

**St. James Churchyard,
Dudley, Worcestershire
War Grave**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



10675 LANCE CPL.

A. SKIDMORE

AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

11TH OCTOBER, 1917 Age 27

Alfred SKIDMORE

Alfred Skidmore was born at Clifton Hill, Victoria in 1890 to parents David and Alice Skidmore (nee Winter).

The 1914, 1915 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Kooyong, subdivision of Hawthorn, Victoria recorded Alfred Skidmore, Civil Servant, of Wyuna Ave, Hawthorn. Also listed were his parents – David Skidmore, Instructor & Alice Skidmore, Home Duties.

Alfred Skidmore was a 25 year old, single, Clerk (in the Commonwealth Public Service) from 14 Yarra Street, Hawthorn, Victoria when he enlisted on 17th January, 1916 with the 3rd Divisional Signal Company, Australian Engineers of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 10675 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr David Skidmore of 14 Yarra Street, Hawthorn, Victoria.

Private Alfred Skidmore was posted to “B” Company, 22nd Depot Battalion on 14th February, 1916. He was transferred to Signal School at Broadmeadows on 19th February, 1916.

Sapper Alfred Skidmore was posted to 3rd Divisional Signal Company, A.I.F. on 3rd March, 1916.

Sapper Alfred Skidmore embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Ascanius* (A11) on 25th May, 1916 & disembarked at England on 18th July, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England.

Sapper Alfred Skidmore proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 23rd November, 1916.

Sapper Alfred Skidmore was appointed Lance Corporal while in the field (vice Lance Corporal Jones promoted) in France on 17th April, 1917.

Lance Corporal Alfred Skidmore was evacuated to Hospital sick in France on 4th June, 1917. He was taken to 9th Australian Field Ambulance then transferred to Casualty Clearing Station on 4th June, 1917 with Perinephritic Abscess. L/Cpl. Skidmore was transferred & admitted to 2nd Australian General Hospital at Wimereux, France on 5th June, 1917 – cause N.Y.D (Not yet determined). He was transferred to England from Boulogne on Hospital Ship *St. Patrick* on 25th July, 1917.

Lance Corporal Alfred Skidmore was admitted to 2nd Birmingham War Hospital, Northfield, England on 25th July, 1917 with Perinephritis. The Admission to Hospital form has the following comments: “*Invalided from France. Operation 11.9.17 Kidney excised – found full of cysts & pus. 12.9.17 Vomiting. 14.9.17 Discharge faecal matter from wound. 15.9.17 General condition improved. 28.9.17 No sleep. ..*”

Lance Corporal Alfred Skidmore died at 12.30 pm on 11th October, 1917 at 2nd Birmingham War Hospital, Northfield, England from Perinephritic Abscess & Excision of Kidney (Syncope).

A death for Alfred Skidmore, aged 27, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Kings Norton, Worcestershire, England.

Lance Corporal Alfred Skidmore was buried at 2.30 pm on 16th October, 1917 in St James' Churchyard, Dudley, Worcestershire, England, near the south-east corner of the Church and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Lance Corporal Alfred Skidmore - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was interred privately at St. James Churchyard, Dudley. The funeral leaving the residence of Mr P. Skidmore, 26 Grange Road, Dudley – the coffin having been brought from Birmingham via road. A Service was conducted in the Church and at the graveside by Rev. A. J. R. Haworth, C. Of E. Ettingshall Vicarage. Relatives followed the hearse in two mourning coaches. Twelve wreaths and floral tributes were sent by relatives and two by the Birmingham Hospital – one by “Doctor, Sister and Nurses” and one from the “Patients” in the Hospital. An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F.*

Names of relatives and friend present at the funeral: Mr P. Skidmore (Uncle), Mr J. Skidmore (Uncle), Mr Joseph Skidmore (Cousin), Mr David Skidmore (Cousin), Mr G. Clark (Cousin's Husband), Mr J. Palmer (Cousin's Husband), Mr F. Harrington (Cousin's Husband), Mr J. Mills (Cousin's Husband).

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Lance Corporal Alfred Skidmore was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Corporal Skidmore's father – Mr D. Skidmore, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent March, 1922 & Plaque sent September, 1922).

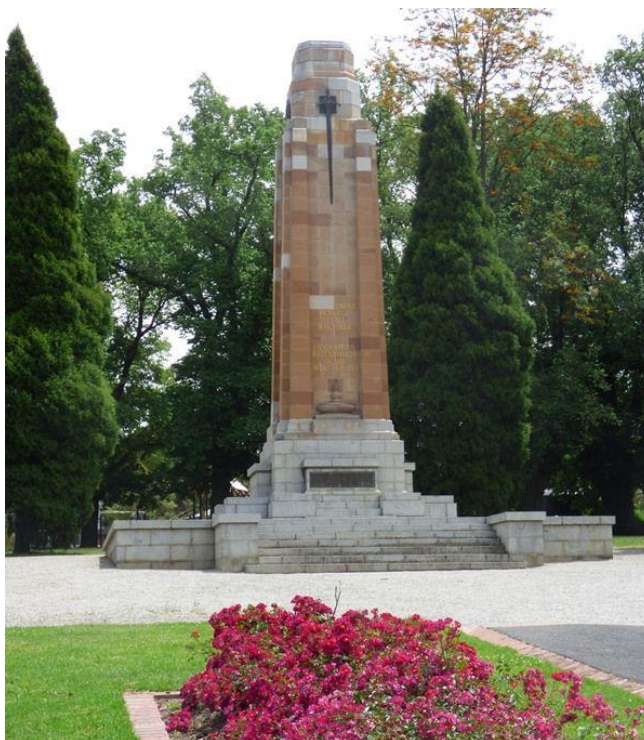
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Alfred Skidmore – service number 10675, aged 27, of 3rd Divisional Signal Company, Australian Engineers. He was the son of David and Alice Skidmore, of 4 Power Avenue, Hawthorn, Victoria, Australia. Born at Melbourne.

Lance Corporal A. Skidmore is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 26.



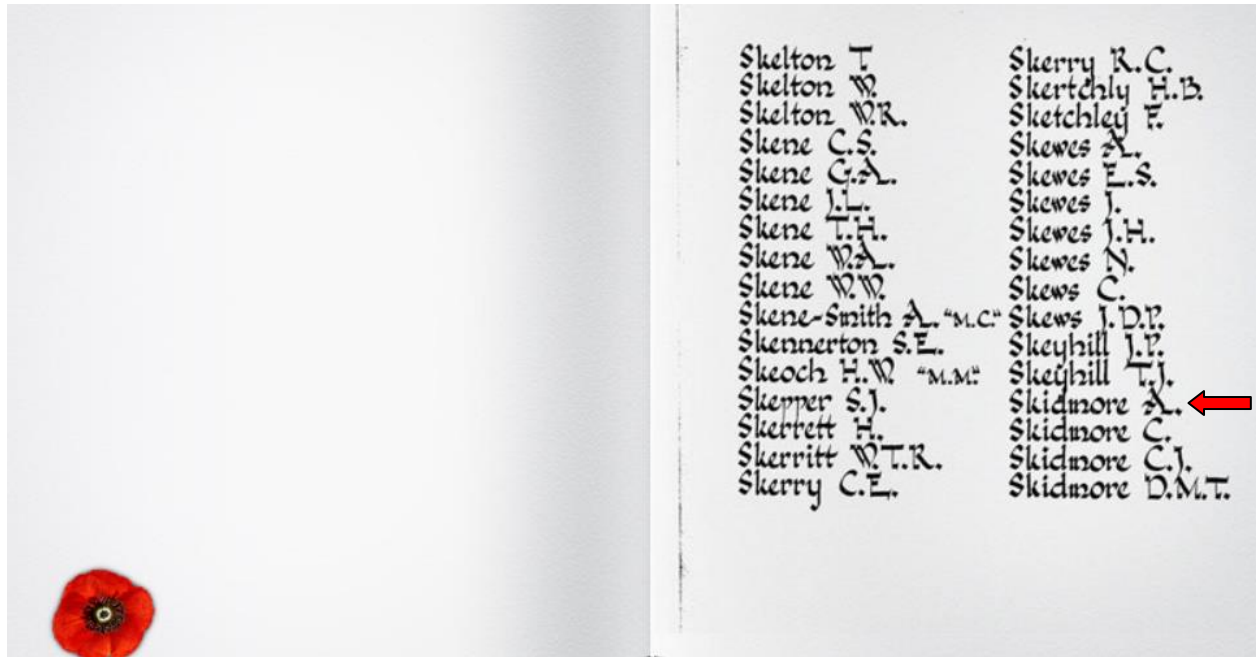
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

The Hawthorn Cenotaph, which is located in St. James Park, Burwood Road, Hawthorn, Victoria, does not have individual names.



Hawthorn Cenotaph (Photo from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Graeme Saunders)

A. Skidmore is remembered in the Book of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Victoria.



(38 pages of Lance Corporal Alfred Skidmore'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

VICTORIA

ILL

Spr. A. Skidmore, Hawthorn (ser.)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 5 October, 1917)

THE 349TH CASUALTY LIST

The Victorian names are:-

DIED OF ILLNESS

L-Corp A. Skidmore, Hawthorn

(*The Mildura Cultivator*, Victoria – 7 November, 1917)

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).

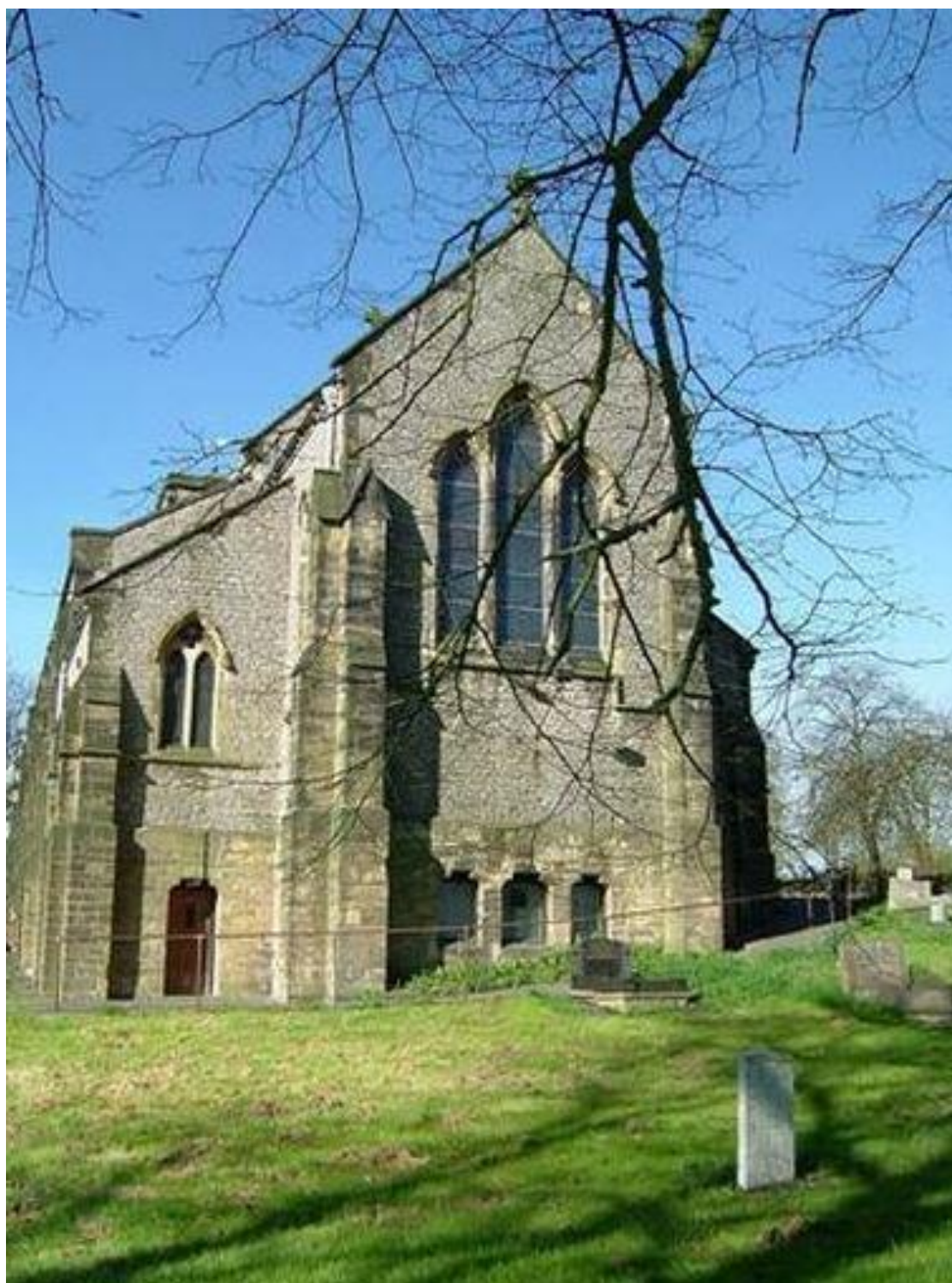
The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(*Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921*)

Lance Corporal A. Skidmore does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

St James' Churchyard, Dudley, Worcestershire, England

St James' Churchyard, Dudley contains 3 Commonwealth War Graves – 2 from World War 1 & 1 from World War 2.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett Private Collection)

Photo of Lance Corporal A. Skidmore's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. James Churchyard, Dudley, Worcestershire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett Private Collection)



(Photo courtesy of Mark James – Feb 2020)