

**Milton Cemetery,
Portsmouth, Hampshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



130 PRIVATE

T. F. LYNCH

32ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

18TH DECEMBER, 1916

Your Loving Memory

Is In My Heart

Until From Life I Depart

Mother

Thomas Francis (Tom) LYNCH

Thomas Francis Lynch was born in Adelaide, South Australia around 1899 to parents Henry Francis and Mary Lynch** (nee Dundon). (**No record of Thomas Francis Lynch's birth could be found - see section below marked by **).

Thomas Francis Lynch attended Christian Brothers' College, Wakefield St, Adelaide, South Australia.

Thomas Francis Lynch stated he was an 18* year old, single, Boilermaker's Assistant from corner of Ifould and Auckland Street, Adelaide, South Australia when he enlisted at Keswick, South Australia on 21st July, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 130 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Mary Lynch, of corner of Ifould and Auckland Street, Adelaide, South Australia. (*According to the death notice placed in 1918 – Thomas Francis Lynch enlisted at the age of 16. Those under the age of 21 needed their parents' consent to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service abroad. There is no consent form or letter in Thomas Francis Lynch's Service Record file.)

Private Thomas Francis Lynch was posted to "K" Group, Base Depot on 21st July, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to "A" Company, 32nd Battalion on 16th August, 1915.

Private Thomas Francis Lynch was absent without leave on 22nd August, 1915 while posted at Mitcham. He was fined 1 days' pay.

Private Thomas Francis Lynch was absent from afternoon Parade on 2nd November, 1915 while posted at Cheltenham. He was awarded 5 days confined to barracks.

Private Thomas Francis Lynch embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Geelong* (A2) on 18th November, 1915 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 32nd Infantry Battalion "A" Company & disembarked at Suez on 18th December, 1915.

Private Thomas Francis Lynch failed to have his kit stacked properly & was awarded 3 days confined to Barracks while posted at Tel-el-Kebir on 14th March, 1916.

Private Thomas Francis Lynch "quitted the rank without permission of Officer in charge of Parade" at Moascar on 4th June, 1916. He was awarded 14 days Field Punishment No. 2.

Private Thomas Francis Lynch embarked from Alexandria on 17th June, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). He disembarked from *Transylvania* at Marseilles, France on 23rd June, 1916.

Private Thomas Francis Lynch was wounded in action in France on 20th July, 1916. He was admitted to 8th Field Ambulance with gunshot wounds to thigh then transferred to 8th Casualty Clearing Station. From there he was transferred to Ambulance Train No. 17 on 21st July & admitted to 32nd Stationary Hospital at Wimereux the same day with gunshot wounds to left thigh. He was transferred to Convalescent Camp at Boulogne on 22nd July, 1916.

War Diary – 32nd Battalion

20th July, 1916 – Fleurbaix

7.30 am – Bn withdrew to 300th line.

8.30 am – Bn marched to billets at Fleurbaix.

Casualties Killed 4 Officers... Wounds 8 Officers....Missing 5 Officers.....OR killed 67 Wounded 367 Missing 214

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Thomas Francis Lynch was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France from Convalescent Depot on 27th July, 1916. He proceeded to join his Unit from Etaples on 8th August, 1916 & rejoined his Battalion in France on 15th August, 1916.

Private Thomas Francis Lynch was wounded in action (2nd occasion) on 29th November, 1916. He was admitted to 38th Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wounds to right arm & thigh. Pte Lynch was admitted to 2nd General Hospital at Havre on 30th November, 1916. He was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Gloucester Castle* on 3rd December, 1916.

32nd Battalion

The 32nd Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Mitcham, on the outskirts of Adelaide, on 9 August 1915. Only two companies were raised from South Australian enlistees - another two were formed in Western Australia and joined the battalion at the end of September. The battalion sailed from Adelaide on 18 November 1915.

The 8th Brigade joined the newly raised 5th Australian Division in Egypt, and proceeded to France, destined for the Western Front, in June 1916. The 32nd Battalion fought its first major battle at Fromelles on 19 July 1916, having only entered the front-line trenches 3 days previously. The attack was a disastrous introduction to battle for the 32nd - it suffered 718 casualties, almost 75 per cent of the battalion's total strength, but closer to 90 per cent of its actual fighting strength. Although it still spent periods in the front line, the 32nd played no major offensive role for the rest of the year.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Thomas Francis Lynch was admitted to 5th Southern General Hospital, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England on 3rd December, 1916 with gunshot wounds to right arm & thigh - severe.

Private Thomas Francis Lynch died at 2.30 am on 18th December, 1916 at 5th Southern General Hospital, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England from wounds received in action in France – gunshot wounds to right arm.

A death for Thomas F. Lynch, aged 20*, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Portsmouth, Hampshire, England. (*According to death notice placed by his “foster-mother” Thomas Francis Lynch enlisted at the age of 16 & died at the age of 18).

Private Thomas Francis Lynch was buried on 20th December, 1916 in Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England – Plot number M, Row 5 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. The Cortège left the 5th Southern General Hospital on Fawcett Road, Portsmouth at 2 pm for Milton Cemetery.

A photo of the grave of the late Private Thomas Francis Lynch was sent to his mother Mrs M. Lynch in 1918. She wrote to Base Records in July, 1918 thanking them for the photo “*I return you my hearts thanks for your kindness and thoughtfulness in having it taking and sending it to me. For there is not one thing in this world this minute that I longed to have more than my dear boys photo of his grave. How I yearned to have that photo no one knows and now so unexpectedly to have that wish gratified. How will I ever thank those thoughtful people home in England enough for their kindness to us Mother in this far off land.....*”

A letter was sent from Base Records on 28th April, 1920 to Mrs M. Lynch, mother, of the late Private Thomas Francis Lynch, advising that her son's remains had been exhumed from the former site in Milton Cemetery & had been re-interred in Plot H. Row 19. Grave No. 5 in the same cemetery. It was explained that “*this work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain*”.

A letter was sent to Mrs M. Lynch of 42 Ifould Street, Adelaide, South Australia in July, 1925 but was returned to Base Records, Melbourne as unclaimed. The letter contained a photo of her late son's grave in Milton Cemetery & a general view of the Cemetery with Mr Sanderson (of 33 Exeter Road, Southsea, England who voluntarily attended to the care of the graves). The photo was kept in the service record file of the late Private Thomas Francis Lynch.



**Photo of re-interred 11 Australian Soldiers in Milton Cemetery
with Mr Sanderson who voluntarily attended to the care of the graves**

(Photos located in Service Record file of Pte Thomas Francis Lynch)



A War Pension was granted to Mary Lynch, 42 Ifould & Auckland Streets, Adelaide, "Foster-mother" of the late Private Thomas Francis Lynch, in the sum of 15/- per fortnight from 26th February, 1917.

Base Records contacted Mrs M. Lynch, mother, of the late Private Thomas Francis Lynch, on 17th December, 1920 asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself 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. **Mrs M. Lynch replied stating that her adopted son had no living relations to her knowledge. She stated that Thomas Francis Lynch had been brought up by her since a baby as her own child & it is only since he was killed that she had to tell the Military. She stated "*he never knew but he was my own child & didn't (?) I let any one know he was adopted by me out of the State and the Governor signed him over to me*".

Private Thomas Francis Lynch was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Lynch's "Foster-mother" – Mrs M. Lynch, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent October, 1921 & Plaque sent June, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Thomas Francis Lynch – service number 130, of 32nd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Henry Francis and Mary Lynch, of 42 Ifould St., Adelaide, South Australia.

T. F. Lynch is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

T. F. Lynch is remembered on the South Australian Railways Honour Board, located at Adelaide Railway Station concourse (North End) Adelaide, South Australia.



South Australian Railways Honour Board (Photo from RSL Virtual War Memorial)

Private T. F. Lynch is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 120.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(67 pages of Pte Thomas Francis Lynch'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



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H06083

Private Thomas Francis Lynch

Newspaper Notices

THE LATE PRIVATE T. F. LYNCH

Mrs H. Lynch, of Ifould-street, has received word that her son, Private T. F. Lynch, died of wounds in the General Hospital, Portsmouth, England, on December 18. He was 18 years of age. He was employed at Islington Workshops. He enlisted on July 20, 1915 and sailed for Egypt on November 18, 1915, with the 32nd Battalion. He spent eight



The late Private T. F. Lynch

months in Egypt, then was sent to France, where he took part in the battle of Pozieres. He was wounded on July 20. He went back to the trenches four months later, when he met his death. He was a favourite with all. Private Lynch was educated at the Christian Brothers' College and also at Mr Hayward's Academy.

(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 6 January, 1917)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

LYNCH – In loving memory of No. 130, Thomas Francis (Tom) Lynch, of the 32nd Battalion, M.G.S. wounded on the 28th November, in France, died in the 5th Southern General Hospital, Portsmouth, England, on 18th December, 1916. May God grant to his soul eternal rest.

He was only 16 years when he enlisted,
Only 18 years when he got killed;
He was called upon to do a brave man's work,
And that work he nobly fulfilled.
His fervent wish was to think of him,
Those lines he sent me from France:
*"Do not fret, dear mother, if I get killed,
For I've only got to die once."*

That voice is mute, and still the heart that loved us well and true;
Ah, bitter was the trial to part from one so good as you

Enshrined in heart, embalmed in tears,
The memory shall never die;
But greener grow with lapse of years,
Our brave soldier son, good boy,

-Inserted by his sorrowing mother and father.

LYNCH – In loving memory of my dear brother, 130, T. H. Lynch, of the 32nd Battalion, who died at Portsmouth on the 18th December, 1916, from wounds received in France.

My thoughts are ever of you Tom,
Though sad I feel a pride,
That for God, for King and country,
You a young hero died.

- Inserted by his sister, Dorothy.

LYNCH – In loving memory of my life-long pal, 130, Private Thomas Lynch, who died of wounds December 18, 1916.

Laddie, soldier laddie, a call came over the sea,
A call to the best and bravest in the land of liberty;
Bravely you marched to battle, nobly your life laid down,
You unto death were faithful, Tommy, yours was the victor's crown.

-Inserted by his loving mate, Bert Burr ridge (late 10th Battalion, returned).

(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 21 December, 1918)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

LYNCH – In loving memory of my darling boy, 130, Private T. F. (Tom) Lynch, 32nd Battalion, died of wounds in Portsmouth, England, on 18th December, 1916.

I remember the hour when we parted,
Beneath those drawn swords;
I remember your kiss upon my cheek,
I remember your loving words-
"Do not fret for me, dear mother,
War is but a game of chance;
But always remember, dear mother,
I am fighting for you in France."

-Inserted by his loving mother and father.

LYNCH – In memory of my dear mate, Private Tom Lynch (130), of 32nd Battalion, died of wounds received in France in the 18th December, 1916.

His brave young life he gave
For his country, his God, and King.
That noble life he laid down
Ere life had scarce begun.

-Inserted by his mate, George Williamson, A.I.F., returned.

LYNCH – In memory of my dear brother, Private (Tom) Lynch, 130, died of wounds received in France on the 18th December, 1916.

A devoted brother, a faithful friend,
One of the best that God could send.
As the ivy clings to oak,
So our memory clings to you.

-Inserted by his sister Dorothy.

LYNCH – In loving memory of my dear mate, T. F. Lynch, who died of wounds, December 18, 1916, at Portsmouth, England.

Cobber, soldier cobber, the spring has come back again,
But her voice from the windy hilltops is calling you name in vain;
For never shall we together 'mid the birds and blossoms roam,
Over the hills of home, Tommy, over the hills of home.

-Inserted by his loving mate, Bert Burrridge, Yorketown, late 10th Battalion, A.I.F.

LYNCH – In loving memory of my dear friend, Tom T. Lynch, who died on the 18th December, 1916, from wounds received on active service.

I cannot clasp your hand, dear Tom,
Thy face I cannot see;
But let this token tell
I still remember you.

-Inserted by your loving pal, Cyril.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 18 December, 1919) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 20 December, 1919)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

LYNCH – In loving memory of my dear mate, T. F. Lynch, who died of wounds, December 18, 1916, at Portsmouth, England.

Cobber, soldier cobber, the spring has come back again,
But her voice from the windy hilltops is calling your name in vain;
For never shall we together 'mid the birds and blossoms roam,
Over the hills of home, Tommy, over the hills of home.

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I cannot clasp your hand, dear Tom,
Thy face I cannot see;
But let this token tell
I still remember you.

-Inserted by your loving pal, Cyril.

(*Chronicle*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 27 December, 1919)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

LYNCH – In loving remembrance of my dear boy, Private Tom Lynch, of the 32nd Battalion, died of wounds in Portsmouth, England, on the 18th December, 1916.

Although in this world I have been cruelly blighted,
All the fond hopes of my innermost heart,
But soon in a holier region united,
Then Tom, my dear boy, we will never more part.

-Inserted by his loved one, M.A.L.

LYNCH – In loving memory of our dear boy, 130, Private Thomas Francis Lynch, of 32nd Battalion, died of wounds in the 5th Southern General Hospital, Portsmouth, England, on the 18th December, 1916.

We miss your helpin hand, dear Tom,
Your kind and loving ways;
We miss your cheerful company;
We have missed you through all those days.
Your once bright eyes are clouded now, ____.
But your sweet smile lingers yet.
In our hearts we dearly loved you,
Too deep to e'er forget.

-Inserted by his father and mother.

LYNCH – In loving remembrance of our dear brother, Private Thomas F. Lynch, of the 32nd Battalion, died on December 18, 1916 at Portsmouth, England.

Sweet is the word remembrance,
And these few lines will show
That you are evre remembered by us, Tom,
Though years may come and go.

-Inserted by Cyril and Dorothy.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 18 December, 1920) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 25 December, 1920)

HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

LYNCH – In loving memory of Private T. F. Lynch, of the 32nd Battalion, died of wounds at Portsmouth, received in France on the 18th December, 1916.

Dearer to our hearts than words can tell
Is the memory of him we loved so well.

-Inserted by his loving father and mother and brother Joe.

(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 17 December, 1921) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 24 December, 1921)

**Notices were also placed in 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932 & 1933.

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)

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

Your Loving Memory Is in My Heart Until From Life I Depart

Mother

Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England

Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth contains 426 Commonwealth War Graves – 192 relating to World War 1 & 234 relating to World War 2. There are 12 Australian War Graves from World War 1 in this cemetery.

It was opened in 1911, and contains war graves of both World Wars. The 1914-1918 burials are mainly in Plot 1. After the war a Cross of Sacrifice was erected on the northern side of the chapel in honour of all the servicemen buried in the cemetery. The 1939-1945 War burials are widely spread throughout the cemetery.

(Information from CWGC)



Australian War Graves in Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth *(Photo by Mr Peter Bennett)*

Photo of Private T. F. Lynch's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers)



Cemetery Chapel at Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth *(Photo by Basher Eyre)*