

**Chichester Cemetery,
Chichester, West Sussex
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3204 PRIVATE

H. S. DANCE

41ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

7TH NOVEMBER, 1920 Age 38

Harry Sidney DANCE

Harry Sidney Dance was born at Cubitt Town, London, England to parents William and Sarah Ann Dance (nee Pearson). Harry Dance was baptised on 26th February, 1882 at St. John's Church Cubitt Town, Tower Hamlets, London, England. William Dance was listed on the Baptism Record as a Labourer & the family lived at 20 Tamuda Street.

The 1891 England Census recorded Harry S. Dance as a 9 year old Scholar living with his family at Edenbridge, Kent, England. His mother was listed as a widow – Sarah-Ann Dance (aged 37, born Poplar, London). Harry was one of five children listed on this Census – Jacob J. Dance (Stable Boy, aged 15, born Poplar, London) then Harry (born Poplar London), Lily Dance (Scholar, aged 7, born Poplar, London), Grace Dance (Scholar, aged 5, born Poplar, London) & Thomas Dance (aged 2, born Edenbridge, London). Three of Sarah-Ann's nephews were also listed – Caleb J. Ross (Scholar, aged 12), Walter S. Ross (Scholar, aged 10) & William T. Ross (aged 8). Also listed was a General Servant – Sarah J. Gayler (aged 22).

The 1901 England Census recorded Harry Dance as a 19 year old Tin Smith living with his family at 255 Manchester Rd, Poplar, London, England. His parents were listed as William Dance (Labourer- Iron Yard, aged 51, born Cesham, Hants) & Sarah Dance (aged 46). Harry was the eldest of five children listed on this Census – Harry then Thomas Dance (aged 12), Ernest Dance (aged 9, born Edenbridge, Kent), Sarah Dance (aged 7, born Edenbridge, Kent) & Samuel Dance (aged 1, born London, Middlesex). Also listed were three Boarders.

Harry Sidney Dance married Elizabeth Emily Rose in 1907. Their marriage was registered in the district of East Preston, Sussex, England.

A son – Thomas Sidney Dance was born on 30th May, 1908 at Burstow, Sussex, England) and another son – Harry Robert Dance was born on 27th January, 1910 at Horne, Surrey, England.

The 1911 England Census recorded Harry Sidney Dance as a 29 year old married Printer's Fitter, living with his parents & family at Fir Cottage, Horne, Surrey, England, which was a 6 roomed dwelling. Harry's wife was listed as Elizabeth Emily Dance (aged 24, born Brighton, Sussex) & they had been married for 3 years with 2 children – Thomas Sidney Dance (age 2, born Burstow, Sussex) & Harry Robert Dance (aged 1, born Horne, Surrey). Harry's parents were listed as William Dance (Jobbing Gardener, aged 62) & Sarah Ann Dance (aged 56). William & Sarah Dance had been married for 39 years & had 13 children, 4 of whom who had since died. Three of Harry's siblings were listed at his parents' address – Lily Dance (aged 27), Sarah Ann Dance (Domestic Servant, aged 17) & Samuel Walter Dance (At School, aged 11). Four visitors were also listed on this Census.

Harry Dance, aged 29, & his wife Elizabeth Dance, aged 24, were passengers on *Marathon* which arrived in Queensland on 22nd July, 1911. Also listed was their son Thomas Dance, aged 2.

A daughter – Elizabeth Louisa Dance was born on 25th February, 1912 in Queensland, Australia. A son – William Alfred Dance was born on 23rd September, 1913 in Queensland, Australia.

The 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917 & 1919 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Wide Bay, subdivision of Tiaro South, Queensland recorded Harry Sidney Dane, Fitter & his wife Elizabeth Emily Dance, Home Duties, of Mt Bauple. Elizabeth Emily Dance was not recorded with Harry on the 1919 Electoral Roll.

Harry Sidney Dance was a 35 year old, married, Fitter from Maryborough, Queensland when he enlisted at Maryborough, Queensland on 22nd December, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3204 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Elizabeth E. Dance, Bauple via Tiaro, Queensland & he stated on his Attestation Papers that he had 4 children.

Private Harry Sidney Dance was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 17th January, 1917 for recruit training. He was transferred to 9th Reinforcements of 25th Battalion on 5th February, 1917 then transferred on 6th February, 1917 to 7th Reinforcements of 41st Battalion.

Private Harry Sidney Dance embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Wiltshire (A18)* on 7th February, 1917 with the 41st Infantry Battalion, 7th Reinforcements & disembarked at Devonport, England on 11th April, 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 Harry Sidney Dance was marched in to A.I.F. Details at Fovant, Wiltshire on 11th April, 1917.

Private Harry Sidney Dance was marched in to 11th Training Battalion at Durrington Camp, Wiltshire on 23rd April, 1917 from Details Camp at Fovant.

Private Harry Sidney Dance was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 3rd July, 1917 with Debility. He was discharged to duty on 17th July, 1917.

Private Harry Sidney Dance was marched in to 11th Training Battalion on 23rd July, 1917.

Private Harry Sidney Dance was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 4th August, 1917. He was transferred to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent on 28th September, 1917.

A Medical Report was completed on Private Harry Sidney Dance on 11th October, 1917 at 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford. His disability was recorded as Dyspepsia which had originated about June 3rd at Lark Hill, Salisbury. The facts on Private Dance's disability were recorded as "*Onset quite sudden with pains in centre of abdomen & shooting across to left hip. Pains have been constant every day since then. Pains are less after eating & always more sever when "stomach is empty". They are sometimes very severe & double him up. NO nausea or vomiting. Feels as if a weight were on the stomach. Inoculated on June 3rd and pains came a few hours later. Appetite is very poor. Bowels are constipated. Lost about 3 stone in weight since he landed in England on April 11th. Quite well prior to illness. States he cannot walk about much on account of pains in left hip.*" The Medical Board opinion was that the disability was caused by Active Service – nervous disposition. The Board recommended that Private Harry Sidney Dance be discharged as permanently unfit for all military service.

Private Dance was discharged from 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent to Depot at Weymouth on 15th October, 1917.

Private Harry Sidney Dance was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset on 15th October, 1917.

Private Harry Sidney Dance returned to Australia on *Themistocles* (A32) for discharge due to Dyspepsia & embarked from Devonport, England on 5th November, 1917. Private Dance disembarked on 3rd January, 1918 in Australia thence overland to Brisbane.

Private Harry Sidney Dance was admitted to 13th Auxiliary Hospital on 22nd February, 1918. A Medical Report was completed on Private Dance on 22nd February, 1918 & his disability was reported as Neurasthenia. The history of the disability was recorded as "*Whilst in camp complained of many nervous symptoms, became hysterical & emotional. Said he could not walk on account of pain in his hip.*"

Private Harry Sidney Dance was admitted to 6th Australian General Hospital on 23rd March, 1918 with Neurasthenia & discharged on 26th June, 1918.

Private Harry Sidney Dance was medically discharged from Australian Imperial Force on 26th June, 1918.

A War Pension was granted to Harry Sidney Dance, G.P.O., Brisbane in the sum of £3 per fortnight from 27th June, 1918. A War Pension was also granted to Elizabeth E. Dance, wife of Harry Sidney Dance, in the sum of £1/10/- per fortnight from 27th June, 1918. Pensions were also granted to Harry & Elizabeth Dance's four children (all from 27th June, 1918 & per fortnight) – Sidney Thomas Dance - £1; Harry Robert Dance 15/-; Elizabeth Louisa Dance 10/-; & William Alfred Dance 10/-.

Harry Sidney Dance & his wife & four children were listed as passengers on Ormonde, which had departed from the port of Sydney, Australia & arrived at the port of London, England on 7th October, 1919. Harry Sidney Dance was listed as a 38 year old Fitter; his wife Elizabeth as a 33 year old House Duties & their children – Thomas Sidney, aged 11; Harry Robert, aged 9; Elizabeth Louisa, aged 7 & William Alfred, aged 6.

Private Harry Sidney Dance died on 7th November, 1920 at Chichester, Sussex, England.

A death for Harry S. Dance, aged 38, was registered in the December quarter, 1920 in the district of Chichester, Sussex, England.

Private Harry Sidney Dance was buried in Chichester Cemetery, Chichester, West Sussex, England – Plot number 24.63 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

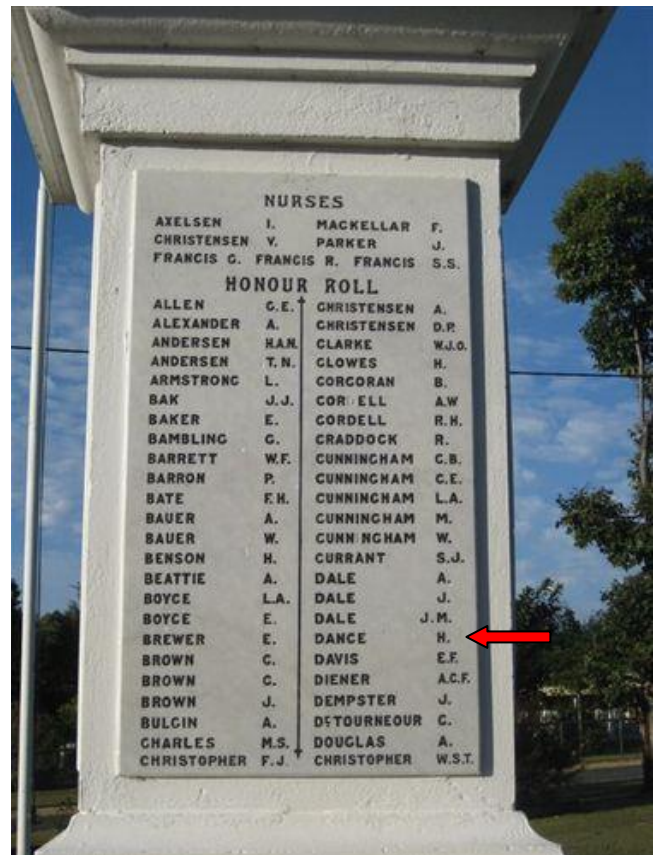
Probate Details:

Dance Harry Sidney of Selsey, Sussex, Engineer's fitter died 7 November 1920 at Chichester. Administration (with Will) Chichester 2 December to Elizabeth Emily Dance, widow. Effects £165 7s. 6d.

Private Harry Sidney Dance was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Harry Sidney Dance – service number 3204, aged 38, of 41st Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of William and Sarah Dance; husband of Elizabeth Emily Dance, of 30 Largewood Avenue, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey.

H. Dance is remembered on the Tiaro War Memorial, located at Bruce Highway & Korringa Road, Tiaro, Queensland.



Tiaro War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)

Private H. S. Dance is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 133.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(44 pages of Private Harry Sidney Dance'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

COUNTRY VOLUNTEERS

MARYBOROUGH, December 29.

Charles Bonehill and Harry Sidney Dance, of Bauple, were accepted to-day for active service in the A.I.F.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 30 December, 1916)

RETURNING SOLDIERS

The following men from the first and second military districts have been listed for return to Australia, and are actually en route from abroad. No further information can be supplied, excepting the approximate time of arrival, which will be published in the Press shortly before disembarkation.

BY STEAMER "O"

QUEENSLAND

Pte Harry Sidney Dance

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 31 December, 1917)

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 H. S. Dance does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Chichester Cemetery, Chichester, West Sussex, England

Chichester Cemetery has 174 Commonwealth War Graves. Also known as Portfield Cemetery.

Of the 89 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war, the majority are in a War Graves Plot in Squares 121 and 126 bordering a path on the far right hand side of the cemetery. This was constructed by the City Corporation, who also erected the War Cross at the eastern end of the enclosed plot especially designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and closely resembling the Commission's own Cross of Sacrifice. The names of the 1914-1918 war dead in the cemetery are engraved on the base of the Cross. There are also 75 Commonwealth burials of the 1939-1945 war here, mainly in two adjoining Church of England dedicated Squares, Nos. 115 and 159, in the south-western portion of the cemetery enclosed by a hedgerow on three sides, on the fourth side a wall bearing the inscription 1939-1945 THE MEN AND WOMEN BURIED IN THIS PLOT DIED IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE. In the northern section a further Square, No. 42, is dedicated to Roman Catholic burials, there is a metal plaque bearing a similar inscription. There are also 7 non-Commonwealth war burials and 4 non World War burials in the care of C.W.G.C. within the cemetery. *(Information from CWGC)*



Chichester Cemetery *(Photo by Adrienne – Find a Grave)*



Some War Graves in Chichester Cemetery (Photo above by Basher Eyre; below from CWGC)



Photo of Private H. S. Dance's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Chichester Cemetery, Chichester, West Sussex, England.



(Photo courtesy of Allan Noble)



Chichester Cemetery *(Photo by Adrienne – Find a Grave)*