

Upper & Lower Wortley Cemetery, Leeds, West Yorkshire, England

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



1935 SAPPER

WILLIAM H. GILDERDALE

AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

2ND JUNE, 1920 Age 46

At Rest

William Henry GILDERDALE

William Henry Gilderdale Maskew was born on 24th May, 1874 at Leeds, West Yorkshire, England to parents Miles & Emma Maskew (nee Gilderdale). He was baptised on 28th June, 1874 in St. James' Church, Farnley, Leeds, England. (Miles & Emma had married on 10th February, 1874).

The 1881 England Census recorded William Henry Gilderdale as a 6 year old Scholar living at Low Mill Lane with his grandparents - John Gilderdale (Joiner, aged 42) & Rachel Gilderdale (aged 50).

The 1891 England Census recorded William Henry Gilderdale as a 16 year old Joiner's Apprentice living at Wortley Row, Farnley, Leeds, England with his grandfather & mother. His grandfather was listed as John Gilderdale (Joiner, aged 66) & his mother as Emma Gilderdale (Dressmaker, aged 34).

William Henry Gilderdale Maskew married Martha Roberts on 26th September, 1895 at St. Michael's Church, Farnley, Leeds, England. William was a 21 year old Joiner from Farnley & Martha was a 23 year old Folder at Laundry from Armley.

A daughter – Elsie G. Maskew was born on 12th December, 1895 at Leeds, Yorkshire, England to Martha & William Henry Gilderdale Maskew.

William Henry Gilderdale had been an apprentice for 7 years with George Abbott of Leeds, Yorkshire, England.

The 1901 England Census recorded a "William Gilderdale", Joiner, aged 27 living with his wife Mary Gilderdale at 8 Claremont Place, Armley, Yorkshire.

The 1911 England Census recorded William Gilderdale as a 37 year old, married, Joiner (Wood) living with his wife, child & mother at 12 Hugh St, Long Road, Wortley, Leeds, Yorkshire West Riding, England. His wife was listed as Martha Gilderdale (aged 37). William & Martha had been married for 16 years & had 2 children, 1 having since died. His daughter was listed as Elsie Gilderdale (Weaver, aged 15, born Leeds, Yorkshire) & his mother was listed as Emma Gilderdale (Numberer (in Woollen Trade), aged 55, married for 37 years & had only 1 child).

The 1913 & 1914 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Yarra, subdivision of Richmond South, Victoria listed William Henry Gilderdale, Carpenter, of 14 Shamrock St, Richmond South.

William Henry Gilderdale was a 40 year old, married (with 1 child aged 19), Carpenter from Richmond Hotel, Church Street, Richmond, Victoria when he enlisted on 8th July, 1915 in Melbourne, Victoria with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 1935 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Martha Gilderdale, 108 Lower Wardley Road, Wardley, near Leeds, England. William Gilderdale stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 1 year with R.E. Leeds Volunteers, Yorkshire, England. He also stated he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service due to his Chest.

William Henry Gilderdale was posted to Depot Infantry on 8th July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred on 8th September, 1915 to Engineer Reinforcements with the rank of Sapper.

Sapper William Henry Gilderdale was transferred to 2nd Field Company Engineers, 9th Reinforcements (no date recorded).

Sapper William Henry Gilderdale embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Port Lincoln (A17)* on 14th October, 1915 with the 2nd Field Company Engineers, 9th Reinforcements.

Australian Engineers in the First World War

Engineers, also known as sappers, were essential to the running of the war. Without them, other branches of the Allied Forces would have found it difficult to cross the muddy and shell-ravaged ground of the Western Front. Their responsibilities included constructing the lines of defence, temporary bridges, tunnels and trenches, observation posts, roads, railways, communication lines, buildings of all kinds, showers and bathing facilities, and other material and mechanical solutions to the problems associated with fighting in all theatres.

(Description of Engineers Information from The Australian War Memorial)

Sapper William Henry Gilderdale was taken on strength of 2nd Field Company Engineers on 28th December, 1915 at Tel-el-Kebir from 9th Reinforcements.

Sapper William Henry Gilderdale was sent to Hospital at Tel-el-Kebir on 2nd January, 1916 with Gastritis.

A Medical Report was completed on Sapper William Gilderdale on 18th January, 1916 at Larkhill Camp 26 * (Note: Larkhill was a Camp in Wiltshire, England, Wiltshire. Three days later he is reported to be in Hospital at Heliopolis. Not sure if this is correct). His disability was listed as Chronic Gastritis & Duodenal Ulcer which had first occurred about 1912 in Australia. *"Has suffered from indigestion for last four years. Has been worse since enlisting – 2 months in hospital in Egypt – also 3 months in England during which he was operated on and ulcer found...."* The Medical Board found that Sapper Gilderdale was permanently unfit for General or Home Service.

Sapper William Henry Gilderdale was admitted to 2nd Auxiliary Hospital at Heliopolis on 21st January, 1916 with Dental trouble.

Sapper William Henry Gilderdale was admitted to No. 3 Auxiliary Hospital at Heliopolis on 8th February, 1916 with Gastritis.

Sapper William Henry Gilderdale was admitted to Hospital at Ras-el-Tin on 15th March, 1916 with Gastritis. He was discharged to Base at Mustapha on 1st April, 1916 for duty.

Sapper William Henry Gilderdale embarked for Overseas on 10th May, 1916 on *Scotian* as Reinforcements to 2nd Division. He disembarked at Marseilles, France on 18th May, 1916.

Sapper William Henry Gilderdale reported to 2nd D.B.D. (Divisional Base Depot) on 5th June, 1916.

Sapper William Henry Gilderdale was admitted to 26th General Hospital at Etaples, France on 22nd July, 1916 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined) – Abdomen. He was transferred to Calais on 24th July, 1916 & embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Brighton* on 25th July, 1916 with Gastritis.

Sapper William Henry Gilderdale was admitted to Wharnccliffe War Hospital, Sheffield, England on 25th July, 1916 with a Duodenal Ulcer. He was transferred to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford on 16th October, 1916 N.Y.D. (not yet determined) – Abdomen & discharged on 6th November, 1916.

Sapper William Henry Gilderdale was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset, England on 6th November, 1916 from Dartford.

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 & in Dorset. Later Training & Convalescing Units were combined under the one Command Depot.

A Medical Report was completed on Sapper William Gilderdale on 7th November, 1916 at No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset, England. His disability was listed a Duodenal Ulcer which had originated on 21st August, 1916 at Egypt – Tel-el-Kebir. *"Taken ill in Egypt 12 months ago. Pain pit stomach & vomiting. All symptoms of acute dyspep. No Diarrh. Red blood occasionally in motions probably from piles. No piles now. Lost much weight."* The Medical Officer in charge of the case stated the cause of the disability to be *"irregular feeding, too quickly"* & it had been exaggerated probably by active service conditions. The Medical Officer in charge of the case recommended that he be given a change to Australia. The Medical Board found that Sapper Gilderdale was permanently unfit for General Service by fit for Home Service.

Sapper William Henry Gilderdale was marched in to Pioneer Battalion, No. 4 Camp, Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 30th November, 1916 from Weymouth.

Sapper William Henry Gilderdale was written up for an Offence while posted at Pioneer Training Battalion at Larkhill, Wiltshire – A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from midnight on 26th December, 1916 till 2 pm on 30th December, 1916. He was awarded 14 days confined to Camp & deprived of 16 day's pay.

Sapper William Henry Gilderdale was classified as C3 (permanently unfit for Active or Home Service) due to Chronic gastritis & Duodenal Ulcer on 2nd March, 1917.

Sapper William Henry Gilderdale was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset, England on 5th March, 1917 from Pioneer Training Battalion at Larkhill, Wiltshire.

Sapper William Henry Gilderdale was marched out to Administrative Headquarters, London from No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth on 27th April, 1917 pending a discharge in England.

Sapper William Henry Gilderdale was discharged in London, England from Australian Imperial Force on 27th April, 1917 – permanently unfit for War Service at home or abroad. He had served for 1 year & 232 days & his conduct & character during that time had been “*very good*.”

A Medical Certificate was completed by Major A. E. Colvin, A.M.C., A.I.F. on 28th April, 1917 for W. H. Gilderdale, 10 Mitford Road, Armley, Leeds, a claimant for a Pension under the War Pensions Act 1914. The Certificate stated that W. H. Gilderdale, age 43, was “*suffering the effects of a duodenal ulcer for which he was operated 21/8/16, still suffers from indigestion and unable to eat hard food. Has lost 2 stone in weight. Scar in epigastrium. Is now feeling better and gaining weight.*” His condition was a “*pre existing to enlistment, aggravated probably by active service conditions. The claimant has lost his earning power to the extent of on half (1/2) for six months.*”

A War Pension was granted to William Henry Gilderdale, of 10 Mitford Rd, Armley, Leeds, Yorkshire, in the sum of 30/- per fortnight from 28th April, 1917 & to be revised on 25th October, 1917. A War Pension was granted to Martha Gilderdale, of 10 Mitford Rd, Armley, Leeds, Yorkshire, wife of Sapper William Gilderdale, in the sum of 15/- per fortnight from 28th April, 1917 & to be revised on 25th October, 1917.

A War Pension was granted to William Henry Gilderdale, of 23 Long Avenue, Long Rd, Leeds, Yorkshire, in the sum of 30/- per fortnight from 25th October, 1917 & to be revised on 25th April, 1918. A War Pension was also granted to Martha Gilderdale, of above address, wife of Sapper William Gilderdale, in the sum of 15/- per fortnight from 25th October, 1917 & to be revised on 25th April, 1918.

William Henry Gilderdale, of 23 Lodge Avenue, Long Rd, Armley, Leeds received his Silver War Badge & Certificate No. A 216 on 5th June, 1917 in respect of military service as Sapper No. 1935 2nd Field Company Engineers, A.I.F.

Silver War Badge

The Silver War Badge was issued in the United Kingdom and the British Empire to service personnel who had been honourably discharged due to wounds or sickness from military service in World War I. The badge, sometimes known as the "Discharge Badge", the "Wound Badge" or "Services Rendered Badge", was first issued in September 1916, along with an official certificate of entitlement.

The large sterling silver lapel badge was intended to be worn on civilian clothes. The decoration was introduced as an award of "King's silver" for having received wounds or injury during loyal war service to the Crown's authority. A secondary causation for its introduction was that a practice had developed in the early years of the war in the United Kingdom where some women took it upon themselves to confront and publicly embarrass men of fighting age they saw in public places who were not in military uniform, by ostentatiously presenting them with white feathers, as a suggestion of cowardice. As the war had developed substantial numbers of servicemen who had been discharged from His Majesty's Forces with wounds that rendered them unfit for war service, but which were not obvious from their outward appearance, found themselves being harassed in such a manner and the badge, to be worn on the right breast while in civilian dress, was a means of discouraging such incidents being directed at ex-forces' personnel. It was forbidden to wear the badge on a military uniform.

(Information from Wikipedia)



Ex-Sapper William Henry Gilderdale died on 2nd June, 1920 in Beckett Park Military Hospital. Leeds, England (as listed on CWGC – Grave Registration form).

A death for William H. G. Maskew, aged 46, was registered in the June quarter, 1920 in the district of Leeds, Yorkshire West Riding, England.

Sapper William Henry Gilderdale was buried in Upper & Lower Wortley Cemetery, Leeds, West Yorkshire, England – Plot number A. "C" 290 and now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Sapper William Henry Gilderdale was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sapper W. H. Gilderdale – service number 1935, aged 46, of 2nd Field Coy. Australian Engineers. He was the husband of Martha Gilderdale, of 20 Elsworth Place, Hall Lane, Armley, Leeds, England.

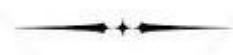
Sapper W. H. Gilderdale is not commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia as he did not die while serving in an Australian Force and did not die as a result of that service.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(53 pages of Sapper William Henry Gilderdale'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

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

147th LIST

III

Spr W. H. Gilderdale, England

(The Bendigo Independent, Victoria – 29 February, 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)

Sapper William H. Gilderdale has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone with the following inscription:

At Rest

Upper & Lower Wortley Cemetery, Leeds, West Yorkshire, England

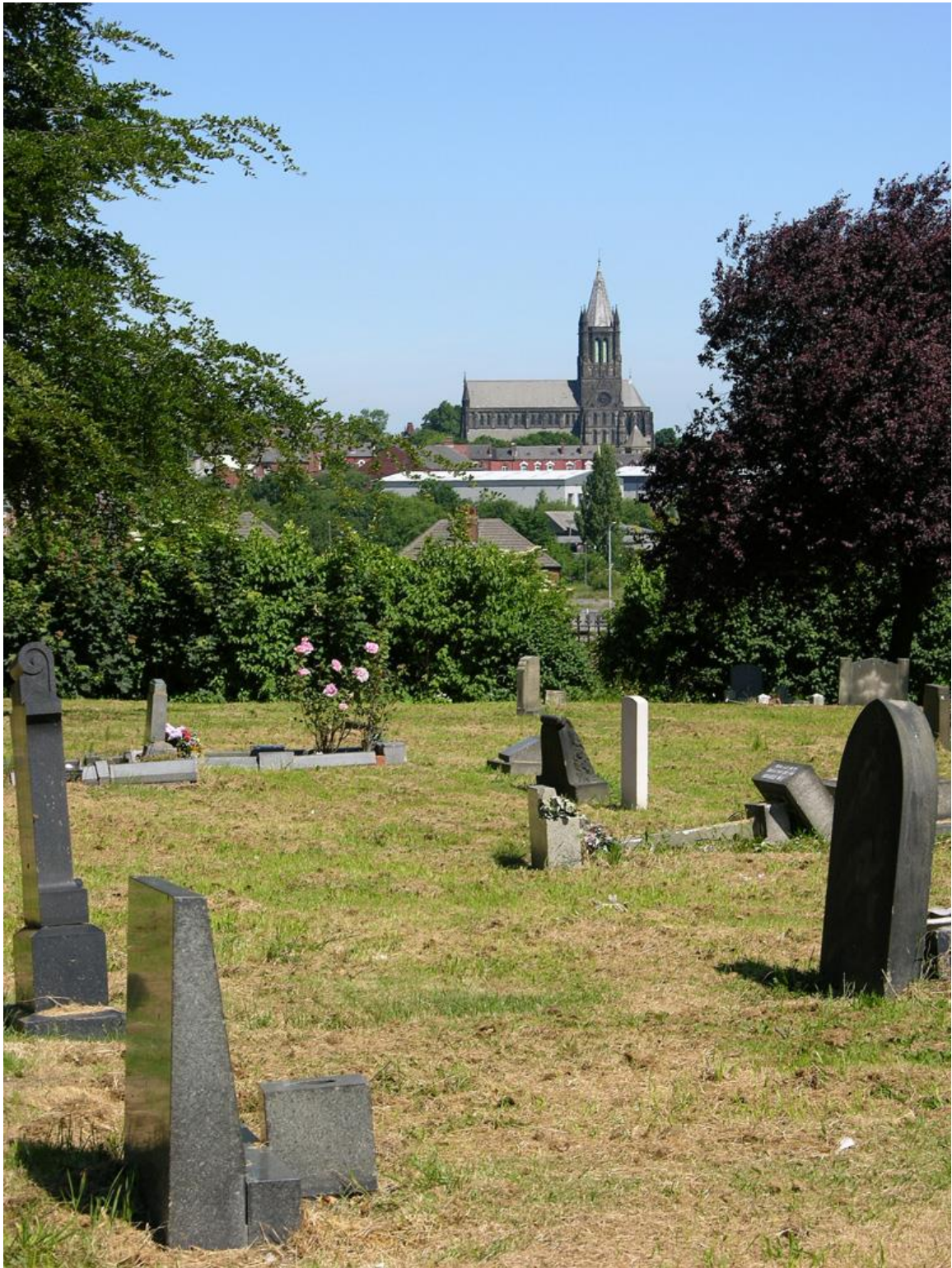
Upper & Lower Wortley Cemetery, Leeds has 30 Commonwealth War Graves – 19 relating to World War 1 & 11 relating to World War 2.



Photo of Sapper William H. Gilderdale's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Upper & Lower Wortley Cemetery, Leeds, West Yorkshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennet – Private Collection)



Upper & Lower Wortley Cemetery, Leeds, West Yorkshire *(Photo from CWGC)*