

**West Norwood Cemetery & Crematorium,
London, England
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



236 PRIVATE

F. W. SYDER

7TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

15TH NOVEMBER, 1918 Age 30

Frank William SYDER

Frank William Syder was born in London, England on 22nd April, 1889 to parents Frederick & Catherine Syder (nee Parker).

[Note: Place of birth listed as Camden Town, London by CWGC; information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour recorded he was born at "Oval Street, Regents Park, London"]

The 1891 England Census recorded Frank W. Syder as a 2 year old, living with his family at 29 Oval Rd, St. Pancras, London, England. His parents were listed as Frederick Syder (Omnibus Conductor, aged 48, born Fakenham, Norfolk) & his mother was listed as Catherine Syder (Dressmaker, aged 37, born Bushey, Hertfordshire). Frank was one of nine children listed on this Census – Elizabeth Syder (aged 19, born Clapham, London), Winifred Syder (General Servant, aged 15, born Clapham, London), Harriett Syder (aged 14, born Clapham, London), Ellen Syder (Scholar, aged 12, born Clapham, London), Frederick Syder (Scholar, aged 11, born Clapham, London), John Syder (Scholar, aged 7, born St Pancras, London), Grace Syder (Scholar, aged 4, born St Pancras, London) then Frank & Dorothy M. Syder (aged 4 months, , born St Pancras, London).

Frank William Syder attended school near Southwark, London (name illegible on Roll of Honour information sheet).

The School Admissions Register for Princess Road School, Camden, London recorded Frank Syder being re-admitted on 4th May, 1892. His family lived at 29 Oval Road. Frank Syder was removed from the School on 20th April, 1893.

The 1901 England Census recorded Frank W. Syder as a 12 year old, living with his family at 58 Summer St., Southwark, London, England. His parents were listed as Frederick Syder (Butcher, Shopkeeper, aged 57) & Catherine Syder (aged 47). Frank was one of five children listed on this Census – Winifred Syder (aged 25), Frederick Syder (Butcher's son, aged 21), Grace A. Syder (aged 14) then Frank & Dorothy M. Syder (aged 9).

The 1911 England Census recorded Frank Syder as a 21 year old, single Shopman, living at 109 Walworth Road, Newington, North, London, England which was an eight roomed dwelling. The head of the house was listed as Charles Joseph Dunman (Pork Butcher, aged 32). Charles Dunman also had his wife – Christine Dunman (Assisting in the Business, aged 29) & their daughter Vera Christine Dunman (under 12 months) listed. Percival Derby (Shopman, aged 26) & Edith Whiffin (General Domestic Servant, aged 29) were also listed in the household.

According to information provided by his mother for the Roll of Honour – Frank Syder came to Australia when he was 20.

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Bourke, subdivision of Heidelberg, Victoria listed Frank William Syder, Butcher, from Burgundy Street, Heidelberg.

[The 1917 Electoral Roll for the division of Kooyong, subdivision of Box Hill, Victoria recorded Frank William Syder, Butcher from 248 Station St., Box Hill.]

Frank William Syder was a 25 year old, single, Butcher from 18 James Street, Box Hill, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 28th February, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 236 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Frederick Syder, St. Xavier College, 15 Hamilton Road, West Richmond, England. Frank Syder stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service due to eye sight.

Private Frank William Syder was posted to 39th Battalion "A" Company at Ballarat on 6th March, 1916 for recruit training.

Private Frank William Syder embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Ascanius* (A11) on 27th May, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Brigade, 39th Infantry Battalion, Head-Quarters & disembarked at Devonport, England on 18th 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 & also in the county of Dorset.

39th Battalion

The 39th Battalion was formed on 21 February 1916 at the Ballarat Showgrounds in Victoria and drew most of its recruits from the state's Western District. It became part of the 10th Brigade of the 3rd Australian Division. Sailing from Melbourne on 27 May, the battalion arrived in Britain on 18 July and commenced four months of training....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Frank William Syder was marched in to 10th Training Battalion on 11th August, 1916. He was transferred to 7th Battalion (2nd Training Battalion) at Larkhill, Wiltshire on 9th September, 1916. He proceeded overseas to France from 2nd Training Battalion on 9th September, 1916 to join 7th Battalion at the Front. Private Syder was marched in to 1st Divisional Base Depot at Etaples, France on 11th September, 1916. He was marched out to his Unit on 22nd September, 1916 & was taken on strength of 7th Battalion in Belgium on 23rd September, 1916.

7th Battalion

The 7th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 5th, 6th and 8th Battalions, it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade.....

The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley where it fought between 23-27 July and 15-21 August. After Pozieres the battalion manned trenches in the Ypres salient in Belgium, before returning to the Somme valley. It saw out the horrendous winter of 1916-1917 rotating between training, working parties and duty in the trenches.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Frank William Syder reported sick on 6th November, 1916. He was admitted to 9th General Hospital at Rouen, France on 10th November, 1916 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). Private Syder was transferred to Havre, France on 18th November, 1916 with Dysentery & embarked on Hospital Ship *Dunluce Castle* on 19th November, 1916.

Private Frank William Syder was admitted to 1st London General Hospital on 20th November, 1916 with Dysentery. He was discharged from Hospital on 1st January, 1917. Private Syder was on furlo from 2nd February, 1917 until 17th February, 1917 & was then to report to Perham Downs.

Private Frank William Syder was marched in to No. 1 Command Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 19th February, 1917 & was medically classified as B 1A.

Private Frank William Syder was transferred to No. 4 Command Depot at Wareham, Dorset on 16th March, 1917. He was transferred to 65th Battalion on 23rd March, 1917 from 7th Battalion & was taken on strength of 65th Battalion the same day.

Private Frank William Syder was transferred to 8th Battalion Details at Perham Downs, Wiltshire on 4th April, 1917. He was marched in to Infantry Depot at Perham Downs on 5th April, 1917.

Private Frank William Syder was transferred to 67th Battalion at Windmill Hill Camp on 28th April, 1917 & was taken on strength of 67th Battalion the same day.

Private Frank William Syder was transferred from 67th Battalion to 66th Battalion at Tidworth on 25th July, 1917 & was taken on strength of 67th Battalion the same day.

Private Frank William Syder was transferred back to 7th Battalion on marching out to 63rd Draft Battalion on 19th September, 1917.

Private Frank William Syder proceeded overseas to France on 17th October, 1917 via Southampton from 63rd Draft Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire to reinforce the 7th Battalion. He was marched in to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian

Divisional Base Depot) at Havre, France on 18th October, 1917. Private Syder was marched out from 1st A.B.D.B. on 21st October, 1917 & was taken on strength of 7th Battalion in France on 25th November, 1917 from 63rd Draft Battalion.

Private Frank William Syder was wounded in action – Gassed on 1st January, 1918. He was admitted to 1st Australian Field Ambulance on 1st January, 1918 having been Gassed – slight then transferred to 3rd Field Ambulance. Private Syder was discharged from 1st A.D.R.S. (Australian Divisional Rest Station) on 20th January, 1918 & rejoined 7th Battalion in the Field on 21st January, 1918.

War Diary – 7th Battalion

Kemmel Area – 1st January, 1918:

Battalion camped in ROSSIGNOL CAMP in huts, KEMMEL AREA, resting after tour of 16 days in the line. Weather fine but cold.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Frank William Syder was wounded in action (2nd occasion) on 9th August, 1918. He was admitted to 8th Australian Field Ambulance on 10th August, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to Left Shoulder & was transferred to 61st Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Private Syder was transferred to Ambulance Train 11 on 10th August, 1918 & was admitted to 13th U.S. General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 11th August, 1918. He was transferred to England on 23rd August, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Pieter de Conick*.

7th Battalion

.....The battalion was withdrawn from the front line for training on 9 May 1917 and did not return to action until the Ypres offensive of September and October. It fought major battles at Menin Road on 20 September and Broodseinde on 4 October, and then spent much of ensuing winter in the Ypres mud.

In March and April 1918 the 7th helped stop the German spring offensive in northern France and later participated in the Allies' own great offensive of 1918, that began with the battle of Amiens on 8 August. The advance by British and empire troops on 8 August was the greatest success in a single day on the Western Front, one that German General Erich Ludendorff described as, "the black day of the German Army in this war".

The battalion continued operations until late September 1918. At 11 am on 11 November 1918, the guns fell silent. The November armistice was followed by the peace treaty of Versailles signed on 28 June 1919.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

War Diary – 7th Battalion

Front Line – 9th August, 1918:

6.25 am – Battalion warned to be ready to move at short notice. Advance parties went forward.

8.10 am – Battalion fell in ready to move. Moved up at 8.30 am.

Vide narrative of operations which brings events up to 9 am on Aug. 10th.

Casualties ...Officers killed (6 officers named). Officer Missing – Lieut W. E. Scott. Officer's wounded (8 officers named). Other ranks – 52 killed 169 wounded 2 missing.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Frank William Syder was admitted to Fort Pitt Military Hospital, Chatham, England on 23rd August, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) Shoulder & fractured Scapula.

Private Frank William Syder died at 2 pm on 15th November, 1918 at Fort Pitt Hospital, Chatham, England from Shock – consequent on amputation of left Arm. (The Morning State of Sick Form (Army Form A. 27) recorded the Hospital as Central Military Hospital, Chatham & the place of death as “24 Ward Fort Pitt.”)

A death for Frank Syder, aged 30, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Medway, Kent, England.

Private Frank William Syder was buried on 22nd November, 1918 in South Metropolitan Cemetery, West Norwood, London, England – Grave No. 35001 Section Q11.

From the burial report of Private Frank William Syder - *The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being supplied by the A.I.F. London. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by several beautiful wreaths sent from:- Mrs C. Syder, Mr F. Syder Jun, Miss M. Cargug, Miss E. Parker, Mr & Mrs Barker, Mr & Mrs Adams Little Jean, Mrs Page, Mrs Berry and Sisters of Ward 24, Fort Pitt Military Hospital, Chatham. The “Last Post” was sounded at the graveside, and the burial service conducted by the Rev: Blackwood. The Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of Relatives & Friends present at the Funeral – Mrs C. Syder, West Norwood; Mr F. Syder Jun, Walthamstow E 17, Miss E. Parker, Beckenham, Mrs E. Parker, Beckenham, Mr & Mrs Adams, Hammersmith, Mrs Swanage, Mrs Berry & Sapper E.

Private Frank William Syder's place of burial is now recorded by the CWGC as West Norwood Cemetery & Crematorium, London, England – Plot number 11. 35001 and now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Frank William Syder contains a brief report which reads “*Adm. Fort Pitt Military Hospital, Chatham 15-11-18. Amputated left arm and died after operation. Buried with Military Funeral at Norwood.*”

Miss Cargey, 18 James St, Box Hill, wrote to Base Records on 26th November, 1918 stating that she had called at the Base Records “*yesterday re latest reports concerning No. 236 Pte F. W. Syder, 7th Battalion, & found that he had passed away but did not take the report. Mrs Syder, his mother is living in England, but I am his fiancée. Would you kindly forward the report on to me, at earliest convenience.*”

Base Records replied to Miss Cargey on 3rd December, 1918 advising that “*... the late No. 236A Pte F. W. Syder, 7th Batn. I have to state he is reported as having died on 15/11/18 at Fort Pitt Military Hospital, Chatham. A.I.F. Headquarters, London, in transmitting this advice stated that they had not been advised of the cause of death, but were investigating. A further cable furnishing this information is therefore expected very shortly and in the circumstances you will be advised when same is to hand.*”

Base Records wrote to Miss Cargey on 5th December, 1916 advising her “*...I now have to inform you cabled advice has been received from A.I.F. Headquarters, London, to the effect that the cause of death was shock consequent upon amputation of left arm.*”

Private Frank William Syder requested in his Will, extracted from his Paybook, that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects to be given to his sister – Grace Syder, 15 St Saviours College, Hamilton Road, West Norwood, London, England. Another Will, dated 15th July, 1917 bequeathed all his real & personal estate to Mrs Syder, 15 St Saviours College, Hamilton Road, West Norwood, London, England.

Private Frank William Syder was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Syder's mother – Mrs C. Syder, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque issued in England in November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Frank William Syder – service number 236, aged 30, of 7th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Frederick & Catherine Syder, of 19A St. Saviour's College, Hamilton Rd, West Norwood, England.

Private F. W. Syder is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 51.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Sadly Private F. W. Syder is not remembered on any Monuments in Box Hill, Victoria regarding his service in World War 1.

(66 pages of Private Frank William Syder'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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

LIST No. 381

Victoria

WOUNDED

F. W. Syder, England (gas)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 1 February, 1918)

THE 450th CASUALTY LIST

VICTORIAN NAMES

DIED OF OTHER CAUSES

Private F. W. Syder, England

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 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)

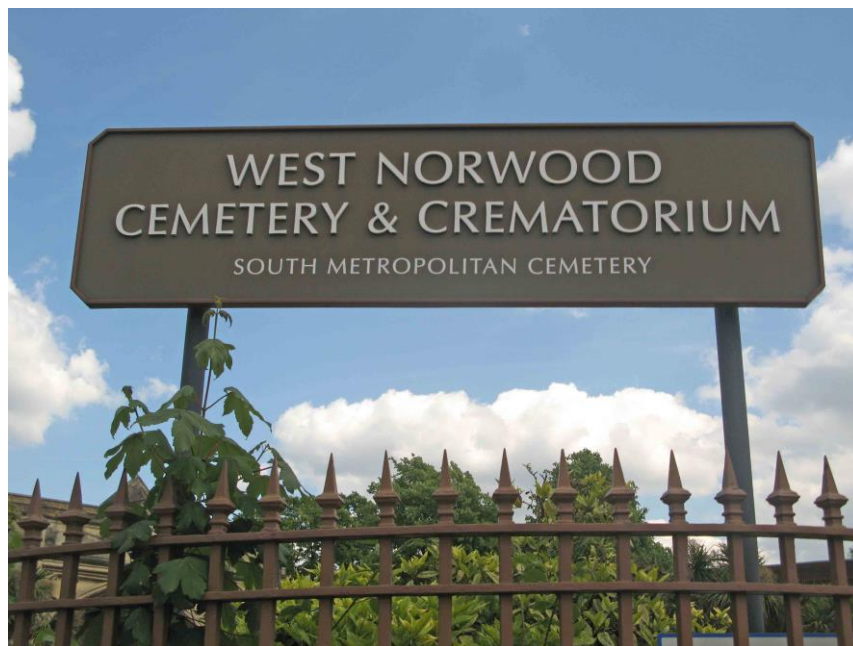
Private F. W. Syder has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone but no inscription.

West Norwood Cemetery & Crematorium, London, England

The cemetery is to the north-east of West Norwood Station, Lambeth. There is a Screen Wall Memorial bearing the names of all 1914-1918 burials not marked by headstones. There are additional panels naming those of the 1939-1945 war with unmarked graves and to those cremated at West Norwood Crematorium. These are erected behind the Cross of Sacrifice in the forecourt of the cemetery.

There are 136 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 52 of the 1939-1945 war here and an additional 18 cremations of the 1939-1945 war. There is 1 Belgian war burial.

(Information from CWGC)



(Find a Grave – Iain Macfarlane)



Entrance to West Norwood Cemetery *(Photo by Ian Yarham)*



Cross of Sacrifice near Entrance to West Norwood Cemetery (Photos by Ian Yarham)



Photo of Private F. W. Syder's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in West Norwood Cemetery & Crematorium, London, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Lost Archives Project 2016)



(Photo from Find a Grave – caryatid 2021)



(Photo from Find a Grave – caryatid 2021)



(Find a Grave – jonga)