

**Bulford Church Cemetery,
Wiltshire, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1240 DRIVER

J. J. DWYER

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

28TH JUNE, 1916

Beloved Son

Of W. A. Dwyer

Of Mullaley, New S. Wales

R.I.P.

Jeremiah James DWYER

Jeremiah James Dwyer was born at Lochinvar, near Maitland, New South Wales in 1889 to parents William Augustine & Margaret Agnes Dwyer. His birth was registered in the district of West Maitland, NSW.

Jeremiah Dwyer attended Melville House School.

Jeremiah Dwyer stated he was aged 25 years & 11 months, single, and a Stockman from Maitland, NSW when he enlisted at Longreach, Queensland on 16th December, 1914 with the 1st Light Horse Brigade, 2nd Light Horse Regiment, 5th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 937 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – William Dwyer of Melville, Mullaley, NSW.

Private Jeremiah James Dwyer, service number 937, embarked from Newcastle on HMAT *Malakuta* (A57) on 22nd May, 1915 but disembarked at Albany sick in June, 1915. Private Dwyer returned to Enoggera Camp, Brisbane, Queensland at the end of June, 1915.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

C02474

The 2nd Australian Light Horse Regiment, returning from a route march near Enoggera, Queensland (September 1914)

Jeremiah Dwyer stated he was aged 26 years & 8 months, single, and a Drover from Melville, Mullaley, NSW when he enlisted at Sea on 30th September, 1915, with the 1st Light Horse Brigade, 2nd Light Horse Regiment, 9th Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). He was given a new service number of 1240. His next of kin was listed as his father – William Dwyer of Melville, Mullaley, NSW.

Private Jeremiah James Dwyer, service number 1240, embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Ayrshire* (A33) on 1st September, 1915 & disembarked at Cairo, Egypt on 12th September, 1915

Private Jeremiah Dwyer was admitted to 4th Auxiliary Hospital, Abbassia on 24th November, 1915 & was treated for Mumps. He was discharged 12th December, 1915.

Pte Private Jeremiah Dwyer was absorbed into 2nd Light Horse & appointed Driver on 29th December, 1915 while at Heliopolis, Egypt.

Private Dwyer was sent to the Front on 14th January, 1916.

Private J. J. Dwyer was admitted to 3rd Australian General Hospital, Cairo with a mild illness - Pyrexia on 14th April, 1916. Communication was sent to his father on 24th April, 1916. Private Dwyer was discharged to Details at Cairo on 26th April, 1916.

Driver Jeremiah Dwyer was appointed Gunner on 25th May, 1916 due to his transfer Australian Artillery Depot. He embarked from Alexandria for England with the Artillery Training Depot per H. S. *Corsican* on 28th May, 1916. Gunner Dwyer embarked at Plymouth on 12th June, 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.

Driver Jeremiah James Dwyer died at around 2.50 p.m. on 28th June, 1916, while on Drill, from Acute Dilation of the Heart.

A **Court of Inquiry** was held at No. 9 Camp, Bulford on 29th June, 1916 by order of the Officer Commanding No. 3 T. F. Artillery Training School for the purpose of investigating the circumstances of the death of No. 1240, Gunner J. J. Dwyer, No. 1 Battery, Australian Field Artillery.

1st Witness: 2/Lt. J. Hawkins, R.F.A. having been sworn states:

Yesterday afternoon 28th June 1916 I was on the football field of No. 9 Camp, Bulford, watching a squad of Australian Field Artillery doing Physical Training.

When I first saw the squad they were doing arm and neck exercise. They then stood at ease for a few minutes, and then they ran round a goal post about 25 yards from the place on which they had been drilling.

The deceased man ran with the rest of the squad, round the goal post, and when half way back to the starting point, I saw him fall to the ground. This was about 2.45 p.m. I went over to the deceased, and he appeared to be in a fit, and I at once sent for the Medical Officer, who arrived within 7 to 10 minutes time.

(Sgd) J. Hawkins, 2/Lieut.

2nd Witness: Sergeant Instructor E. L. Bingham, Army Gymnastics Staff, having been sworn, states:

I am attached to No. 3 T. F. Artillery Training School, as Physical Drill Instructor.

On the 28th June, 1916, I, at 1.55 p.m. took charge of a squad of Australian Filed Artillery, of whom the deceased was one. These men had been under my instruction for about a week, and they were being exercised under No. Table, for recruits.

At about 2.45 p.m. when the drill was just about to close. I ordered the squad to double to thin clothing, round the goal post, a total distance of about 50 yards. When nearing the clothing, the deceased who was near the rear of the squad fell to the ground. I went up to him and found he was unconscious. The deceased did not complain to me that he felt unable to carry out the exercises, and I had never noticed any weakness on his part. He looked as healthy as the rest of the squad.

*(Sgd) E. L. Bingham,
Sgt. Instr. Army Gymnastic Staff.*

3rd Witness: Lieut. R. H. Shepard, R.A.M.C., being sworn, states:

I am attached to No. 8 Artillery School. About 3 p.m. on the 28th June, 1916, I was brought to the football field, No. 9 Camp to see the deceased.

I found him lying on the grass near the road. I examined him and found that he was dead. He had probably died 5 or 10 minutes prior to my arrival. In my opinion the cause of death was acute dilation of the heart. He was a healthy looking man. There were no marks of injury upon him.

*(Sgd) R. H. Shepard,
Lieut. R.A.M.C.*

4th Witness: Sergeant R. O. Harris, No. 1 Battery Training Depot, Australian Field Artillery, having been sworn, states:

The deceased belonged to the sub-section under my command. I had commanded it for about a fortnight. The deceased occupied the same hut as I did, and I was constantly with him. He never went on sick parade, nor complained to me that he felt unwell, but I believe he was suffering from a cold, as was the case with the rest of us. I have often seen him after he has been running, and he has never appeared distressed. I saw the deceased fall down, and I went up to him. I tried artificial respiration, but without success.

(Sgd) R. O. Harris.

5th Witness:

No. 2036, Gunner F. T. M. Hanniffy, No. 1 Battery, Australian Field Artillery, having been sworn, states:

The deceased was in the same squad with me ever since our arrival in England, about a fortnight ago. He had never complained to me of being unwell. I was drilling alongside him during the exercise on the afternoon of the 28th June: he made no complaint, and showed no signs of distress, until he was taken ill.

(Sgd) F. T. M. Hanniffy

The Court having considered the above evidence are of opinion that the deceased, No. 1240, Gunner J. J. Dwyer, died from natural causes, and that no blame attaches to anyone, in connection with his death.

A death for Jeremiah J. Dwyer, aged 23, was registered in the June quarter, 1916 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Mr William Dwyer, father of late Driver Jeremiah James Dwyer was not officially advised of his son's death. He was advised by his son via telegram "*Jim died twentyeighth instant heart trouble. Dwyer Salisbury*". Mr William Dwyer wrote to Base Records on 10th July, 1916 enquiring as to why he had not been officially advised.

Driver Jeremiah James Dwyer was buried on 1st July, 1916 in Bulford Church Cemetery, Wiltshire - Grave No. 26 Australian Reserve Section (CWGC Plot number 4.2.5.) and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Driver J. J. Dwyer is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 3.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Driver Jeremiah James Dwyer was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Driver J. J. Dwyer's father – Mr W. Dwyer (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922). The Memorial Plaque was returned unclaimed – sent to Mr W. Dwyer, Melville Station, Mullaley, NSW but records show that it was redirected in October, 1922.

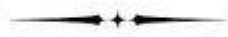
Several letters were written by Mr W. Dwyer, father of late Driver Dwyer & Mrs M. Holohan, married sister of late Driver Dwyer, regarding the whereabouts of Driver Dwyer's personal effects. Some letters were sent as long as nearly two years after Driver Dwyer's death still trying to obtain an answer. Mr W. Dwyer did receive a photo of his late son's grave & thanked Base Records in a letter dated 1st November, 1918.

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The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Driver Jeremiah James Dwyer – service number 1240 as having served with Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of William Augustine Dwyer and Margaret Agnes Dwyer, of Melville, Mullaley, New South Wales.

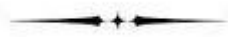
(99 pages of Driver Jeremiah James Dwyer's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

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



****Connected to Driver Jeremiah James Dwyer**

Lieutenant William Melville Dwyer served with 33rd Battalion in World War 1 & also served in World War 2.



Newspaper Notices

LOCAL AND GENERAL

Trooper Dwyer, eldest son of Mr Wm. A. Dwyer, of Melville, Mullaley, has died at Salisbury training camp in England.

(The North Western Courier, Narrabri, NSW – Wednesday 6 September, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

DWYER - Of our charity pray for the repose of the soul of Jeremiah James Dwyer, A. I. Force, late of Melville, Mullaley, who died on June 28, 1916, at Salisbury, England, aged 28 years.— R.I.P. Inserted by his loving father, sisters and brothers.

(The Catholic Press, Sydney, NSW – Thursday 21 June 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 in Bulford Church Cemetery. 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)

Driver J. J. Dwyer does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Beloved Son
Of W. A. Dwyer
Of Mullaley, New S. Wales
R.I.P.*

Photo of J. J. Dwyer's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at Bulford Church Cemetery, Wiltshire.

(NOTE: The headstone has the incorrect date of death – should be 28th June, 1916. CWGC were advised at time of researching of the error)

****UPDATE: 2021 – CWGC were contacted to find the progress of the amendment to the Headstone. A photo was sent showing correct date on headstone. (see below)**



(Photo courtesy of Andrea Charlesworth 2012)

Amended Headstone photo for Driver J. J. Dwyer:



(Photo courtesy of CWGC – 2021)



Bulford Church Cemetery (Photos courtesy of Andrea Charlesworth 2012)

