

# Durrington War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



6135 PRIVATE

**B. F. PRYME**

26TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

1ST FEBRUARY, 1917

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte B. F. Pryme is located in Grave Plot # 170  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## Bertie Frederick PRYME

Bertie Frederick Pryme was born in Wollongong, NSW in 1887 to parents William & Catherine Pryme (nee Brown).

The New South Wales Police Gazette for 12<sup>th</sup> May, 1909 has the following:

*“Wyndham – A warrant has been issued by the Wyndham Bench for the arrest of Bert Pryme, charged with failing to make adequate provision for the payment of preliminary expenses of and incidental to and immediately succeeding the birth of an infant. He is about 22 years of age, 5 feet 6 inches high, dark complexion, hair and eyes, clean shaved; usually dressed in dark or black clothes; a bicycle repairer, or may seek employment as a miner. May go to New Zealand. Complainant, Margaret Douch, Wyndham.”*

(OPC Note – this may or may not be Bertie Frederick Pryme but the description matches that to the description in Bertie Frederick Pryme’s Attestation Papers. A birth for Bert M. Douch was registered in 1909 in the district of Eden, NSW. No father is listed but the mother is named as Margaret.)

Bert Frederick Pryme married Annie Ellen Summers on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 1910 in Queensland.

The Australian Electoral Roll for Brisbane North, Queensland in 1913 records Bertie Frederick Pryme, Mechanic, living at 74 Herbert Street with his wife Annie Helen Pryme, Home Duties.

Bertie Frederick Pryme was a 28 year old, Married, Motor Mechanic from Rockhampton, Queensland when he enlisted on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 with the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 17<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6135 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs Annie Pryme of Victoria Boarding House, Albert Street, Brisbane, Queensland.

Pte Bertie Frederick Pryme embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Marathon (A74)* on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

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.

Pte Bertie Frederick Pryme was marched in to 7<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion, Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 1917.

Pte Bertie Frederick Pryme was sent sick to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 1917.

Private Bertie Frederick Pryme died on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Bronchitis.

A death for Bertie F. Pryme, aged 28, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Bertie Frederick Pryme was buried on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 170 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private B. F. Pryme is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 108.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

Pte Bertie Frederick Pryme was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Pryme's wife – Mrs A. Pryme (August, 1921 & June, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Bertie Frederick Pryme – service number 6135 as being 20\* years old & served with 26th Battalion Australian Infantry. No family details are listed. (Australian War Memorial records Pte Bertie Pryme's age as 28)

(49 pages of Pte Bertie Frederick Pryme'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 Reports

### ROLL OF HONOUR

272nd CASUALTY LIST – QUEENSLAND

Died of Illness

Pte B. F. Pryme, Brisbane

*(Queensland Times, Ipswich, Queensland – Friday 16 February, 1917)*

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### 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 at Durrington War Graves Cemetery. 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)*

Pte B. F. Pryme does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Photo of Pte B. F. Pryme's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



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