

# All Saints Churchyard Extension, Orpington, Kent, England

## War Graves



*Lest We Forget*

### World War 1



5080 PRIVATE

**H. N. DOVEY**

1ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

16TH AUGUST, 1916 Age 20

*A Young Life Nobly Ended*

## Harry Norman DOVEY

Harry Norman Dovey was born at Alexandria, Sydney, New South Wales in 1895 to parents James Henry & Sophia Dovey (nee Palmer). His name was registered as Henry L. N. Dovey.

Harry Norman Dovey attended Crown Street Public School, Sydney, NSW.

James H. Dovey, father of Harry Norman Dovey died in 1914 in Sydney, NSW.

Harry Norman Dovey was a 20 year old, single, Glassblower from 43 Marshall Street, Surry Hills, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Warwick Farm, Sydney, NSW on 8th September, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5080 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs S. Dovey, 43 Marshall Street, Surry Hills, Sydney, NSW.

Private Harry Norman Dovey was posted to “D” Company, No. 1 Battalion for recruit training. He was transferred to “C” Company, No. 1 Battalion at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW on 1st January, 1916 then transferred on 1st March, 1916 to 16th Reinforcements of 1st Battalion.

Private Harry Norman Dovey embarked from Sydney, NSW on SS *Makarini* on 1st April, 1916 with the 1st Infantry Battalion, 16th Reinforcements. He was written up on 20th April, 1916 at Colombo for “Leaving boat without permission”. Private Dovey was awarded 10 days detention & forfeited 10 days pay. He disembarked at Suez on 2nd May, 1916.

Private Harry Norman Dovey embarked from Alexandria (1st Training Battalion) on H.M.T. *Caledonia* to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 17th May, 1916. He reported to 1st Australian Divisional Base Depot at Etaples, France on 20th May, 1916. Private Dovey proceeded from 1st A.D.B. D on 16th June, 1916 & was taken on strength of 1st Battalion in France on 18th June, 1916.

Private Harry Norman Dovey was wounded in action in France 22 – 25th July, 1916 (dates as per Casualty Form – Active Service). He was admitted to No. 1 Field Ambulance on 24th July, 1916 with Shrapnel wounds to Back then transferred the same day to 6th M.A.C. (Motor Ambulance Convoy). Private Dovey was admitted to No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station on 24th July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to back. Private Dovey was transferred to Ambulance Train 21 on 25th July, 1916 & admitted to No. 13 General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 26th July, 1916. He embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Jan Breydel* on 28th July, 1916.

### 1st Battalion

The 1st Battalion was the first infantry unit recruited for the AIF in New South Wales during the First World War.....

After the withdrawal from Gallipoli in December 1915, 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.....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

From information from 1st Battalion War Diary – the 1st Australian Division were involved in an Operation “to attack the Pozieres position from the S. and S. E. on the night of July 22/23 at Zero time.”

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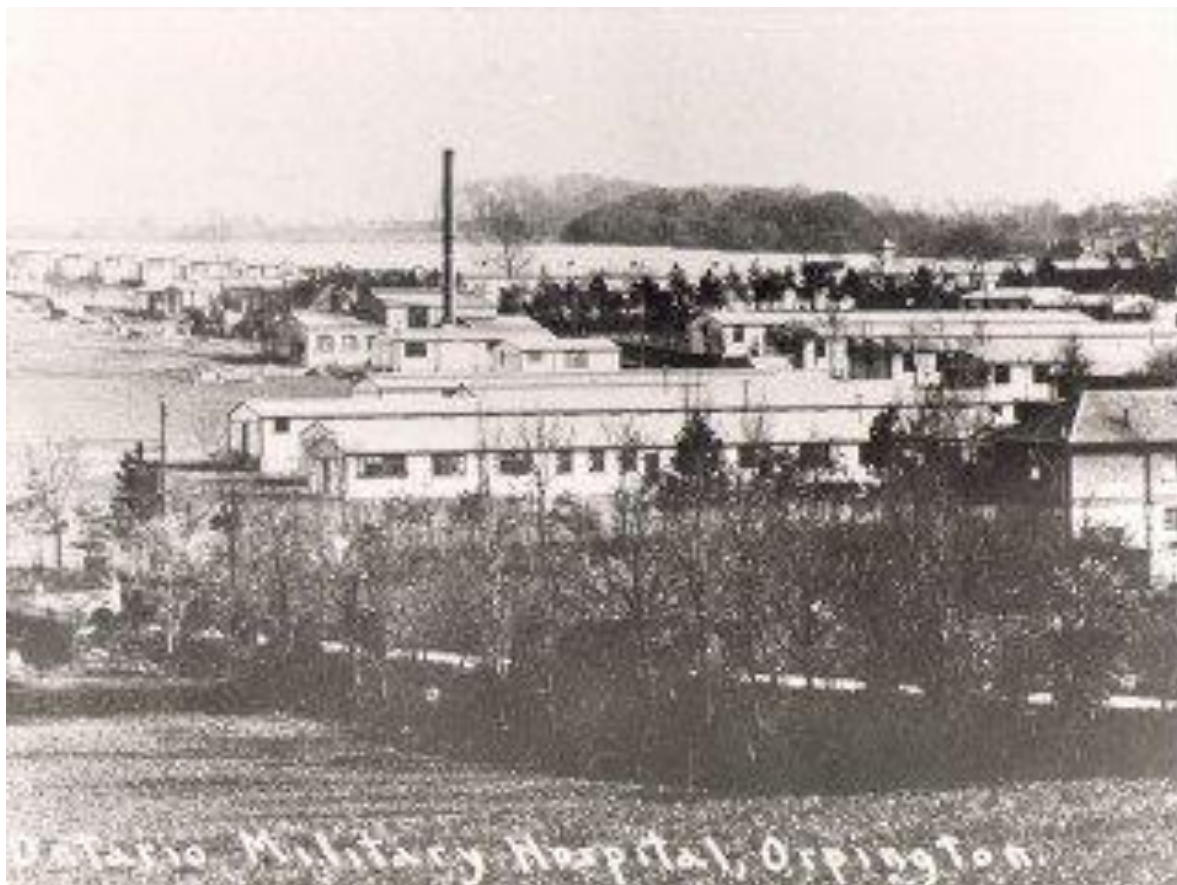
*“Our losses to 12 noon on the 26th July were 7 Officers and 100 other ranks Killed, 4 Officers and 376 other ranks wounded, 48 other ranks missing and 2 Officers died of wounds. This was the total loss in personnel of the Bn during the fighting in POZIERES....”*

*(War Diary information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Harry Norman Dovey was admitted to Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, Kent, England on 28th July, 1916 with Paralysis of lower limbs & bladder as a result of G.S.W to Back. He was reported to be dangerously ill on 1st August, 1916.

Base Records advised Mrs S. Dovey, 43 Marshall Street, Surry Hills, Sydney, NSW on 4th August, 1916 that her son Private Harry N. Dovey was seriously ill with paralysis of lower limbs and bladder.

Private Harry Norman Dovey died at 8 pm on 16th August, 1916 at Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, Kent, England from wounds received in action in France - G.S.W. Back & Paraplegia.



**Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington**

A death for Henry Dovey, aged 21, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Bromley, Kent, England.

Private Harry Norman Dovey was buried in Orpington Churchyard – Row “A” Grave No. 1.

Base Records advised Mrs S. Dovey, 43 Marshall Street, Surry Hills, Sydney, NSW on 13th August, 1916 *“in continuation of my wire of 4th instant Cable advice now shows that your son Private Harry N. Dovey disability was caused through a wound received in action. Will furnish further progress report when received.”* She was advised on 18th August, 1916 that her son Private Harry N. Dovey was dangerously ill.

Base Records wrote to Mrs S. Dovey, 43 Marshall Street, Surry Hills, Sydney, NSW, on 16th April, 1920: *“With reference to my communication of 3rd May, 1917, regarding the regrettable loss of your son, the late No 5080 Private H. N. Dovey, 1st Battalion, I am now in receipt of further advice which shows that his remains have been exhumed from former site, and re-interred in Grave No.7. Section “H”, Orpington Cemetery, Orpington. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain. The utmost care and attention*

*is being devoted to the graves of our fallen soldiers, and photographs are being taken as soon as possible for transmission to next-of-kin."*

This is now recorded by CWGC as All Saints Churchyard Extension, Orpington, Kent, England – Plot number H. 9 and now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

A War Pension was granted to Alma Victoria Dovey & Edith Maud Dovey, 43 Marshall St, Surry Hills, sisters of the late Private Harry Norman Dovey, in the sum of 9/- per fortnight each from 26th October, 1916.

Mrs S. Dovey, 43 Marshall Street, Moor Park, mother of the late Private Harry Norman Dovey, wrote to Base Records in December, 1916 asking how she could get her late sons belongings "*as no one seems to know on this side....*" She signed the letter "*A Broken Hearted Mother.*"

Mrs S. Dovey, 43 Marshall Street, Surry Hills, NSW, wrote to Base Records on 13th November, 1917 asking again about the personal effects of her son. "*This is the third time I have write for them surely it is not to soon to ask. I would very much like to have them I know that he had rather a lot of keepsakes away with him. I know of a Round ring with diamond and 2 rubys 18ct and a wrist-watch presented by the firm he worked for and he had 2 or three prayer Books I would very much like to have. I do not know why I am treated like this I get no answer with the separation money to me since last year from April to August I have and being a widow with 3 children to support I need all hoping you will give this your kind consideration. PS. Would you kindly give me information about my son Pte Reg. Dovey 2301 1st Machine Gun Company as I have not heard from him for about 5 months and feel very worried about it.*"

Base Records replied to Mrs Dovey on 21st November, 1917 advising that no personal effects had been received at Base Records to date & if anything should come to hand she would be notified promptly. Base Records advised that they had communicated with the A.I.F. Headquarters, London asking for an investigation to be made regarding the keepsakes. They advised that with regards to Private Reginald Dovey "*The latest report shows that he was discharged to duty on 11.2.16 from No 3 Auxiliary Hospital. In the absence of any further report it may be safely assumed that he is serving with his unit...*"

Brigadier General, Commandant, Administrative Headquarters, London, replied to a communication from Base Records on 6th April, 1917 regarding 5080 Private H. N. Dovey & the personal effects & replied with: "*...there is no record of any of his effects having been received in the A.I.F. Kit Store, London and from searching investigations made in France it has been ascertained that none of his personal belonging were recovered from the field. As some considerable time has elapsed since deceased died from wounds – 16th August 1916 – it is not likely that any of his effects will come to hand at a later date.*"

Base Records passed on the information from Brigadier General to Mrs Dovey on 27th June, 1918.

L. G. Dovey, Ropedale, Bundaberg, Queensland, wrote to Base Records on 10th June, 1918 asking for "*any information as to whether Pte Harry Dovey was killed in action...*"

Base Records replied to L. G. Dovey on 17th June, 1918 advising that No. 5080 Private H. N. Dovey, 1st Battalion had died at Ontario Military Hospital Orpington, England on 16th August, 1916 of wounds (gunshot wound back) received in action and was buried in Orpington Churchyard Row "A", Grave No. 1.

Private Harry Norman Dovey was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Dovey's widowed mother – Mrs S. Dovey, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent January, 1922 & Plaque sent October, 1921).

Mrs Sophia Dovey, 43 Marshall Street, Surry Hills, Sydney, NSW, mother of the late Private Harry Norman Dovey, wrote to Base Records in January, 1923 with the following: "*Would you kindly advise me how to apply for assistance for distressed Dependents of Dead Soldiers as I am urgently in need of assistance will be thankful for your information.*"

[Private Reginald Dovey, son of Mrs Sophia Dovey, returned to Australia from serving with A.I.F. on 31st May, 1919.]

Base Records replied to Mrs S. Dovey on 9th January, 1923 advising her to “*get in touch with the Deputy Commissioner, Department of Repatriation, Sydney.*”

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Harry Norman Dovey – service number 5080, aged 20, of 1st Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of James Henry & Sophia Palmer Dovey, of 43 Marshall St., Surry Hills, Sydney, New South Wales.

Private H. N. Dovey is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 28.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

(57 pages of Private Harry Norman Dovey’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**

### **Australian Casualties**

#### **Lists Nos. 194 to 197**

#### **New South Wales**

Seriously Ill

Pte H. N. DOVEY (Surry Hills)

*(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 23 August, 1916)*

**LIST No. 206**

**NEW SOUTH WALES**

Died of Illness

Pte H. N. Dovey (Surry Hills)

(*The Land*, Sydney, NSW – 8 September, 1916)

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**ROLL OF HONOUR**

DOVEY – Private Herbert N. Dovey, died of wounds received in France, August 16, 1916. Inserted by his late fellow-employees of Schweppes, Limited.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 30 September, 1916)

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**ROLL OF HONOUR**

DOVEY – Died of wounds received in France, August 16, 1916 Private Harry Dovey, 43 Marshall-street, Surry Hills, aged 21 years, Inserted by his sorrowing sister and brother-in-law, Stella and Norman Bowman.

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 30 December, 1916)

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**IN MEMORIAM**

DOVEY – In loving memory of my dear son, Private Harry Dovey, died of wounds received at Pozieres, France, August 16, 1916, aged 21 years.

One year has passed, how long it seems,  
In all our thought his face still beams.  
From memory's page we'll never blot  
These little words, forget me not.

Inserted by his loving mother, S. Dovey.

DOVEY – In loving memory of our dear brother, Harry Dovey, died of wounds received in France, August 16, 1916, aged 21. Inserted by his loving brothers and sisters, Reg. (on active service), Will, Florrie, Alma, Maud)

(*The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 16 August, 1917)

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**On Active Service**

DOVEY – In loving memory of my dear son, Private Harry N. Dovey died of wounds received in action, at Pozieres, France, August 16, 1916, aged 21 years.

A young life nobly ended.

Inserted by his loving mother, S. Dovey.

DOVEY – In loving memory of our dear brother, Harry N. Dovey, died of wounds received in action at Pozieres, France, August 16, 1916 aged 21 years.

At rest. Inserted by his loving brothers and sisters, Arthur, William, Florrie, Alma, Maude, Reg. (on active service abroad).

DOVEY – In memory of my dear brother, Harry, died of wounds, August 16, 1916. Inserted by his loving sister, Stella Bowman.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 16 August, 1918)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

DOVEY – In loving memory of my dear brother, Harry, died of wounds received in France, August 16, 1916.

Inserted by his loving sister, Stella Bowman.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 16 August, 1919)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

DOVEY – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Harry, died of wounds received in action, Pozieres, France, August 16, 1916. Inserted by his mother, brother, Arthur, sister Maude, nephew Willie.

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 16 August, 1924)*

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## 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 H. N. Dovey has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone with the following inscription:

*A Young Life Nobly Ended*

## All Saints Churchyard Extension, Orpington, Kent, England

During the First World War, the Ontario Hospital was at Orpington from February 1916 to September 1917, when it became No 16 Canadian General Hospital. The hospital closed in September 1919. The hospital made a number of burials in a section of the extension to Orpington (All Saints) Churchyard, which was for many years known as Ontario Cemetery. This Extension contains 116 burials, 88 of which are Canadian. The extension as a whole contains 129 First World War burials and another 14 from the Second World War. The Commission also cares for 70 non-war service graves in the extension.

*(Information from CWGC)*



**All Saints Churchyard (left) & Extension (right), Orpington** *(Google Street view)*



**All Saints Churchyard Extension, Orpington** *(Photo from Find a Grave – Mark Hornsby)*





*(Photos from CWGC)*



Photo of Private H. N. Dovey's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in All Saints Churchyard Extension, Orpington, Kent, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright)*



*(Photo from Find a Grave – PEH 2010)*