

**St. James The Great Churchyard,
Silsoe, Bedfordshire, England**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



4026 PRIVATE

G. E. DORMAN

3RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

14TH JULY, 1916

George Edward DORMAN

George Edward Dorman was born at Paddington, New South Wales in late 1888 to parents George & Margaret Dorman. His birth was registered in 1889.

George Edward Dorman married Minnie Walsh in Sydney, NSW on 21st June, 1909.

A birth for Margaret A. Dorman was registered in 1909 in the district of Sydney, NSW to George & Minnie Dorman. A death was registered in 1909 for Margaret A. Dorman.

A birth was registered for Eileen Veronica Rita Dorman in Sydney, NSW in 1912 George & Minnie Dorman.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Darling Harbour, Fort Street Polling Place, NSW recorded George Edward Dorman, Coal-lumper of 19 Harrington Street. His wife Minnie Dorman, Domestic duties was listed at 18 Harrington St & George Dorman, Wharf Labourer was listed at 19 Harrington Street.

George Edward Dorman was aged 26 years & 10 months, married & a Coal-lumper from 103 Gloucester Street, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Holdsworth, Sydney, NSW on 5th October, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4026 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs M. Dorman, 103 Gloucester Street, Sydney, NSW.

Private George Edward Dorman was posted to 12th Reinforcements of 3rd Battalion.

Private George Edward Dorman embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 30th December, 1915 with the 3rd Infantry Battalion, 12th Reinforcements.

Private George Edward Dorman was taken on strength of 3rd Battalion at Serapeum on 17th March, 1916.

Private George Edward Dorman embarked for overseas from Alexandria on 22nd March, 1916 on HMTS *Grampian*. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 28th March, 1916.

Private George Edward Dorman was wounded in action in France on 24th June, 1916. He was admitted to 2nd Australian Field Ambulance on 24th June, 1916 with B.W. to left leg. Private Dorman was reported to be dangerously ill at 1st Casualty Clearing Station on 26th June, 1916. He was transferred & admitted to 13th General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 30th June, 1916 with multiple G.S.W. (gunshot wounds). Private Dorman was reported as seriously ill on 7th July, 1916. He was marked for transfer to England on 9th July, 1916 & embarked on Hospital Ship *St. David* on 10th July, 1916 with G.S.W. left Ulna.

3rd Battalion

The 3rd Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 1st, 2nd and 4th Battalions it was recruited from New South Wales and, together with these battalions, formed the 1st Brigade....

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley in July 1916. Later the battalion fought at Ypres, in Flanders, before returning to the Somme for winter.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 3rd Battalion

Fleurbaix – 23rd June, 1916:

Conditions normal.

Usual fatigues till 1200

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2130 – moved out of billets into firing line & took over from 1st Bn., Right Bn. subsector of LEFT BDE.

2345 – Relief completed & copy of Defence Scheme taken over. To. Killed on action one To. Wounded one O/R
To Hospital 5 O/R From Hospital nil

24th June, 1916:

Work on Trenches started.

Conditions normal to 2300

2300 – Gas Alarm received from 12th Bn on our right. Bn stood to arms at Gat Alert. Carry on at 2400

To Hospital - From Hospital one.

25th June, 1916:

Artillery on both side active.

Three enemy balloons were bombed by our aeroplane – all three balloons fell in flames.

Our patrols scoured no mans land – no enemy met.

Wiring & parapet work proceeded with.

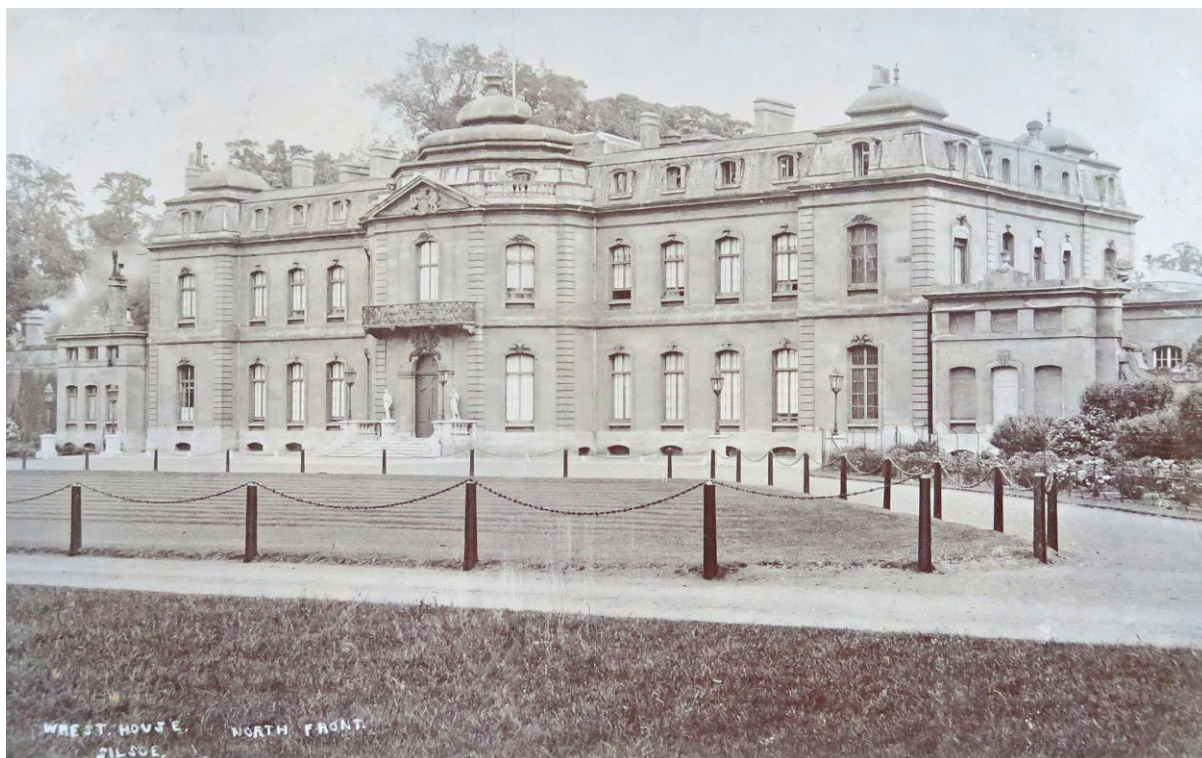
Lieut J. G. Tyson Wounded 3 O/R killed in action 10 O/R Wounded

To Hospital 3 O/R From Hospital nil

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private George Edward Dorman was admitted to 1st Eastern General Hospital, England on 10th July, 1916 with left Leg amputated.

Private George Edward Dorman died on 14th July, 1916 at Wrest Hospital, Silsoe, Ampthill, Bedfordshire, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. (Gunshot wound/s) to arm & leg.



Wrest Park Mansion, Silsoe was used as a Military Hospital.

A death for George E. Dorman, aged 28, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Ampthill, Bedfordshire, England.

Private George Edward Dorman was buried in St. James The Great Churchyard, Silsoe, Bedfordshire, England – Plot number 4 (north-east corner) and now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Newspaper item – Luton Reporter, England – 24 July, 1916:

A MILITARY FUNERAL

A crowd of several hundred people assembled in the vicinity of Silsoe Churchyard on Monday afternoon, the sad occasion being the burial of a Colonial, who, having been badly wounded in the big push on July 1, was brought to Wrest Hospital a week later, but succumbed to his injuries on the Friday evening. Full military honours were accorded, the arrangements being carried out under the direction of Sergt.-Major Kinglsey, of Wrest Hospital. The body was conveyed from the mortuary at Wrest on a gun carriage, drawn by black horses, belonging to the Welsh Field Artillery. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack, on which a large wreath of choice flowers from Lord Lucas was placed. Preceded by a firing party from the Royal Engineers, and the Regimental Band from the same depot, the procession slowly wended its way towards the church, to the strains of the Dead March in "Saul."

The Rev. Father Wilson, of the Shefford Roman Catholic Church, accompanied by a lad bearing a crucifix, and another acolyte, all robed, led the way, and after the coffin followed Sister Ife and a number of the wounded soldiers located at Wrest Park. The body was reverently laid in the north easterly corner of God's acre, set apart for soldiers who have paid the supreme sacrifice for their country. The deceased, whose friends reside in Australia, was Pte. Geo. Edward Dorman, aged 28 years, of the 3rd Australian Imperial Force. At the conclusion of the service three volleys were fired over the grave, the band in the intervals playing a few bars of the "Dead March" and Bugler Cooper sounded the "Last Post." It was the first military funeral that has taken place at Silsoe.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private George Edward Dorman contains a request from the Red Cross to obtain any information for his wife regarding the death and burial of Private George Edward Dorman.

- A.I.F. Headquarters, 130 Horseferry Rd, London wrote the following details:
Admitted to No. 1 Australian Casualty Clearing Station, France, seriously ill. (Cert. by A.I.F. Headquarters 11/7/16)
Admitted No. 13 General Hospital, Boulogne (Cert. by Rouen Wire, 13/7/16)
Left leg amputated, admitted to No. 1 Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, 10/7/16. (Cert. by Hospital Index)
Died of wounds (gunshot wound to arm and leg) on 14/7/16 at Wrest Hospital, Silsoe, England..(Cert. by A.I.F. Headquarters 21/7/16)
- F. Kingsley (for the late M.O. i/c Wrest Hospital, Silsoe) wrote the following details: "*Pte Dorman was admitted to this hospital 10.7.16 direct from France, suffering from severe wounds viz: left leg amputated, left elbow fractured, and shrapnel wound back, cause of death result of above and pneumonia. He was buried on the 18.1.16 at Silsoe church yard, with full Roman Catholic Rites, and Military honours supplied by the Royal Engineers, Firing party and gun-carriage followed by 100 men and hospital staff. I would inform you the above information with photo etc., was forwarded immediately after burial direct to Mrs Dorman, Sydney, N.S.W. the late Pte Dorman's wife.*"

Private George Edward Dorman was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also to be sent to Private Dorman's widow – Mrs M. Walsh, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque was signed for by Annie Walsh on 31st July, 1922).

Minnie Dorman, widow of the late Private George Edward Dorman, died on 8th April, 1922 in Sydney, NSW, leaving behind a child – Eileen Dorman.

A Statutory Declaration was signed by Annie Walsh on 31st July, 1922 stating: "*I Annie Walsh, 18 Harrington St, Millers Point so solemnly declare that my son in law the deceased soldier was 4026 Pte George Edward Dorman 3rd Btn. That my daughter Mrs M. Dorman died on the 8th April, 1922. That I am the grandmother & guardian of Eileen Dorman, the daughter of Mrs M. Dorman and the deceased soldier. That I request the Memorial Plaque be issued to*

me as Eileen Dorman is only eleven years of age and if given into my custody, I hereby undertake to carefully preserve same and will produce them to the military authority upon request should any person with a prior claim appear.”

The Victory Medal was signed for by “Eileen Dorman” on 29th March, 1923.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private G. E. Dorman – service number 4026, of 3rd Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private G. E. Dorman is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 36.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(33 pages of Private George Edward Dorman’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

TO-DAY'S CASUALTY LIST

MANY MORE WOUNDED OR SICK

The 184th casualty list, issued to-day.....

NEW SOUTH WALES

ILL

Pte G. E. DORMAN, Sydney (dangerously)

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 13 July, 1916)

Latest Casualty List

The 188th casualty list, issued yesterday....

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte G. E. DORMAN, Sydney (previously reported wounded and dangerously ill)

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 30 July, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

DORMAN – In loving memory of my dear husband and father, Private George Edward Dorman, who died of gunshot wounds, July 14, 1916.

In a hero's grave he lies,
Somewhere in France he fell;
Little we thought when we parted
It was our last farewell.

Inserted by his loving wife, Minnie; and children, Ileen and Lily

DORMAN – In loving memory of my dear son, Private George Edward Dorman, who died of gunshot wounds, July 14, 1916.

His King and country called him,
The call was not in vain;
On Australia's roll of honour
You'll find our hero's name.

Inserted by his loving father, George Dorman.

DORMAN – In loving memory of Private George Edward Dorman, who died of gunshot wounds, July 14, 1916.

Your death has saddened me, dear George,
Though noble was your fall,

You died an Australian soldier,
The greatest death of all.

Inserted by his loving mother-in-law, Annie Walsh.

DORMAN – Private George Edward Dorman, died of wounds, July 14, 1916.

He died for his country.

Inserted by his brother-in-law and sister-in-law and niece, Frank and Annie Hill.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 14 July, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

DORMAN – In loving memory of my dear Husband, George Edward Dorman, who died of gunshot wounds, July 14, 1916. Inserted by his loving wife and children, Minnie, Ileen, Lily. He gave his life for his country.

DORMAN – In loving memory of my dear Son-in-law, George Edward Dorman, who died of gunshot wounds, July 14, 1916.

Your death has saddened me, dear George,
Though noble was you fall,
You died an Australian soldier-
The greatest death of all.

Inserted by his loving mother-in-law, Mrs Walsh, and family, Will Frank, Tom (on active service).

DORMAN – In loving memory of our dear Brother-in-law, who died of gunshot wounds, July 14, 1916. Inserted by Mrs R. Douglas, Mrs Annie Hill, Frank Harold Hill (on active service). A young life nobly ended.

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 14 July, 1918)

On Active Service

DORMAN – In memory of George Dorman, died of wounds, July 14, 1916. Too dearly loved to ever be forgotten. Inserted by his brother-in-law and sister, Annie and Frank Hill (on active service), also his niece Lucy.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 15 July, 1918)

On Active Service

DORMAN – In loving memory of my dear son-in-law, George Edward Dorman, died of wounds July 14, 1916.

In a hero's grave he's lying,
Somewhere in France he fell;
Little we thought when we parted
'Twas our last farewell.

Inserted by his loving mother-in-law, Mrs Walsh and family, and brothers-in-law, Tom, Will and Franck (on active service abroad).

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 14 July, 1919)

On Active Service

DORMAN – In loving memory of my dear husband and our father, George Edward Dorman, who died of wounds, July 14, 1916, aged 28 years.

When last we saw his smiling face
He looked so strong and brave;
We little thought how soon he'd be
Laid in a soldier's grave.

Inserted by his loving wife and children, Eileen and Lily.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 15 July, 1921)

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 G. E. Dorman has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone but does not have an inscription.

St. James The Great Churchyard, Silsoe, Bedfordshire, England

St. James The Great Churchyard, Silsoe has 8 Commonwealth War Graves – 6 from World War 1 & 2 relating to World War 2.



(Photos from Find a Grave – wertypop)



Photo of Private G. E. Dorman's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. James The Great Churchyard, Silsoe, Bedfordshire, England.





**Some of the War Graves in St. James The Great Churchyard, Silsoe
Private J. Dorman's CWGC headstone marked with red arrow**