

**St. Lawrence Churchyard,
Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3147 PRIVATE

B. DEE

52ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

24TH MARCH, 1917 Age 24

*In Memory Of
The Dearly Loved Son Of
Mr & Mrs Dee
Of Alstonville*

Bertram (Bert) DEE

Bertram Dee was born at Empire Vale, Richmond River, NSW on 9th October, 1892 to parents John Henry & Mary Jane Dee (nee McMullin). His birth was registered in the district of Ballina, NSW.

Bertram Dee was a 24 year old, single, Farmer from Alstonville, Richmond River, NSW when he enlisted at Lismore, NSW on 11th October, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3147 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr John Henry Dee, Alstonville, Richmond River, NSW. Bertram Dee stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 2 years with 4th Light Horse & was still serving.

Private Bertram Dee was posted to 11th Depot Battalion on 17th November, 1916 for recruit training.

Bertram Dee applied for Home Leave from Camp Headquarters, Enoggera, Queensland to travel to Yamba (Alstonville, Richmond, NSW) (48 hours travel time with the nearest railway station at Grafton) from 3 pm on 27th November, 1916 & proposed to return by 10 pm on 3rd December, 1916 for the reason: *“to say good bye to my parents & relatives & to settle personal affairs.”*

Private Bertram Dee was written up for an Offence on 7th December, 1916 while posted at Frasers Hill – *“Absent without leave from 10 pm 3.12.16 to 9 pm 5.12.16 1 day 23 hours.”* This was admonished & he forfeited 2 days' pay through absence.

Private Bertram Dee was transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 52nd Battalion on 14th December, 1916.

Private Bertram Dee embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Demosthenes (A64)* on 23rd December, 1916 with the 52nd Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 3rd March, 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 Bertram Dee was marched in to 13th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire on 6th March, 1917 from 15th Training Battalion.

Private Bertram Dee was sent sick to Group Hospital at Codford, Wiltshire, England on 21st March, 1917 from 13th Training Battalion, Codford. He was transferred & admitted to Sutton Veny Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 22nd March, 1917 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined)

Private Bertram Dee was admitted to Isolation Hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England on 22nd March, 1917 with C.S. Fever.

Private Bertram Dee died at 7 pm on 24th March, 1917 (as stated on “Morning State of Sick” form) at Isolation Hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis. (Note: The Hospital Admissions form recorded the date of death as 25th March, 1917).

A death for Bertram Dee, aged 24, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.

Private Bertram Dee was buried on 29th March, 1917 in St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England – Plot number 114 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Bertram Dee by 13th Training Battalion, Codford – *Very good pine coffin. Military honours according to rank. Wreath from Commanding Officer and from Comrades.*

Private Bertram Dee was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Dee's father – Mr J. H. Dee, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Bertram Dee – service number 3147, aged 24, of 52nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of John Henry and Mary Jane Dee, of Alstonville, Richmond River, New South Wales.

Private B. Dee is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 155.



Roll of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

B. Dee is remembered on the Alstonville War Memorial, located at Elizabeth Ann Brown Park, Wardell Road & Daley Street, Alstonville, NSW.



Alstonville War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia – John Huth)



Alstonville War Memorial

(54 pages of Private Bertram Dee's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

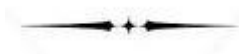
Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives





Pte B. Dee

Alstonville – Died of illness



Newspaper Notices

WAR CASUALTIES

DIED OF SICKNESS

PRIVATE B. DEE

Mr J. H. Dee, of Alstonville, has been informed of the death of his son, Pte Bert Dee, which occurred in hospital at Salisbury Plains on March 24. Deceased only reached England on March 20.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 5 April, 1917)

Roll of Honour

Queensland Casualties

The 286th Australian casualty list was released by the censor Monday....

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte B. Dee, Alstonville, NSW, died of illness 24/3/17

(*The Week*, Brisbane, Queensland – 13 April, 1917)

Reinforcements



(*Queenslander Pictorial*, supplement to *The Queenslander* - 13 October, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOR

DEE – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Pte Bert Dee, who died in England, March 24th, 1917.

Inserted by his loving father, mother, brother and sisters.

(*Northern Star*, Lismore, NSW – 24 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)

Private B. Dee does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Memory Of The Dearly Loved Son Of Mr & Mrs Dee Of Alstonville

St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England

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. Most of the 47 First World War burials in Stratford-sub-Castle (St Lawrence) Churchyard were made from the local hospital and more than half of them are of Australian servicemen who were based at the many Australian depots and training camps in the area. There are also two burials of the Second World War in the cemetery. *(Information from CWGC)*



St. Lawrence Church, Stratford-sub-Castle



Churchyard of St. Lawrence, Stratford-sub-Castle with CWGC Cross of Sacrifice



Original Grave Markers in Churchyard at Stratford-sub-Castle



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)

Photo of Private B. Dee's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St Lawrence's Churchyard, Stratford-sub-Castle, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)

Stratford-sub-Castle War Graves

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A	RAF	British Army			NZ	NZ	Rogers 3 AIF		Robson Nurse	NZ	
B			Nicol AFC	Mason 5 Aus Pioneer	Dundas 29 AIF	Thorsby 20 AIF	Walpole (Wilson) 3 AIF	O'Grady 10 AIF	Kubank 40 AIF	NZ	
C	NZ	Jacob 31 AIF	Wood 9 AIF	Smith 55 AIF	British Army	British Army	Smith Aus ASC	O'Donnell 16 AIF	Knight 52 AIF	Lawrence 54 AIF	Edmonds 48 AIF
D		Lewis 30 AIF	British Army	Whitchurch 51 AIF	British Army	Dee 52 AIF	Greenslade 17 AIF	British Army	Thorburn 13 AIF	Knight 13 AIF	Hannabry 16 AIF
E					Adams 13 AIF	Crow Aus FA	British Army	Bolton 40 AIF	British Army	British Army	
F		British Army		British Army	British Army	British Army		Canada		British Army	

(Information for layout of graves – courtesy of The Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum – 2020)