

**Welford Road Cemetery,
Leicester, Leicestershire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



115 PRIVATE

F. C. J. DYER

21ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

25TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 27

Frederick Charles James DYER

Frederick Charles James Dyer was born in 1890 at Seymour Victoria to parents Thomas George and Elizabeth Dyer (nee Sutherland).

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Echuca, subdivision of Shepparton, Victoria listed Frederick Charles Dyer, Labourer, of Marungi Street, Shepparton. Also listed at Marungi Street – Elizabeth Dyer, Home duties, Olive Isabel Dyer, Home Duties, Thomas George Dyer Sen., Labourer & Thomas George Dyer jun., Labourer.

The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Echuca, subdivision of Shepparton, Victoria listed Frederick Charles Dyer, Labourer, of Marungi Street, Shepparton.

Frederick Charles Dyer was a 25 year old, single, Labourer from Marungi Street, Shepparton, Victoria when he enlisted on 27th March, 1915 at Shepparton with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 115 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father - Thomas Dyer of Marungi Street, Shepparton.

Private Frederick Charles James Dyer was posted to 21st Battalion on 27th March, 1915 for recruit training.

Private Frederick Charles Dyer embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ulysses* (A38) on 10th May, 1915 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 21st Infantry Battalion "A" Company.

Private Frederick Charles Dyer disembarked at Alexandria on 27th December, 1915 from *Winnifredian* ex Mudros.

Private Frederick Charles James Dyer was written up for a Crime on 14th March, 1916 – Breaking out of Camp at 06.00 on 10th March, 1916 & remaining absent till 14.00 on 11th March, 1916. He was awarded 72 hours Field Punishment No 2.

Private Frederick Charles Dyer proceeded to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 19th March, 1916. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 26th March, 1916.

Private Frederick Charles James Dyer was written up for a Crime on 15th May, 1916 – Disobeying orders of Military Police & found in an Estaminet during prohibited hours on 14th May, 1916. He was awarded 21 days Field Punishment No. 2.

Private Frederick Charles James Dyer "*took part in a raid on enemy's trenches on night of 29-30th June, 1916.*"

Private Frederick Charles James Dyer was wounded in action in France on 4th August, 1916. He was admitted to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station on 4th August, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wounds to head). Private Dyer was transferred & admitted to 26th General Hospital at Etaples, France on 20th August, 1916 with G.S.W. to chest. He was reported as seriously ill on 24th August, 1916. Private Dyer was transferred to England from Calais on 10th September, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Stad Antwerpen*.

Base Records advised Mr T. Dyer, father of Private Frederick C. J. Dyer, on 30th August, 1916 that his son – Private Frederick C. J. Dyer was seriously ill with gunshot wound to chest.

21st Battalion

The 21st Battalion was raised, as part of the 6th Brigade, at Broadmeadows in Victoria in February 1915. Its recruits hailed from all over the state. The later enlistment of these men, and their average age of 29, would seem to indicate a more considered decision to enlist that set them apart from those who did so amidst the heady enthusiasm of late 1914.

The 21st Battalion arrived in Egypt in June 1915. As part of the newly raised 2nd Australian Division, it proceeded to Gallipoli in late August. It was an eventful trip, the battalion's transport was torpedoed near the island of Lemnos and

had to be abandoned. The battalion finally landed at ANZAC Cove on 7 September. It had a relatively quiet time at Gallipoli, as the last major Allied offensives had been defeated in August.

After evacuation from Gallipoli in December 1915, the 21st Battalion arrived in France in March 1916. In April, it was the first Australian battalion to commence active operations on the Western Front. During the battle of Pozieres it was engaged mainly on carrying duties, but suffered its heaviest casualties of the war during the fighting around Mouquet Farm.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 21st Battalion

Sausage Valley – 4th August, 1916:

Capt Crowther attached to Division for temporary duty.

Lt Boothman, Adjutant to ANZAC for temporary duty.

Battalion engaged in carrying duties between CHALK PIT to FRONT LINE.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Frederick Charles James Dyer was admitted to North Evington War/ Military Hospital, Leicester, England on 10th September, 1916 with bullet wounds to chest.

Base Records advised Mr T. Dyer, father of Private Frederick C. J. Dyer, on 6th October, 1916 & again on 18th October, 1916 that his son - Private Frederick C. Dyer's condition was still stationary. Mr Dyer was advised again on 6th November, 1916 that Private F. C. J. Dyer's condition was improving. My Dyer was advised on 9th January, 1917 & again on 5th February, 1917 this his son's condition was still improving.

Private Frederick Charles James Dyer died on 25th February, 1917 at North Evington War Hospital, Leicester, Leicestershire, England from wounds received in action in France – gunshot wound to chest.

A death for Frederick C. J. Dyer, aged 26, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Billesdon, Leicestershire, England.

Private Frederick Charles James Dyer was buried at 10.45 am on 28th February, 1917 in Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester, Leicestershire, England – Memorial Reference – Screen Wall 01.206. He has no headstone but his death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. From the burial report of Private Frederick Charles Dyer - *Coffin was polished black elm with brass fittings. He was accorded a Military Funeral. All arrangements in connection with the funeral were carried out. On the coffin were a number of wreaths including a few Wattle Blossom Wreaths. A number of Australian Soldiers marched to the grave.*

Newspaper item – Shepparton News, Victoria – 21 May, 1917:

PTE F. C. J. DYER

ACCORDED A MILITARY FUNERAL

The following newspaper extract was forwarded from the trenches in France for the express purpose of having it reproduced in the columns of this journal: -"Private F. C. J. Dyer, who died at the North Evington Military hospital, Leicester, on February 25th, was accorded a funeral with military honors. Amongst those who attended the funeral were Capt. Payne (medical officer North Evington), Warrant Officer D. C. M'Grath, M.P., of the A.I.F. H.Q. (representing the Commonwealth forces), Mr D. Michael (Australian Representative), two nurses from the ward at North Evington, six wounded soldiers (including five Australians who are at the Base Hospital) The bearers were Sergeant Maddocks, and Privates Brown, Lock, H. Barker, E. G. Barker, Bawn, and T. Tilley (R.A.M.C. men stationed in Leicester). A firing party from Glen Parva Barracks fired three volleys, and the Last Post was sounded by

Bugler Brewin, of the Base Hospital. The funeral tributes included wreaths from the " Boys in Ward I," North Evington ; from " Some Australian Sympathisers," and Mr and Mrs Michael. Private Dyer's parents formerly resided at Murchison, Victoria, but are now residents of Shepparton, in the same State."

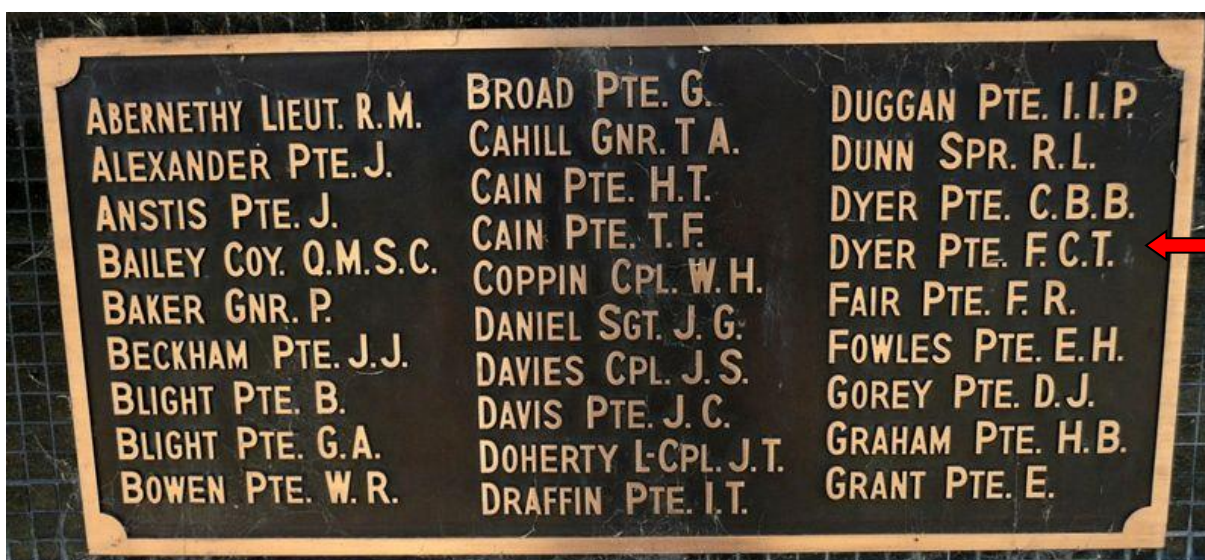
Private Frederick Charles James Dyer was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Dyer's father – Mr T. Dyer, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 (it was returned & readdressed in November, 1921) & Plaque sent May, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Frederick Charles James Dyer – service number 115, aged 27, of 21st Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Thomas George and Elizabeth Dyer, of 24 Glass St., Essendon, Victoria, Australia.

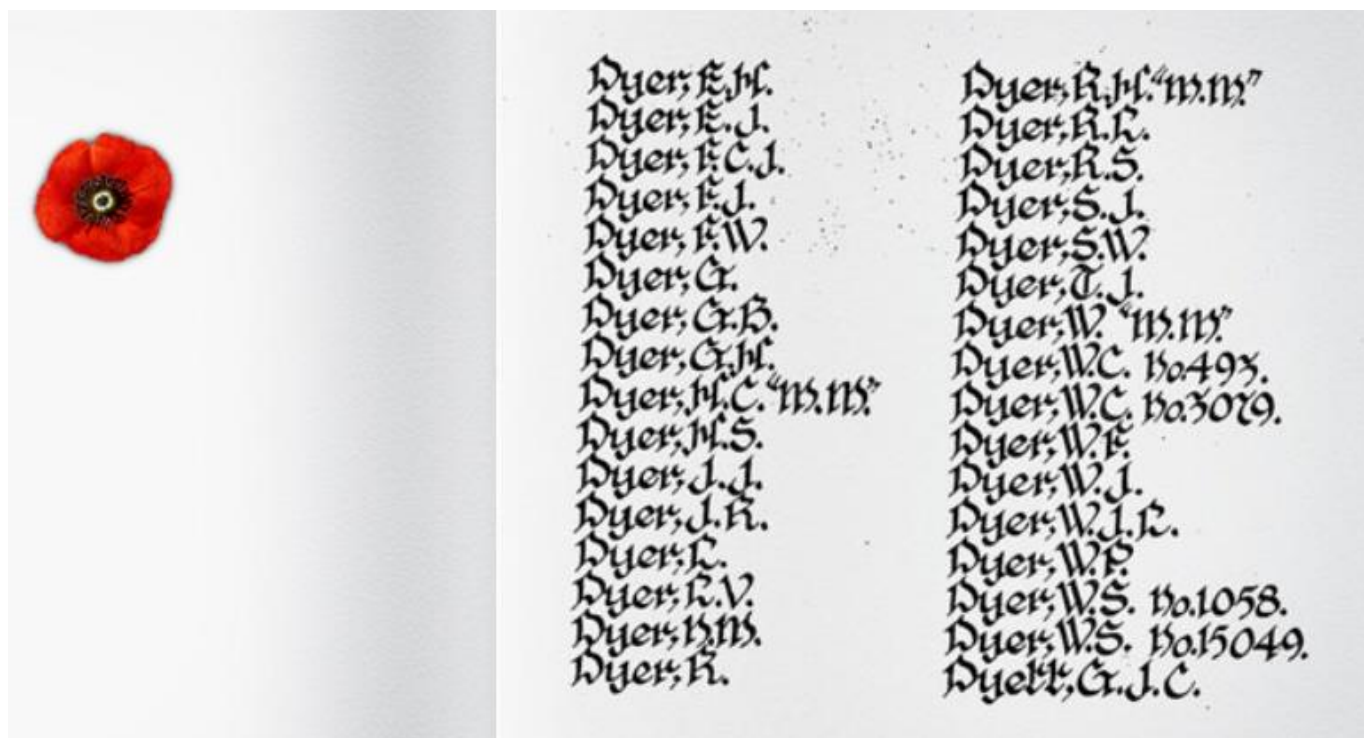
Pte F. C. I. Dyer and his brother Pte C. B. B. Dyer, are both remembered on the Shepparton & District War Memorial, located at Welsford & Marungi Streets, Shepparton, Victoria.



Shepparton & District War Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



F. C. J. Dyer is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.



Private F. C. J. Dyer 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

(58 pages of Private Frederick Charles James Dyer'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 Private Frederick Charles James Dyer:

Younger brother Private Charles Burnett Baker Dyer 2570, 8th Battalion – Enlisted 25th June, 1915, Butcher, aged 19 years. Embarked from Melbourne on 15th September, 1915. Killed in Action on 26th July, 1916 in France. Remembered on Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France as he has no know grave.



Newspaper Notices

1882 CASUALTIES

447 DEATHS, 301 MISSING, 1063 WOUNDED

212TH AND 213TH LISTS

Missing

Pte C. B. B. Dyer, Shepparton

Wounded

Pte F. C. J. Dyer, Shepparton

(The Bendigo Independent, Victoria – 16 September, 1916)

FALLEN HEROES

Pte FREDERICK DYER

son of Mr and Mrs Dyer, of Welsford-street, has died of wounds received in France. His brother Pte C. E. Dyer, is still at the front, but another brother, Pte C. B. Dyer is reported as missing.

(Shepparton Advertiser, Victoria – 8 March, 1917)

THE 278th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF WOUNDS

Private F. C. J. Dyer, Shepparton

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 14 March, 1917)

OUR HEROES

Pte Fred Dyer

Mr and Mrs T. Dyer, of Welsford-street, have been informed by the Defence department that their third son, Pte Fredrick C. J. Dyer, who for eight months had been suffering from a gunshot wound in the chest, has died in a military hospital in England. Mr and Mrs Dyer have received word from Gunner Thorneycroft that another son of theirs, Pte Charles Dyer, who was reported missing since July last, was killed. They have still another son in France, Pte Clifford Dyer.

(Shepparton Advertiser, Victoria – 3 May, 1917)

OUR HEROES

PRIVATE FRED DYER

Mr and Mrs T. Dyer and family, of Shepparton, and late of Murchison, received word from the military authorities that their third son Pte. Frederick C. J. Dyer, died in the North Evington war hospital, England, after being an inmate for eight months, suffering from a gunshot wound in the chest and ribs. He wrote to his parents in December to the effect that he expected soon to be well, but that he was suffering from rheumatism. Pte. Dyer enlisted in March, 1915, and was constantly in the firing line till he was wounded in France in July, 1916. He died on the 25th February, 1917. Private Charles B. B. Dyer, who enlisted at Essendon in June, 1915, was reported missing in July, 1916. His parents have received Word through a Gunner Thorneycroft that the latter picked up Pte. Dyer's body and gave it burial, but the parents' have had no official intimation that their son, Charles, was dead. Pte. Clifford Dyer, another son, is still fighting n France

(Kyabram Guardian, Victoria- 4 May, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

DYER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Pte Frederick C. J. Dyer, 21st Batt., who passed away at North Evington Hospital, Leicester, England, on the 25th February, 1917, from wounds received in France. Buried with full military honours in the Evington Cemetery, Wellford-road, Leicester, England.

No one knows how much we miss him,
Friends may think the wound is healed
But they little know the sorrow
Deep within our hearts concealed.

-Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters, of Shepparton.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 25 February, 1919)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Private Frederick Charles James Dyer has a numbered flat memorial stone & is remembered on the CWGC Screen Wall in Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester.

Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester, Leicestershire, England

Between 1914 and 1919, the 5th Northern General Hospital, with more than 2,600 beds, occupied several buildings in Leicester and North Evington. More than 95,000 officers and men were admitted to the hospital, which recorded 514 deaths before its closure. During the Second World War, there was a Royal Air Force operational training station near Leicester. Leicester (Welford Road) Cemetery contains 286 First World War burials, more than half of them forming a war graves plot with a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried there. The 46 Second World War burials are scattered throughout the cemetery, which also contains eight Belgian war graves, 1 of which is unknown.

(Information from CWGC)

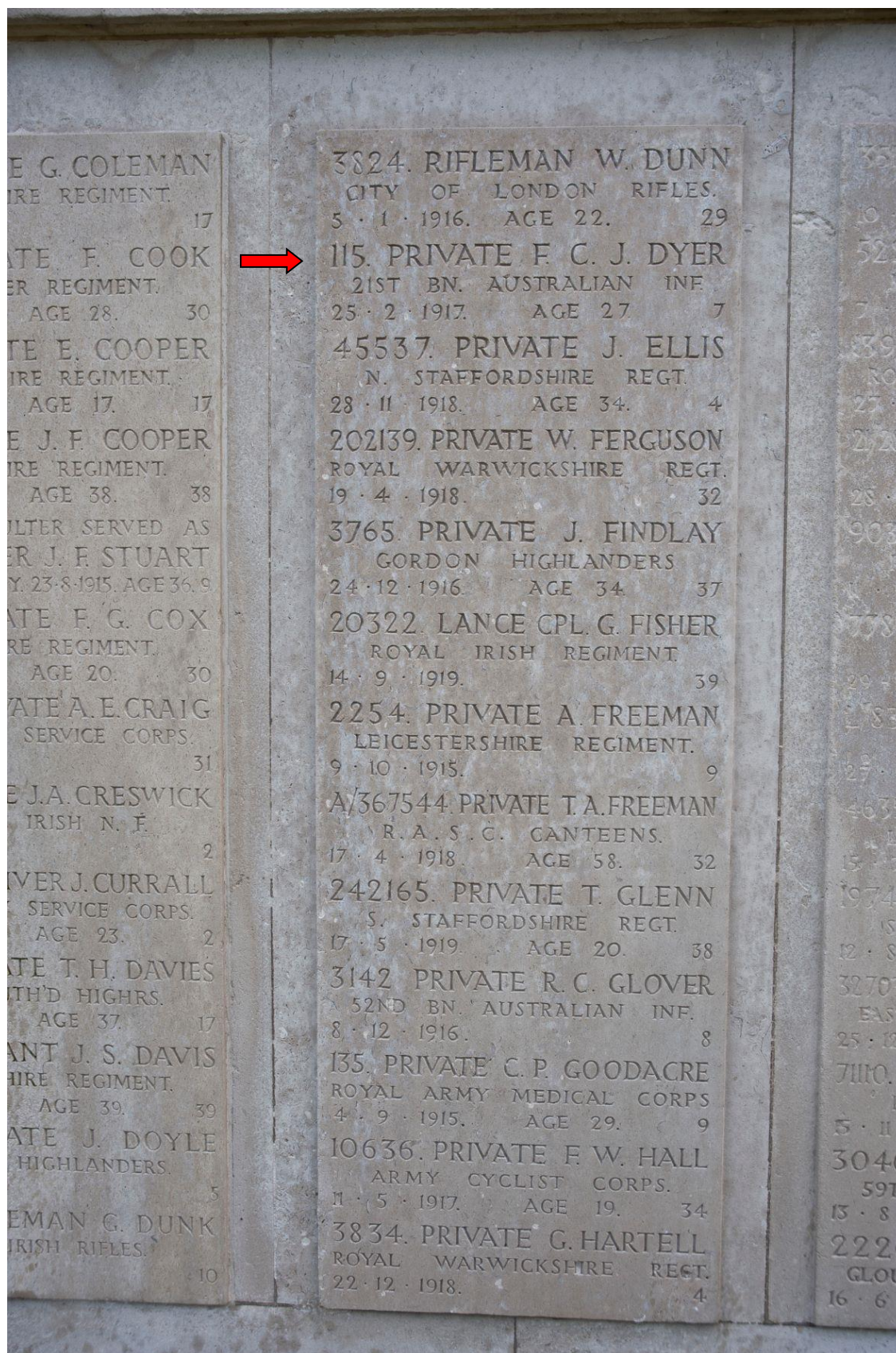


Cross of Sacrifice & Screen Wall in Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester *(Photo from CWGC)*



(Photo by Jackie March – Find a Grave)

Photo of Private F. C. J. Dyer's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester, Leicestershire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Michael Doyle)

Photo of Private F. C. J. Dyer's numbered Memorial Stone in front of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester, Leicestershire, England.



ANZAC Day Commemorations (Photos courtesy of Michael Doyle)





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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Mr and Mrs A T Sharp visiting the graves of seven Australians at the Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester, including the grave of Kathleen Adele Brennan, Australian Red Cross Society, member of the Voluntary Aid Detachment. Brennan died of influenza at Leicester, England on 24 November 1918.

From the collection of Mr Alfred Thomas Sharp. Mr Sharp was the Commonwealth Immigration Officer of Victoria and was based in the London Office during the First World War. He and his wife hosted and visited many soldiers, particularly those from Victoria, who were recuperating in London. He also photographed many Australian graves in English cemeteries. His photograph collection relating to this period in London was bequeathed to the Memorial in 1922 after his death. During his time in London he was a member of the British Volunteer Regiment, serving with the Willesden Battalion, Middlesex Volunteer Regiment.

