

# Durrington War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



**2359 PRIVATE**

**J. P. LYNCH**

**44TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**4TH JANUARY, 1917 Age 48**

*For God And Country*

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte J. P. Lynch is located in Grave Plot # 147  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## Joseph Patrick LYNCH

Joseph Patrick Lynch was born at Adelaide, South Australia to parents Eugene & Mary Lynch (nee Cosgrove. They had married in 1866). (Due to the discrepancy in Joseph's age – according to details provided as to the age at death – Dr Arthur Lynch listed that his brother – Joseph was aged 48 years at the time of death, thereby making this birth around 1869. The only birth around that time for parents Eugene & Mary Lynch (nee Cosgrove) was a birth registered in 1869 for John Joseph Lynch.)

Joseph Patrick Lynch married Georgena Rebecca Mulcaster in Adelaide in 1894.

Joseph Patrick Lynch stated he was a 43\* year old, single, Fitter from Lake Way, Western Australia when he enlisted at Fremantle, Western Australia on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 1916 with the 44<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2359 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Dr Arthur Lynch, Adelaide, South Australia.

Pte Joseph Patrick Lynch embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Port Macquarie (A39)* on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 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.

Private Joseph Patrick Lynch was sent sick to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire with Bronchitis on 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1916 from 11<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion & marched in from Hospital to his training Unit the same day.

Pte Lynch was re-admitted & reported as seriously ill with Broncho Pneumonia on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 1917.

Private Joseph Patrick Lynch died at 1.45 p.m. on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Joseph P. Lynch, aged 44\*, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire. (\*According to information supplied by Dr Arthur Lynch, brother of late Pte Joseph Lynch, for the Roll of Honour, his age at death was 48 years.)

Private Joseph Patrick Lynch was buried on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 147 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Pte Joseph Patrick Lynch requested in his Will, dated 24<sup>th</sup> December, 1916, that he appoints Mrs B. M. Key. of 481 Wellington St, Perth, Western Australia as the Executrix & his real and personal estate to same person. The Australian Army had sent 2 packages of the personal effects of the late Pte Joseph Patrick Lynch to his next-of-kin – his brother – Dr. Arthur Lynch in July, 1917 however, since the location of a Will had been made, the Officer of Base Records had written to Dr. Arthur Lynch on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 1917, requesting that the contents of both packages be returned so that they could be given to Mrs Key as per wishes in deceased's Will.

Private J. P. Lynch is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 138.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



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

J. P. Lynch is also remembered on the South Australian National War Memorial located at the corner of North Terrace and Kintore Avenue, Adelaide, South Australia. (Panel 14, 4<sup>th</sup> Column – South Australians who enlisted in other States of the Commonwealth).



**South Australian National War Memorial** (Photos by Bilby)

Pte Joseph Patrick Lynch 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 Lynch's brother – Dr. Arthur Lynch - under Bond (sent October, 1922 & September, 1922). Dr. Lynch had signed a Statutory Declaration on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 1922 stating that if a closer relative should request the medals etc that he would produce them to the Dept. of Defence. In a letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> April, 1921 to Officer in Charge, Base Records, Arthur Lynch advised the Army that his late brother was a married man but had been living apart from his wife for many years & was still apart at the time of his brother's departure from Australia on Military Service. There were apparently no children. Arthur Lynch had also stated that he had not seen or heard from the wife for fifteen years, nor had he heard from or seen his brother – Joseph Lynch for a similar period of time excepting from a wire he had sent advising that he was enlisting. Arthur Lynch also stated he would be glad if the wife could be found & claimed the medal, however, if not, he would be honoured to receive it.

A letter was sent to Base Records by Mrs Georgina R. Lynch of 43 Money Street, Perth, dated 6<sup>th</sup> April, 1917. She stated she was the late Pte Joseph Patrick Lynch's wife but "we have not been on friendly terms for some years" & was enquiring as to his Pay Book & if he made a Will. Mrs G. R. Lynch had previously applied for the late Pte Joseph Lynch's death certificate.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Joseph Patrick Lynch – service number 2359 as being 48 years old & served with 44th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Eugene and Mary Lynch.

(62 pages of Pte Joseph Arthur 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*

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## Newspaper Reports

### FAMILY NOTICES – DEATHS

LYNCH – On the 4<sup>th</sup> January, 1917, at Fargo Military Hospital, Salisbury Plain, England, Private Joseph P. Lynch, 44<sup>th</sup> Battalion, A.I.F., brother of Dr. A. F. Lynch.

*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, Sth Australia – Wednesday 10 January, 1917) &*

*(The Register, Adelaide, Sth Australia – Thursday 11 January, 1917) &*

*(Chronicle, Adelaide, Sth Australia – Saturday 13 January, 1917)*

## W.A. CASUALTIES – 265th OFFICIAL LIST

### 5<sup>th</sup> Military District

#### DEATHS

J. P. LYNCH, Adelaide, of illness, Western Australia, previously reported dangerously ill.

*(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia – Friday 19 January, 1917)*

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#### THE LATE PRIVATE J. P. LYNCH

Dr. A. F. Lynch, of Adelaide, has received a cable message announcing the death of his brother, Private Joseph P. Lynch, on January 4 at Salisbury Plain. Private Lynch, who was about 40 years of age, was a son of the late Mr E. Lynch, of Sturt-street, Adelaide, and after receiving his education at the Christian Brothers College he entered the office of the Adelaide Racing Club. About 18 years ago he went to Western Australia, and went into the carrying business on the goldfields. Subsequently he was engaged in the mining industry, and he enlisted in the West. About six months ago he embarked for the front, and it is believed that he was still in training on Salisbury Plain when, owing to the rigors of an English winter and camp life, he contracted broncho-pneumonia. After a brief illness he died of heart failure.

*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, Sth Australia – Thursday 11 January, 1917 & Chronicle, Adelaide, Sth Australia – Saturday 20 January, 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)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 21st July, 1921, to Dr. A. Lynch, Adelaide advises that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of the late Pte J. P. Lynch had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Pte J. P. Lynch does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*For God And Country*

Photo of Pte j. P. Lynch's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)