

**St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard,
Harefield, Middlesex, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



642 PRIVATE

J. J. DALE

39TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

27TH JUNE, 1918 Age 29

*In Memory Of
Dearly Loved Son Of
Mr & Mrs Dale Of Coleraine*

Joseph John DALE

Joseph John Dale was born at Brunswick, Victoria in 1889 to parents Joseph William and Ann Bridges Dale (nee Guest).

Joseph John Dale attended Coleraine State School.

The 1913, 1914, 1915 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Wannon, subdivision of Casterton, Victoria recorded Joseph John Dale, Labourer, of Coleraine.

Joseph John Dale was a 28 year old, single, Carpenter from Portland Road, Coleraine, Victoria when he enlisted at Hamilton, Victoria on 10th April, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 642 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Joseph William Dale, of Coleraine, Victoria.

Private Joseph John Dale was posted to 6th Reinforcements of 39th Battalion at Ballarat, Victoria on 14th April, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to "B" Company, 39th Battalion on 19th May, 1916.

Private Joseph John Dale embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ascanius (A11)* on 27th May, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Brigade, 39th Infantry Battalion, "B" Company & disembarked at Devonport, England on 18th July, 1916. Private Dale had been admitted to Ship's Hospital on voyage to England from 25th June, 1916 to 27th June, 1916 with Influenza.

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 & also in the county of Dorset.

Private Joseph John Dale proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 23rd November, 1916.

Private Joseph John Dale was granted leave in France from 25th December, 1917 & rejoined 39th Battalion in the Field on 2nd January, 1918.

Private Joseph John Dale was promoted to Temporary Corporal from 11th February, 1918 then Acting Sergeant the same day - vice 548 Sgt Achm evacuated sick.

Acting Sergeant Joseph John Dale reverted to the permanent rank of Private on 2nd May, 1918.

39th Battalion

The 39th Battalion was formed on 21 February 1916 at the Ballarat Showgrounds in Victoria and drew most of its recruits from the state's Western District. It became part of the 10th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division. Sailing from Melbourne on 27 May, the battalion arrived in Britain on 18 July and commenced four months of training. It crossed to France in late November and moved into the trenches of the Western Front for the first time on 9 December, just in time for the onset of the terrible winter of 1916-17.

The 39th fought in its first major battle at Messines, in Belgium, between 7-9 June 1917. During its march to the start-line for this operation the battalion suffered heavily from a German gas bombardment and less than a third of the troops earmarked to attack actually did so. The battalion, however, captured all of its objectives. The 39th fought in another two major attacks in this sector - the carefully planned and executed battle of Broodseinde on 4 October, and the disastrous battle of Passchendaele on 12 October.

Belgium remained the focus of the 39th Battalion's activities for the next five months as it was rotated between service in the rear areas and the front line. When the German Army launched its last great offensive in the spring of 1918, the battalion was rushed south to France and played a role in turning the German drive aimed at the vital railway junction of Amiens.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Joseph John Dale was granted leave to England from 22nd June, 1918.

Private Joseph John Dale was admitted to 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield, England on 23rd June, 1918 with influenza – sick whilst on furlough.

Private Joseph John Dale died at 3.35 am on 27th June, 1918 at 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield Park, Harefield, Middlesex, England from Pneumonia & Heart Failure.

Private Joseph John Dale was buried at 3.45 pm on 28th June, 1918 in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England – Plot number Aust. 56 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone (Note forms in the Service Record file for Private Dale record that he was buried in Plot 57). From the burial report of Private Joseph John Dale - Coffin was "Usual fine coffin supplied to A.I.F.". Funeral left Hospital grounds at 3.45 pm. A number of staff and patients attended. A wreath was supplied by C. Billyard-Leake Esq., the owner of Harefield Park Estate. Firing Party and Bugler were supplied from Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London.

The personal effects of the late Private Joseph John Dale were received by his father – Mr Joseph W. Dale, as next-of-kin, in January, 1919.

Private Joseph John Dale was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also to be sent to Private Dale's next-of-kin.

Base Records wrote to the Secretary, Department of Defence in April, 1922 regarding the distribution of War Mementoes in regards to the late Private Joseph John Dale. The letter reads: "*The late No. 642 Private J. J. Dale, 39th Battalion, upon enlistment at the age of 27 years, stated that he was a single man and nominated his father at Coleraine, Victoria, as next-of-kin, but it has since transpired that he left behind him an ex-nuptial child, and, according to the War Gratuity file, a defacto wife.*

The war gratuity has, however, been paid over to the Department of Repatriation in trust for the ex-nuptial daughter whose custodian is her mother. She desires a proportion of the war medals of the late soldier for this child and has furnished the necessary Bond as to preservation and production to the Department at any time if necessary.

The deceased soldier's father protests and states inter alia, "I claim the whole of his war medals as next-of-kin. The child you mention is not his daughter neither by marriage, time, or birth certificate and my son never admitted being father of the child, I fact it was not mentioned while he was alive, but only after he was dead. Your Department has been asked for proof that this child was his daughter by no proof has been given only assertion, and as I waived my claim to the gratuity as next-of-kin in favour of my wife, I consider that she has been unjustly deprived of the gratuity."

I can see no reason to vary the usual procedure in this instance, and accordingly recommend that-

- (a) Victory Medal and Memorial Scroll be handed over in trust for the deceased soldier's ex-nuptial daughter*
- (b) British War Medal (with Clasps, if any), Memorial Plaque, and Brochure "Where the Australians Rest" to the late soldier's father."*

Base Records wrote to Mr J. W. Dale, Coleraine, Victoria, father of the late Private Joseph John Dale, in May, 1922 stating that The Minister, after careful consideration, has approved of the War Mementoes being distributed as follows:-

- The Victory Medal & Memorial Scroll to Mrs M. A. Dale, "Glosyglan" 58 Victoria Ave, Albert Park, Victoria – to be held in trust for Miss Josephine M. Dale – ex-nuptial daughter. (The Victory Medal was signed for by Mary A Dale in August, 1922. Scroll sent September, 1922 to Mrs M. A. Dale in trust for Miss J. M. Dale).
- The British War Medal with Clasps, Memorial Plaque & Brochure "Where Australians Rest" to Private Dale's father - Mr J. W. Dale "Grandview", Coleraine, Victoria. (The British War Medal was signed for by Joseph Wm. Dale in May, 1922. Memorial Plaque sent November, 1922 to Private Dale's father – Mr J. W. Dale).

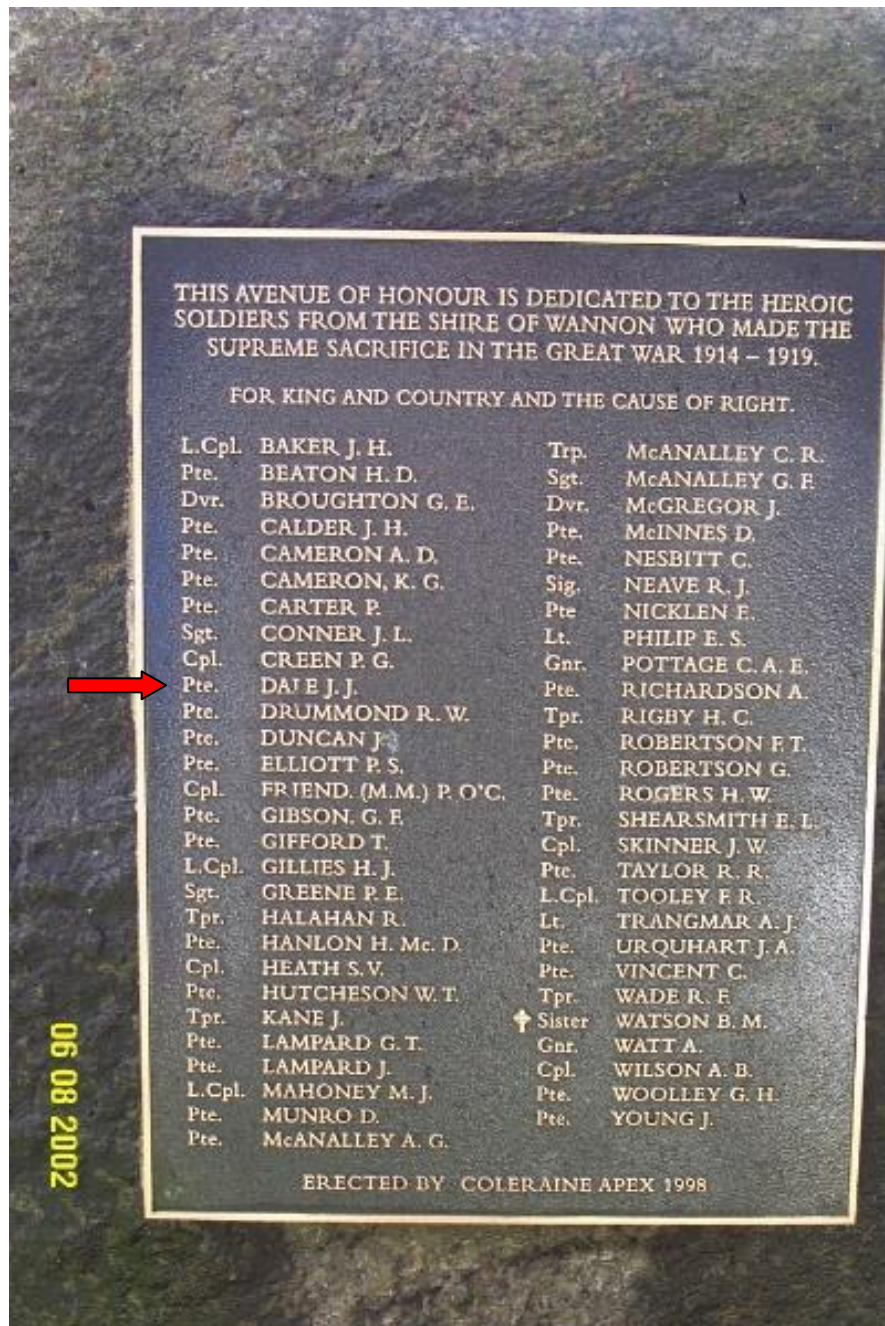
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Joseph John Dale – service number 642, aged 29, of 39th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Joseph William and Ann Bridges Dale, of “Grandview”, Coleraine, Victoria, Australia.

Pte J. J. Dale is remembered on the Coleraine War Memorial, located at 78 Whyte Street, Coleraine, Victoria.



Coleraine War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia - Henry Moulds)





Coleraine Avenue of Honour Plaque (Photo from VHD Heritage Council)

Avenue of Honour Replanted

Coleraine's Avenue of Honour was replanted at the Anzac Day weekend, after it was destroyed on Black Saturday. Kurrajong trees were planted on Saturday, replacing the avenue of cypresses which was destroyed in the 750 hectare blaze.

The master of ceremonies for the new plantings, Howard Templeton, says each tree in the original Avenue of Honour carried a plaque for every local soldier who died in war.

He says that has been changed to commemorate everyone who has served in war.

"This time the trees have been rededicated to all men and women who have served in all theatres of war and they have done this because they thought it was a good chance to rededicate the avenue," he said.

"But also those original diggers that each tree commemorated are actually recognised on a plaque in the middle of the avenue."

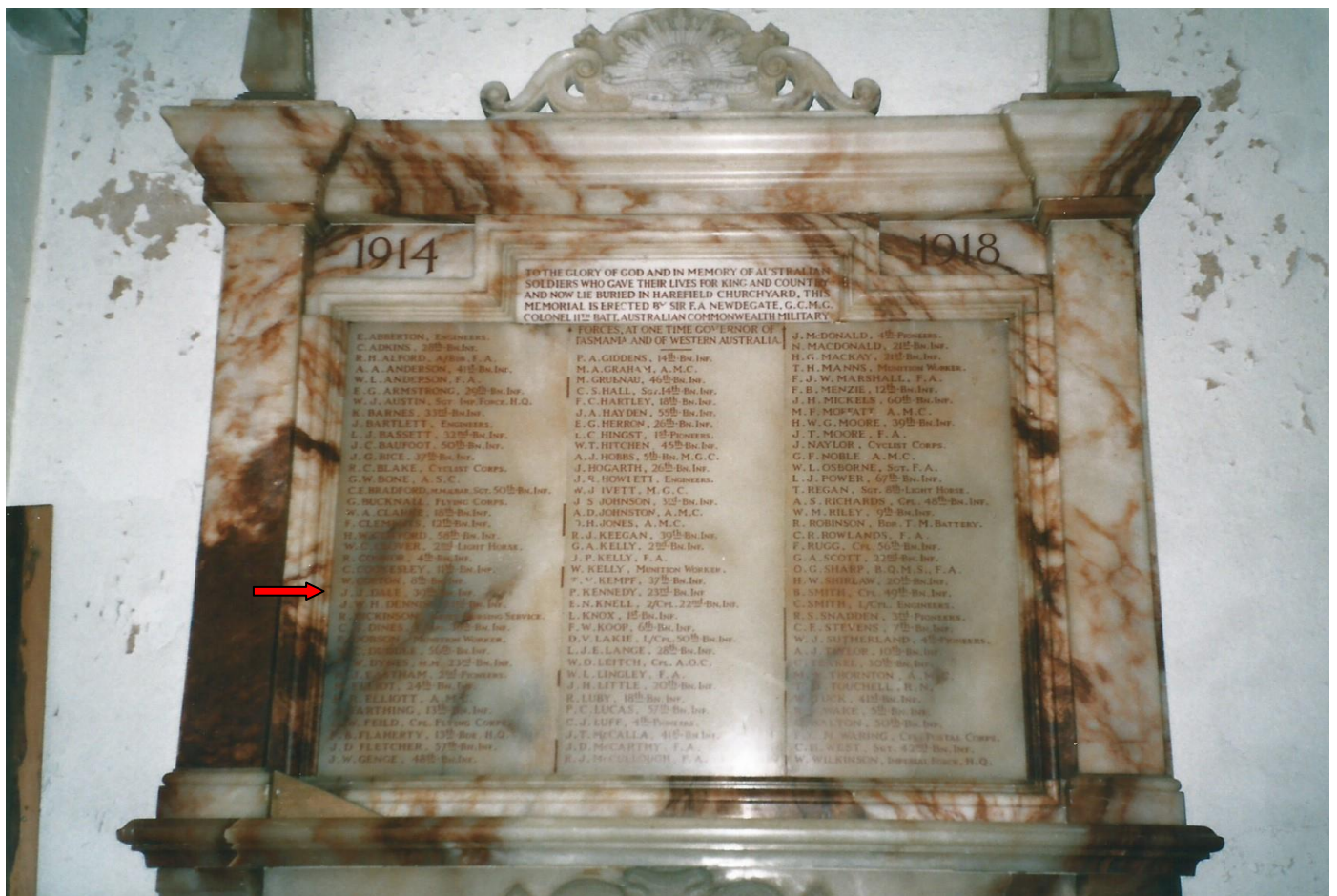
(ABC News)

Private J. J. Dale is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 131.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. J. Dale is remembered in the Australian Soldiers' Memorial in St. Mary the Virgin Church, Church Hill, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



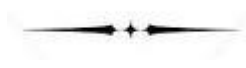
Australian Soldiers' Memorial, Harefield (Photo from War Memorials Online – B. Wood)



Australian Soldiers' Memorial, Harefield

(65 pages of Private Joseph John Dale'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

Death

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

DALE – Officially reported died of pneumonia, on June 27th at the 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Joseph John Dale, aged 29 years, dearly loved second son of Joseph W. and Ann Bridges Dale, and dearly loved brother of Percival W. Dale (on active service), Charles H. Dale, Mrs J. Shephard, Mrs W. Collins, Florence A. Dale and Mary Jane___.

He did his duty. Over 2 years of active service.

(Coleraine Albion and Western Advertiser, Victoria – 4 July, 1918)

DEATH OF PRIVATE JOSEPH J. DALE

Another of our brave boys to give up his life for the great and noble cause is Private Joseph J. Dale, the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Dale, of Coleraine. Private J. J. Dale enlisted at Coleraine in February, 1916, and in May of the same year sailed from the land of his birth. His first destination was England, and after spending some time at Salisbury Plains proceed to France. His career there had been a fortunate one, in that he had escaped both wounds and illness, though danger was all around. His letter to hand [the latest only being received a week or two ago] indicated continued good health. What he had endured, however, would seem to have ultimately told on him, for his death is attributed to pneumonia. The young soldier before enlisting, was partner in his father's business, and was widely esteemed. Out of respect to him, the flags at the shire hall and other places flew at half-mast on Tues day.

(Coleraine Albion and Western Advertiser, Victoria – 4 July, 1918)

AUSTRALIANS IN WAR

416th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte J. J. DALE, Coleraine.

(Hamilton Spectator, Victoria – 11 July, 1918)

Acknowledgment

Mr and Mrs J. W. DALE and FAMILY desire to THANK their many kind friends for their kind expressions of sympathy extended to them in their recent sad bereavement, in the loss by death, on active service, of their dear son and brother, Joseph John Dale.

(Coleraine Albion and Western Advertiser, Victoria – 11 July, 1918)

PERSONAL

Amongst the names in the 416th casualty list, issued last night, are the following:- Died of illness – Private J. J. Dale, Coleraine.....

(Casterton Free Press and Glenelg Shire Advertiser, Victoria – 15 July, 1918)

ST. ANDREWS CHURCH

HONORING FALLEN SOLDIERS

With the Rev. John Alexander conducting a service at St. Andrew's Church on Sunday morning the occasion was made a memorial in honor of two soldiers who had been connected with the church and who had fallen in serving their country - Privates Donald M'Innes and Joseph J. Dale. Speaking from a flag-draped pulpit Mr. Alexander preached a sermon from the words - "In My Father's house are many mansions." An interesting discourse was the result. Fittingly the subject of the future life suited the subsequent references to the deceased soldiers, whose careers were briefly outlined. These brave men, said the preacher, had gallantly done their part in life, and had borne their share in working and fighting for the right for the purposes and will of God. They (the members of the congregation) prayed for the families bereaved. At one stage in the service the choir rendered Tennyson's "Crossing the Bar," and at the conclusion the National Anthem was sung.

(Coleraine Albion and Western Advertiser, Victoria – 25 July, 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 J. J. Dale does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Memory Of Dearly Loved Son Of Mr & Mrs Dale Of Coleraine

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield contains 126 Commonwealth War Graves.

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.

Harefield (St. Mary) Churchyard contains war graves from both world wars. There are 120 First World War graves, mostly those of Australians who died in No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park. Uniquely, their graves are marked by scroll shaped headstones, chosen by the staff and patients at the hospital. In the centre of the Australian plot stands a memorial obelisk which was erected by Sir Francis Newdegate, late Governor of Tasmania and of Western Australia, and Mr. C.A.M. Billyard-Leake, of Harefield Park. The churchyard also contains six graves of the Second World War.

(Information & photos from CWGC)





St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield



Photo of Private J. J. Dale's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



(Photo by DeeBee – Find a Grave)



St Mary the Virgin Church, Harefield (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photos courtesy of Peter Bennett)

