the War Plot have been removed by the Exeter City Council, and that a granite block has been placed over each grave and the turf levelled. On these blocks have been engraved the particulars of the deceased, painted black. The private memorials themselves have been placed in the mortuary. This treatment has been carried out entirely by the City Council with a view to uniformity so that now all the graves in the War Plot in Exeter High Cemetery are exactly alike, but the burial place of each soldier is carefully distinguished by the granite blocks which have been placed level with the turf.*





The Memorial (above) & (below) the plaques with the names of the soldiers buried in the World Ward 1 plot.

*(Photos by Toltecia)*





**The World War 1 plots near the Memorial with plants & flowers between the named granite grave markers**

*(Photos with permission from Norman Cummings)*





Photo of Driver J. Boyd's granite Grave marker in Exeter Higher Cemetery, Devon, England.



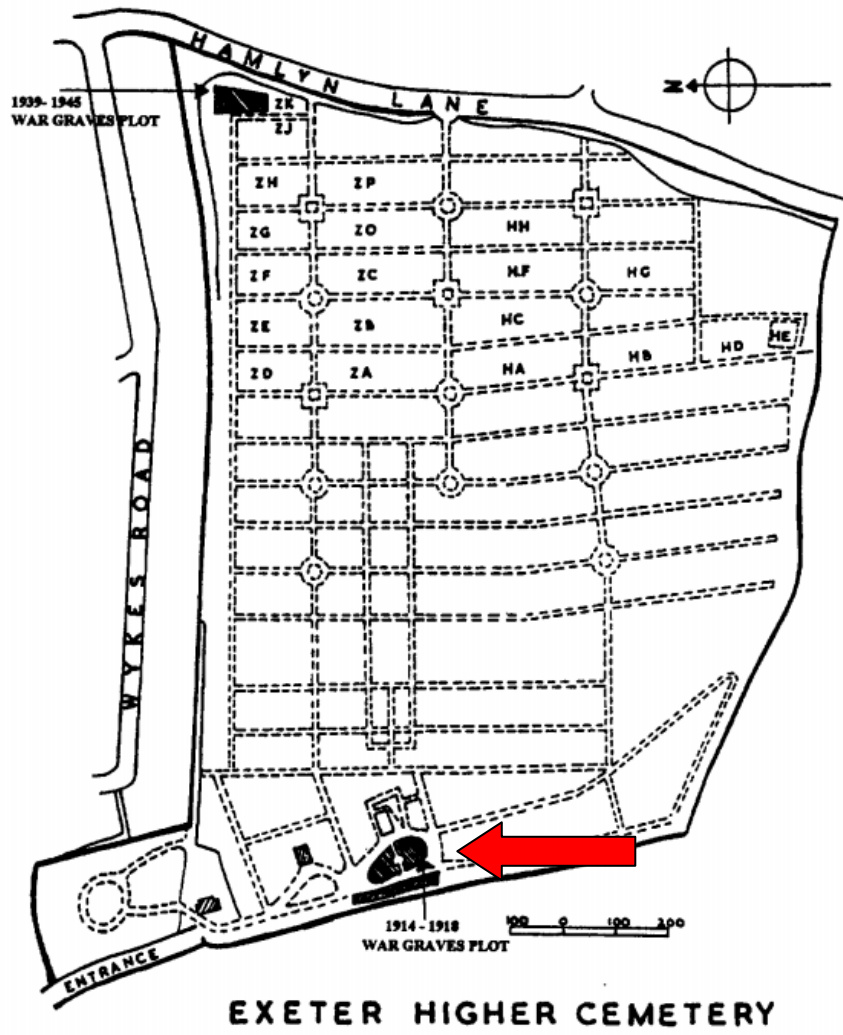
*(Photo courtesy of Toltecia)*



**Exeter Higher Cemetery showing Cross of Sacrifice & World War 2 War Graves**

*(Photo courtesy of julia&keld)*





Section showing World War 1 War Graves Plot.

