

**Douglas Cemetery,  
Douglas, Isle Of Man  
War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**560 PRIVATE**

**F. T. FRYER**

**AUSTRALIAN T. M. BATTERY**

**27TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 37**

*May The Lord*

*Have Mercy On His Soul*

## Frederick Thomas FRYER

Frederick Thomas Fryer was born at Rochester, England, possibly around 1876.

Frederick Thomas Fryer stated he was a 34 year old, single, Labourer, of Mechanics' Hotel, Bourke Street, Melbourne, Victoria when he enlisted on 6th April, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 560 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as Tim Clifford, of Mechanics' Hotel, Bourke Street, Melbourne.

Private Frederick Thomas Fryer was posted to 21st Battalion on 6th April, 1915.

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

Private Frederick Thomas Fryer disembarked from *Ascanius* at Alexandria from Mudros on 1st July, 1915.

Private Frederick Thomas Fryer proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli on 29th August, 1915.

Private Frederick Thomas Fryer 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 Thomas Fryer was written up for an Offence "using obscene language in the presence of an Officer" on 24th May, 1916, while posted in France. He was awarded 10 days No. 2 F. P. (Field Punishment).

Private Frederick Thomas Fryer was written up for a crime on 13th August, 1916 in France – "Disobedience of an order in that he hesitated to pick up his rifle when ordered to do so on 10/8/16". He was awarded 28 days No. 2 F. P. (Field Punishment).

### 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.

*(Information from The Australian War Memorial)*

Private Frederick Thomas Fryer was transferred to & taken on strength of 6th Light Trench Mortar Battery on 25th August, 1916.

Private Frederick Thomas Fryer was written up for "Conduct to prejudice of good order and military discipline" while in London on 23rd March, 1917 - 1. Creating a disturbance 2. Obscene language 3. Violently resisting arrest. He was awarded 168 hours F. P. (Field Punishment) No. 2.

Private Frederick Thomas Fryer was marched in to Drafting Depot at Perham Downs from Ass. Provost Marshall London on 27th March, 1917

Private Frederick Thomas Fryer joined A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Etaples, France from England on 29th March, 1917.

© Cathy Sedgwick 2016

Private Frederick Thomas Fryer proceeded to join 6th Light Trench Mortar Battery from Etaples on 7th April, 1917.

Private Frederick Thomas Fryer was sent to 7th Field Ambulance on 12th September, 1917 with sore feet & returned to duty on 15th September, 1917.

Private Frederick Thomas Fryer was reported to be with his Unit – 6th L.T.M.B. on 20th August, 1918.

Private Frederick Thomas Fryer was sent to 6th Field Ambulance on 21st August, 1918 suffering from diarrhoea then transferred to 55th Casualty Clearing Station. He was transferred to A38 (Ambulance Train) on 22nd August, 1918 then transferred to 9th General Hospital at Rouen on 22nd August, 1918. Private Fryer was transferred & admitted to No. 2 Convalescent Depot on 25th August, 1918 then transferred to No. 11 Convalescent Depot at Buchy on 26th August, 1918.

Private Frederick Thomas Fryer was transferred to A.G.B.D (Australian General Base Depot) at Rouen on 11th September, 1918 & classified as "B2". He was marched in to A.G.B.D. at Havre from Rouen on 13th September, 1918. The Medical Board at Havre, France found Private Fryer to be aged 42. His cause of Unfitness was due to age & Rheumatism. He was classified as B3 on 20th September, 1918.

Private Frederick Thomas Fryer was transferred to England on 22nd September, 1918 & classified as "B3". He was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot on 23rd September, 1918.

A Medical Report was completed on Private Frederick Thomas Fryer on 2nd October, 1918 at No. 2 Australian Command Depot Medical Office, Portland. Private Fryer's age last birthday was listed as 42. The disability which was being investigated was Premature Senility & Rheumatism – "has had pain in knees & legs for 7 or 8 years. Left Unit on 23/8/1918 on account of general break up." The disability had in occurred in Australia, prior to enlistment. The Board attributed the aggravation to Exposure & aggravated by Active Service. Private Fryer's present condition was listed as "Age 42. Complains of pain in knees, back & shoulders." The Board recommended that Private Fryer be discharged as permanently unfit.

Private Frederick Thomas Fryer died on the afternoon of 27th October, 1918 at Nobles Hospital, Douglas, Isle of Man from Bronchial Pneumonia (result of cutting his throat with razor whilst of unsound mind).

A death for Frederick Thomas Fryer, aged about 40, was registered in 1918 in the district of Douglas, Isle of Man.

Private Frederick Thomas Fryer was buried on 31st October, 1918 in Douglas Cemetery, Douglas, Isle of Man – Plot number H. 252 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

*From the burial report of Private Fryer - Coffin was Steamed Pine. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by several wreaths sent from: Miss Meyer and Mrs Meyer of Douglas, Isle of Man. The Last Post was sounded at the graveside, and the Rev. R. Bradley Jolly officiated. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented.*

An Inquest was held at the Court House in the Town of Douglas, Isle of Man on the 28th day of October, 1918 before James Stowell Gell, High Bailiff of Douglas and Coroner to enquire into the death of Frederick Thomas Fryer.

Those giving evidence – Alice Meyer, of E. Leonora Drive, Douglas (sister of Arthur Meyer); Henry Caird, Physician & Surgeon; Richard Cordiner, Physician & Surgeon; Arthur Meyer – Private in 6th Bde, Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery.

ALICE MEYER of E. Leonora Drive, Douglas sworn and examined:-

"I live with my mother at E. Leonora Drive. I have a brother named Arthur Meyer, who joined the Army in Australia. He belonged to the 6th. Bde A.L.T.M.B. No.2. Company, Verne Citadel, Dorset. My brother came to the Island on leave a week last Saturday bringing Pte. Fryer of the same Brigade with him. The latter told us he had been discharged from the army, but had to return to Australia to get his discharge. My brother called the deceased "Fred". I have identified the dead body of a male person now lying in the hospital mortuary as that of Fryer. My brother and he had been suffering from Influenza for several days. On Thursday afternoon last Fryer would not have any dinner, he seemed fidgety. He went to his bed-room, a few minutes after my brother went up to see if he would have any dinner, he returned and said he thought Fred was becoming queer. I telephoned for Dr. Caird. My brother went back to the bed room he came down again and said Fred was sitting by his bed and complaining of his head being bad. My sister who was in bed heard Fryer complaining. She heard my brother going up. I heard my brother coming down again, and I ran to meet him, and he told me Fred had cut his throat. I went up and saw the deceased lying on the floor with apparently his throat cut, There was a razor on the floor a little way from his hand. There was a great deal of blood on the floor. He was removed to the hospital shortly after. There was nothing whatever to make me think <sup>that</sup> he was going to take his life. He and my brother slept together. My brother said the deceased had no relations and was not married. He said he expected to return to Australia this week or next. He had been at



Gallipoli and France. He said about two months ago a shell dropped near him in the cook house and he was sent home."

Alice Meyer.

Henry Caird Phys. & Surgeon sworn and examined:-

"On Monday last, 24. I was called to El<sup>508</sup>ona Drive between 2 and three o'clock in the afternoon I found the deceased in an attic. He was lying on his back, there was an incised wound several inches long across the upper part of the neck. the main arteries had escaped, but there had been profuse bleeding. The razor had penetrated under the root of the tongue into the upper part of the gullet. I closed up the wound and had him removed to the hospital. He was conscious but unable to speak. There was much bleeding. "

Henry Caird.

Richard Cordiner, Phys. & Surgeon sworn and examined.

"The deceased was admitted to Nobles Hospital on Monday afternoon last. He was suffering from cut throat. His throat was very severely wounded, apparently caused by a sharp instrument such as a razor. It was necessary to insert a tube into the trachea. He developed bronchial pneumonia due to infection from the region of the wound. He died yesterday afternoon from bronchial pneumonia. That was the immediate cause of death.

Richard Cordiner.

The enquiry was adjourned until Monday 4th November, 1918 at 3 pm.

At the adjournment held on 4.11.18 Arthur Meyer sworn:-

"I am a Private in the 6th. Bde. A.L.T.M.B. I joined the Brigade "Aussie" and the Battery in France. The deceased belonged to the same Battery. Melbourne was his home address. His age would be about 40 years. He was invalided and was to go back to "Aussie" to be discharged. He was marked C.2, and that means discharge. He came to the Island with me on leave. He was suffering with shell shock. He stayed with me. We both got influenza. On 24 Oct. we were going out. We were both depressed. I said we would go down town and have a shave, he went upstairs and had no dinner, but I brought him a cup of coffee. He was sitting by his bed. He drank the coffee and I went down stairs. I was only three or four minutes before I went upstairs again. When I found him on the floor with his throat cut. The razor was by his hand. He had taken the razor from my kit and I said "Fred, what did you do it for" and he said "My luck". I never had the slightest reason to suppose he

would do anything to himself. I don't know of his having any relatives. He seemed entirely "on his own". He was apparently quite happy.

A.M.Meyers.

Taken and sworn 4.11.18 before me.

(Sgd) James S. Gell.

The Jurors found "That the said Frederick Thomas Fryer, who was a Private in the 6th Brigade Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery and who was last stationed at Verne Citadel, Dorset and was of Melbourne, Australia and was of the age of 40 or thereabouts died in Nobles Isle of Man Hospital in the 27th day of October 1918 from Bronchial pneumonia, the result of his having whilst of unsound mind seriously injured his throat by cutting it with a razor."

Private Frederick Thomas Fryer requested in his Will, dated 14th June, 1917, that all his personal estate be bequeathed to Mrs M. Murphy c/o Mr T. Clifford, Mechanics Hotel, 327-329 Bourke St, Melbourne, Victoria.

Base Records contacted Mr T. Clifford, Mechanics Hotel, Melbourne on 21st October, 1920 noting that he was registered on the records as the next of kin. Base Records were enquiring if there were any blood relatives due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Mr T. Clifford, of Corner Hotel, Coburg, replied on 19th January, 1921, having just received the letter from 21st October, 1920. Mr Clifford stated *"that I know nothing whatever of the relatives of the late No. 560 Private J. T. Fryer, 6th L.T.M. Bty. From what he informed me I was under the impression that he was an orphan and had been brought up by a lady in England who died prior to his arrival in Australia. His legatee, as you are aware, was Mrs M. Murphy who worked for me. Her address is now Commercial Hotel, Elizabeth Street, Melbourne. I presume she will be the person to receive the medals."*

Base Records then wrote to Mrs M. Murphy on 28th January, 1921, regarding the details of any of the blood relations of the late Private Fryer. M. Murphy replied on 2nd February, 1921 advising that she had known F. T. Fryer for about 20 years. *"I never heard him speak of his relations. I am sorry now that I did not ask him before he went to the War, but I surely thought he would return safe & sound."*

The personal effects of the late Private F. T. Fryer were sent to & signed for by Mary Murphy on 13th August, 1919.

Private Frederick Thomas Fryer was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to a soldier's next-of-kin. Private Frederick Thomas Fryer's medals, Memorial Scroll & Plaque were sent to "Untraceables".

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Frederick Thomas Fryer – service number 560, aged 37, of 6th Australian Trench Mortar Battery. No family details are listed.

Private F. T. Fryer 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*



(79 pages of Private Frederick Thomas Fryer'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*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC**

#### **EXPERTS IS CONFERENCE WITH THE GOVERNMENT**

The persistence of the influenza epidemic is causing grave alarm in many parts of the country. The Government view the prevalence of the scourge with concern, and yesterday a conference of medical men and bacteriological experts met in London, at the instance of the President of the Local Government Board (Mr Hayes Fisher), with the object of furthering the fullest research into the causes and the nature of this disease, which is, it is stated, on this occasion carrying with it dangerous after effects not experienced in previous visitations – particularly increased septic pneumonia.

Many well-known people have been attacked, some fatally. The Speaker and the Dean of St. Davids are ill; and the son of Sir A. Conan Doyle, Dr A. Conan Doyle, has died from the malady at St. Thomas's Hospital, London. Among 20 fatal cases recorded in Southport is that of the Mayoress, Mrs T. Hampson, who died from double-pneumonia, following influenza.

The authorities in some places are adopting vigorous measures to combat the spread of the malady, and medical men are being besieged with inquiries as to the best means of avoiding infection. Emphasis is laid on the necessity of avoiding anything that unduly depresses the vital powers, and – though this is perhaps a counsel of perfection – the advisability of maintaining cheerfulness is insisted upon. The Preston Medical Officer of Health says the best safeguards are abundance of fresh air, and the avoidance of crowded meetings and stuffy, ill-ventilated rooms. The chief danger is pneumonia, supervening on an influenza attack when the system is least capable of resisting, and for this reason no cold should be neglected, and time should be allowed for convalescence to avoid danger of a chill. The borough of St. Pancras has been placarded with posters advising the public to keep warm, and rest in bed on the first appearance of the symptoms of influenza. A gargle is recommended, consisting of a saltspoonful of salt in half a glass of water, coloured purple with a weak solution of permanganate of potash.

Yesterday's reports indicated little, if any, abatement of the epidemic. In many places doctors as well as nurses are breaking down under the strain imposed upon them. The number of members of the Metropolitan Police Force on the sick-list from influenza now totals 1,410. There have been thirty deaths. During the forty-eight hours ending at seven o'clock yesterday morning sixty-one persons were seized with sudden illness in the London streets and removed to hospital. There are 117 London firemen incapacitated. In South-West London 80 per cent of the elementary schools are closed.

A month ago – for the week ended 28th September – the deaths registered in Sheffield were 117; and in the following week 97. A week later the figure was 139. For the week ended 19th October the number had jumped to 230, while for the week ended Saturday last the total number was 426, or a rate of 47.4 per 1,000 of the population. There were 232 fatal cases of influenza and 67 of pneumonia.

A member of the Keighley Tribunal yesterday mentioned that there was a scarcity of grave-diggers. On Saturday afternoon seven interments took place at the Cemetery and five at St. John's Churchyard, while six were arranged for at the Cemetery yesterday. The tribunal passed a vote of sympathy with the parents of Mr Wm. Hy. Woodhall, their assistant clerk, who died from the effects of influenza on Saturday. The Clerk (Mr C. R. Wright) was still unable to be present, but is on the way to recovery. At Todmorden there are many cases, and owing to the absence of a number of the principal employees the large cotton mill has had to close. At Tadcaster there have been 22 deaths within a fortnight. The disease is very prevalent at Goole, and several deaths have occurred. They include Mr Harry



Walker, a young assistant schoolmaster who recently won his B.A. at Leeds University. Another sad case is that of the wife of a Goole sailor who is interned in Germany. She leaves a young child. The malady has claimed several victims at Whitby, and the schools have been closed for a fortnight.

Mr Walter Empsall, head of the firm of J. Charlesworth and Co., wool merchants, Clarence Street, Bradford and Mr J. E. Shackleton, of the firm of Jolias Shackleton and Sons, wool merchants, Bradford, have died from pneumonia, following influenza.

Two victims were buried yesterday at Lancaster Cemetery – Mrs Mabel Patterson (34), wife of Mr J. B. Patterson, acting borough electrical engineer, and their only child, Jas. Boyd Patterson (11). Other victims of the epidemic include Captain W. J. Parsons of the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, Territorial Force Headquarters at Lancaster.

The outbreak in Liverpool has during the last two or three days shown a tendency to decline. The new restrictions on the hours of music halls and cinemas with a view to allowing time for adequate ventilation and the abolition of crushing, came into force yesterday. The number of deaths from influenza in Manchester last week rose from eight in the previous week to 28. Dr Niven, the Manchester Medical Officer of Health, states that there is no doubt that the disease is spreading, and adds that complaints from the schools is increasing.

In Glasgow the epidemic is abating. Last week the deaths from all causes in the city totalled 749, and of these 416 were due to influenza and pneumonia, compared with 510 in the previous week.

Some tragic cases attributed to influenza are recorded. Annie Ransome, 35, wife of a police constable, of Wood Green, London, was found lying at the back door dead, with her throat cut, and a razor by her side. Her husband had been seized with influenza, which developed into double pneumonia, and he is now lying in a critical condition in hospital. The wife contracted influenza a few days ago, and most of the seven children are sufferers. **An inquest was held at Douglas yesterday on Private T. F. Fryer, of the Australian Forces, who cut his throat in his bedroom with a razor during depression from influenza.**

(*Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer*, Leeds, West Yorkshire, England – 29 October, 1918)

---

## **THE 448th and 449th CASUALTY LISTS**

### **VICTORIAN NAMES**

#### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

Private F. T. Fryer, Melbourne

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria, Australia – 4 December, 1918)

---

### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **VICTORIAN NAMES**

#### **DIED, OTHER CAUSES**

Pte F. T. FRYER, Melbourne (cause not stated)

(*Weekly Times*, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia – 7 December, 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)*

A letter was sent from Base Records, dated 6th July, 1921, to Mrs M. Murphy, Commercial Hotel, Elizabeth Street, Melbourne stating that it had not been possible to communicate with any blood relatives of the late Private F. T. Fryer and in view of this they were giving Mrs Murphy the opportunity of providing a personal inscription on the headstone of the late Private F. T. Fryer.

Private F. T. Fryer does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*May The Lord Have Mercy On His Soul*

### **Douglas Cemetery, Douglas, Isle of Man**

Douglas, the capital of the Isle of Man, is situated on the east coast of the Island on Douglas Bay, 70 miles distant from the port of Liverpool. The cemetery lies on rising ground 270 feet above sea-level about a mile inland and a mile and a half north of the railway station. It was established under an Act of Tynewald of 1895. It covers nearly nine acres and is the property of Douglas Corporation.

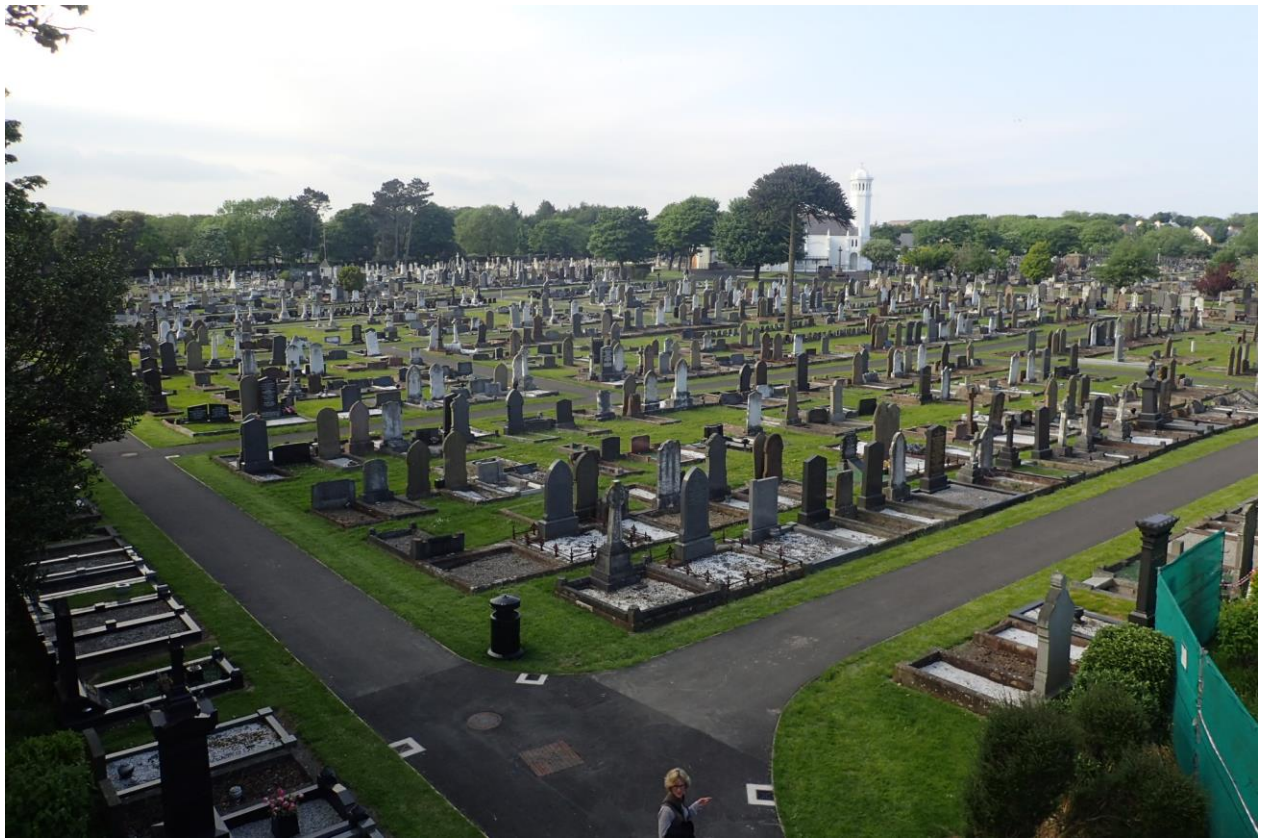
#### Historical Information

It contains the graves both of servicemen and of interned civilians who were victims of the 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 Wars.

There are 49 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war here, including 3 unidentified sailors of the Royal Navy. After the 1914-1918 War a Cross of Sacrifice and a Screen Wall, built of Standiffe stone, were erected on the western corner facing the main entrance. These constituted a central war memorial for the Isle of Man, the number of war graves in this and other burial grounds on the Island being recorded on a panel set in the screen wall. The Cross of Sacrifice standing before it bears the inscription: "THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE".

At the beginning of the 1939-1945 War certain grave spaces were set aside by the local authorities in Block NF in the northern part of the cemetery for service war burials, and this group now contains 25 war graves. The remainder are scattered in various parts of the cemetery. The total number of Commonwealth burials of the 1939-1945 War is 61. Four of the Merchant Navy Seamen lost their lives while serving on the British Merchant Vessel Maja of London, and their bodies were recovered from the sea in January 1945. There are a further 28 war burials of Foreign Nationals here.

*(Information from CWGC)*



**Douglas Cemetery** (Photo from Find a Grave - JulieH)



**Cross of Sacrifice** (Photo from CWGC)



Photo of Private F. T. Fryer's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Douglas Cemetery, Douglas, Isle of Man.



*(Photo from Find a Grave - HamishK)*