

**Priory Road Cemetery,
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



393 TROOPER

E. DILLEY

10TH AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE

4TH* APRIL, 1921 Age 30

*(*CWGC has date of death as 6th April, 1921)*

Eric DILLEY

Eric Dilley was born on 10th September, 1890 at Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, England to parents Arthur George & Elizabeth Jane Dilley (nee Ashton). His birth was registered in the December quarter, 1890 in Huntingdon, Huntingdonshire.

The 1891 England Census recorded Eric Dilley as a 7 month old (listed on this Census as born at Wood St. Tottenham, London) living with his family at 10 Market Hill, Huntingdon, England. His parents were listed as Arthur Geo. Dilley (Auctioneer, aged 36, born Huntingdon) & Elizabeth Dilley (aged 30, born Huntingdon). Eric was the youngest of three children listed on this Census – Arthur (Scholar, aged 7, born Huntingdon), Graham (aged 4, born Huntingdon) & then Eric. There were four Servants listed also – Elizabeth Culin (?) (Nurse, aged 40), Fanny E. King (Nursemaid, aged 15), Maria Norman (Housemaid, aged 24) & Lois Lydia Seward (Cook, aged 19).

The 1901 England Census recorded Eric Dilley (listed on this Census as born Huntingdon) as a 10 year old living with his mother – Elizabeth Jane Dilley (aged 40) at Connaught House, Ballards Lane, Finchley, Middlesex. Also listed was Louis Jane Chapman (Housemaid, aged 37) & Lizzie Jennie Neal (Domestic Nurse, aged 24).

[The 1901 England Census recorded Arthur Geo. Dilley, married, (Auctioneer, aged 46) living at 5 St. Mary's Street, Huntingdon, along with Geo. Edward Smith (Gardener, aged 70) & Elizabeth Smith (Housekeeper, aged 68).]

[The 1911 England Census recorded Arthur George Dilley (Auctioneer, aged 56) living with his wife Elizabeth Jane Dilley (aged 50) in a 14 roomed dwelling – Connaught House, Ballards Lane, Finchley, Middlesex. Arthur & Elizabeth Dilley had been married for 29 years & had 3 children – all still living. Also listed was their son – Graham Dilley (Auctioneer, aged 24) & Lois Ann Chapman (Housemaid, aged 48).]

The 1911 England Census recorded Eric Dilley (listed on this Census as born Huntingdon) as a 20 year old Medical Student living at The Vicarage, Hint, Tamworth, Staffs which was a 13 roomed Dwelling. The Head of the house was Carl Friedrich Mermagen (Clerk in Holy Orders, aged 41). Carl Friedrich Mermagen had been married man for 13 years with 2 children. Also listed in the household were Carl Mermagen's daughter – Olive Mary Mermagen (aged 6) & Carl Mermagen's sister-in-law – Olive Locke (aged 27). Walter Peppercorn (Theological Student, aged 26) was also listed. Two servants were listed in the household – Minnie Julia May Jevons (Cook, aged 18) & Mabel King (Housemaid, aged 17).

The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Dampier, subdivision of Northam, Western Australia listed Eric Dilley, Farmer, of The Limit, Hine's Hill.

Eric Dilley was a 25 year old, single, Farmer from Western Australia when he enlisted at Guildford, Western Australia on 21st October, 1914 with the 3rd Light Horse Brigade, 10th Light Horse Regiment "C" Squadron of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 393 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr A. G. Dilley, of Huntingdon, England.

Trooper Eric Dilley was posted to 10th Regiment, 3rd Light Horse Brigade on 21st October, 1914.

Private (Trooper) Eric Dilley embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Surada* (A52) on 17th February, 1915.

Trooper Eric Dilley embarked for Gallipoli from Alexandria on 16th May, 1915.

Trooper Eric Dilley was sick with Influenza while at Anzac on 23rd July, 1915. He was admitted to New Zealand Field Ambulance on 26th July, 1915 & discharged to duty on 30th July, 1915 from 2nd Australian Stationary Hospital.

Trooper Eric Dilley was admitted to 18th Stationary Hospital at Mudros on 27th August, 1915 with Enteritis.

Trooper Eric Dilley was admitted to No. 2 Australian General Hospital at Ghezireh on 24th September, 1915 suffering from Colitis. He was transferred to Mena on 5th October, 1915.

Trooper Eric Dilley was admitted to Australian & New Zealand Convalescent Hospital at Helouan, Egypt with Dysentery on 25th October, 1915 & discharged to his Unit on 2nd November, 1915.

Trooper Eric Dilley was marched out to Serapeum from Helipolis on 26th February, 1916.

Trooper Eric Dilley was sent sick to Hospital on 12th March, 1916.

Trooper Eric Dilley was sent sick to Hospital on 20th August, 1916. He was taken to 26th Casualty Clearing Station with a septic arm then transferred to 31st General Hospital at Port Said. Trooper Dilley was discharged to duty on 7th September, 1916 & marched in to Base Details on 9th September, 1916. He returned to his Unit on 11th September, 1916.

Trooper Eric Dilley was marched out from his Regiment to Rest Camp at Port Said on 10th March, 1918 He was marched in to his Regiment from D.M.C. Rest Camp at Port Said on 23rd March, 1918.

Trooper Eric Dilley was sent sick to 24th Stationary Hospital on 16th June, 1918. Trooper Eric Dilley was admitted to No. 14 Australian General Hospital on 25th June, 1918 with Malaria B.T. He was discharged to 20 D.M.C. Rest Camp at Port Said on 11th July, 1918. Trooper Dilley was marched out to Moascar on 25th July, 1918 & transferred to 10th Light Horse Regiment on 29th July, 1918.

Trooper Eric Dilley was evacuated to Hospital injured on 24th January, 1919. He was reported as dangerously and seriously ill at 74th Casualty Clearing Station with fracture of left arm, concussed head.

A Court of Inquiry was held on 29th January, 1919 at El Mina by order of C.O. 10th Light Horse Regiment for purpose of inquiring into injuries sustained by 393 Trooper E. Dilley & 3183 Trooper L. C. Handley on 24th January, 1919. Finding of Court – *“that the above men were riding along the El Mina Tripoli Road on 24.1.19 when at about 1900 whilst riding in the darkness and rain their horses apparently stumbled and throwing their riders and causing injuries shown. At the time of the accident both men were absent without leave from a bathing party which had gone into El Mina on duty that afternoon. C.O.’s Opinion – I consider that Trps Dilley & Handley were not in the performance of Military duty at time of accident that they were partially to blame, that no blame is attachable to anyone else.”* No disciplinary action proposed.

Trooper Dilley was reported on 31st January, 1919 as progressing favourably after amputation of arm.

Trooper Eric Dilley was removed from the “Dangerously ill” List on 3rd February, 1919. He was reported as “Improving” on 5th February, 1919 & “Improving rapidly” on 14th February, 1919.

Trooper Eric Dilley was reported as “Improving” on 25th February, 1919 at Cairo.

Trooper Eric Dilley was admitted to No. 14 General Hospital on 8th March, 1919 with compound fracture of left humerus.

Trooper Eric Dilley’s condition was reported as “stationary” while at Cairo on 26th March, 1919.

Trooper Eric Dilley was reported as “Convalescent” on 3rd April, 1919 while at Cairo.

Trooper Eric Dilley was reported as “still in Hospital” at Abbassia on 2nd June, 1919 & again on 1st July, 1919.

Trooper Eric Dilley was discharged from Hospital on 9th July, 1919 & embarked from Port Said for UK per *Tagus* via Taranto for leave in UK.

Trooper Eric Dilley reported at A.I.F. Headquarters, London from leave & granted pre-embarkation leave to 16th September, 1919.

Trooper Eric Dilley, of Connaught House, Hitchin, Herts was medically examined on 19th September, 1919 by Members of the Permanent Medical Referee Board. He was suffering from Amputation of left arm, 6” below shoulder received in an accident while not on duty. The Board stated that Eric Dilley would be incapacitated for work for a period of 6 months & his present lost earning power was 100 % & 75% thereafter.

10th Australia Light Horse Regiment

The 10th Australian Light Horse Regiment A.I.F. was the only A.I.F. light horse regiment recruited in Western Australia during the First World War.

The regiment was raised in October 1914 when it became apparent that Western Australia could provide more than a single squadron of mounted soldiers. The regiment joined the 3rd Light Horse Brigade in Egypt and served dismounted at Gallipoli. The regiment's most famous actions were the charge at the Nek on 7 August 1915, and Hill 60 on 29-30 August. It was in this last action that Lieutenant V.H. "Hu" Throssell performed the valorous deeds for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross. He was the only Australian light horseman to be so decorated during the Great War.

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli in December 1915 the regiment was brought up to strength and reorganised. With the rest of the Australian light horse they defended Egypt from the Ottoman Army advancing on the Suez Canal. Through 1916 they drove the Turks across the deserts of Sinai, participating in the battles of Romani and Magdhaba.

In 1917 they were part of the Desert Column that advanced into Palestine. The regiment participated in the bloody battles to break the Gaza-Beersheba line and helped capture Jerusalem. They participated in the Es Salt Raid in May 1918. In August they were one of the regiments re-equipped with swords and rifle boots, and retrained to take a more orthodox cavalry role. In their new role they took part in the rout of the Ottoman army in the Jordan Valley, a campaign the light horse referred to as "The Great Ride". In September the 10th was the first formed regiment to enter Damascus.

Turkey surrendered on 30 October 1918. After the end of the war, elements of the regiment saw action in putting down the Egyptian uprising of 1919. They were finally disbanded in 1920.

(Regiment information from The Australian War Memorial)

Trooper Eric Dilley was discharged from the Australian Imperial Force on 17th October, 1919 from London, England as he was medically unfit. Trooper Eric Dilley had served for 4 years & 362 days. His intended place of residence was listed as Connaught House, Wymondley Road, Hitchin, Herts, England.

Trooper Eric Dilley was awarded a Silver War Badge No. A88689.

The Silver War Badge was issued in the United Kingdom and the British Empire to service personnel who had been honourably discharged due to wounds or sickness from military service in World War I. The badge, sometimes known as the "Discharge Badge", the "Wound Badge" or "Services Rendered Badge", was first issued in September 1916, along with an official certificate of entitlement. The large sterling silver lapel badge was intended to be worn on civilian clothes. (Wikipedia).



The Government of Western Australian – The Agricultural Bank wrote to Base Records, Melbourne on 1st May, 1920 stating: "Re Avon Location 11082 – We have a farm owned by Eric Dilley whoe No, was 393, enlisted 21/10/14, embarked 7/2/15 with the 10th Light Horse, giving his next of kin A. G. Dilley (father), Huntingdon, England.

We are anxious to get into touch with this gentleman and from records in the distric we cannot find his whereabouts. Could you help me please as we are mortgagees for the farm that is mentioned above and fo not desire to do anything against a soldier whoe intentions are to go on with the proposition."

Base Records replied stating that Trooper E. Dilley had been discharged form the Australian Imperial Force on 17th October, 1919 abroad & that his private address was Connaught House, Wymondley Road, Hitchin, Herts, England.

Trooper Eric Dilley died on 4th* April, 1921 at Wingfield Nursing Home, Devonport, Devon from "Consumption which ended in death" according to Mr Arthur George Dilley, father of the late Trooper Eric Dilley in a letter dated 6th April, 1925 to Base Records, Melbourne, Australia. (The Private Headstone for Trooper Eric Dilley has the date of death as 4th June, 1921 whereas letters from The Imperial War Graves Commission – now the Commonwealth War Graves Commission had his death listed as 6th April, 1921.)

A death for Eric Dilley, aged 30, was registered in the June quarter, 1921 in the district of Devonport, Devon, England.

Trooper Eric Dilley was buried in Priory Road Cemetery, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire – Plot number F. 24 and has a shares the family Private Headstone. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Probate details:

"DILLEY, Eric of Springfield Wood-street High Barnet Hertfordshire died 4 April 1921 at Wingfield Nursing Home Devonport. Administration (with Will) London 6 August to Arthur George Dilley auctioneer. Effects £854 15s 9d."

Base Records contacted Mr A. G. Dilley, Market Hill, Huntingdon, England, father of the late Trooper Eric Dilley, in February, 1925 enquiring if the late Trooper Eric Dilley was a married man 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. Mr Arthur George Dilley replied stating that his son Trooper Eric Dilley was not married & that as his father, he was the closest next-of-kin.

Trooper Eric Dilley was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. The War medals were received by his father – Mr Arthur George Dilley on 30th June, 1925.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Trooper Eric Dilley – service number 393, aged 30, of 10th Australian Light Horse. No family details are listed. His date of death is recorded as 6th April, 1921.

Trooper Eric Dilley is not commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia. The cut-off dates for inclusion in the Roll of Honour for World War 1 is between 4th August, 1914 & 31st March, 1921.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(77 pages of Trooper Eric Dilley'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

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

W.A. ROLL OF HONOUR

CASUALTY LIST No. 460

INJURED

393, Eric Dilley, England.

(Western Argus, Kalgoorlie, W.A., Australia – 18 March, 1919)

PUBLIC NOTICES

POWERS OF ATTORNEY ACT, 1896 (60 Vict. No. 3)

Notice is hereby given that the Power of Attorney granted by me, ERIC DILLEY, formerly of Hines Hill, Farmer, now of Perth, Returned Soldier, to THOMAS MICHAEL WILLIAMSON, of National Chambers, Barrack-street, Perth, on or about the month of December, 1914, was REVOKED on the 29th day of March, 1920. Dated this 30th day of March, 1920.

ERIC DILLEY

DARBYSHIRE and CALDER, of Commercial Bank Chambers, 42 St. George's-terrace, Perth, Solicitors for the said Eric Dilley.

(The West Australian, Perth, W.A., Australia – 2 April, 1920)

COUNTRY NOTES

Agriculturalists especially will hear with much regret of the death of Mr Eric Dilley, youngest son of Mr A. G. Dilley (of Messrs Dilley, Son and Read, the Huntingdon auctioneers), who passed away in a nursing home at Devonport. He was only 30 years old.

(Northampton Mercury, Northampton, England – 15 April, 1921)

Priory Road Cemetery, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire

Priory Road Cemetery, Huntingdon contains 28 Commonwealth War Graves – 20 relating to World War 1 & 8 from World War 2.



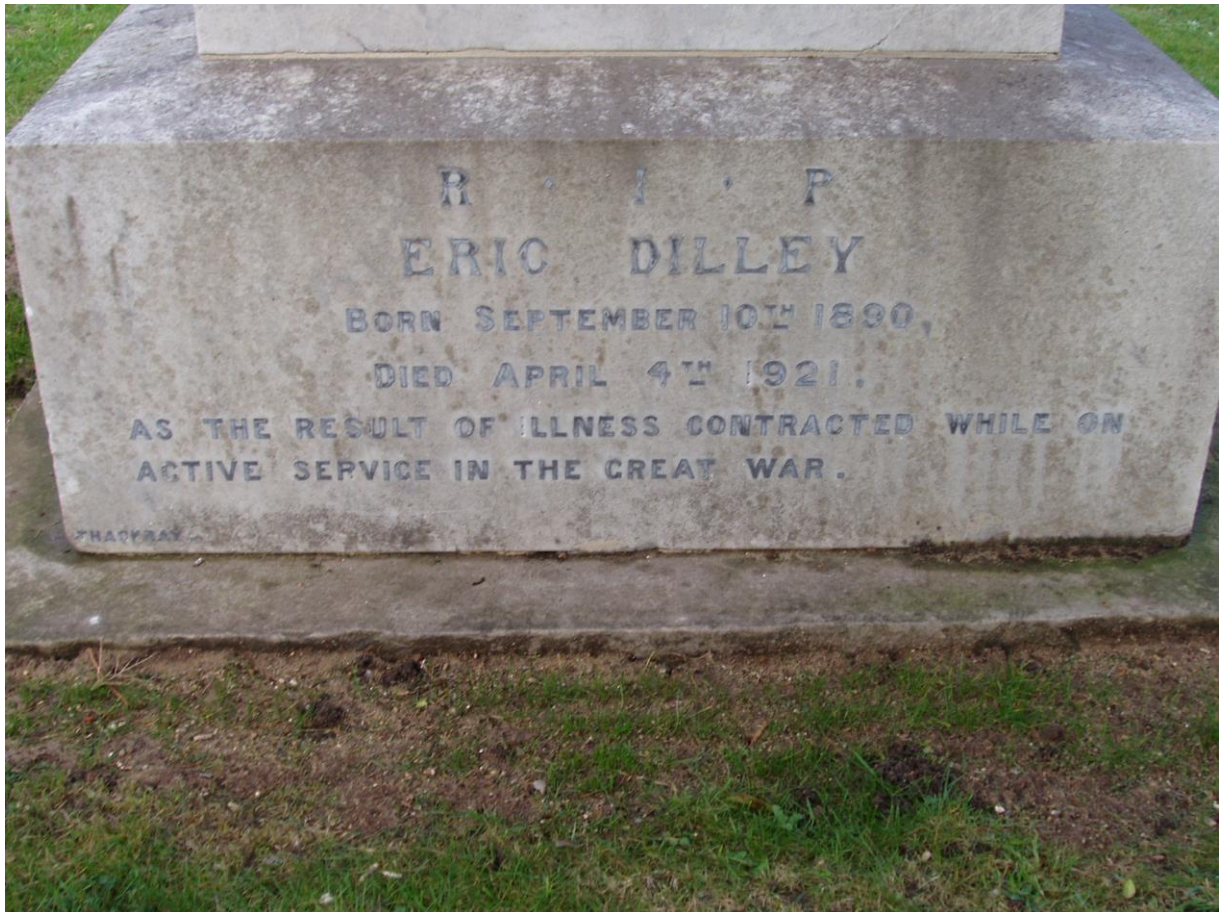
Priory Road Cemetery, Huntingdon (Photo above by *julia&keld*; below from CWGC)



Photo of Trooper Eric Dilley's Private Headstone in Priory Road Cemetery, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, England.



(Photos courtesy of Peter Bennett)



R. I. P.

ERIC DILLEY

Born September 10th 1890,

Died April 4th 1921

As The Result Of Illness Contracted While On

Active Service In The Great War