

**Grangegorman Military Cemetery,
County Dublin, Republic of Ireland**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



PRIVATE

C. M. BYRNE

46TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

4TH NOVEMBER, 1918

Charles Michael BYRNE

Charles Michael Byrne was born in 1878 at Nagambie, Victoria to parents Charles & Mary Anne Byrne (nee Burke). He was baptised on 10th November, 1878 at St. Malachy's Roman Catholic Church, Nagambie, Victoria.

Charles Byrne, father of Charles Michael Byrne, died on 3rd April, 1908 at Costerfield, Victoria.

From the Police Gazette, Victoria, 1913:

MELBOURNE

Byrne, Charles Michael; tried at Nagambie P.S., 1st November, 1912, for larceny; 2 months; native of Victoria, labourer, born 1877, 5ft 7 in., fresh complexion, brown hair, grey eyes. No previous conviction.

Mary Byrne, mother of Charles Michael Byrne, died in 1914 at Costerfield, Victoria.

The 1914, 1915 & 1916 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Echuca, subdivision of Heathcote listed Charles Michael Byrne, junior, Labourer from Graytown. His brother Frederick Charles Byrne, Wood-cutter, was from Mitchellstown.

Charles Michael Byrne was a 36 year old, single, Labourer when he enlisted at Linton on 18th January, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1853 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Mr Frederick Charles Byrne, Nagambie, Victoria. Charles Michael Byrne was 5ft 8 inches with brown hair, brown eyes & a dark complexion.

Private Charles Michael Byrne embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Wiltshire (A18)* on 14th April, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements.

Private Charles Michael Byrne joined the 7th Battalion at Gallipoli Peninsula on 26th May, 1915 & was posted to "A" Company.

Private Charles Michael Byrne was sent to Hospital sick on 22nd June, 1915 while at Gallipoli Peninsula. He was admitted Febrile to Fleet sweeper *Clacton* (used to evacuate wounded from Anzac Cove/ North Beach, to the Hospital Ships further out) at the Dardanelles on 23rd June, 1915 & transferred to Lemnos Island on 23rd June, 1915. Pte Byrne was transferred to Hospital Ship *Dunluce Castle* on 28th June, 1915 then admitted to Greek Hospital at Alexandria on 3rd July, 1915. Pte Byrne was transferred to Convalescent Depot at Mustapha on 8th July, 1915 then admitted to the Australian Overseas Base on 10th July, 1915.

Private Charles Michael Byrne was absent from Parade avoiding Embarkation on 3rd August, 1915 & was sent to Detention in Cairo for 28 days.

Private Charles Michael Byrne embarked on *Kingstonian* from Alexandria on 11th September, 1915 for Dardanelles. He rejoined 7th Battalion on 17th September, 1915 at Sarpi Camp, Lemnos Island.

Private Charles Michael Byrne disembarked from *Empress of Britain* at Alexandria on 7th January, 1916 (due to evacuation of troops from Gallipoli).

Private Charles Michael Byrne was fined 10/- on 14th February, 1916 for insolence to a N.C.O. on 10th February, 1916.

Private Charles Michael Byrne was taken on strength of 46th Battalion from 7th Battalion on 31st March, 1916 at Seapeum.

Private Charles Michael Byrne was written up for hesitating to obey an Order given by N.C.O. He was given 10 days Field Punishment No. 2 on 11th May, 1916.

Private Charles Michael Byrne was sent sick to Hospital on 29th May, 1916. He embarked on *Aragon* from Alexandria on 15th June, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 23rd June, 1916.

Private Charles Michael Byrne was transferred to 15th Training Battalion on 11th June, 1916 then taken on strength of 12th Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire from Camp 26, Larkhill, Salisbury Plain on 29th June, 1916.

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 Charles Michael Byrne was awarded 7 days Confined to Camp for disobedience of orders of N.C.O. in that he refused to carry rations when ordered to do so & being absent without leave from 6 am on 21st July, 1916 till 5 pm on 22nd July, 1916. He also forfeited 2 days' pay.

Private Charles Michael Byrne proceeded to France from Rollestone on 25th July, 1916.

Private Charles Michael Byrne was taken on strength of 46th Battalion on 14th August, 1916 & rejoined his Battalion in the field from Hospital on 30th August, 1916.

Private Charles Michael Byrne was deprived on 7 days' pay on 6th September, 1916 by C. O. 46th Battalion for "falling out on line of march".

Private Charles Michael Byrne, for being unshaven on Parade on 25th September, 1916, was deprived of 1 days' pay by C. O. 46th Battalion on 28th September, 1916.

Private Charles Michael Byrne was unshaven on Parade on 23rd October, 1916 & was deprived 1 days' pay on 24th October, 1918.

Private Charles Michael Byrne was allotted the letter A to his Regimental Number due to duplication – 1853 to 1853A.

Private Charles Michael Byrne was sent sick to Hospital in 25th January, 1917. He embarked for England from the port of Havre, France on 29th January, 1917 on Hospital Ship *Dunluce Castle* with "I.C.T. Back".

Private Charles Michael Byrne was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham, England on 30th January, 1917 with Carbuncle on back - severe. He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent on 26th February, 1917. Pte Byrne was discharged from 3rd Auxiliary Hospital on & granted furlough from 2nd March, 1917 & was then to report to Perham Downs.

Private Charles Michael Byrne was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 15th March, 1917 & medically classified as B 1 A. He was marched out to Wareham on 16th March, 1917 & marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Wareham, Dorset on the same day.

Private Charles Michael Byrne was marched in to H & D Depot at Perham Downs from Wareham on 21st April, 1917.

Private Charles Michael Byrne proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 14th May, 1917 from Infantry Draft Depot at Perham Downs.

Private Charles Michael Byrne was marched in to 4th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 15th May, 1917. He was admitted to 26th General Hospital from 4th A.D.B.D. with Rheumatism on 26th May, 1917 & transferred to 6th Convalescent Depot at Etaples on 31st May, 1917. Pte Byrne was transferred from 6th Convalescent Depot to Details Camp on 2nd June, 1917. He was marched in to 4th A.D.B.D. at Havre on 2nd June, 1917. Pte Byrne was marched out from 4th A.D.B.D. on 15th June, 1917 to rejoin his Unit. Pte Byrne rejoined the 46th Battalion in the field on 21st June, 1917.

Private Charles Michael Byrne was detached to 12th L.T.M.B. (Light Trench Mortar Battery) for training on 1st December, 1917.

Private Charles Michael Byrne was transferred to 12th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery & was taken on strength from 46th Battalion on 5th April, 1918.

Private Charles Michael Byrne was transferred to 46th Battalion on 5th May, 1918 from 12th Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery & was taken on strength of 46th Battalion on 7th May, 1918 in the field.

Private Charles Michael Byrne was wounded in action on 18th September, 1918. From the War Diary of 46th Battalion – I Officer was killed in this operation & 5 wounded while 14 Other ranks were killed & 130 wounded. Pte Byrne was taken to 4th Australian Field Ambulance with shrapnel wounds to buttocks then transferred the same day to 48th Casualty Clearing Station. Pte Byrne was transferred to Ambulance Train on 19th September, 1918 & admitted to 6th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 20th September, 1918. Pte Byrne was invalided to England wounded on Hospital Ship *Guildford Castle* on 22nd September, 1918.

46th Battalion

The 46th rotated in and out of the front line throughout the winter of 1917-18. In the spring of 1918, it played a role in turning the great German offensive by defeating attacks around Dernancourt in the first days of April. During the Allied offensive that commenced in August, the 46th also played an active part, fighting in the battle of Amiens on 8 August and in the battle to secure the Hindenburg "outpost line" on 18 September. The battalion was out of the line when the war ended on 11 November, and disbanded in April 1919.

(Extract of Battalion information from The Australian War Memorial)

Private Charles Michael Byrne was admitted to 2/1st Southern General Hospital, Dudley Road, Birmingham, England on 23rd September, 1918 with gunshot wounds to both buttocks. He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent on 21st October, 1918 then on furlo from 23rd October, 1918 & was to report to No. 4 Command Depot at Dartford on 6th November, 1918.

Private Charles Michael Byrne died at 6.25 pm on 4th November, 1918 at King George V Hospital (Central Military Hospital), Dublin, Ireland from Pneumonia while on leave.

A death for Charles Michael Byrne, aged 40, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Dublin North, Ireland.

Private Charles Michael Byrne was buried on 9th November, 1918 in Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Dublin, Ireland – Plot number Aust. RC. 4. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Charles Michael Byrne - *Coffin was Elm. The deceased was accorded a full Military funeral, firing party, Bugler and pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack and surmounted by beautiful wreaths sent by Mr & Mrs O'Brien, James O'Brien, Michael O'Brien and others. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the Rev. Father J. W. Loughlin conducted the burial service. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of Relatives and friends present at the funeral – Mr & Mrs Traymer, Michael & Jane, John O'Brien.

Base Records contacted Mr F. C. Byrne, Green Grove, Costerfield, Victoria in July, 1920 stating that he was registered on the records as the next-of-kin of Pte C. M. Byrne but asked if there were any nearer blood relatives than himself due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. No reply was received so in September, 1920 Base Records wrote to Mrs Jane C. Bock, Green Grove, Costerfield, Victoria requesting if the parents of the late Private Charles Michael Byrne were living & if so could she advise of their address, otherwise could she provide the names of any brothers & to provide the name and address of the eldest. Mrs Buck replied stating that her parents were deceased & she was the eldest of the family & only had one brother – Frederick Byrne who had been residing with her & her family for some years but he was not always capable of writing.

Private Charles Michael Byrne was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Byrne's brother – Mr F. C. Byrne, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent September, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Charles Michael Byrne – service number 1853A, of 46th Battalion Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private C. M. Byrne is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 141.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(92 pages of Pte Charles Michael Byrne'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

THE 448th and 449h CASUALTY LISTS

VICTORIAN NAMES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private C. M. Byrne, Grayton

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 4 December, 1918)

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)*

Private C. M. Byrne does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Dublin, Ireland

Grangegorman Military Cemetery was opened in 1876 and was used for the burial of British service personnel and their near relatives. It contains war graves from both world wars. Some of the graves were re-located to this site at a later date (nine from King George V Hospital grounds, two from Trinity College grounds, three from Portobello (Barracks) Cemetery, two from Drogheda (Little Calvary) Cemetery and one from Oranmore Old Graveyard).

The "Leinster" graves are in several trenches in the different denominational plots.

A Screen Wall Memorial of a simple design standing nearly two metres high and fifteen metres long has been built of Irish limestone to commemorate the names of those war casualties whose graves lie elsewhere in Ireland and can no longer be maintained. Arranged before this memorial are the headstones of the war dead buried in Cork Military Cemetery but now commemorated here.

There are now 613 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war, 2 of which are unidentified, and 12 of the 1939-1945 war, 1 of which is unidentified, commemorated here.

There are 7 Australian War Graves from World War 1 & 1 New Zealand War Grave (born in Australia).

(Information & photos from CWGC)





Grangegorman Military Cemetery



4 Australian Graves in Grangegorman Cemetery –(left to right) Byrne/Smith/Bardon/Murphy
(Photo from Magicfingers)

Photo of Private C. M. Byrne's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Grangegorman Military Cemetery, Dublin, Ireland.



(Photo courtesy of Richard J. Edgar)