

# Durrington

## Roll of Honour



*Lest we Forget*

### World War I



**183774 GUNNER**

**H. DYMER**

**ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY**

**27th JULY, 1917 AGE 35**

*To Memory Ever Dear*

## Herbert DYMER

Herbert Dyer was born at Amesbury, Wiltshire to parents Samuel & Emma Dyer (nee Clift). Herbert's parents had married at St. Leonard's Church, Bulford, Wiltshire in 1876 with the surname spelling as "Djmer". Herbert's birth was registered in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire in the March quarter of 1882 with the spelling of his surname as Djmer. All the children's births were registered with the surname Djmer except for the last child – Walter Stanley who was born in 1899 & his birth was registered as Dymer.

The 1891 Census recorded Herbert Dyer as a 9 year old, living with his family at Bulford, Wiltshire in a four roomed dwelling. His parents were recorded as Samuel Dyer (Farm Labourer, aged 39, born Bulford) & Emma Dyer (aged 35, born Figheldean). Herbert was the second eldest of six children that were listed in this Census – Frederick J. (aged 11), then Herbert, Edith E. (aged 6), Beatrice (aged 5), Clara A (aged 2) & Lydia (aged 3 months). Also listed was a Lodger – John Clift (a 46 year old widower). (Quite possibly Emma's much older brother).

A death was registered in the December quarter, 1891, in the district of Amesbury for Lydia Dimer, aged 0.

The 1901 Census recorded Herbert Dyer as a 19 year old, General Labourer, living with his family at 245 Water Street, Bulford, Wiltshire. His parents were recorded as Samuel Dyer (Agricultural Labourer, aged 50) & Emma Dyer (aged 45). There were seven children listed in this Census – Frederick (Agricultural Labourer, aged 21), then Herbert, Edith (aged 15), Clara (aged 12), Beulah (aged 7), Charles (aged 5) & Walter (aged 1).

Herbert Dyer married Mabel Jane Hargraves at St Leonard's Church, Bulford. Their marriage was registered in December quarter of 1903, in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

A death was registered in the March quarter of 1906, in the district of Amesbury for Samuel Dimer, aged 55 – Herbert's father.

The 1911 Census recorded Herbert Dyer as a married, General Labourer, aged 29, living with his wife & 2 children at Cloverley, Durrington in a 4 roomed dwelling. Mabel Jane Dyer (aged 27, born Tarrant Hinton, Dorset) had been married to Herbert for 7 years, with 2 children, both living. The children were listed as Ernest Herbert Dyer (aged 6, born Brigmerston) & Mabel Lucille Dyer (aged 2, born Durrington).

Herbert Dyer enlisted at Salisbury. Herbert Dyer was attached to Royal Field Artillery Regiment with the rank of Gunner & a Service number of 183774. Gunner Dyer's records show that at the time of his death he was attached to "B" Bty. 181<sup>st</sup> Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. A letter sent to Herbert Dyer's widow from Gunner H. Mills dated 9<sup>th</sup> August, 1917 states that Gunner Herbert Dyer was an Officer's servant. (See below).

Gunner Herbert Dyer was killed in action on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 1917, aged 35 years.

Gunner Herbert Dwyer was buried at Fins New British Cemetery, Sorel-Le-Grand, France – Plot I. E. 9. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Gunner Herbert Dwyer has an inscription on his headstone – “To Memory Ever Dear”. The CWGC lists Gunner Herbert Dwyer as the husband of M. J. Dwyer of Cloverley, Durrington, Wilts. (A death was registered in September quarter, 1918 in the district of Amesbury, for Emma Dwyer – Herbert’s mother.)

Gunner Herbert Dwyer was entitled to the British War & Victory Medals. His Medal Index Card does not show when he had entered a Theatre of War.

## **Fins New British Cemetery, Sorel-Le-Grand, France**

Fins is a village located on the road between Cambrai & Peronne. The British Cemetery is a little south-east of the village, in the district of Sorel-Le-Grand, on the right hand side of the road to Heudicourt.

Fins & Sorel were occupied at the beginning of April, 1917, in the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line. Both villages were lost on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 1918, after a stubborn defence of Sorel by the 6<sup>th</sup> K.O.S.B. and the staff of the South African Brigade; and they were regained in the following September.

The first British burials at Fins were carried out in the Churchyard and the Churchyard Extension as the New British Cemetery was not begun until July, 1917. It was used by fighting units and Field Ambulances until March, 1918, when it comprised about 590 graves in Plots I to IV. It was then used by the Germans, who added 255 burials, including 26 British, in Plots IV, V & VI. Lastly, Plots VII & VIII were made and other Plots completed, by the concentration of 591 graves after the Armistice from 4 smaller cemeteries.

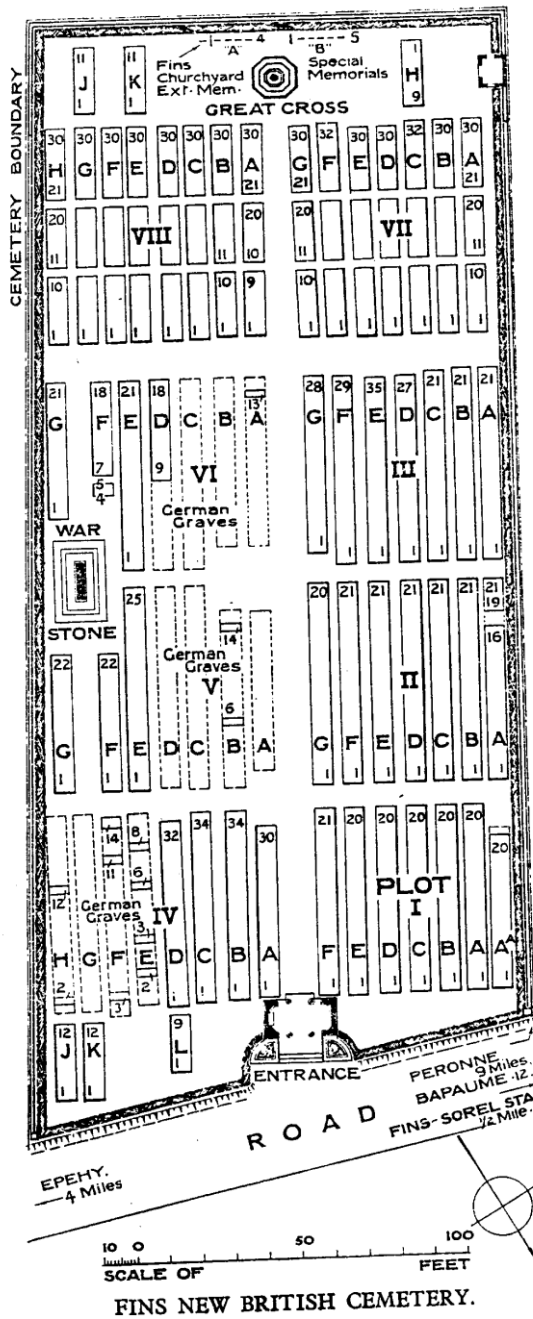
There are now 1,289 First World War casualties commemorated in this site. Of these 208 are unidentified & special memorials are erected to nine soldiers from the United Kingdom who are believed to be buried among them. There are also 276 German burials here, 89 being unidentified.



*(Photograph courtesy of Peter Bennett (UK) located at [In Memories](#) by Pierre Vandervelden)*



*(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)*



H. Dymer is remembered as a Casualty of WW1 in the Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book for Durrington.

A family photo – (Left to Right) Herbert Dymer, Mabel Lucille Dymer, Mabel Jane Dymer & Ernest Herbert (Herbie) Dymer.



*(Photo kindly supplied by Christine Hindle- Great Niece of Herbert Dymer)*

A 5 page Letter sent to Gunner Herbert Dyer's Widow

from his close friend – Gunner H. Mills

Page 1

9/8/17

Dear Mrs Dyer

You'll perhaps  
pardon the liberty I'm taking  
in writing to you as I am a  
stranger to you but I wish to  
express on behalf of myself  
and the rest of the officers  
servants of this battery our  
deepest sympathy with you  
and your children in your  
terrible bereavement. I think  
I can say with all truth  
that I was one of your  
husband's pals, the best I  
hope, anyway I have been  
a close friend of his during  
the time he took over his  
duties

Page 2

as an officers servant, as I am  
the cook and was in charge  
of all the arrangements of  
the mess. Bert and I have  
had some rough times together  
Mrs Dyer especially since the  
Germans retreated.

He was also a fine chum  
to me, one of the best fellows  
I've ever met during my 15  
years experience of soldiering  
always so nice and obliging  
in everything. Especially  
did I find him so when on  
the move, we had to rig up  
shelters against the bad weather  
we had during the move.  
Bert was an expert in such

matters. The place we are in now we built together we got two wooden beds and the shelf over one bunk wise you know.

Honestly Mrs Dymor I miss him very much I could not miss him more had he been a brother of mine. I always admired his principals they were so fine and straightforward no brag no bluff just ample honest straightforward talk he always had. Often we spoke together over our respective families. I also have a wife and a girl and boy, often he showed me the snapshots he got from his boy from time to time.

At the time of his death we were running for cover from the shells, unfortunately we ran into the open ground where they were bursting. I was more than 10 yds in front of him and the concussion of one of the shells gave me shell shock at the same time as poor Bert was killed. They took him to the field ambulance and me to. I recovered some few hours later very dazed and shaken poor Bert lay dead. I was sent down to our waggon line and we took your husband's body with us burying him in a newly formed cemetery the next

morning, I acting as one of his bearers lowered his body to his grave thus seeing the last of my best pal and your Dear Husband.

I hope you will excuse any liberty I may have taken in writing Mrs Dymor, but I thought you'd like to have a letter from one who was your husband's pal and who practically was with him at the last. My address if you care to write is

48967 Gen H Mills

Cp Officers Mess

B. Battery

181 Bde. P. G. Ct.

B. & F.

France



Page 1:

9/8/17

Dear Mrs Dymer

*You'll perhaps pardon the liberty I'm taking in writing to you as I am a stranger to you, but I wish to express on behalf of myself and the rest of the officers servants of this battery our deepest sympathy with you and your children in your terrible bereavment. I think I can say with all truth that I was one of your husband's palls, the best I hope, anyway I have been a close friend of his during the time he took over his duties*

Page 2:

*As an officers servant, as I am the cook and was in charge of all the arrangements of the mess. Bert and I have had some rough times together Mrs Dymer especially since the Germans retreated.*

*He was also a fine chum to me, one of the best fellows I've ever met during my 15 years experience of soldiering, always so nice and obliging in everything. Especially did I find him so when on the move, we had to rig up shelters against the bad weather, we had during the move. Bert was an expert in such*

Page 3:

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*At the time of his death we were running for cover from the shells, unfortunately we ran into the open ground where they were bursting. I was more than 10 yds in front of him and the concussion of one of the shells gave me shell shock at the same time as your Bert was killed. They took him to the field ambulance and me to. I recovered some few hours later very dashed and shaken poor Bert lay dead. I was send down to our wagon line and we took your husbands body with us burying him in a newly formed cemetery the next*

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48967 Gnr H Mills  
C/o Officers Mess  
B. Battery  
181 Bde. R. G. A.  
B. E. F.  
France

Gunner Herbert Dymer is also remembered on the Durrington War Memorial, Wiltshire.



*(Photo courtesy of Ian King 2010)*