

**St. Andrew's Churchyard,  
West Stoke, Sussex**

**War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**LIEUTENANT**

**HENRY MICHAEL DE BATHE**

**ROYAL AIR FORCE**

**4TH NOVEMBER, 1918**

*In Loving Memory*

*Death Is Swallowed Up*

*In Victory*

## Henry Michael DE BATHE

Henry Michael de Bathe was born 11th February, 1889 at Brixton, Lambeth, London, England to parents Henry Percival de Bathe & Grace Fanny Denslow de Bathe (nee Hooper). He was baptised on 2nd April, 1889 at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, Middlesex, England. Henry's parents were listed as Percy & Grace De Bath. Percy De Bathe was listed as a Gentleman & the family lived at Olive Lodge, Water Lane, Brixton.

The 1891 England Census recorded Henry M. de Bathe as a 2 year old, living with his family at 11 Killieser Avenue, Streatham, London, England. His parents were listed as Henry P. De Bathe (Student of Law & Sectary of Hospital, aged 31, born Chelsea, London) & Grace F. D. de Bathe (aged 24, born Woolwich, Kent). Henry was the youngest of two children listed on this Census – also listed was Olive G. (aged 3, born Lambeth, London). Also listed were three Servants – Jessie Miles (Nurse - domestic, aged 25, born Essex), Beatrice E. Nixon (Widowed Cook, aged 48, born Paddington, London) & Grace Nixon (House Parlour Maid, aged 20, born Brompton, London).

The 1901 England Census recorded Henry de Bathe as a 12 year old Scholar at the Eastman's Royal Naval Academy, Northwood Park, Crawley, Winchester, England.

Henry Michael de Bathe was listed as a student at HMS *Conway* Training Ship commencing April, 1904 & left July, 1906 to join *Blackbraes* as an Apprentice.

Henry Michael de Bathe was listed as an apprentice indentured in the Merchant Navy. He was aged 17 & enrolled at the port of London for an indenture of 3 years from 3rd December, 1906. He was bound to Potter Brothers.

Henry de Bathe was listed as an Apprentice on *Blackbraes* sailing from Antwerp on 15th December, 1906 & arriving at the port of San Francisco on 30th April, 1907.

Henry Percival de Bathe, father of Henry Michael de Bathe, died on 31st July, 1909 at Thanet Kent, England.

Henry Michael de Bathe received his Certificate of Competence as Second Mate of a Foreign-going Ship on the 22nd July, 1910.

Henry Michael de Bathe was a 25 year old, single, Stockman from 85 Eccleston Square, Westminster, London, England when he enlisted at Enoggera, Queensland on 26th December, 1914 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 764 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Grace De Bathe, of 85 Eccleston Square, Westminster, London, England. Henry Michael de Bath had several tattoos listed - Left Forearm – Lynx, Mouse, Flag, Bee, Fly & Woodcock. Right forearm – Lion, Design Anchor etc. Right Leg – Sur\_\_\_, Wo\_\_\_\_\_.

Henry Michael de Bathe was posted to 5th Light Horse Regiment.

Private Henry Michael de Bathe embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Itria* (A53) on 9th February, 1915 with the 2nd Light Horse Brigade, 5th Light Horse Regiment, 3rd Reinforcements.

Private Henry Michael de Bathe joined 5th Light Horse Regiment at Gallipoli on 29th July, 1915.

Private Henry Michael de Bathe was granted a Commission as Temporary 2nd/Lieutenant on 23rd October, 1915 in 9th Sherwood Foresters, Imperial Army.

Private Henry Michael de Bathe was struck off strength of 5th Light Horse Regiment on 28th October, 1915 having been granted a Commission in the 9th Sherwood Foresters.

From the Supplement to the *London Gazette* – 27 November, 1915:

*The undermentioned to be temporary Second Lieutenants:-*

*Dated 23rd October, 1915*

....

*Private Henry Michael de Bathe, from Australian Imperial Force*

From the Supplement to the *London Gazette* – 19 April, 1916:-

*The undermentioned temp. 2nd Lts., from Res. Bns (unless otherwise stated), to be temp. 2nd Lts, with seniority specified against their names:-*

*Notts & Derby*

*H. M. De Bath*

Temporary Second Lieutenant Henry Michael de Bathe was Mentioned in Despatches in 1916 - according to information listed on his Royal Air Force service record.

From the Supplement to the *London Gazette* – 26 September, 1917:-

*The undermentioned temporary 2nd Lts. to be temp Lts. Dated 1 July 1917:-*

*Notts & Derby R.*

*H. M. de Bath (from Gen. List) 23rd Oct., 1915*

### **The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment)**

#### **9th (Service) Battalion**

Dec 1915 - Deployed to Imbros.

Feb 1916 - Deployed to Egypt and took over a section of the Suez Canal defences.

July 1916 - Deployed to France and engaged in various action on the Western Front including; the capture of the Wundt-Werk, The Battle of Flers-Courcelette, The Battle of Thiepval.

1917 - Operations on the Ancre, The Battle of Messines, The Battle of the Langemarck, The Battle of Polygon Wood, The Battle of Broodseinde, The Battle of Poelcapelle.

From the Supplement to the *London Gazette* – 26 March, 1918:

*Flying Officers 17th Feb., 1918*

*Temp. 2nd Lt. H. M. de Bathe, Gen. List*

Temporary Second Lieutenant Henry Michael de Bathe joined the Royal Air Force (R.A.F.). His occupation in Civilian life was listed as Stockman in his own business in Queensland Northern Territory of Australia from 1910 to 1915.

Second Lieutenant Henry Michael de Bathe was posted to No. 20 Training Station.

Second Lieutenant Henry Michael de Bathe joined Aerial Gunnery Flight Splitleg Station on 4th April, 1918.

Second Lieutenant Henry Michael de Bathe was made Lieutenant effective 10th April, 1918.

Lieutenant Henry Michael de Bathe was injured on 5th April, 1918 while at No. 53 Training Squadron, Grantham. He was a Flying Instructor in a Royal Aircraft Factory R.E.8 serial B7728 with pupil 2/Lieutenant J. C. Tate.

A Court of Inquiry was held – No. 21347:

*“The Court having duly considered the evidence is of the opinion that “The accident involving the wreckage of R.E.S. 7728, and injury to the Instructor, Lt. deBathe, and pupil, 2/Lt Tate was due to an error of judgement on the part of the pilot and instructor, Lt. deBath, in that he attempted to turn back to the aerodrome when only at a height of only 80ft, and finding the engine of his machine was running unsatisfactorily, and in doing so turned too steeply and downwind, with the result that the machine began to spin, and finally nose dived to earth, wrecking the R.E.8 and injuring the Pilot, Lt. de.Bath, and the Pupil, 2/Lieut. Tate.”*

Lieutenant Henry Michael de Bathe transferred to No. 59 Wing on 19th October, 1918.

© Cathy Sedgwick 2018

Lieutenant Henry Michael de Bathe transferred to 56 T.D.S. (Training Depot Station) Royal Air Force on 26th October, 1918.

On 4th November, 1918 Lieutenant Henry Michael de Bathe was flying an Avro 504 – serial number D8916 at R.A.F. Cranwell, Lincolnshire, England.



**Avro 504** (Photo by TSRL)

Lieutenant Henry Michael De Bathe died at 10.10 am on 4th November, 1918 at R.A.F. Cranwell, Lincolnshire, England from a collision in the air.

A death for Henry M. De Bathe, aged 29, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Sleaford, Lincolnshire, England.

A Court of Inquiry was held No. 145853:

*“Due to a collision in the air. From evidence received it appears that B.E.2 8409 Capt. Sutherland, pilot, while making right hand climbing turn below 500ft, after rising from an attempted landing collided with Avro 8916 which was landing on the Southern Aerodrome. All occupants of machines were on duty at time of accident.”*

Lieutenant Henry Michael De Bathe was buried in St. Andrew's Churchyard, West Stoke, Sussex, England (south of Church) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Probate details:

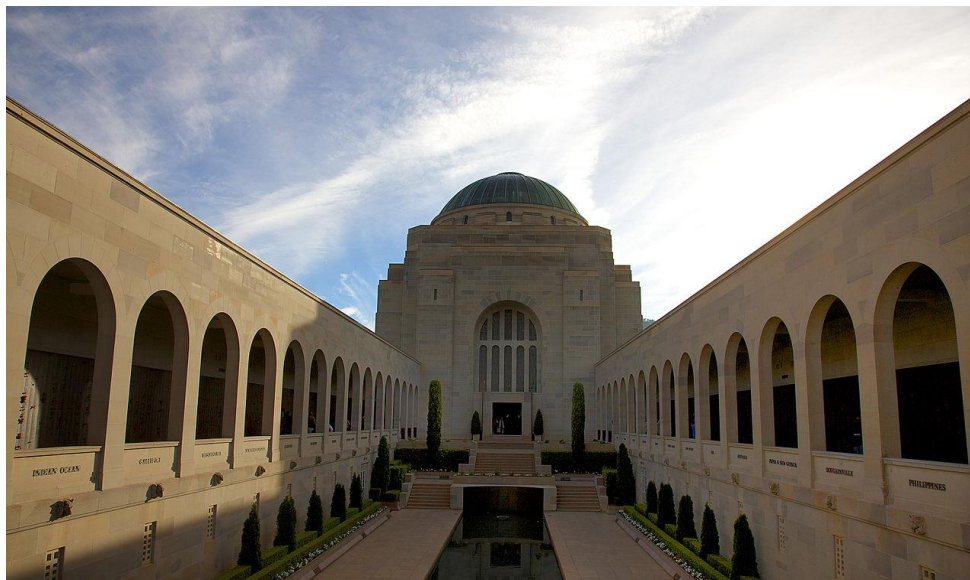
*De Bath, Henry Michael of 85 Eccleston-square, Middlesex. Lieutenant R.A.F. died 4 November 1918 at Cranwell, Lincolnshire. Administration London 17 January to Grace Fanny Denslow de Bathe widow. Effects £475 16s. 7d.*

Lieutenant Henry Michael De Bathe was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. The 1914/15 Star was to be administered by the Department of Defence, Australia while the British War Medal & the Victory Medal would be distributed by the War Office, England.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lieutenant Henry Michael De Bathe, aged 29, 56th Training Depot Station, Royal Air Force. He was the son of Grave de Bathe, of 85 Eccleston Square, Westminster, London

and the late Henry Percival de Bathe. Enlisted in 5th Australian Light Horse, Nov., 1914. Gazetted to 9th Bn. Sherwood Foresters, Feb., 1916.

Lieutenant Henry Michael De Bathe is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



**Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial** (*Capital Photographer*)

Lieutenant Henry Michael De Bathe is remembered on the London WW1 Memorial 1914-1918 website.

(34 pages of Lieutenant Henry Michael De Bathe's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives*



## **NEWSPAPERS**

### **CASUALTIES IN THE WAR**

#### **ROYAL AIR FORCE**

Lt. H. M. de Bathe

Capt. H. Sutherland

*(Aberdeen Press and Journal, Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Scotland – 29 November, 1918)*



**H. M. de Bathe**

*(Photo from The Queenslander, Brisbane, Queensland – 6 March, 1915)*



#### 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)*

Lieutenant Henry Michael De Bathe does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Loving Memory*

*Death Is Swallowed Up In Victory*



**St. Andrew's Churchyard, West Stoke, Sussex, England**

St. Andrew's Churchyard, West Stoke contains 4 Commonwealth War Graves – 2 from World War 1 & 2 from World War 2.



**St. Andrew's Churchyard, West Stoke** (Photo from CWGC)



**St. Andrew's Church, West Stoke** (Photo by Nigel Freeman)

Photo of Lieutenant Henry Michael De Bathe's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Andrew's Churchyard, West Stoke, Sussex, England.



*(Photo by Ted Robbins – Find a Grave)*