

**St. James Churchyard Cemetery,
Dover, Kent
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



5588 PRIVATE

H. L. DUNSTAN

21ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

10TH APRIL, 1917 Age 29

In Jesu's Keeping Beloved

Whom I Have Loved Long Since

& Lost Awhile

Herbert Leslie DUNSTAN

Herbert Leslie Dunstan was born at Donald, near Mildura, Victoria in 1887 to parents William & Catherine Dunstan (nee Harris).

Herbert Leslie Dunstan attended school at Donald, Victoria.

The 1912 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Wimmera, subdivision of Donald East, Victoria recorded Herbert Leslie Dunstan, Labourer from Banyenong.

The 1914, 1915 & 1916 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Wimmera, subdivision of Donald East, Victoria recorded Herbert Leslie Dunstan, Farmer from Laen North.

Herbert Leslie Dunstan married May Lillian Beacham in Victoria in 1916.

Herbert Leslie Dunstan was a 28 year old, single, Contractor (Farmer) from Donald, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne on 25th March, 1916 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 21st Infantry Battalion, 15th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5588 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was originally listed as his father – Mr William Dunstan of Donald, Victoria then after his marriage his next-of-kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Lillian May Dunstan c/o Mrs Marsham, Glyndon Avenue, Brighton, Victoria. Herbert's younger brother – Frederick James Dunstan also enlisted the same day. He was given a service number of 5587.

Private Herbert Leslie Dunstan was posted to "C" Company of 22nd Depot Battalion at Royal Park on 15th April, 1916. He was transferred to "D" Company of 22nd Depot Battalion at Royal Park on 26th April, 1916. Pte Herbert Dunstan was transferred to 14th Reinforcements of 21st Depot Battalion at Royal Park on 26th May, 1916. He was transferred to Ascot Cow Hospital in 3rd June, 1916 then transferred back to 14th Reinforcements of 21st Depot Battalion at Royal Park on 6th June, 1916.

The 1917 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Melbourne, subdivision of Parkville, Victoria listed Herbert Leslie Dunstan and his brother Frederick James Dunstan, Soldiers at Military Camp, Royal Park.

Private Herbert Leslie Dunstan and his brother Private Frederick James Dunstan both embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Shropshire* (A9) on 25th September, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 10th November, 1916.

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 Herbert Leslie Dunstan proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 13th December, 1916 from 6th Training Battalion on *Princess Henrietta*.

Private Herbert Leslie Dunstan was marched into the 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples on 14th December, 1916. Pte Dunstan was marched out to join his Unit on 17th January, 1917 & joined his Battalion in France on 17th January, 1917.

Private Herbert Leslie Dunstan was sent to hospital sick on 20th January, 1917. He was admitted to Anzac C.R.S. then transferred to 6th Australian Field Ambulance. From there he was transferred to 2 D.R.S. on 28th January, 1917 with Influenza then transferred from 7th Australian Field Ambulance & discharged to duty on 31st January, 1917.

Private Herbert Leslie Dunstan was wounded in action in France on 12th February, 1917. He was admitted to Casualty Clearing Station on 13th February, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to right leg & left foot. Pte Dunstan was transferred by Ambulance Train & admitted to 4th General Hospital at Etaples, France on 16th February, 1917. He was invalided to England from Calais on 16th March, 1917 on Hospital Ship *Stad Antwerpen*.

War Diary – 21st Battalion

In the Trenches – 9th February, 1917 – 3.30 pm Situation normal. Our heavies doing good shooting on Butte De Warlencourt. 2/Lt. Agnew reported for duty.

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In the Trenches – 12th February, 1917 – 6.30 pm Front line heavily bombarded by enemy artillery. Lt Reynolds & 2 OR to 6th Training Bn.

Casualties 1 killed 10 wounded.

(Information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Herbert Leslie Dunstan was admitted to Military Hospital, Dover, Kent, England on 16th March, 1917 seriously ill after gunshot wounds to left foot (amputated) & right leg.

Private Herbert Leslie Dunstan died at 4.45 am on 10th April, 1917 at Military Hospital, Dover, Kent, England from wounds received in action in France - gunshot wounds to left foot (amputated) & right leg

A death for Herbert L. Dunstan, aged 29, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Dover, Kent, England.

Private Herbert Leslie Dunstan was buried on 14th April, 1917 in St. James Churchyard Cemetery, Dover, Kent, England – Plot number M. L. 7 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. Arrangements were made for the Funeral of the late Private Herbert Leslie Dunstan to leave the Hospital at 2 pm & he was accorded a Military Funeral.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Herbert Leslie Dunstan contains a request from the Red Cross on behalf of the relatives in Australia to obtain the fullest details possible of the wounds, death & burial of Pte H. L. Dunstan. A letter dated 5th April, 1917 reads: *“Dunstan, H. L., 5588 – admitted Dover Military Hpl 16-3-17 – G.S.W. L. Foot, arm, R. leg seriously ill. Had amputation of left leg below knee before admission & numerous shrapnel wounds on right leg, all wounds very septic. Is not so delirious but is still semi-conscious. Is gradually getting weaker will probably die in about 7 days.”*

Another letter was written by The Matron, Military Hospital, Dover on 2nd May, 1917 which reads: *“ He died in this hospital on the 16.3.17. The sister who had charge of the case wrote to Australia to I understood his wife, but Pte Dunstan was never conscious or in anyway knew anyone or anything whilst he was here. He died quite peacefully, just passed away and he had a Military funeral of course. Everything possible was done for him but of no avail, probably all his letters and valuables will have been sent to his Headquarters of transmission home. I enclose a letter from the Sister who was with him when he died that could be sent on to his wife.”*

The Red Cross also had enquiries for photographs of the grave of the late Private Herbert Leslie Dunstan. Base Records advised them that a photograph was sent to the registered next-of-kin, through the Department of Defence, Melbourne on 10th April, 1918 and a duplicate sent through the same channel by a subsequent mail. Mrs Lillian Dunstan, widow of the late Private Herbert Leslie Dunstan sent a letter to Base Records on 25th August, 1918 stating that she had safely received the photo of the grave of her late husband.

A War Pension was granted to Lillian Mary Dunstan, of 71 Royal Parade, Parkville, widow of the late Private Herbert Leslie Dunstan, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 13th June, 1917.

Pte Herbert Leslie Dunstan was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Dunstan's widow - Mrs Lillian Dunstan, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent May, 1922).

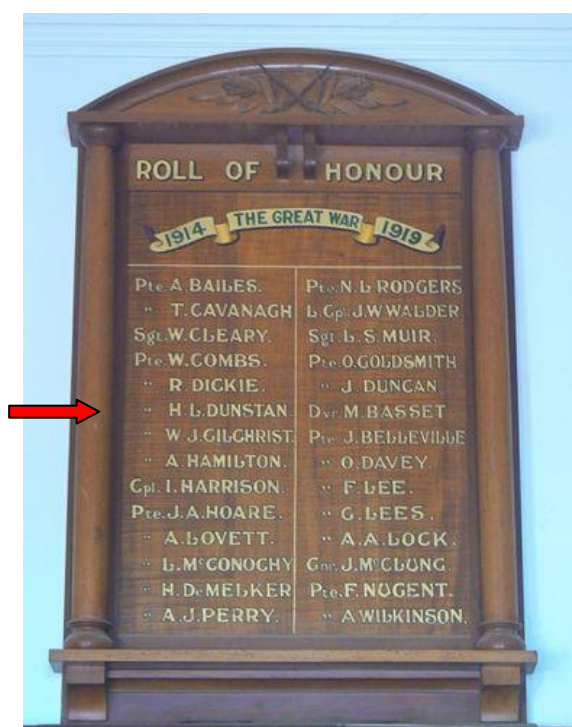
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Herbert Leslie Dunstan – service number 5588, aged 29, of 21st Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of William and Catherine Dunstan; husband of Lillian M. Dunstan, of 2 Noel St., Ivanhoe, Victoria, Australia. Native of Donald, Victoria.

Private H. L. Dunstan is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 93.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

H. L. Dunstan is remembered on one of two Donald Shire Office Roll of Honour Boards located in the Shire Offices, Houston & McCulloch Streets, Donald, Victoria.



Donald Shire Office Roll of Honour Board (Photo from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Chris McLaughlin)

H. L. Dunstan is remembered on The Donald War Memorial, located in Donald Park, Houston & Campbell Streets, Donald, Victoria.



Donald War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia – Kent Watson)

(71 pages of Pte Herbert Leslie Dunstan's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

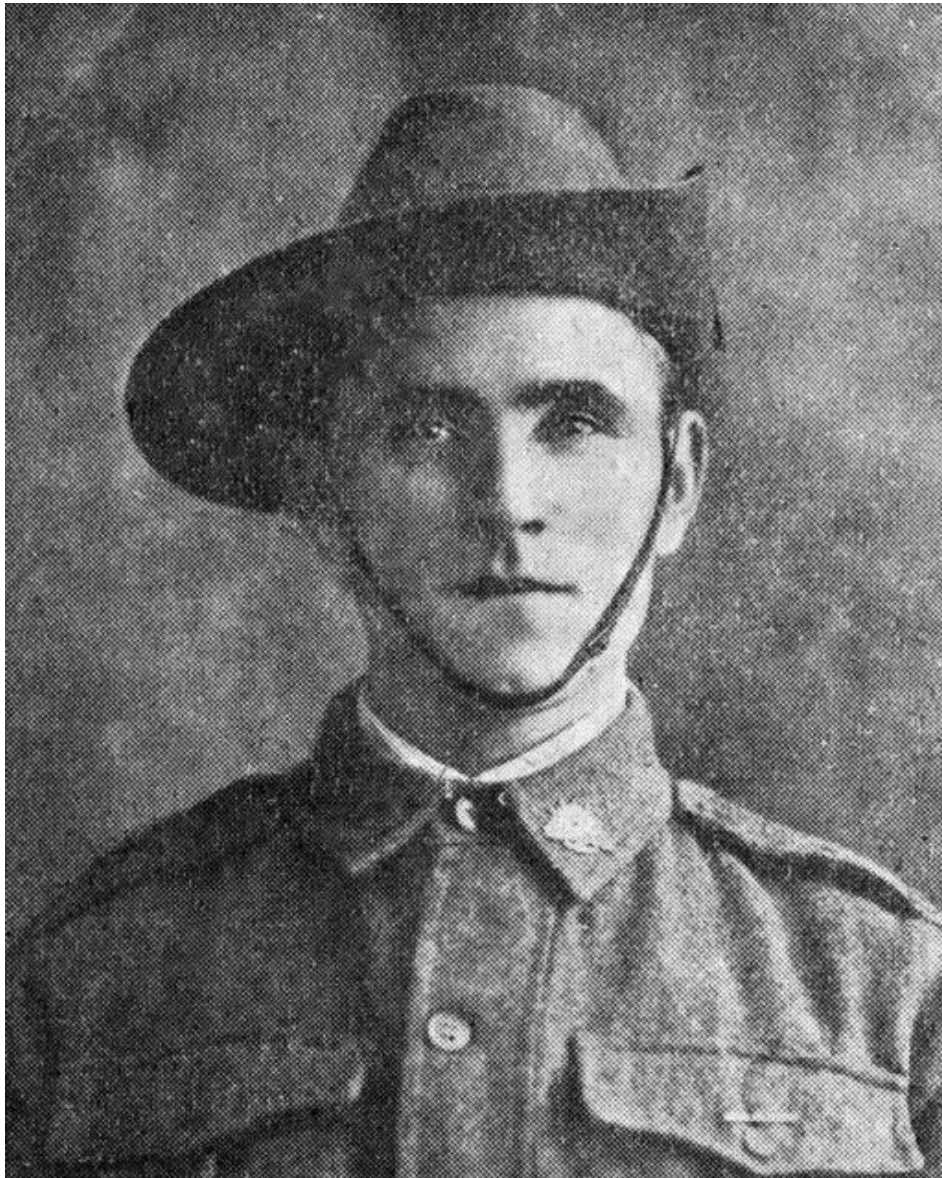
Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



[Connected to Private Herbert Leslie Dunstan:](#)

Younger Brother Private Frederick James Dunstan – 5587. Enlisted 25th March, 21st Battalion. Wounded in action 12th February, 1917 (gunshot wounds to both feet). Left England for return to Australia on 21st December, 1918 and disembarked at Melbourne on 4th February, 1919. Medically discharged on 14th March, 1919. He was entitled to British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

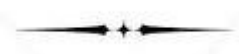




AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P08261.013

Private Herbert Leslie Dunstan



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES LIST NO. 284

WOUNDED

Victoria

H. L. Dunstan, Brighton

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 31 March, 1917)

DIED ON SERVICE

DUNSTAN – On the 10th April, at Dover Military Hospital, of gunshot wounds, Private Herbert Leslie Dunstan, of Donald, dearly loved husband of Lillian May Dunstan, aged 29 years.

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 17 April, 1917) & (The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria – 21 April, 1917)

THE 289th CASUALTY LIST

The Victorian names are:

DIED OF WOUNDS

Private H. L. Dunstan, Brighton

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 25 April, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

DUNSTAN – In memory of my husband, Herbert Leslie Dunstan, who died of wounds at Military Hospital, Dover, on 10th April, 1917.

He died for his country.

- (Inserted by his loving wife, Lillian M. Dunstan)

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 10 April, 1918)

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)

Pte does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Jesu's Keeping Beloved Whom I Have Loved Long Since & Lost Awhile

St. James Churchyard Cemetery, Dover, Kent, England

St. James Churchyard Cemetery, Dover contains 719 identified casualties. There are 8 Australian servicemen from World War 1 buried here – 7 Australian Imperial Force soldiers & 1 Royal Flying Corps.

During the First World War, Dover was a port of embarkation for troops bound for the Western Front and between August 1914 and August 1919 some 1,300,000 Commonwealth sick and wounded were landed there. The port was bombed in 1915 and again in August 1916.

There are 373 identified burials of the 1914-1918 war here. In addition there are 19 unidentified burials, 9 of whom can be named as victims of the Zeebrugge Raid, and these 9 are inscribed on a Special Memorial on the Cross of Sacrifice in the Zeebrugge Plot.

In 1940, Dover was the headquarters for the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk and nearly 200,000 of the 366,000 British and Allied troops brought back during the operation were landed there. Throughout the war Dover was a particular target for the long range guns on the French coast and between September 1939 and May 1945 there were no less than 742 attacks by air raid and shelling.

Most of the 356 Second World War burials are contained in a special war graves plot at the far end of the cemetery. The plot, known as the Dunkirk plot, contains many graves from the Dunkirk operation. 22 of these burials are unidentified. There are also 8 Foreign National war burials and 3 non war service burials in the cemetery.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Photo of Pte H. L. Dunstan's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. James' Churchyard Cemetery, Dover, Kent, England.



(Photo courtesy of Kyle Tallett)



St. James Churchyard Cemetery, Dover