

**Earlham Road Cemetery,
Norwich, Norfolk
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



3275 PRIVATE

F. B. DUKE

59TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

2ND NOVEMBER, 1917 Age 23

Francis Bernard (Frank) DUKE

Francis Bernard Duke was born at Buchan, near Bairnsdale, Victoria in 1895 to parents Robert & Sarah Jane Duke (nee Hoppner).

Francis Bernard Duke was a 21 year old, single, Fireman (Brigade) from South Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted in Brisbane, Queensland on 15th December, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3275 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Robert Duke, East Bairnsdale, Victoria. Francis Drake stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 5 years with Cadets – Militia.

Private Francis Bernard Duke was posted to 10th Depot Battalion at Enoggera on 15th December, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to "B" Company of 23rd Depot Battalion at Royal Park on 27th April, 1916 then transferred to H.S. Pay Dept. on 12th May, 1916. Pte Duke was transferred to "B" Company of 23rd Battalion on 29th June, 1916 then back to H.S. Pay Dept. on 21st August, 1916. He was admitted to Hospital at Royal Park on 25th September, 1916 with Chancre – reported himself) then transferred to Langwarrin with V.D. on 25th September, 1916 then transferred to Royal Park on 9th December, 1916 with 8th Reinforcements of 59th Battalion.

Private Francis Bernard Duke embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 16th December, 1916 with the 59th Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 18th February, 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 Francis Bernard Duke was marched in to 15th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire from Overseas on 18th February, 1917.

Private Francis Bernard Duke was written up for an Offence while posted with 15th Training Battalion at Hurdcott – Absent without leave from 24.00 on 1st April, 1917 until 24.00 on 3rd April, 1917. He was awarded a forfeiture of 6 days' pay.

Private Francis Bernard Duke was sent sick to Fovant Hospital on 10th April, 1917 from 15th Training Battalion at Hurdcott. He was admitted to Military Hospital at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 13th April, 1917 with mumps & discharged to Depot on 28th April, 1917.

Private Francis Bernard Duke proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 14th May, 1917 from 15th Training Battalion. He was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 15th May, 1917. Pte Duke was marched out to his Unit from Havre, France on 28th May, 1917 & was taken on strength of 59th Battalion in France on 30th May, 1917.

Private Francis Bernard Duke was wounded in action in France on 26th September, 1917. He was admitted to 6th Australian Field Ambulance on 26th September, 1917 with gunshot wounds to right thigh then transferred to 2nd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Pte Duke was transferred to Ambulance Train & admitted to 18th General Hospital at Camiers, France on 27th September, 1917 with gunshot wounds to right thigh. Pte Duke embarked for England on Hospital Ship Newhaven on 20th October, 1917 with gunshot wounds to right thigh & Acute Nephritis.

War Diary – 59th Battalion

BLACK WATCH CORNER – 26th & 27th September, 1917

5.50 am – Battalion attacked German positions in POLYGON WOOD – Zero hour being 5.50 am. The Barrage was put down at 5.50 am and at 5.53 the Battalion advanced and captured its first objective in quick time. Owing to the troops on our right failing to come up our right flank had to fall back a little and it was here the major portion of our casualties were suffered. Two Battalions of the 8th Australian Infantry Brigade then pushed through our line and after stiff fighting the second objective was mostly taken and ___ secured with the 14th Australian Infantry Brigade on our left and British Troops who afterward came up on right. Small local counter attacks were easily repulsed. Colonel

Mason's report is attached as an appendix and covers the operations for 26th 27th until the evening of the 27th/28th when the Battalion was relieved by the 29th Bn A.I.F.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Francis Bernard Duke was admitted to Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich, England on 20th October, 1917 with Nephritis. His condition was reported as dangerous.



Private Francis Bernard Duke died at 5.45 pm on 2nd November, 1917 at Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich, Norfolk, England from Acute Nephritis & Uraemia.

A death for Francis Duke, aged 22, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Norwich, Norfolk, England.

Private Francis Bernard Duke was buried at 12 noon on 6th November, 1917 in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England – Plot number 54. 719 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Francis Bernard Duke - *Coffin was oak & good condition. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military Funeral. Gun Carriage, 6 Bearers and Bugler were supplied by the Norfolk Depot, comprising men from Norfolk, Essex and Middlesex Regiment. Mr Didgson (cousin of deceased) was present at the graveside and placed a wreath from self and cousins on coffin. The "Last Post" was sounded by a Bugler of Norfolk Regiment. An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Relatives and friends present at the funeral - Mr W. D. Dodgson, 68 Malvern Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Newspaper item - Bairnsdale Advertiser and Tambo and Omeo Chronicle, Victoria – 10 November, 1917:

Mr and Mrs Robt. Duke, of East Bairnsdale, have received the sad intelligence, - through the Rev. Father Cremin, of the death of their younger son, Pte. Frank J. Duke, in England. The deceased soldier had been on active service for a considerable time. He was reported to be seriously ill last week, and he passed away on Saturday last. The late Pte. Duke was a member of the Bairnsdale Rowing Club and was well-known amongst a large circle of friends, whose sympathy will be extended to the bereaved parents and relatives in their time of sorrow.

Private Francis Bernard Duke requested in his Will, dated 19th September, 1917, that all his personal estate be bequeathed to his mother – Sarah Jane Duke, East Bairnsdale, Victoria.

Private Francis Bernard Duke was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Duke's father – Mr R. Duke, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent October, 1922).

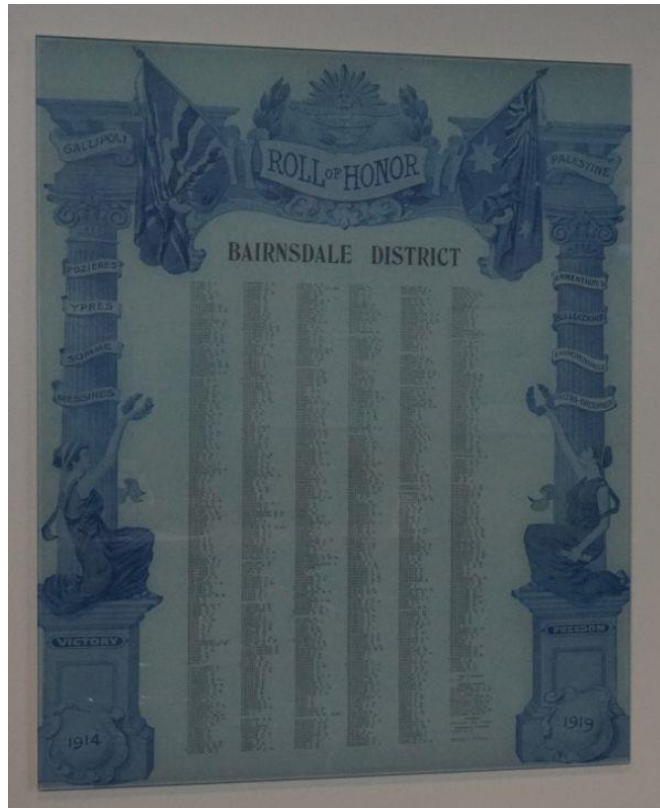
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private F. B. Duke – service number 3275, aged 23, of 59th Battalion, Australian Infantry. No family details are listed.

Private F. B. Duke is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 167.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

F. B. Duke is remembered on the Bairnsdale District Roll of Honour, located in Bairnsdale R.S.L. Club, 2 Forge Creek Road, Bairnsdale, Victoria.



Bairnsdale District Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Chris McLaughlin)

F. B. Duke is remembered on the Shire of Bairnsdale Roll of Honour, located in East Gippsland Historical Society Museum, 40 Macarthur Street, Bairnsdale, Victoria.



Shire of Bairnsdale Roll of Honour (Photos from Monument Australia – Chris McLaughlin)



F. B. Duke is remembered as a member of Victorian Rowing Clubs who served in The Great War, having rowed in the Maiden Eight in 1915. He would also be remembered on the Bairnsdale Rowing Club Honour Roll, located in East Gippsland Historical Society Museum, 40 Macarthur Street, Bairnsdale, Victoria.

From *Bairnsdale Advertiser and Tambo and Omeo Chronicle*, Victoria – 3 March, 1915:

ROWING

The following crews have been chosen to represent the Bairnsdale Rowing Club at the Bairnsdale and Sale regattas, to be held on Easter Saturday and Easter Monday; April 3 and 5:

.....

Maiden Eight – S. Sibbin, C. King, C. Sharrow, J. Deam, A. Boyd, F. Duke, J. Hamilton, P. King (stroke).

(51 pages of Pte Francis Bernard Duke'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



Private Francis Bernard Duke

Newspaper Notices

THE ROLL OF HONOUR CASUALTY LIST NO. 346

WOUNDED

Francis Bernard Duke, Bairnsdale, V. (wounded)

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 29 October, 1917)

DEATHS

On Active Service

DUKE – On the 2nd November at Norwich Hospital, London, Pte Francis Bernard Duke, youngest son of Robert and Jane Duke, and loved brother of Alice, Robert and Mary, of "Noble View", East Bairnsdale.

Lord! Have mercy on his soul.

(Every Week, Bairnsdale, Victoria – 15 November, 1917) & (The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 17 November, 1917)

Bairnsdale Honor Roll

820 NAMES

Following is a complete list of the names to be inscribed on the Bairnsdale shire honor roll, as revised and corrected to date:-

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Duke, F. B.

(Bairnsdale Advertiser and Tambo and Omeo Chronicle, Victoria – 17 November, 1917)

THE 371st and 372nd CASUALTY LISTS

DIED OF ILLNESS

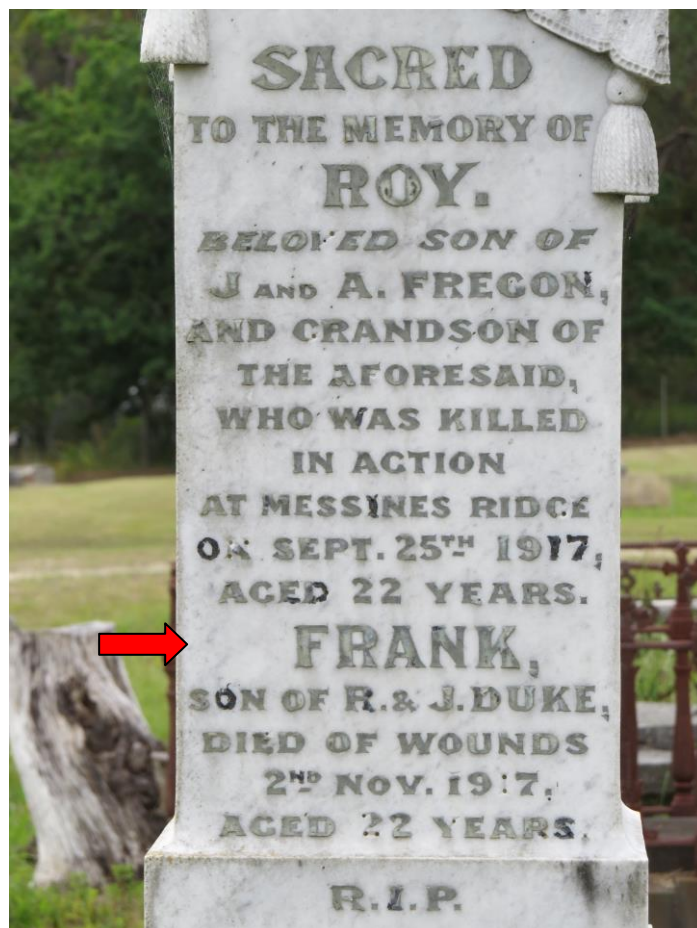
Private F. B. Duke, Bairnsdale

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 22 December, 1917)

“Frank” (Francis Bernard) Duke is remembered on the headstone of his grandparents – Christopher & Bridget Hopner in Bruthen New Cemetery, Bruthen, Victoria.



Bruthen New Cemetery *(Photos by Rebecca McIntosh – Find a Grave)*



FRANK

Son of R. & J. Duke

Died of Wounds

2ND Nov. 1917

Aged 22 Years

R.I.P.

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 R. Duke, East Bairnsdale, Victoria, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late Pte F. B. Duke, 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 F. B. Duke does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

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Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich contains 533 Commonwealth War Graves.

The cemetery was laid out in 1856 and casualties of the South African War were buried in the oldest part. Nearly half of the 1914-1918 burials are to be found in two military plots; one in the North-Eastern part and the other in the Western part of the burial ground. Ground immediately adjoining the latter was reserved for service burials of the 1939-1945 War and is now combined with it to form the 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 War Graves Plot. The Cross of Sacrifice, which honours the servicemen of both Wars who are buried in the cemetery, stands in the plot, and carved upon two of the panels of its base are the dates 1914-1918 and 1939-1945. There are now nearly 350, 1914-1918 and nearly 200, 1939-1945 war casualties commemorated in this site. In addition, a special memorial is erected to one soldier buried among civilian air raid victims in a grave on which it was not possible to erect a headstone.

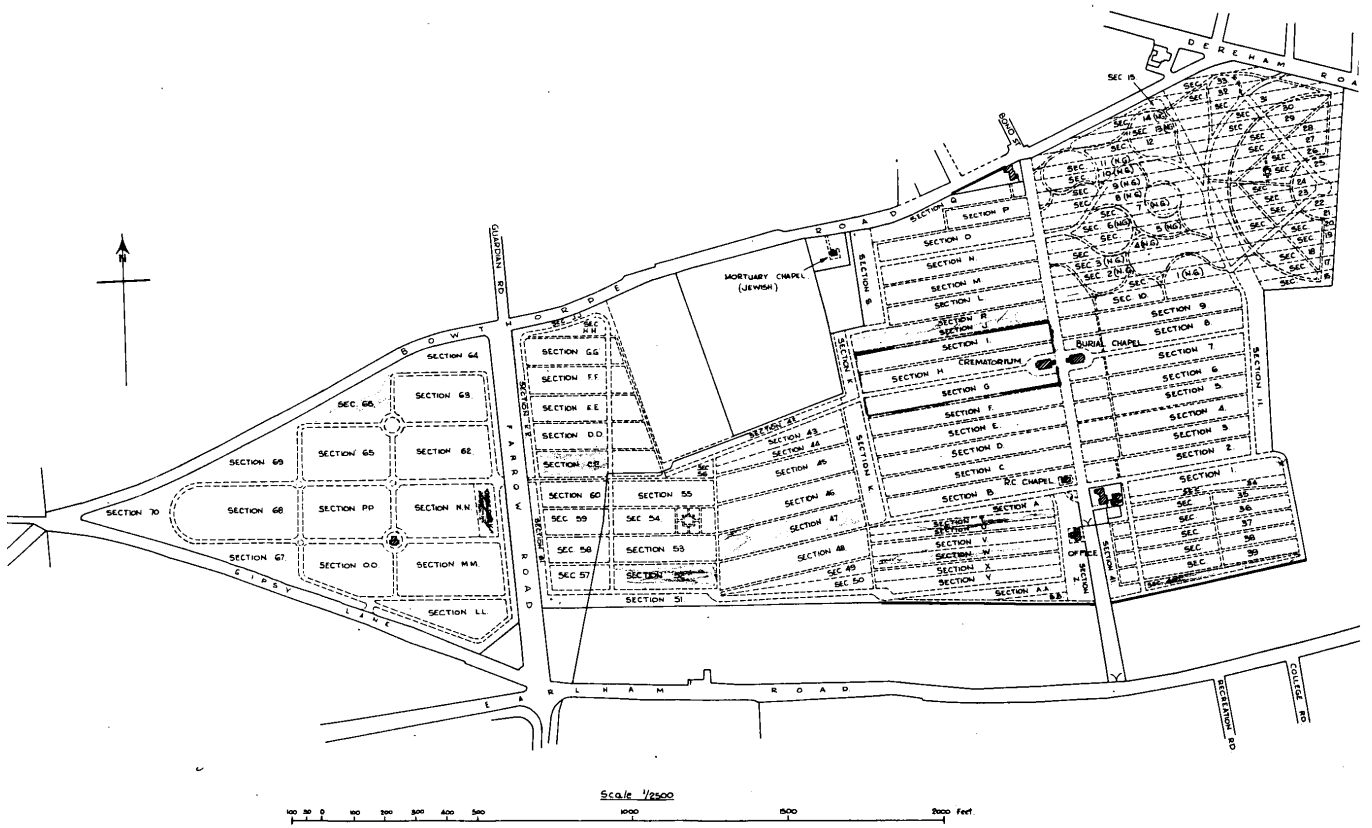
(Information & photo from CWGC)



Photo of Private F. B. Duke's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England.



(Photo by Jennifer Hart – Find a Grave)



Map of Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

