

**Soar Welsh Congregational Chapelyard,
Seven Sisters, Wales**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



284 GUNNER

D. A. BRYANT

AUST. HEAVY ARTILLERY

31ST JANUARY, 1919 Age 29

He Died For

His Country's Sake

David Albert BRYANT

David Albert Bryant was born on 20th January, 1894 in Redfern, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia to parents Albert Ernest and Helen Haigh (Ellen) Bryant (nee Grundie).

David Albert Bryant joined Royal Australian Garrison Artillery on 25th October, 1912.

NSW Police Gazette – 3 September, 1913:

Deserter from the Royal Australian Garrison Artillery

From the Royal Australian Garrison Artillery, at Sydney

On 17th August, 1913

Gunner David Albert Bryant, born in Sydney, New South Wales, 19 years of age, 5 feet 9 ¼ inches high, fresh complexion, light-brown hair, grey eyes; a miner; under twelvemonths' service.

David Albert Bryant was a 21 year old, single, Miner from Artillery Barracks, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted on 5th June, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 284 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs A. Bryant, Withers Street, Arncliffe, NSW.

Gunner David Albert Bryant was posted to Siege Brigade on 5th June, 1915 for recruit training.

Gunner David Albert Bryant embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Orsova* (A67) on 17th July, 1915 with the Siege Artillery Brigade.

Gunner David Albert Bryant disembarked at Boulogne, France on 27th February, 1916.

Gunner David Albert Bryant was sent sick to Hospital –91st Field Ambulance on 27th July, 1917 – P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin. He was transferred to 2/1st East Lancashire Field Ambulance in France on 28th July, 1917 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). He rejoined his Unit from Hospital on 11th August, 1917.

Gunner David Albert Bryant was sent sick to Hospital in France on 14th October, 1917. He was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance with Diarrhoea then transferred to 17th Casualty Clearing Station. Gunner Bryant was transferred & admitted to 24th General Hospital at Etaples, France on 15th October, 1917 with Diarrhoea. He embarked on Hospital Ship *Ville de Leige* for England on 24th October, 1917 with Enteritis.

Gunner David Albert Bryant was admitted to Kitchener's Military Hospital, Brighton, England on 24th October, 1917 with Enteritis – severe. He was discharged for furlough from 9th to 23rd November, 1917 & was then to report to Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

David Albert Bryant married Annie Maria Smith in 1917. Their marriage was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Taunton, Somerset, England.

Gunner David Albert Bryant was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England on 23rd November, 1917.

Gunner David Albert Bryant was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 29th December, 1917 from No. 1 Command Depot at Sutton Veny.

Gunner David Albert Bryant was marched in to Australian Heavy Artillery Training Depot at Devonport on 11th January, 1918.

Gunner David Albert Bryant was on command at School of Cookery, Hasler Barracks, Gosport, England from 29th March, 1918. He was marched in to Australian Heavy Artillery Training Depot on 23rd April, 1918.

Gunner David Albert Bryant was on command at Signal School, R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery), Heytesbury, Wiltshire on 9th November, 1918.

Gunner David Albert Bryant was sent to Group Clearing Hospital on 16th November, 1918 with Influenza. He was marched in to R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery), Heytesbury on 12th December, 1918 from Hospital then marched out to Australian Heavy Artillery Training Depot on 13th December, 1918.

Gunner David Albert Bryant was marched out to R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery), Heytesbury, Wiltshire on 14th January, 1919 from St. Budeaux.

Gunner David Albert Bryant was sent sick to 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England on 29th January, 1919 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). He was listed as dangerously ill with Influenza later that day.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00443

1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire

Gunner David Albert Bryant died on 31st January, 1919 at 1st Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England from Influenza (as per Service & Casualty form). The "Report of Death" form states Gunner Bryant died of Broncho Pneumonia. Another copy of the same form states he died from Acute Nephritis as does the "Statement of Service" form.)

A death for D. A. Bryant, aged 25, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Gunner David Albert Bryant was buried on 7th February, 1919 in Seven Sisters (Soar) Welsh Congregational Chapelyard, Glamorganshire, Wales – Plot number C. 5. 3. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Gunner David Albert Bryant - *Coffin was polished Elm. The deceased soldier was interred privately in Seven Sisters Cemetery, Seven Sisters, Glamorganshire, by relatives. Many beautiful wreaths were sent from:- Wife and other relations, also friends of deceased. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Gunner David Albert Bryant was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Bryant's remarried widow - Mrs A. Thomas, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner David Albert Bryant – service number 284, aged 25, of 36th Heavy Artillery Group, Australian Heavy Artillery. He was the son of Albert Ernest and Ellen Bryant; husband of Annie Maria Bryant, of 14 Bryandulais Row, Seven Sisters, Neath, Glam., Wales. Born at Arncliffe, New South Wales.

D. A. Bryant is remembered on the Neath War Memorial, located at Gnoll Park, Gnoll Drive, Neath, Wales.



Neath War Memorial, Wales

Gunner D. A. Bryant is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 19.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

D. A. Bryant is remembered on the Mosman War Memorial, located in Alan Border Oval, Myahgah Road and The Crescent, Mosman, NSW.



Mosman War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



(42 pages of Gunner David Albert Bryant'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

373rd CASUALTY LIST

III

Pte David Albert Bryant, Arncliffe, Severely

(The St. George Call, Kogarah, NSW – 22 December, 1917)

SEVEN SISTERS

At Soar Chapel burial ground on Friday last, the remains of the late Pte. Bryan, of the Australian Imperial Force were laid to rest, with military honours. A large number of discharged soldiers and sailors attended, to pay, their last tribute to their gallant comrade. The Rev. Herbert Jones, Vicar of St. Mary's, officiated at the house, where a short service was held, and again at the graveside. Pte. Bryan was a native of Victoria, New South Wales, and came over with the first Australian contingent to France to help the Mother Country. He had seen much service in France, and was at the time of his death on Salisbury Plain waiting to be sent home. It was only as recently as last November that he married an English lady from Taunton, Somersetshire, whose mother now resides at Seven Sisters.

It was the deceased's intention to return to Australia with his young wife, to make their home there. Pte. Bryan was a fine specimen of manhood, standing six feet three inches high, and of a very smart appearance. Much sympathy is felt locally for the bereaved young widow.

(The Labour Voice – Lais Llafur, Wales – 15 February, 1919)

Australia's War Losses

THE 460th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

NEW SOUTH WALES

Gnr. D. A. Bryant (England)

(The Farmer and Settler, Sydney, NSW – 7 March, 1919)

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)

Gunner D. A. Bryant does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

He Died For His Country's Sake

Seven Sisters (Soar) Welsh Congregational Chapelry, Neath, Glamorganshire, Wales

Seven Sisters (Soar) Welsh Congregational Chapelry contains 3 Commonwealth War Graves – all from World War 1.



Photo of Gunner D. A. Bryant's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Soar Welsh Congregational Chapelyard, Seven Sisters, Glamorganshire, Wales.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)