

Durrington War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



2061 PRIVATE

W. T. DICKENSON

38TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

26TH MARCH, 1917 Age 25

He Followed The Path

Of His Duty

He Answered

His Country's Call

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte W. T. Dickenson is located in Grave Plot # 229
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

William Thomas DICKENSON

William Thomas Dickenson was born at Castlemaine, Victoria in 1892 to parents William John & Lillian Dickenson.

William Thomas Dickenson was a 24 year old, single, Carpenter from Thomas Street, Castlemaine, Victoria when he enlisted on 6th March, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Brigade, 38th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2061 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – William J. Dickenson of Thomas Street, Castlemaine, Victoria.

Pte William Thomas Dickenson embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Shropshire* (A9) on 25th September, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 11th November, 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.

Pte William Thomas Dickenson was marched in to 3rd Divisional Amalgamated Training Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 16th November, 1916.

Pte William Thomas Dickenson was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire with Pleurisy on 23rd December, 1916.

Pte William Thomas Dickenson was marched out from 10th Training Battalion, Durrington to Command Depot at Perham Downs on 24th January, 1917 ready for return to Australia.

Pte William Thomas Dickenson was admitted to Sutton Veny Hospital with Bronchitis – seriously ill on 6th February, 1917.

Pte William Thomas Dickenson died on 26th March, 1917 at Sutton Veny Military Hospital, Wiltshire of Tubercle of Lung/ Bronchitis.

A death for William T. Dickenson, aged 25, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Pte William Thomas Dickenson was buried on 31st March, 1917 in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – plot number 229. From the burial report of Pte Dickenson was given a Military Funeral - *Coffin - good, Polished Elm. Several members of the firing party belonged to Private Dickenson's original unit, the 3rd Reinforcements, 38th Battalion.*

Pte William Thomas Dickenson was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Dickenson's father – William J. Dickenson (August, 1921 & August, 1922)

Private W. T. Dickenson is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 129.

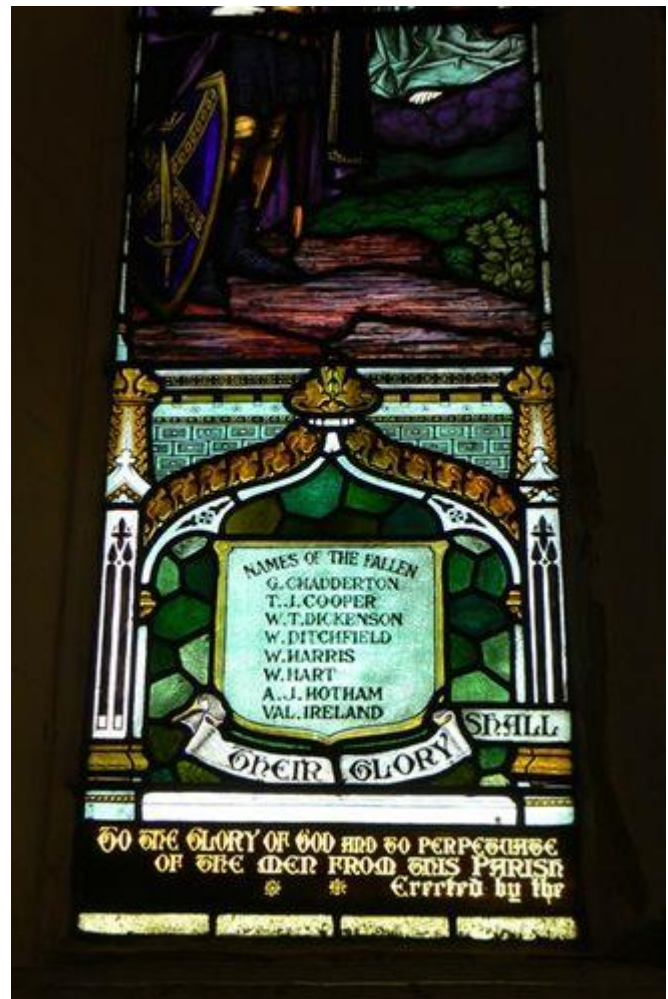


(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. T. Dickenson is also remembered on the Christ Church Honour Roll – Stained glass window (left) located inside Church at 8 Mostyn Street, Castlemaine, Victoria.



Christ Church Honour Roll, Castlemaine (Photo by Kent Watson from Monument Australia)

W. T. Dickenson is also remembered on the Castlemaine Town Hall Roll of Honour located at 36 Mostyn Street, Castlemaine, Victoria. (Second Column, 24th name down)



Castlemaine Town Hall Roll (Photo by Arthur Garland from Monument Australia)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Dickenson – service number 2061 as being 25 years old & served with 38th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of William John and Lillian Dickenson of Thomas St, Castlemaine, Victoria.

(44 pages of Pte William Thomas Dickenson'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) & National Archives



Newspaper Reports

RECRUITING CAMPAIGN

CASTLEMAINE ENLISTMENTS

The following men passed all medicals for active service abroad:

William Dickenson, Castlemaine.

(Mount Alexander Mail, Victoria Saturday 11 March, 1916)

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

DICKENSON.—On the 26th March, 1917, at Sutton Veney Hospital, of illness, Pte. William J., the dearly loved eldest son of William and Lillian Dickenson, of Thomas St., Castlemaine, aged 25 years and 2 months; and brother of John and Harry (on active service), also Lillian, Inez, Herbert, Myrtle, Rose, Holly, Daisy and Joe.

In a lonely grave he lies sleeping.

One of our dearest and best:

In or hearts we shall miss him.

Tho' we know he is only at rest.

(Mount Alexander Mail, Victoria Monday 2 April, 1917)

PRIVATE W. DICKENSON

CASTLEMAINE. Monday.

Mr T. Dickenson, of Castlemaine, who has three young sons at the Front, has been advised that the eldest, Pte W. Dickenson, who was sent from the trenches to a hospital in England, had died from bronchitis. He was 25 years old.

(Mount Alexander Mail, Victoria Tuesday 3 April, 1917)

CASUALTIES ABROAD

Mr. and Mrs. W. Dickenson, of Thomas street, Castlemaine, have been notified that their eldest son, Private William J. Dickenson, died of bronchitis, on March 26, in the Sutton Veney Hospital, England. He was 25 years of age. Two brothers are on active service in France.

(Mount Alexander Mail, Victoria Saturday 7 April, 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 W. T. Dickenson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

He Followed The Path Of His Duty. He Answered His Country's Call

Photo of Pte W. T. Dickenson's Headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)



Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire *(Photo by Dave Healing 2013)*