

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3486 PRIVATE

J. DOVER

19TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

26TH APRIL, 1917 Age 23

James DOVER

James Dover was born at Carcoar, New South Wales in 1895 to parents James & Susanna Mary Dover (nee Murphy). His birth was registered in the district of Carcoar, NSW. (James Dover stated on his Attestation Papers that he was born at Blayney (which is near Carcoar).

James Dover was a 24 year old, single, Farm Hand from Nattive, Burrowa*, NSW when he enlisted at Goulburn, NSW on 21st September, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Dover, Nattive, Burrowa,* NSW. (Name as listed on Embarkation Roll & Roll of Honour – name was the original spelling – now known as “Boorowa”).

Private James Dover was posted to 8th Reinforcements of 18th Battalion on 10th December, 1915.

Private James Dover, Service number 3486, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Aeneas (A60)* on 20th December, 1915 with the 18th Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements.

Private James Dover was admitted to 1st Australian “D” (Dermatological) Hospital at Abbassia on 13th February, 1916 with V.D.G. He was discharged to duty on 16th March, 1916 & rejoined his Unit at Overseas Base at Ghezireh on 18th March, 1916.

Private James Dover proceeded overseas from Alexandria on 27th March, 1916 on *Saxonia* & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 3rd April, 1916. He was taken on strength of 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 4th April, 1916. Private Dover was taken on strength of 19th Battalion in France on 2nd June, 1916 from 18th Battalion.

18th Battalion

The 18th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. It left Australia in early May, trained in Egypt from mid-June until mid-August, and on 22 August landed at ANZAC Cove.....

After further training in Egypt, the 18th Battalion proceeded to France. Landing there on 25 March 1916, it took part in its first major battle at Pozieres between 25 July and 5 August.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private James Dover reported sick on 27th September, 1916 & was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance with Gastritis. He was transferred & admitted to 2nd Divisional Rest Station on 27th September, 1916 & discharged to duty on 29th September, 1916. Private Dover rejoined 19th Battalion in France on 30th September, 1916.

Private James Dover reported sick on 13th November, 1916. He was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance on 14th November, 1916 with Trench Feet then transferred to Casualty Clearing Station. Private Dover rejoined 19th Battalion on 27th November, 1916.

Private James Dover was sent to Trench Mortar School on 1st December, 1916 & rejoined 19th Battalion on 15th December, 1916.

Mr J. J. Kearnis, Mattan, Boorowa, wrote to Base Records on 12th April, 1917 with the following: “*Mr & Mrs Dover who are in my employ have not heard of their son since last September he was then in action somewhere in France. I would ask you to kindly institute enquiries regarding him.....Add. Pte James Dover No. 3486 D Company 19th Battalion, A.I.F. France.*”

Base Records replied to Mr J. J. Kearnis on 12th April, 1917 advising “*.... Private James Dover was admitted to Hospital in the field, sick on 27.9.16, and rejoined his Battalion on 30.9.16; since this report no further information has been received in respect of him, consequently it is to be assumed he is with his Unit. His postal address is as follows:- No. 3486 Private J. Dover. 18th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force A b r o a d. Your attention is invited to the fact that reports received by post are not transmitted to next-of-kin as it is assumed that the soldier will have*

already advised the person so recorded by letter of his indisposition. In the event of any cable reports coming to hand next-of-kin will be promptly advised."

Private James Dover was wounded in action in France on 15th April, 1917 (Statement of Service form listed "S. Shock" – Shell shock). He was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance on 15th April, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Back. Private Dover was transferred to 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station on 15th April, 1917 with "SW Back (Pen)" (Shrapnel wounds to Back – penetrating) then transferred to Ambulance Train on 18th April, 1917. He was admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 19th April, 1917. His condition was reported as "SW Back Fract. Spine – Dangerous" & he embarked for England on 25th April, 1917 on Hospital Ship *St. Andrew*.

19th Battalion

The 19th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade.....

After further training in Egypt, the 19th Battalion proceeded to France. It took part in its first major offensive around Pozieres between late July and the end of August 1916. After a spell in a quieter sector of the front in Belgium, the 2nd Division, which included the 5th Brigade, came south again in October. The 19th Battalion attacked near Flers between 14 and 16 November, in conditions that Charles Bean described as the worst ever encountered by the AIF.

In 1917, the 19th was involved in the follow-up of German forces after their retreat to the Hindenburg Line, and was one of four battalions to defeat a counter-stroke by a German force, almost five times as strong, at Lagincourt.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 19th Battalion

Noreuil - April 15:

4.55 am – 9 men of 12th Bn (in front line on our right) reported that their outpost line had been driven back. Bn ordered to "Stand to".

5.15 am – "D" Co ordered to form defensive flank along ridge to right front.

6.20 am – 200 – 300 enemy observed advancing against NOREUIL -LAGNICOURT RD. "B" Co sent through village of NOREUIL to connect with "C" Co on the right and 17 Bn on the left. "A" Co to form a defensive flank on right.

Enemy allowed to advance to within 150 yards of our front line, when all available Lewis guns and rifle fire opened with excellent effect, causing enemy to start to ____ (reline or refire?)

6.40 am – Asked for barrage, which had been put down, to left. This caused enemy to be caught between our lewis gun & rifle fire and 'barrage' and caused him to surrender – 76 in one bunch.

Patrols sent out to keep touch with the enemy.

8 am – In touch with 20th Bn on right and 17th Bn on left, also 9th Bn in NOREUIL-LAGNICOURT

11 am – Companies withdrawn to normal support Bn position.

Our casualties – 13 O.R. killed, 56 O.R. wounded

Enemy casualties – approx. 200 killed by our fire

- 4 Officers and 200 O.R. captured.

Also captured by us – 2 machine guns, 2 lewis guns (converted) and numerous rifles.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private James Dover was admitted to the King George Hospital, London on 25th April, 1917 with G.S.W to Back & Paraplegia. The Hospital Admissions form reported: *"Arrived here comatose. Notes say = fracture if 1 L.V. Laminectomy in France, Died."*

Private James Dover died at 3.40 pm on 26th April, 1917 at The King George Hospital, Stamford Street, London, England from wounds received in action in France - G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Spine (Statement of Service form & Purport recorded "Died of wounds. S.W. Back, Paraplegia).

(Advice sent to Mr J. Dover, Burrow, NSW, father of the late Private James Dover, on 28th September, 1917, advised: "*..now in receipt of advice which shows that he died at King George Hospital, London, on 26th April 1917, of Paraplegia following wounds received in action, and was buried*")

A death for James Dover, aged 23, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Lambeth, Greater London, England.

Private James Dover was buried on 28th April, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Australian Military Burial Ground - Plot number 179.178.

From the burial report of Private James Dover - *Coffin was good. Polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral. The remains were borne to the graveside by members attached to the Administrative Headquarters Staff, A.I.F. London. Firing Party from the Administrative Headquarters Staff, A.I.F. London were in attendance. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside by a bugler of the A.I.F. Chaplain E. MacAuliffe of the A.I.F. officiated at the graveside. No relatives were present at the funeral. Temporary Memorial is being erected by the Commonwealth Military Authorities.*

Base Records wrote to Mr J, Dover, Pullitop, near Wagga, NSW on 27th March, 1923 stating that the site of his son's grave in Brookwood Military Cemetery had been officially registered as Plot 11 Row F Grave 24. "

This is now recorded by CWGC as Memorial reference – XI. F. 24. Private James Dover now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A War Pension was granted to Susanna Dover, Burrowa, mother of the late Private James Dover, 3486, 19th Battalion, in the sum of 30/- per fortnight from 30th June, 1917.

Private James Dover was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Dover's father – Mr J. Dover, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent November, 1921).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private James Dover – service number 3486, aged 23, of 19th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of James & Susanna Dover, of Pullitop, near Wagga Wagga, New South Wales.

Private J. Dover is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 88.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

J. Dover is remembered on the Boorowa ANZAC Memorial, located on Marsden St, Boorowa NSW.



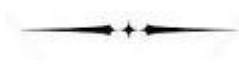


Boorowa ANZAC Memorial (Photos from AWM – Places of Pride)



(42 pages of Private James Dover'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

MURRUNGAL SHIRE

The monthly meeting of Murrungal Shire Council was held in the Shire Office, Court House, Boorowa, on Monday, the 7th inst.....

Our Fallen Heroes: Before commencing business the President said he wished to move that a letter of condolence be written to the relatives of recently deceased soldiers, as follows:- Pte G. B. S. Bewley; Pte J. Dover; Pte Reynolds.....

(Young Witness, NSW – 11 May, 1917)

GAPS TO BE FILLED

TWO MORE CASUALTY LISTS

NEARLY TWO THOUSAND OUT OF ACTION

According to the two casualty lists issued yesterday morning, another 1829 men are out of action....

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF WOUNDS

Pte J. DOVER, Boorowa

(Sunday Times, Sydney, NSW – 13 May, 1917)

CASUALTY LISTS

The 295th and 296th lists of casualties sustained by Australian troops abroad were issued on Saturday.....Amongst those who died of wounds are Sgt G. K. Percy, Goulburn, and Pte J. Dover, Boorowa.....

(Goulburn Evening Penny Post, NSW – 15 May, 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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 8th July, 1921, to Mr J. Dover, Mattan, Burrowa, NSW advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late No. 3486 Private J. Dover, 19th Battalion, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

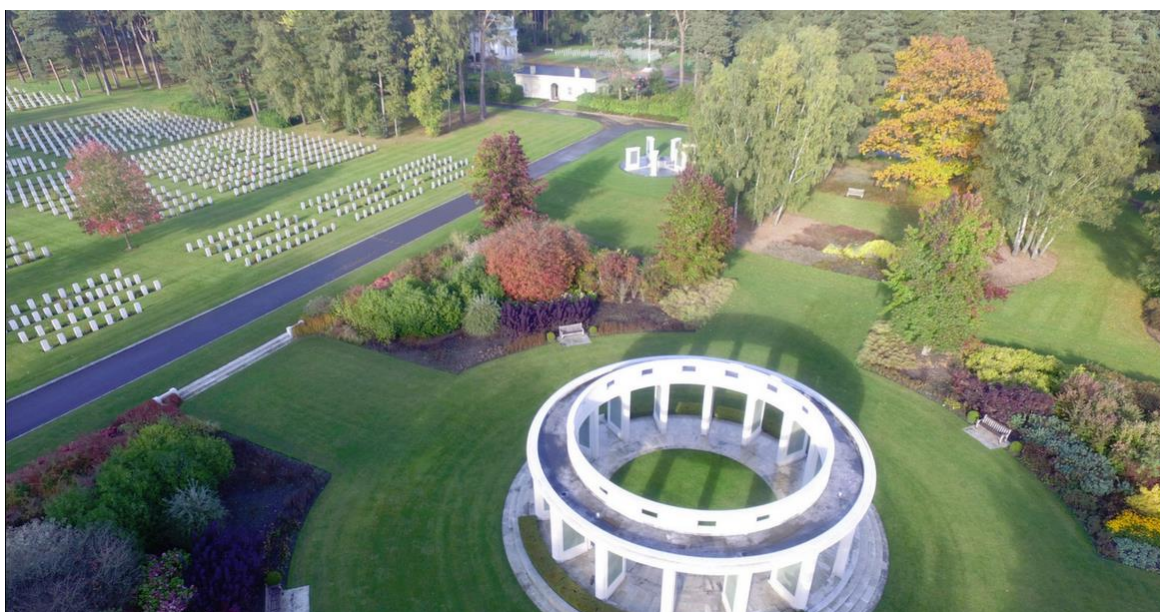
Private J. Dover does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England

Located 30 miles from London in Surrey, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the United Kingdom. The cemetery contains the graves of more than 1,600 servicemen of the British Empire in the First World War and over 3,470 from the Second World War.

Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis), a vast space which covers 500 acres. In 1917, an area to the north of the cemetery was set aside as Brookwood Military Cemetery for men and women of Commonwealth forces who died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. *(Information from CWGC)*

There are 446 Australian War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 351 from World War 1 & 95 from World War 2.



Brookwood Military Cemetery *(Photo from CWGC)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00185

A large crowd attends an A.I.F. military funeral at Brookwood Cemetery. In the foreground wooden crosses mark rows of graves. (Photo c1919)

Identified: Front row, left to right: Second Lieutenant Douglas Abbott Ferguson, Australian Flying Corps, died of accidental injuries 18 August 1918; Lieutenant (Lt) Francis John Smedley MC, 7th Battalion, died of wounds 20 August 1918.

Second row: 6860 Private (Pte) James Alexander McKeown, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 20 June 1918; 3622 Pte S T Wilson, 2nd Australian Pioneers, died of wounds 4 July 1918; 2390 Sergeant Frederick Charles Stronell, 21st Battalion, died of wounds 9 July 1918; Lt Arthur Melville Lilburne MC, 6th Brigade Australian Field Artillery, died of disease 11 July 1918.



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)



Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)





(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



Australian War Graves *(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright 2020)*

Photo of Private J. Dover's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher)



(Photo courtesy of Ian Fletcher – Jan 2021)

