

**Tidworth Military Cemetery,
Tidworth, Wiltshire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



SAPPER

H. V. LARKIN

No. 6 AUSTRALIAN TUNNELLING COY.

10TH AUGUST, 1916 Age 31 ½

A Good Soldier, Comrade & Son

Herbert Vincent LARKIN

Herbert Vincent Larkin was born at Bunbury, Western Australia in 1885 to parents Thomas & Mary Larkin (nee McCourt).

Herbert Vincent Larkin attended State School at Dardanup near Bunbury, Western Australia.

Thomas Larkin, father of Herbert Vincent Larkin, died on 20th August, 1908 in Bunbury, Western Australia.

The 1915 & 1916 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Dampier, subdivision of Irwin, Western Australia recorded Herbert Vincent Larkin, Prospector, of Winchester. His brother Thomas James Larkin was also listed as a Prospector at Winchester.

Herbert Vincent Larkin was a 31 year old, single, Contractor from Boulder, Western Australia (as listed on Embarkation Roll, however his address was listed as Winchester, Midland Railway, W.A.) when he enlisted at Blackboy Hill, Western Australia on 15th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4383 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs M. Larkin, Greenbushes, Western Australia.

Private Herbert Vincent Larkin was posted to 43 Depot for recruit training on 5th January, 1916. He was transferred to 3 Area on 1st February, 1916 then on 10th March, 1916 he was transferred to No. 6 Tunnelling Company as Sapper.

Sapper Herbert Vincent Larkin embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Warilda* (A69) on 1st June, 1916 with the Mining Corps - No. 6 Tunnelling Company & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 11th 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.

6th Tunnelling Company – Training in England:

The new quarters in Perham Downs, Salisbury Plains were excellently appointed but in spite of this measles broke out in a neighbouring unit and spread to this Company causing a certain proportion to be quarantined from August 7th onwards.

No rifles and few tools being available at Perham Downs very little technical training was carried out.

The sojourn in England however allowed the men to become physically fit after the long sea voyage and to become acclimatised to far more rigorous weather than that to which they were accustomed.

They also had ample opportunities of seeing and hearing trench mortars at work both by night and by day, and acquiring familiarity there with.

General leave was granted in England on two occasions firstly for thirty-six hours on August 2nd and again for 4 days on August 21st.

(6th Tunnelling Company – Training in England information from Donna Baldey – www.tunnellers.net)

Sapper Herbert Vincent Larkin died on 10th August, 1916 at Isolation Hospital, Brimstone Bottom, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from Measles & Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Herbert V. Larkin, aged 32, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Pewsey, Wiltshire, England.

Sapper Herbert Vincent Larkin was buried in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number A. RC. 40 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Base Records advised Mrs Larkin, Greenbushes, Western Australia, on 14th August, 1916 that her son Sapper Herbert V. Larkin was dangerously ill with Measles.

Mrs M. Larkin, 232 York Street, Subiaco, Western Australia, wrote to Base Records on 1st September, 1916 with the following *"Would you kindly let me know all particulars concerning my son death 4383 Sapper Herbert V. Larkin, No. 6 Tunnelling Comp he died at Brimstone Bottom Hospital on the 10th of August, 1916."*

Base Records replied to Mrs Larkin on 12th September, 1916 as vising that "the only information received here in respect of him, was by cable message dated London 12th August last, to the effect that he died of measles 10/8/16 at Brimston Bottom Hospital. Detailed circumstances of his loss, it is anticipated, will not be known here, until the receipt at a later date of the final official confirming document from the front, when all such particulars as may then come to hand will be promptly transmitted to you."

A War Pension was granted to Mary Larkin, 232 York Street, Subiaco, mother of the late Sapper Herbert Vincent Larkin, at the rate of 40/- fortnightly from 11th October, 1916.

Mrs M. Larkin, 232 York Street, Subiaco, Western Australia, wrote to Base Records on 14th December, 1916, requesting the death certificate of her son 4383 Sapper H. V. Larkin.

Base Records replied to Mrs Larkin on 3rd January, 1917 enclosing a certificate of report of death of her son the late No. 4383, Sapper H. V. Larkin, 6th Tunnelling Company.

Mrs M. Larkin, 232 York Street, Subiaco, Western Australia, wrote to Base Records on 4th January, 1917 thank them for sending her sons effects. She added *"My address in future will be Greenbushes, I am returning there."*

Admin Staff, 5th District Base, Perth, Western Australia, wrote to Base Records on 4th October, 1921 regarding the late No. 4383 Sapper H. V. Larkin: *"In reply to your M. 45/1309 of 25/8/21, please note that the mother of the abovenamed, Mrs M. Larkin, now resides at 80 Lake St, Perth, W.A."*

Admin Staff, 5th District Base, Perth, Western Australia, wrote to Base Records on 21st November, 1921 regarding the late No. 4383 Sapper H. V. Larkin: *"With reference to your memo of 25/8/21 and further to my memo of 4/10/21, please note that the mother of the abovenamed, Mrs M. Larkin, has now removed to 458 William St, Perth, W.A."*

Base Records contacted Mrs M. Larkin, 458 William Street, Perth, Western Australia , on 16th January, 1922 stating she was registered on the records of the late No. 4383 Sapper H. V. Larkin, 6th Tunnelling Company, as next of kin but requested to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & was specifically asked if his father was still alive 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.

Mary Larkin replied to Base Records on 31st January, 1922 advising that *"the late 4383 Sapper H, V. Larkin's father is not alive. He died some years ago in 1908. I am his mother."*

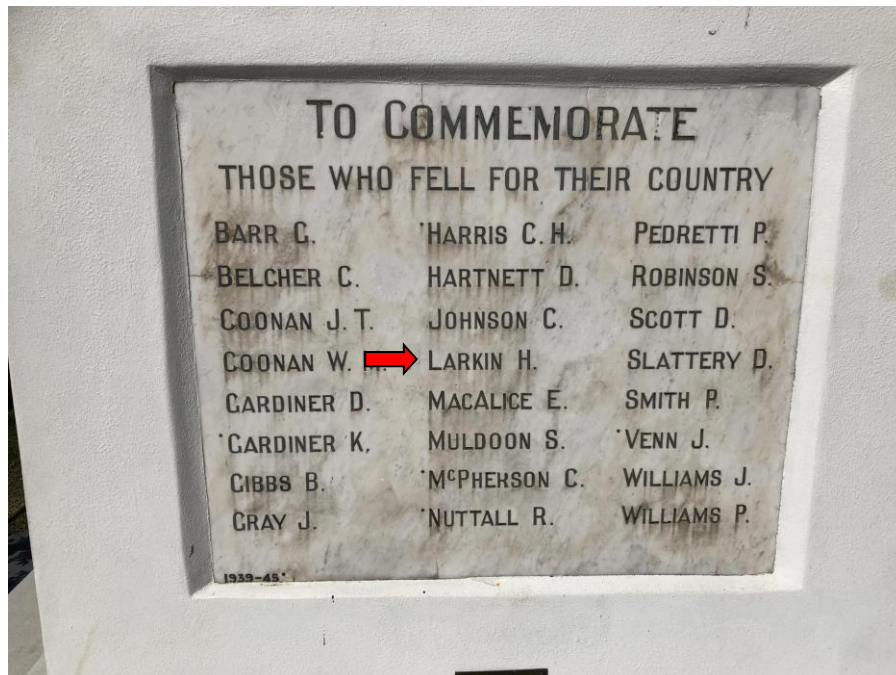
Sapper Herbert Vincent Larkin was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sapper Larkin's mother – Mrs M. Larkin, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent April, 1922 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sapper Herbert Vincent Larkin – service number 4383, aged 31, of 6th Coy., Australian Tunnelling Corps. He was the son of Mary and the late Thomas Larkin.

H. Larkin is remembered on the Dardanup War Memorial, located at Shire of Dardanup Municipal Offices, Little Street, Dardanup, Western Australia.



Dardanup War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – James Wills)



H. V. Larkin is remembered on St. James' Honour Roll, located in St. James' Anglican Church, Roberts Street, Moora, Western Australia. There are 2 brass honour rolls commemorating members of the parish who served in World War 1.

Newspaper Item – Moora Herald and Midland Districts Advocate, Western Australia – 24 August, 1917:

At the June meeting of the Vestry of St. James Church, Moora, it was decided to move in the matter of erecting a fitting memorial to the Anglican soldiers who have enlisted from this parish. Mr P D Ferguson was appointed

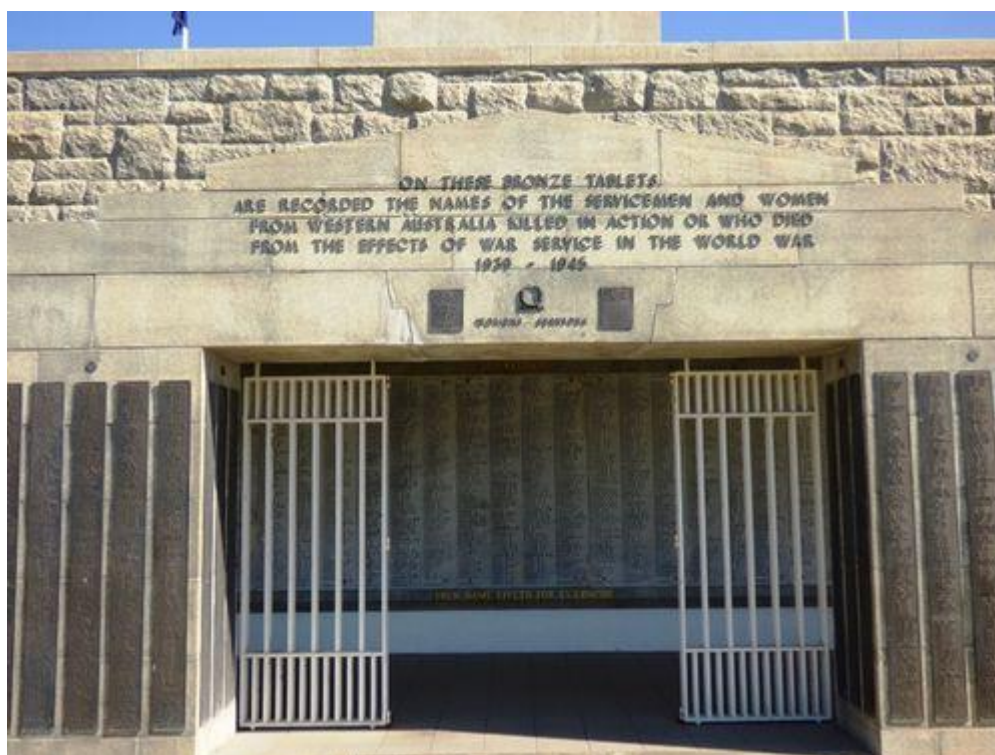
H. V. Larkin is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



**Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park (above)
& (below) The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names**

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)





Corps of Engineers Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

Sapper H. V. Larkin is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 27.



Roll of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Sapper Herbert Vincent Larkin is remembered by ANZAC Heroes of Great War 1914 – 1918 for the Bunbury - Wellington Districts, Western Australia.



Herbert V. Larkin is one of three local men (Christopher H. Hoskyns-Abrahall & Charles W. E. Vernede) who were not included on the Carnamah War Memorial, located at Macpherson & Yarra Streets, Carnamah, Western Australia. They have, however, been recognised by Carnamah Historical Society & Museum & on Remembrance Day 2014 three crosses were included in the ANZAC Cottage, Mount Hawthorn, Perth, Western Australia display.

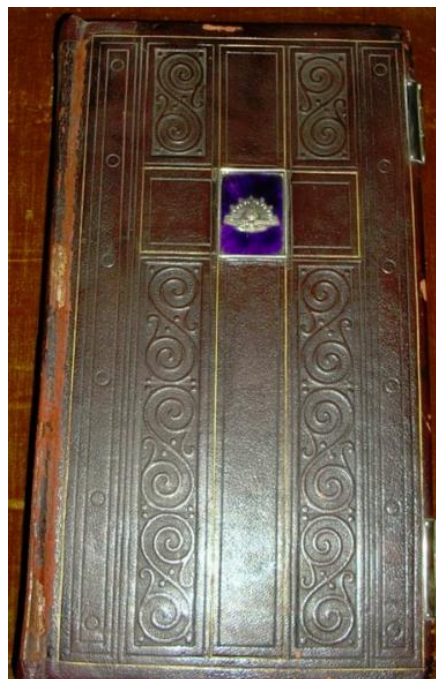


ANZAC Cottage Remembrance Day 2014 Display (Photo from Carnamah Historical Society & Museum)



Carnamah War Memorial (Photo from Monument Australia – Erich Nussbaumer)

Sapper H. V. Larkin is remembered in the Roll of Honour Book of Tunnellers who fell in the Great War, held at St. Paul's Cathedral, London, England.



Roll of Honour Book of Tunnellers, St. Paul's Cathedral, London

(Photos courtesy of Robin Sanderson, Paris)



(49 pages of Sapper Herbert Vincent Larkin'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

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE ROLL OF HONOUR

202nd AND 203rd CASUALTY LISTS

DIED OF ILLNESS

Sapper H. V. Larkin (Greenbushes)

(The West Australian, Perth, Western Australia – 1 September, 1916)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

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.

Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Tidworth Military Cemetery, which contains burials of both wars, was directly connected with training grounds on, or near, Salisbury Plain.

During the First World War, the cemetery was used for burials from Tidworth and Fargo Military Hospitals and the 417 graves, many of them of Australian or New Zealand servicemen, are scattered throughout the cemetery.

There are 106 Second World War graves in the cemetery, two substantial groups of which can be found in sections F and D. The rest are scattered.

The cemetery also contains 40 war graves of other nationalities, many of them Polish.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers – Kevin)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00481

Tidworth Military Cemetery – 12 June, 1919

A corner of the Australian cemetery. Front row, left to right: 5840 Private F. W. Heede, 25th Battalion died 3 June 1917; 7350 Private A. E. Campbell, 8th Battalion, died 2 August 1917; 1824 Driver A. C. Jones, 4th Company, Australian Machine Gun Corps, AADC, died 8 August 1917; 8009 Corporal W. J. Giles, Australian Tunnelling Company, died 17 March 1918.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00327

The AIF Tidworth cemetery under snow. – March 1919.

Identified graves marked by a cross and headstone in the foreground

Front row: 50727 Private Rowland James Dickson, Australian Machine Gun Corps, died 14 October 1918.

Second row, left to right: 18282 Driver John Thalma Jackson, Details Australian Engineers, died 30 October 1917; 17445 Pte Roland Travers Woodville, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 13 September 1917; 31712 Gunner John Alexander McDonald, 15th Field Artillery Brigade, Australian Field Artillery, died 30 July 1917, aged 37, at Tidworth Military Hospital; 3062 Pte Even Thomas Kennedy, 3rd Australian Pioneers, died 7 August 1917.

Note Gunner McDonald has a large headstone which reads in part 'erected by his sorrowing comrades of the Australian Field Artillery. His duty done.'



Tidworth Military Cemetery (Photo by *julia&keld* – Find a Grave)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo courtesy of *John Prestidge*)

Photo of Sapper H. V. Larkin's Private Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Retired QA)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo by Chris Talbot 2009)

