

**Stourbridge Cemetery,
Stourbridge, West Midlands, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



77 BOMBARDIER

H. L. DYKE

AUSTRALIAN T.M. BATTERY

30TH NOVEMBER, 1918

Henry Lewis DYKE

Samuel Henry Lewis Dyke was born on 15th June, 1892 at Warracknabeal, Victoria to parents John & Annabella Dyke (nee Mcleod).

Henry Lewis Dyke was a 23 year old, single, Labourer from Boonara, Queensland when he enlisted on 19th October, 1915 at Toowoomba, Queensland with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 77 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr John Charles Dyke, Chinchilla, Queensland.

Private Henry Lewis Dyke was posted to "A" Company, 8th Depot Battalion on 19th October, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to "A" Company, 36th Battalion (no date recorded) then transferred to "A" Company, 42nd Battalion on 16th February, 1916.

Private Henry Lewis Dyke embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Borda* (A30) on 5th June, 1916 with the 42nd Infantry Battalion, "A" Company & disembarked at Southampton, England on 23rd July, 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 Henry Lewis Dyke was taken on strength of Z 3 A Trench Mortar Battery in England on 17th October, 1916 with the rank of Gunner. He proceeded overseas to France on 23rd November, 1916.

Gunner Henry Lewis Dyke was sent sick to 9th Field Ambulance on 3rd January, 1917 & admitted with Mumps. He was transferred & admitted to 7th General Hospital at St. Omer, France on 4th January, 1917. Gunner Dyke was discharged to Base Details on 23rd January, 1917 & rejoined his Unit on 25th January, 1917.

Gunner Henry Lewis Dyke detached to 3 D.A.C. (Divisional Ammunition Column) on 21st February, 1917 & rejoined his Unit from detachment on 14th March, 1917.

Gunner Henry Lewis Dyke was sent sick to 9th Field Ambulance on 5th April, 1917 with rupture of Tympanum then transferred to 10th Field Ambulance on 6th April, 1917. He was transferred to D.R.C. on 9th April, 1917 & rejoined his Unit on 14th April, 1917.

Gunner Henry Lewis Dyke was attached to 3rd D.A.C. (Divisional Ammunition Column) from 21st April, 1917.

Gunner Henry Lewis Dyke received two Blue Chevrons on 5th June, 1917.

Blue chevrons

The Australian Imperial Force approved the wearing of the overseas service chevrons which had been adopted by the British Army. These were embroidered or woven inverted chevrons worn above the cuff on the right arm. Due to a shortage of supply, some men had chevrons privately made. For each year of war service a blue chevron was awarded and those men who had embarked in 1914 received a red chevron to indicate that year's service.



Gunner Henry Lewis Dyke was wounded in action on 6th June, 1917. He was admitted to 12th Field Ambulance on 6th June, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Head & left Shoulder. Gunner Dyke was transferred to D.R.S. (Divisional Rest Station) on 6th June, 1917 & rejoined his Unit – Z 3 A Battery on 11th June, 1917.

Mr J. C. Dyke, Chinchilla, Queensland, father of Gunner Henry Lewis Dyke, was advised by Base Records on 25th June, 1917 that Private Henry Dyke had been wounded.

Gunner Henry Lewis Dyke proceeded on Leave to England on 26th January, 1918 & returned from Leave on 10th February, 1918.

Gunner Henry Lewis Dyke was to be Temporary Bombardier from 15th February, 1918, vice Corporal Stapleton evacuated to Hospital.

Temporary Bombardier Henry Lewis Dyke was re-allotted to 6th Australian M.T.M. B (Medium Trench Mortar Battery) on 15th February, 1918 due to re-organisation.

Temporary Bombardier Henry Lewis Dyke reverted to the rank of Gunner on 9th April, 1918, vice Corporal Stapleton rejoined.

Gunner Henry Lewis Dyke was promoted to Temporary Bombardier on 21st April, 1918, vice Bombardier Stevens wounded on 21st April, 1918.

Temporary Bombardier Henry Lewis Dyke was promoted to Bombardier on 30th August, 1918 to complete establishment.

Bombardier Henry Lewis Dyke was sent sick then admitted to 5th Field Ambulance on 4th August, 1918 with Diarrhoea. He was discharged to duty on 26th August, 1918 & rejoined his Unit in 27th August, 1918.

Bombardier Henry Lewis Dyke was wounded in action on 29th September, 1918. He was admitted to 50th Casualty Clearing Station on 29th September, 1918 then transferred to Ambulance Train. Bombardier Dyke was admitted to 6th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 1st October, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to left shoulder. He was marked for transfer to England on 17th October, 1918 then transferred to Hospital Ship *Formosa* on 18th October, 1918.

War Diary – 6th Australian Medium Trench Mortar Battery

29th September, 1918:

Parade at 7.30 am. 3 Offrs 8 N.C.O.' and 30 ORs proceeded up the line with the intention of manning captured enemy guns. When within about a hundred yards of our own front line a hostile shell fell amongst them killing Cpl Tams, Gnrs Fletcher & Westerway also wounding A/Sgt Sheehan, Bdr Dyke Bdr Barnes and Gnr's Urqhart, Mercer, Hurst and Scott. Weather squally.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Mr J. C. Dyke, Chinchilla, Queensland, father of Bombardier Henry Lewis Dyke, was advised by Base Records on 14th October, 1918 that Gunner H. L. Dyke, 6th Medium Trench Mortar Battery, had been wounded. He was advised on 8th November, 1918 that Temporary Bombardier H. L. Dyke, 6th Heavy Trench Mortar Battery, had been admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital, Stourbridge Section, England on 19th October, 1918 suffering from gunshot wound to chest.

(Note: Letters sent to Mr J. C. Dyke, Chinchilla (details regarding the funeral & a letter advising regarding an inscription on his son's headstone, among others) refer to Bombardier Henry Lewis Dyke being with 3rd Medium Trench Mortar Battery)

Bombardier Henry Lewis Dyke was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital Stourbridge Section, Birmingham, England on 19th October, 1918 with G.S.W. to Chest. He was reported to be seriously ill on 15th November, 1918.

Mr J. C. Dyke, Chinchilla, Queensland, father of Bombardier Henry Lewis Dyke, was advised by Base Records on 27th November, 1918 that Temporary Bombardier Henry Dyke was seriously ill.

Bombardier Henry Lewis Dyke died at 4.30 am on 30th November, 1918 at Ward E 1-2, 1st Southern General Hospital (Stourbridge), England from wounds received in action – G.S.W Left chest.

A death for Henry L. Dyke, aged 26, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Stourbridge, Worcestershire, England.

Bombardier Henry Lewis Dyke was buried on 5th December, 1918 in Stourbridge Cemetery, Stourbridge, West Midlands, England – Plot number 21 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Bombardier Henry Lewis Dyke - *Coffin was good quality. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by several wreaths sent by:- Mrs J. Pitt, Patients of Ward E1 & 2, Nursing Staff of Ward E1 & 2. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the burial service conducted by the Rev. D. J. Moir-Porteous. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Relatives or Friends present at Funeral – Mrs J. Pitt, Woodfield, Woodsley, Stourbridge.

Base Records wrote to Mr J. C. Dyke, Chinchilla, Queensland, father of the late Bombardier Henry Lewis Dyke, on 19th June, 1924 with the following: *"I am receipt of a communication from Mr L. M. Instone, 26 Lea Rd, Wolverhampton, England (formerly a member of the Australian Imperial Force), who on Anzac Day last visited the grave of your son, the late No. 77 Bdr. H. L. Dyke, 3rd M.T.M. Bty, and other Australian soldiers buried in the Stourbridge Cemetery. No doubt this action will be much appreciated by you and it is thought you may desire to personally communicate with him."*

A similar letter was sent to Mr J. C. Dyke, Chinchilla, Queensland, father of the late Bombardier Henry Lewis Dyke, on 4th June, 1925: *"....The thanks of the Department have been conveyed to Mr Instone for this further evidence of his continued interest in and attention to the graves of our fallen soldiers, and it is thought you may desire to personally express your appreciation of his kindness."*

Bombardier Henry Lewis Dyke was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Bombardier Dyke's father – Mr J. C. Dyke, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent March, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

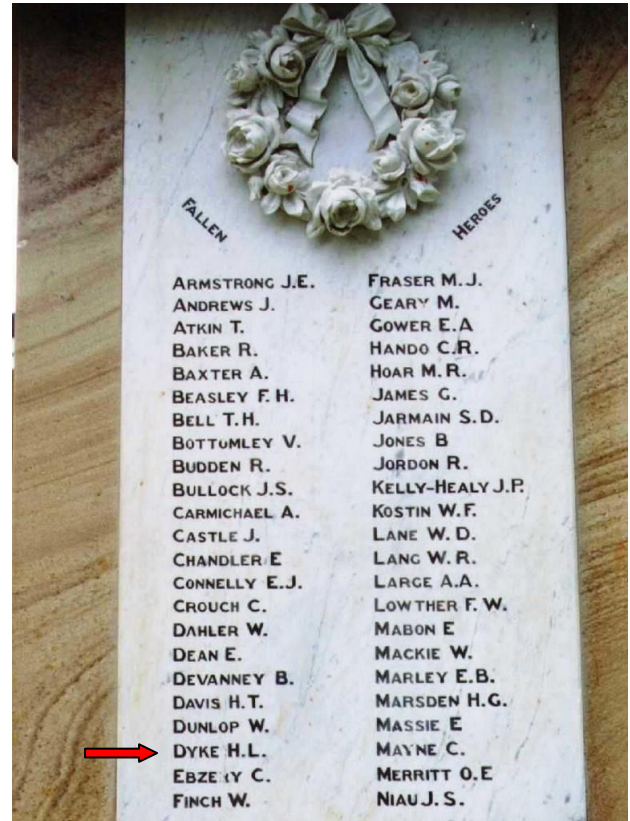
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Bombardier Henry Lewis Dyke – service number 77, of 3rd Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery. No family details are listed.

Bombardier H. L. Dyke is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 19.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

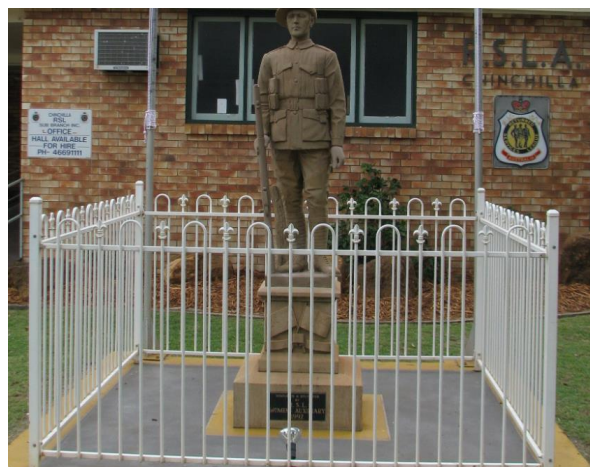
H. L. Dyke is remembered on the Chinchilla War Memorial, located on Heeney Street & Fuller Place, Chinchilla, Queensland.



Chinchilla War Memorial

(Photo on left from AWM – Places of Pride; right from Queensland War Memorials)

The original 'digger' monument stood near the railway overpass from 1919 to 1977. It was removed, restored and resited to the RSL further along Heeney Street.



“Original Digger” on Chinchilla War Memorial (left); Restored Digger & his new placement (right)

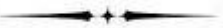
The Chinchilla & District Roll of Honour, located in Chinchilla Museum, Villers Street, Chinchilla, Queensland commemorates those who served in World War 1.



Chinchilla & District Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – John Huth)

(53 pages of Bombardier Henry Lewis Dyke'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





Henry Lewis Dyke (*Photo from Mapping our Anzacs*)



Newspaper Notices

THE CALL

DOWNS' RESPONSE

YESTERDAY'S RECRUITS

15 OFFER; 12 ACCEPTED

Capt. H. D. Hall, Recruiting and Enlisting Officer, advises that 5 men offered themselves for enlistment at the Toowoomba and Downs Central Recruiting Depot yesterday, and of these 12 were accepted and sworn in. The other three were rejected for various medical reasons. The names of those accepted were:-

.....

HENRY LEWIS DYKE, Boonarga

(Darling Downs Gazette, Queensland – 20 October, 1915)

COUNTRY VOLUNTEERS

CHINCHILLA, March 23.

At a social gathering held last night in honour of a number of soldiers who were visiting friends on home leave the Commercial Hall was filled with a most representative gathering. The arrangements were supervised by the Chinchilla Soldiers' Welfare Society, and Mr. E. M. Smiles (vice-president) presided. The speakers were the Rev. F. W. M. Wilkinson and Mr. T. Birkett. Dancing, songs, &c, filled in the intervals. The soldiers present were Lieut. R. F. Pickering, Corporal Frank Cooper, Privates E. Bruton, O. J. Dann, E. J. Connelly, G. Castle, W. Duffy, **H. L. Dyke**, T. V. Hoar, J. T. McIntosh, E. Smith, and S. Ward. Lieut. Pickering and Corporal Cooper returned thanks for the welcome. A number of volunteers were also on the platform, including Messrs. E. Pascoe, Otto Huhn, T. Hamlyn, and C. Clarke, some of whom left by Tuesday morning's train for Enoggera.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 24 March, 1916)

PERSONAL

Mr J. C. Dyke, of Boonarga, Western line, has received advice that his son, Gunner H. L. Dyke, has been wounded in France. Gunner Dyke is a brother of Mrs Boag, of Toowoomba.

(Darling Downs Gazette, Queensland – 5 July, 1917)

THE ROLL OF HONOR

CASUALTY LIST NO. 320

WOUNDED

Hy. Lewis Dyke, Chinchilla

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 10 July, 1917)

LIST NO. 444

WOUNDED

Gnr. Henry Lewis Dyke (Chinchilla (2nd occ.))

(*The Queenslander*, Brisbane, Queensland – 30 November, 1918)

PERSONAL NOTES

Word has been received at Chinchilla of the death of Private Henry Lewis Dyke, son of Mr J. C. Dyke, of Boonarga, death having taken place on November 30, as the result of wounds.

(*The Queenslander*, Brisbane, Queensland – 21 December, 1918)

THE ROLL OF HONOR

CASUALTY LIST No. 453

DIED OF WOUNDS

T.-Dvr Henry Lewis Dyke, Chinchilla

(*The Northern Miner*, Charters Towers, Queensland – 28 December, 1918)



H. L. Dyke

(*Queenslander Pictorial*, Supplement to *The Queenslander*, Queensland - 15 July, 1916)

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 9th July, 1921, to Mr J. C. Dyke, Chinchilla, Queensland, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late Bombardier H. L. Dyke, 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.

Bombardier H. L. Dyke does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Stourbridge Cemetery, Stourbridge, West Midlands, England

The cemetery contains 47 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war, (including those of 13 Australian soldiers, near which a Cenotaph is placed); and a War Cross is erected on the main roadway close to the entrance. The 1st Southern General Hospital had a Section in the Stourbridge Infirmary.

Most of the First World War burials are scattered but 17 form a small plot. The cemetery also contains 20 scattered burials of the Second World War and 1 Non World War burial here. *(Information from CWGC)*



(Photo by cookie – Find a Grave)



Australian Plot (Photo courtesy of Margaret Carter)

Stourbridge Cemetery Overseas Soldiers Sarcophagus

Adjacent to the Plot where the 13 Australian WW1 War Graves are located sits a Sarcophagus Memorial (listed by CWGC above as a Cenotaph) which reads:

*“In Grateful Memory Of Our Comrades From
Overseas Who Died In The Stourbridge Military
Hospital During The Great War 1914-19.”*

The names of the 13 Australians are listed on the Plaque along with a Soldier from Canadian Contingent & 2 Soldiers from U.S.A.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



Stourbridge Cemetery Overseas Soldiers Sarcophagus/Memorial
(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



Arrow showing the Plot where Australian WW1 War Graves are located *(Photo courtesy of Margaret Carter)*



Stourbridge Cemetery showing Australian WW1 War Graves *(Photos courtesy of Margaret Carter)*



Photo of Bombardier H. L. Dyke's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Stourbridge Cemetery, Stourbridge, West Midlands, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett – Private Collection)