

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



6802 PRIVATE

F. L. DIXON

23RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

26TH JULY, 1917 Age 19

In Memory

Of The Dearly Loved Son

Of Mr & Mrs F. A. Dixon

Of Melbourne

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte F. L. Dixon is located in Grave Plot # 251
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Frank Lionel DIXON

Frank Lionel Dixon was born at Newtown, Sydney to parents Frank A. & Hephzibah Dixon (nee Taylor). His birth was registered in 1899 as Frank L. T. Dixon. He was an 18 year old Salesman from North Fitzroy when he enlisted on 24th January, 1917 with the 23rd Infantry Battalion, 19th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6802 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Franck Dixon of 29 Barkly Street, North Fitzroy, Victoria. As Frank was under the age of 21 years – his parents had to consent for their son to be able to enlist for Active Service Abroad.

While at Broadmeadows Camp, Victoria, Pte Dixon was written up for “Disobedience of Orders” on 8th May, 1917 & given 5 days C.B. (Confined to Barracks).

Pte Frank Lionel Dixon embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Ascanius (A11)* on 11th May, 1917 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 20th July, 1917. Pte Dixon had been admitted to Ship’s Hospital from 13th – 17th May, 1917 with sea sickness & again from 5th July – 8th July, 1917 with influenza.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Pte Frank Lionel Dixon was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 22nd July, 1917.

Pte Frank Lionel Dixon died of Appendicitis at 12.50 p.m. on 26th July, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire.

A death for Frank L. Dixon, aged 19, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing File for Pte Frank Lionel Dixon contains a letter from the Assistant Matron of Fargo Military Hospital which reads:

“Died of Illness - Re Pte F. L. Dixon. He was admitted to Hospital on 22.7.17 at 3.30 p.m. very ill with appendicitis. He was reported seriously ill the same day and was operated on, but with no success, the disease was too far advanced. He died on 26th at 12.50 and was buried on 28th at Durrington Wilts. Grave No. 251 Right hand side of cemetery path. The Methodist Chaplain Major Blade visited him while in hospital.”

Pte Frank Lionel Dixon was buried with Military Honours in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire on 28th July, 1917 – plot number 251. From the burial report of Pte Dixon - *Coffin - good, Polished wood with Brass fittings.*

Pte Frank Lionel Dixon requested in his Will dated 2nd May, 1917, that all of his Estate & effects be left to his father – Frank Dixon.

Private F. L. Dixon is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 98.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte Frank Lionel Dixon was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Dixon's father – Mr Frank A. Dixon (both September, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Frank Lionel Dixon – service number 6802 as being 19 years old & served with 23rd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Frank Alonzo and Hephzibah Dixon of 29 Barkly St, North Fitzroy, Victoria. Born at Newton, Sydney.

(58 pages of Pte Frank Lionel Dixon's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives

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Newspaper Reports

ON THE FIELD OF HONOUR – 331ST OFFICIAL LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte F. L. Dixon, N. Fitzroy

(The Ballarat Courier, Victoria Monday 20 August, 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 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 F. L. Dixon does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Memory Of The Dearly Loved Son Of Mr & Mrs F. A. Dixon Of Melbourne

Photo of Pte F. L. Dixon's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



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