

**St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard,
Harefield, Middlesex, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



STAFF NURSE

R. DICKINSON

AUST. ARMY NURSING SEC.

23RD JUNE, 1918 Age 32

Peace Perfect Peace

Ruby DICKINSON

Ruby Dickinson was born in Forbes, New South Wales on 8th July, 1885 to parents William & Julia Dickinson (nee Broadbent).

Ruby Dickinson received her nursing training at the Lister Private Hospital, Sydney, NSW from 1906 – 1911.

William Dickinson, father of Ruby Dickinson, died on 31st July, 1911 at Forbes, New South Wales.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Liverpool, subdivision of Gunnedah, New South Wales recorded Ruby Dickenson, Nurse, Hospital.

Ruby Dickinson married Frederick Eliel William Body at St. Philip's Church, Sydney, New South Wales on 20th June, 1914.

Marriage Notice – *The Sydney Morning Herald*, NSW – 18 July, 1914:

MARRIAGES

BODY-DICKINSON – June 20, at St. Philip's Church, Sydney, by the Rev. Cannon Bellingham, Frederick, eldest son of the late J. E. Body, Cooma, to Ruby, youngest daughter of the late W. Dickinson, Forbes.

Ruby Dickinson stated she was a 30 year old, single, trained Nurse from Sydney, New South Wales when she joined the Australian Army Nursing Service for War Service on 26th July, 1915. Her religion was Church of England & her next of kin was listed as her mother – Mrs J. Dickinson, 49 Spit Road, Mosman, NSW.

(Note: Nurses who served for overseas service were supposed to be single. It is believed that Ruby joined using her maiden name so she could join up & also her Nursing Certificates would also have been in her maiden name of Dickinson)

Australian Army Nursing Service (A.A.N.S.)

More than 3,000 Australian civilian nurses volunteered for active service during the First World War. While enabling direct participation in the war effort, nursing also provided opportunities for independence and travel, sometimes with the hope of being closer to loved ones serving overseas.

The Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) had been formed in July 1903 as part of the Australian Army Medical Corps. During the war more than 2,000 of its members served overseas alongside Australian nurses working with other organisations, such as the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS), the Red Cross, or privately sponsored facilities.

The women worked in hospitals, on hospital ships and trains, or in casualty clearing stations closer to the front line. They served in locations from Britain to India, taking in France and Belgium, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East. Many of them were decorated, with eight receiving the Military Medal for bravery. Twenty-five died during their service.

By war's end, having faced the dangers and demands of wartime nursing and taken on new responsibilities and practices, nurses had proved to be essential to military medical service.

(Extract of information from the Australian War Memorial)



Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson was appointed to Quarterly Reinforcements to Europe & Egypt on 28th July, 1915.

Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on RMS *Orontes* on 31st July, 1915 with the Nurses.

Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson reported for duty on 4th September, 1915 at 3rd General Hospital. She returned to her Unit – 3rd Australian General Hospital on 14th September, 1915.

Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson was on service in Lemnos from September, 1915 to January, 1916.

Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson reported for duty at 3rd Australian General Hospital on 23rd January, 1916. She returned to her Unit – 3rd Australian General Hospital on 1st February, 1916. Staff Nurse Dickinson was serving in Egypt from February, 1916 to July, 1916.

Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson was struck off strength with 3rd Australian General Hospital at Abbassia on 17th July, 1916 to Transport Duty. She was on Nursing Duties in Charge of Nursing Staff to Australia on HT (Hospital Transport) *Seang Choon* & departed from Suez on 17th July, 1916 (One Statement of Service form recorded she embarked to Australia on Hospital Ship *Seang Choon* on 17th April, 1916; the other Statement of Service form has date as 17th July, 1916). Staff Nurse Dickinson was due in Melbourne, Victoria on 17th August, 1916. (Another entry on Statement of Service form recorded that Staff Nurse Dickinson returned from Egypt on *Seang Choon* as Nursing Staff & disembarked at Sydney on 18th August, 1916.)

Base Records advised Mrs J. Dickinson, 49 Spit Road, Mosman, NSW, on 7th August, 1916 that Staff Nurse R. Dickinson was returning to Australia & was due in Sydney about the middle of August, 1916.

Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson returned to duty on 24th January, 1917 & re-embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on *Anchises* on 24th January, 1917 with A.M.C. (Army Medical Corps) General Reinforcements. She disembarked at Devonport, England on 27th March, 1917 (as per Casualty Form – Active Service, however the Statement of Service form recorded she disembarked at Devonport on 23rd March, 1917).

Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson was marched in the Administrative Headquarters, London, England on 28th March, 1917 from Australia. Another Attestation Paper was completed on 25th March, 1917 for Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson.

Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson was attached for duty to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Dartford, Kent, England from 3rd Australian General Hospital on 13th April, 1917 ex Furlo.

Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson was detached from 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital on 17th October, 1917 & proceeded overseas to No. 3 Australian General Hospital.

Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson was transferred & was posted to duty with 3rd Australian General Hospital in France on 19th October, 1917. She reported sick to 2nd Stationary Hospital at Abbeville on 23rd October, 1917 & was admitted the same day with Otitis Media. Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson was transferred on 10th November, 1917 & embarked for England on Hospital Ship *St. Denis* for England with Otitis Debility on 12th November, 1917.

Major Anderson, A.A.M.C. (Australian Army Medical Corps), wrote to Acting Matron in Chief, A.I.F., (letter stamped with No. 1 Australia Auxiliary Hospital, Harefield Park, Middlesex & dated 29 Nov 1917): *“I have examined Sister Dickinson who is suffering from tinnitus aurium. She has had old suppurative otitis media & has at present a perforation in the left tympanic membrane but no discharge. I have ordered treatment for her & would advise she should have a fortnight’s complete rest at St. Albans.”*

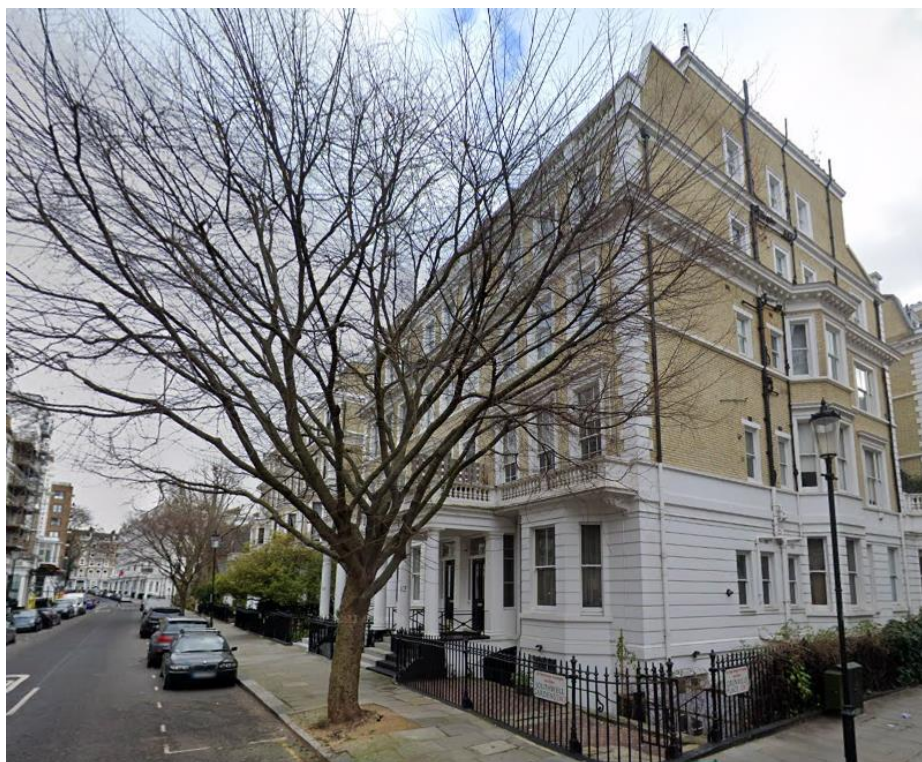
Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson was admitted 12 Southwell Gardens, Kensington, England on 13th November, 1917. The Medical Case Sheet recorded:

“13th Nov 1917. About 3 weeks ago patient developed pain in L. ear. Pain severe for few days – then ear commenced to discharge thick yellow discharge, pain greatly relieved. Discharge gradually lessened – none now. No pain now, complaining only if incessant ringing in ear.

14.11.17 Less ringing in ear T 97. P 80

26.XI. 17 Boarded & Transf to St. Albans for 7 days.”

Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson was transferred & re-admitted to 12 Southwell Gardens, Kensington, England on 18th December, 1917 (Statement of Service form recorded date as 14th December, 1917) with Otitis left ear – slight from St. Albans. She was discharged to duty on 16th January, 1918.



**12 Southwell Gardens, South Kensington, London, England
– previously Mrs T. S. Hall's Hospital for Australian Nurses**

The Mrs T.S. Hall Hospital for Australian Nurses was officially opened on 30th June 1917. It provided nursing and medical care for sick nurses from Australia. Not only had Mrs Hall donated the property, but she acted as Commandant of the Hospital and had entire charge of the domestic arrangements although the Australian Imperial Force supplied the medical and nursing staff. The Hospital presumably closed in 1919. The house has now been converted into apartments.

Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson was attached for duty to 2nd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Southall on 16th January, 1918. On 24th January, 1918 she was attached for duty with No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield, Middlesex for duty.

Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson reported sick on the morning of 23rd June, 1918 & was transferred to Mrs T. S. Hall's Hospital, Southwell Gardens, London.

Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson died at 4.35 pm on 23rd June, 1918 at Australian Nurses Hospital, Southwell Gardens, Kensington, London, England from Pneumonia.

A death for Ruby Dickinson, aged 32, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Kensington, London, England.

Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson was buried at 3 pm on 25th June, 1918 in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England – Grave Number 56. This is now recorded by Commonwealth War Graves Commission as Plot number Aust. 57

From the burial report of Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson - *Coffin – usual – good condition.*

NO. 1. AUSTRALIAN AUXILIARY HOSPITAL.

HAREFIELD PARK,

HAREFIELD,

MIDDLESEX.

9th July, 1918.

REPORT RE DEATH OF S/NURSE RUBY DICKINSON,
NO.1.A.A.H., A.A.N.S.

S/Nurse Dickinson reported sick on the morning 23/6/18, she was transferred to Mrs T.S. Hall's Hospital, Southwell Gardens, London, and she died of pneumonia during the afternoon of the same day.

The body was buried in the Harefield Parish Churchyard (Australian Section - Single Grave No.56) on 25/6/18, the cortege leaving the Hospital at 2.40 p.m.

Hon. Captain & Quartermaster J.F.S.Murray (MC) acted as Officer in Charge of the Funeral and the Service was conducted jointly by Chaplains - Rev.T. Terry (C/E) and A.P.Bladen (Meth). The Pallbearers were Major A.S. Curtin, AAMC., Cpts; F.B. Craig & C.S. Renwick AAMC and W.R. Bailey AADS.

The body was conveyed to the Cemetery in an Ambulance (no gun carriage being obtainable), and firing party and bugler attended from Administrative Headquarters A.I.F., London.

No relatives were present, but amongst those who attended the funeral were Surgeon Generals Fetherston D.G.M.S., and Howse D.M.S. A.I.F., Miss Conyers (Matron-in-Chief), Lt.Col.C. Yeatman A.A.M.C. (O.C.) and Miss C.L.Ross (Matron) No. 1 A.A.H., Matron & Sisters from No.2 A.A.H. Southall; and some Sisters from No. 3 A.A.H. Dartford.

Wreaths were sent by the following persons:-

1. Miss Conyers & Miss Dickson A.A.N.S. Administrative Headquarters.
2. O.C. & Officers No. 1 A.A.H.
3. Matron & Sisters No.1 A.A.H.
4. N.C.O's & Men No.1 A.A.H.
5. Theatre Staff No. 1 A.A.H.
6. Sister's Own Maids No.1 A.A.H.
7. V.A.D's No.1 A.A.H.
8. A.M.T.S. Ladies No.1 A.A.H.
9. A.M.T.S. N.C.O's & Men. No.1 A.A.H.
10. Ward 40 (Her own Patients) No.1 A.A.H.
11. O.C. & Officers No. 3 A.A.H.
12. Matron & Sisters No. 3 A.A.H.
13. Mrs Hall Southwell Gardens.
14. Sisters & Staff Southwell Gardens.
15. Mrs Billyard Leake
16. Capt. Craig No.1 A.A.H. on behalf of A.T.N.A. N.S.W. Branch.
17. Sister E.S.Hunter.
18. Mr & Mrs Laffin
19. Mr A.W.Hook (Late A.I.F.)

A large number of Officers, Orderly Staff and Patients from No.1 A.A.H., Marched in the funeral procession, and many Sisters, V.A.D's and Civilians attended the Services at the Church and grave side.

(Sgd) T.L. ANDERSON.
Major, AAMC.
REGISTRAR.

Newspaper Notice – The Forbes Advocate, NSW – 30 July, 1918:

OBITUARY

NURSE RUBY DICKENSON

Word came to Forbes last week of the death of Nurse Ruby Dickenson, who had been an active worker at the war hospitals for close on two years. The cause of death, which took place in England, was pneumonia. The deceased lady was a native of Forbes, her parents being the late Mr W. Dickenson and Mrs Julia Dickenson, the latter now residing at Mosman. The late Nurse Dickenson was married, her husband being a Mr Body, of Cooma. After her husband enlisted, Nurse Dickenson also decided to go to France, and as she was a qualified nurse, she used her maiden name when volunteering. After a brief term in Egypt, she went to France, where she did very useful war work in the principal hospitals. Much sympathy is expressed for the relatives of the deceased lady.

Administrative Headquarters, London, England wrote to Base Records on 9th September, 1918 regarding Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson, A.A.N.S. Deceased, advising that *“A communication has been received by this office requesting that particulars concerning the death and burial of the above named deceased Nurse be forwarded to her brother, S. R. Dickinson, St. Andrew’s College, Christchurch, New Zealand. The deceased died at Australian Nurses Hospital, Southwell Gardens, London on 23-6-18. She was buried in Harefield Parish Churchyard. Attached herewith for you information is a copy of report of funeral. May Mr Dickinson, be informed accordingly, please. It is also desired that particulars of death and burial be conveyed to Staff Nurse A. N. Scott. 22/529 N.Z. A.N.S. G.P.O. Wellington, New Zealand.”*

Julia Dickinson, 49 Spit Road, Mosman, Sydney, wrote to Base Records on 22nd October, 1918 with the following: *“I have duly received your communication referring to my daughter’s illness and death. I am very grateful for these details and for all the sympathy I have had from the Nursing & Medical Staff at the hospital where my daughter nursed. I am told she was appreciated her steadfastness to duty and nursing skills, and beloved by the sick and wounded for whom she worked so hard. I shall always have the consolation of knowing that she died doing her duty.”*

Base Records contacted Mrs J. Dickinson, “Arizona”, Almore Street, Mosman, NSW on 10th August, 1920 stating that she was registered on the records of the late Staff Nurse R. Dickinson, 3rd Australian General Hospital, as the next of kin but were enquiring if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & was specifically asked his Nurse Dickinson’s father was still alive. (The “Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918” stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.)

Julia Dickinson replied to Base Records on 15th August, 1920 advising *“My husband, the late William Dickinson, died in 1911 and Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson was our youngest daughter.”*

Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Staff Nurse Dickinson’s mother – Mrs J. Dickinson, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent February, 1923).

(Note: Frederick Eliel Body, husband of the late Ruby Dickinson, died on 7th July, 1919, in Cooma Private Hospital, NSW, aged 40, from pneumonic influenza. He was buried in Cooma Cemetery – Church of England 9 C4 Plot 4).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson, aged 32, of Australian Army Nursing Service. She was the daughter of William & Julia Dickinson, of “Arizona” Almora St., Mosman, Queensland.

Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 188.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia



(Photo from Find a Grave – MelindaJJ)

Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson is remembered on a plaque in St. James Anglican Church (South Wall No. 64), 173 King Street, Sydney, NSW.

A tablet to the memory of the late Staff-nurse Ruby Dickinson will be unveiled at the evening service at 7.15 on Sunday, July 6, at St. James' Church, King-street. Sister Dickinson was the youngest daughter of the late Mr. W. Dickinson, of Forbes, and of Mrs. Dickinson, Mosman. She left Australia in July, 1915, with No. 3 Australian General Hospital, and saw service in Lemnos, Egypt, France, and England. She died in London, of pneumonia, on June 23, 1918, and was buried with military honours in the Australian cemetery in the Harefield parish churchyard, England. The tablet has been erected by her friends and comrades of the Australian Army Nursing Service, abroad.

(Sydney Morning Herald (NSW) - 5 July 1919).

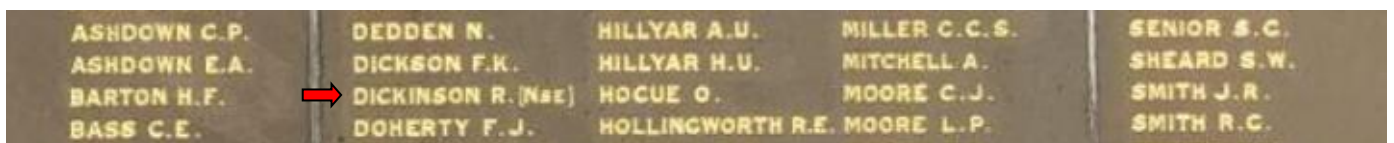


Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson's Plaque in St James Anglican Church, Sydney (Photo from Monument Australia)

Nurse R. Dickinson is remembered on the Mosman War Memorial, located in Mosman Park, Myahgah Road & The Crescent, Mosman, North Sydney, NSW.



Mosman War Memorial (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Gavin Fordyce)

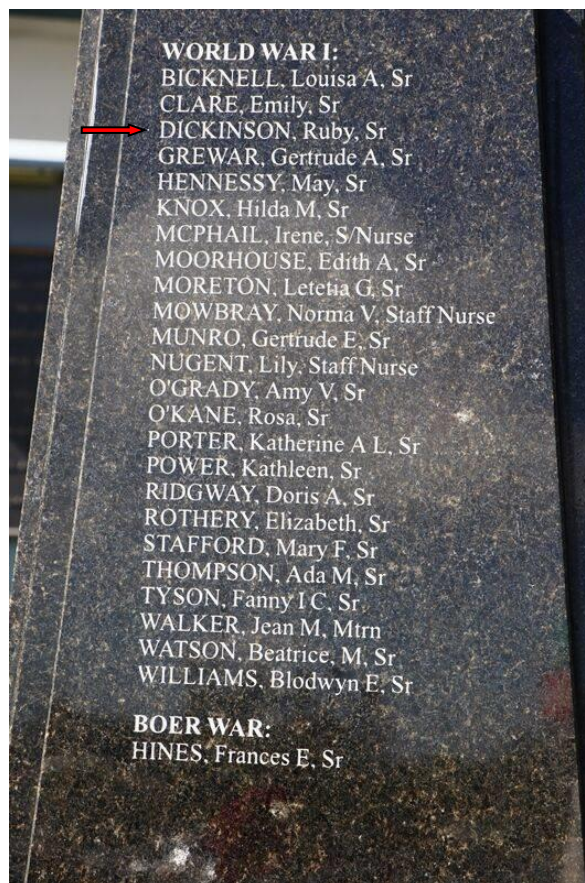


Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson remembered on St. Paul's Cathedral Nurses Honour Roll, located in St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral, Flinders & Swanston Streets, Melbourne, Victoria.



St. Paul's Cathedral Nurses Honour Roll (Photo from Monument Australia)

Ruby Dickinson is remembered on the Australian Military Nurses Memorial, located in Hervey Bay RSL & Service Memorial Club, 11 Torquay Road, Pialba, Queensland.



Australian Military Nurses Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)

Ruby Dickinson is remembered on the Maryborough Nurses who served in Lemnos Island 1915 Honour Board, located in Maryborough RSL Club, 163 – 175 Lennox Street, Maryborough, Queensland.



Maryborough Nurses who served in Lemnos Island 1915 Honour Board

(Photo from AWM Places of Pride)

Sister Ruby Dickinson is remembered on the War Nurses Memorial Garden Plaque, located in Dutton Park, Baker Street, Kapunda, South Australia.




War Nurses Memorial Garden Plaque (Photos from Monument Australia – Stephen Warren)



Ruby Dickinson is remembered on the Mosman Council's website (NSW) "Doing our Bit Mosman 1914 – 1918" project.


Doing our bit, Mosman 1914-1918

- People
- Images
- Stories
- Places
- Streets
- Memorials
- Blog
- Events
- Resources



'Doing our bit'

Over 1500 men and women enlisted during the First World War. What are their stories? To commemorate the centenary of World War One, Mosman Library Service has created an online resource to collect and display information about the wartime experiences of local service people.




Doing our bit
MOSMAN 1914-1918


Mosman COUNCIL MOSMAN Library Service

Ruby Dickinson is remembered on the New Zealand War Graves Project website.

nzwargraves.org.nz/casualties/ruby-dickinson



Home / Ruby Dickinson




Staff Nurse
Ruby Dickinson

Additional Information: Daughter of William and Julia Dickinson, of "Arizona," Almora St., Mosman, Queensland. Born at Forbes, New South Wales.

References:

- [CWGC](#)
- [National Archives of Australia](#)

NZ WAR GRAVES



R. Dickinson is remembered on the Memorial to the Nurses and Voluntary Aid Detachment Nurses who died during both World Wars. The Memorial lists almost 1,300 names & is located at the National Memorial Arboretum, Croxwall Road, Alrewas, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England.



Memorial to the Nurses and Voluntary Aid Detachment Nurses (Photo from National Memorial Arboretum)



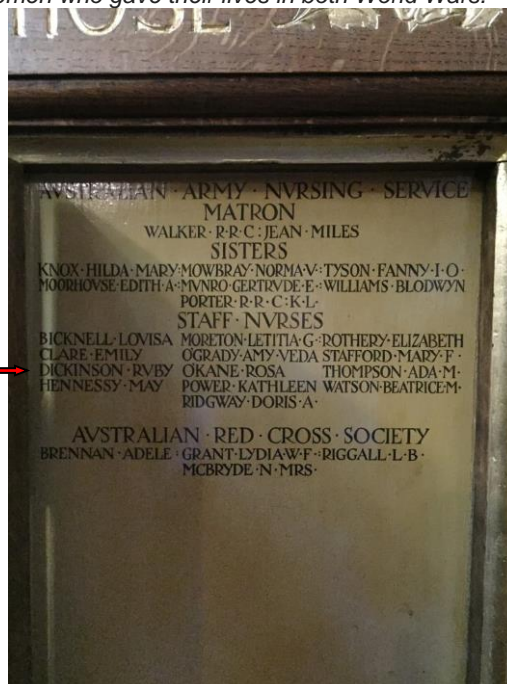
Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson is one of the names remembered on a panel on the Roll of Honour Tablet that is beside the Five Sisters Window in York Minster, York, England. The Tablet bears the names of representatives of many associations, services and corps, including Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, Women's Royal Air Force, Women's Land Army, and the Canadian, Newfoundland, Australian, New Zealand and Union of South Africa Army Nursing Services.



Five Sisters Window in York Minster

The wooden memorial screen (right) is in the North Transept of York Minster. Each door bears the crest of a regiment and written inside are the names of the women who served in that regiment and were killed during the First World War. The doors can be opened by anyone to view the names inside.

The screen also records that the Five Sisters window in York Minster was restored by women in memory of their fallen comrades. The window is now a memorial to the women who gave their lives in both World Wars.



(Photo courtesy of jonrb – Great War forum)

Staff Nurse R. Dickinson is also remembered on the newly installed Nurses' Memorial located in Edinburgh's Central Library.

REMEMBRANCE

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service

ARMSTRONG, E Sister
 ARMSTRONG, ERR Sister
 ALLEN, MA Staff Nurse
 BATES, FM Probationer
 BEAUFY, K Matron
 BENNET, HS Staff Nurse
 BERESFORD, RR Staff Nurse
 BERRIE, C Sister
 BIRD, L E Staff Nurse
 BLAKE, E Staff Nurse
 BODE-BLANDY, SR Sister
 BODGER, K Staff Nurse
 BOND, EM Sister
 BRACE, F Staff Nurse
 BROWN, EL Sister
 BUCKINGHAM, MA Matron
 BUCKLER, AE Staff Nurse
 BUTLER, SE Sister
 CALLIER, EFM Sister
 CHALLINOR, EM Staff Nurse
 CHANDLER, DA Staff Nurse
 CLOUGH, M Staff Nurse
 COLE, EH Sister
 COMPTON, FC Sister
 CONSTERDINE, VD Staff Nurse
 COOKE, EK Staff Nurse
 COOPER, A Sister
 CORFIELD, AB Sister
 CROWTHER, L Sister
 CROYSDALE, M Sister
 CRUICKSHANK, I Sister
 DALTON, JG Staff Nurse
 DANAHER, M Staff Nurse
 DAWES, AE Sister
 DAWSON, EM Matron
 DEWAR, NS Staff Nurse
 DOHERTY, MA Sister
 DONOVAN, B Staff Nurse
 DUCKERS, ME Staff Nurse
 DUNCAN, ILM Sister
 EDGAR, E Staff Nurse
 ELLIFFE, M Sister
 EVANS, J Matron
 FARLEY, M Matron
 FERNLEY, E Staff Nurse
 FEARGUSON, R Staff Nurse
 FOYSTER, EL Sister
 GARNER, AEC Sister
 GLADSTONE, EM Sister
 GLEDHILL, AE Sister
 GORBUTT, M Sister
 GRIFFITHS, JL Sister
 GROVER, AJ Sister
 GURNEY, ES Staff Nurse
 HALL, FM Matron
 HANNAFORD, ID Staff Nurse
 HARRISON, WM Sister
 HAWLEY, F Staff Nurse
 HAWLEY, N Probationer
 HENRY, CE Staff Nurse
 HETTERLEY, H Staff Nurse
 HILLING, S Sister
 HOBBS, N Sister
 HOCKEY, JO Sister

HODGSON, EM Sister
 HOOK, FML Staff Nurse
 HUGHES, GC Sister
 JACK, C Sister
 JOHNSON, AM Staff Nurse
 JOHNSTON, MJ Staff Nurse
 JONES, BI Chief Matron
 JONES, GE Sister
 JONES, LH Sister
 KEARNEY, IM Sister
 KEMP, CMF Staff Nurse
 KENDALL, RE Sister
 LEA, HL Staff Nurse
 MACBETH, MA Staff Nurse
 MACGILL, MM Staff Nurse
 MACKENZIE, I Nurse
 MANN, AG Staff Nurse
 MARMION, M Nurse
 MARSHALL, MB Staff Nurse
 MASSON, F Staff Nurse
 MCALISTER, C Staff Nurse
 MCGIBBON, RA Sister
 MCROBBIE, JE Sister
 MEIKLE, C Sister
 MILNE, H Sister
 MORETON, A Nurse
 NICOL, C Sister
 O'BRIEN, M Nurse
 OXLEY, EM Sister
 PARKER, EK Matron
 PARTRIDGE, CH Staff Nurse
 PEARSE, P Probationer
 PEPPER, ED Sister
 PHILLIPS, J Sister
 FILLING, DE Sister
 RADCLIFFE, EB Sister
 REID, AC Staff Nurse
 RITCHIE, J Staff Nurse
 ROBERTS, AL Sister
 ROBERTS, E Staff Nurse
 ROBERTS, J Staff Nurse
 ROBERTS, M Staff Nurse
 ROBINETTE, CA Staff Nurse
 ROBINS, MJ Sister
 RODWELL, M Staff Nurse
 RUSSELL, AM Staff Nurse
 SAW, N Probationer
 SEYMOUR, CE Sister
 SHORE, FN Sister
 SMITH, FE Sister
 SMITH, JB Sister
 SMITH, SM Staff Nurse
 SPINDLER, N Staff Nurse
 STACEY, DL Staff Nurse
 STALKER, MB Sister
 STEPHENSON, GA Sister
 STEVENS, LM Staff Nurse
 STEWART, EG Staff Nurse
 STURT, KR Staff Nurse
 TEGGIN, EE Staff Nurse
 THOMAS, L Staff Nurse
 THOMSON, ER Sister
 TINDALL, F Sister
 TOWNSEND, H Staff Nurse
 TULLOCH, ES Staff Nurse
 TURTON, AM Staff Nurse
 WALLACE, L Staff Nurse

WORLD WAR ONE

Dedicated to the memory of the Scottish, Irish, Welsh, English and Dominion Forces' nurses who lost their lives as a direct consequence of their war service.

DEATH SHALL NOT SILENCE THEIR STORY



Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service

AINSWORTH, GG Sister
 BEARD, EG Sister
 CHAMBERLAIN, LC Sister
 EDWARDS, CM Sister
 ELVENS, EM Sister
 GRIGSON, ME Sister
 PREVOST, AM Sister
 ROBINS, JG Sister
 ROWLETT, OK Sister
 WILSON, A Sister

Territorial Force Nursing Service

ANDREW, E Sister
 ASTELL, FE Sister
 BLACKLOCK, AM Sister
 BLENCOWE, ME Sister
 BRETT, NV Staff Nurse
 BRINTON, MG Staff Nurse
 CAMMACK, EM Staff Nurse
 CARLEY, B Assistant Matron
 CLIMIE, AM Staff Nurse
 COLE, DH Sister
 COX, MA Staff Nurse
 ELLIOTT, E Nurse
 ELLIOTT, LM Nurse
 FLINTOFF, A Sister
 FORBES, BG Staff Nurse
 GARLICK, HM Staff Nurse
 GOLDSMITH, AAV Staff Nurse
 GREATOREX, JM Sister
 GRIFFIN, L Sister
 HASTINGS, HM Sister
 HENSHAW, I Sister
 HILLS, ME Sister
 HOWARD, FG Staff Nurse
 HUMPHREY, EM Sister
 IRWIN, WH Staff Nurse
 JAMIESON, JS Staff Nurse
 JINKS, M Nurse
 KEMP, EM Sister
 KERR, MT Sister
 LANCASTER, AH Staff Nurse
 MACKINNON, M Staff Nurse

MCCOMBIE, C Nurse
 MARK, HD Nurse
 MARLEY, GM Probationer
 MARNOCH, MB Staff Nurse
 MELDRUM, I Sister
 MILNE, ML Sister
 MURRAY, M Staff Nurse
 NODDER, RM Sister
 O'GORMAN, EJ Staff Nurse
 PATERSON, JJ Sister
 ROBINSON, E Sister
 ROWLANDS, HM Sister
 SAXON, E Sister
 SIMPSON, E Sister
 SMITH, C Staff Nurse
 SMITHIES, EL Staff Nurse
 STANLEY, A Staff Nurse
 STEWART, WB Staff Nurse
 SWAIN, LM Staff Nurse
 THOMPSON, MB Staff Nurse
 TREVETHAN, R Staff Nurse
 VINTER, B Sister
 WAKEFIELD, JE Staff Nurse
 WATSON, D Staff Nurse
 WHEATLEY, A Sister
 WILLIS, FA Sister
 WILLIS, ME Staff Nurse
 WOODLEY, AA Sister

Joint War Commission British Red Cross Society and St John's Ambulance Brigade Voluntary Aid Detachment

ARNOLD, MT Nurse
 BAILEY, W Nurse
 BAIN, AW Nurse
 BALL, C Nurse
 BARKER, EF Nurse
 BARON, MA Nurse
 BARRETT, SV Nurse
 BATES, ME Sister

BOLTON, GE Nurse
 BOUSFIELD, MC Sister
 BOWSER, IT Sister
 BROWN, WM Sister
 BYTHEWAY, G Nurse
 CHADWICK, ME Nurse
 CHADWICK, H Nurse
 CHAPMAN, MD Nurse
 COLES, DKM Nurse
 CONSTERDINE, VC Staff Nurse
 CRAGGS, MO Nurse
 CREWDSON, DML Nurse
 DICKSON, MC Nurse
 DUNCANSON, UM Nurse
 FAITHFULL, FM Nurse
 FRASER, MN Nurse
 HACKETT, VCH Nurse
 HALLAM, AV Nurse
 HARDING, IL Nurse
 HARTMAN, E Nurse
 HERITAGE, A Nurse
 HOGG, F Nurse
 HORRELL, DM Nurse
 INGRAM, E Nurse
 JONES, LK Nurse
 KINNEAR, KF Nurse
 LAMBARDE, BA Nurse
 LANGDALE, MA Nurse
 LEE, JS Nurse
 LEVER, Lady BH Nurse
 LIDDELL, L Nurse
 LLEWELLYN, GV Nurse
 MALTBY, PJ Nurse
 MAUNSELL, MJ Nurse
 MIDWOOD, L Nurse
 PALMIERI, AE Nurse
 PARROTT, AMA Nurse
 POPE, CML Nurse
 POWERS-PEEL, A Nurse
 RICHARDS, E Nurse
 ROGERS, HA Nurse
 ROSKELL, GL Nurse
 RYLE, MC Nurse
 SAMUELSON, Lady LM Nurse
 SMALES, FE Nurse
 SMYTH, PJ Nurse
 TAYLOR, HB Nurse
 THOMPSON, E Nurse
 WARNOCK, EM Nurse
 WILLIAMS, J Nurse
 YOUNG, AE Nurse
 YOUNG, MAE Nurse
 YOUNG, MC Nurse

Scottish Women's Hospital

EARL, AK Sister
 GRAY, M Sister

Australian Army Nursing Service

BICKNELL, LA Staff Nurse
 BRENNAN, KA Nurse
 CLARE, E Nurse
 DICKINSON, R Staff Nurse
 GLADSTONE, EM Sister
 GREWAR, GA Sister
 HENNESSY, M Staff Nurse
 KNOX, HM Sister
 MCPHAIL, I Staff Nurse
 MOORHOUSE, EA Sister
 MORETON, LG Sister
 MOWBRAY, NV Sister
 HUNRO, GE Sister
 O'GRADY, AV Sister
 O'KANE, R Staff Nurse
 PORTER, KAL Nurse
 POWER, K Nurse
 RIDGWAY, DA Staff Nurse
 ROTHERY, E Staff Nurse
 STAFFORD, MF Staff Nurse
 THOMPSON, AM Staff Nurse
 TYSON, FIC Sister
 WALKER, JM Matron
 WATSON, BM Staff Nurse
 WILLIAMS, BE Sister

Canadian Army Medical Corps

ALPAUGH, AE Sister
 BAKER, ME Sister
 BAKER, ME Sister
 BALDWIN, DMY Sister
 BOLTON, GE Nurse
 CAMPBELL, C Nurse
 CHAMPAGNE, E Nurse
 CUMMING, JK Sister
 DAGG, AS Nurse
 DAVIS, LA Sister
 DONALDSON, G Sister
 DOUGLAS, CJ Sister
 POPE, CML Sister
 DUSSAULT, A Nurse
 FOLLETTE, MA Nurse
 FORNER, A Nurse
 FORTESCUE, MJ Sister
 FRASER, MM Sister
 FREDERICKSON, C Sister
 GALLAHER, MK Sister
 GARBUTT, SE Sister
 GRANT, GM Sister
 GREEN, ME Nurse
 HENNAN, VB Nurse
 HUNT, M Nurse
 JAGGARD, JB Sister
 JARVIS, JA Sister
 JENNER, LM Sister
 KEALY, IL Sister
 KING, JN Sister
 LOWE, M Sister
 MACDONALD, KMM Sister

CUIMHNEACHAN

MACINTOSH, R Sister
 MACLEOD, M Sister
 MACPHERSON, A Sister
 MCDIARMID, JM Sister
 MCDUGALL, A Sister
 MCEACHEN, R Sister
 MCGINNIS, MG Sister
 MCKAY, EV Sister
 MCKENZIE, MA Sister
 MCLEAN, RM Sister
 MELLETT, H Sister
 MUNRO, MFE Sister
 PRINGLE, EL Sister
 ROBERTS, JO Sister
 ROGERS, NG Sister
 ROSS, AJ Sister
 ROSS, EG Sister
 SAMPSON, MB Sister
 SARE, GI Sister
 SPARKS, E Sister
 TEMPLEMAN, J Sister
 TRUSDALE, A Sister
 TUPPER, A Sister
 WAKE, GMM Sister
 WHITLEY, AE Sister

New Zealand Army Nursing Service

BROWN, MS Staff Nurse
 CLARK, I Staff Nurse
 FOX, CA Staff Nurse
 GORMAN, M Staff Nurse
 HAWKEN, AG Staff Nurse
 HILDYARD, NM Staff Nurse
 ISDELL, HK Staff Nurse
 JAMIESON, ME Staff Nurse
 LUMLEY, C Nurse
 RAE, MH Staff Nurse
 RATTRAY, LA Staff Nurse
 ROGERS, M Staff Nurse
 THOMPSON, MH Staff Nurse
 TUBMAN, EM Staff Nurse
 WHISHAW, MH Sister

Nyasaland Nursing Service

SALVATOR, M Sister

South African Military Nursing Service

BAKER, EA Staff Nurse
 BEAUFORT, K Nurse
 BERNSTEIN, D Staff Nurse
 BETTLE, HM Sister
 DUNN, GE Staff Nurse
 EDHEADES, CA Sister
 FITZHENRY, DA Sister
 FLANAGAN, MC Probationer
 HEARNS, B Staff Nurse
 HUNRO, AW Staff Nurse
 WARDLE, I Staff Nurse
 WATKINS, JK Staff Nurse

Russian Red Cross

RYLE, MC Sister

LAST POST CEREMONY

Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson was remembered in the Last Post Ceremony held at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on 11th October, 2016.

Commencing at approximately 4.30 pm AEST, the Memorial farewells visitors with its moving Last Post Ceremony in the Commemorative Courtyard. Each night the ceremony shares the story behind one of the names on the Roll of Honour.

The ceremony begins with the Australian national anthem followed by the piper's lament. Visitors are invited to lay wreaths and floral tributes beside the Pool of Reflection. An individual's story is told, and the Ode is recited by Australian Defence Force personnel. The ceremony ends with the sounding of the Last Post.

(Information from The Australian War Memorial)



Speech transcript

Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson, Australian Army Nursing Service
DOD 23 June 1918
Photograph: H16039

Story delivered 11 October 2016

Today we remember and pay tribute to Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson.

Born in Forbes in New South Wales, Ruby Dickinson was the daughter of William and Julia Dickinson. Following her schooling she trained at the Lister Private Hospital in Sydney between 1906 and 1911.

In June 1914 Dickinson wed Frederick Body, a grazier from Cooma. They had been married little more than a year when she enlisted in the AIF's Australian Army Nursing Service, in July 1915. Only nurses who were unmarried were eligible to join the AANS, so Dickinson used her maiden name.

More than 3,000 Australian civilian nurses volunteered for active service during the First World War, most of them with the AANS. They were posted to Britain, France, Belgium, the Mediterranean, India, and the Middle East, where they worked in hospitals, on hospital ships and trains, or in casualty clearing stations closer to the front line.

Dickinson embarked for overseas service within days of enlisting. From September 1915 to January 1916 she was attached to the 3rd Australian General Hospital on the island of Lemnos, where her patients included Australians wounded during the fighting on Gallipoli.

After Lemnos, Dickinson spent several months nursing in Egypt. In July 1916 she was assigned as the nurse in charge on the hospital ship Seang Choon, which was returning to Australia with sick and wounded men. She left Australia again in January 1917, this time bound for service in England.

Attached to the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, in October Dickinson was sent to France, where the 3rd Australian General Hospital had been re-established. Soon after arriving she became ill and was sent to England to recuperate. She returned to nursing work in January 1918 with the 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield in England. Dickinson again dedicated herself to the job of nursing soldiers, ignoring her own ill health. On 23 June she reported sick to her superiors at Harefield, and was immediately transferred to the Australian Nurses Hospital in Southwell Gardens, London. She died of pneumonia that afternoon.

Nurse Dickinson was buried with military honours in the Harefield Parish Churchyard. On 22 October 1918 her mother wrote to the authorities about her daughter, who was just 32 upon her death:

I am told she was much appreciated for her steadfastness to duty and nursing skills, much beloved by the sick and wounded for whom she worked so hard. I shall always have the consolation of knowing that she died doing her duty.

Nurse Ruby Dickinson's name is listed on the Roll of Honour on my right, among more than 60,000 Australians who died while serving in the First World War. Her photograph is displayed today beside the Pool of Reflection.

This is but one of the many stories of service and sacrifice told here at the Australian War Memorial. We now remember Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson, who gave his life for us, for our freedoms, and in the hope of a better world.

Emma Campbell
Researcher, Military History Section



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H16039

Eight unidentified patients from Ward 40, No 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, photographed in the grounds of the hospital with Sister Ruby Dickinson. Sister Dickinson died of pneumonia on 23 June 1918 at Southwell Gardens, a nursing sisters hospital in England.



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALASIAN TRAINED NURSES

The following is the pass-list of the final examination of the A.T.N.A. held on December 8 and 9:-

General:Ruby Dickinson.....

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 30 December, 1910)

In casualty list No. 415 it was stated that Staff-Nurse Ruby Droma Dickinson, of New Zealand, had died of illness. The name should be Staff-Nurse Ruby Dickinson, of Mosman, N.S.W.

(The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 July, 1918)

DEATHS

BODY (Nee Dickinson) – June 23, 1918 (O.A.S. abroad), Staff-nurse Ruby Dickinson, of pneumonia, youngest daughter of the late Wm. Dickinson, Forbes. And of Mrs Dickinson, Mosman.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 25 July, 1918)

RELIGIOUS

The tablet erected in St. James's Church, King Street, in memory of Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson, of the 3rd A. G. H., by her friends and comrades abroad, will be unveiled at tomorrow evening's service. Staff Nurse Dickinson left Sydney in 1916, and saw service in Egypt, Lemnos, France and England, but died in the latter country. She was a daughter of the late Mr W. Dickinson, of Forbes, and of Mrs Dickinson, of Mosman.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 5 July, 1919)

NURSES' MEMORIAL

LONDON APPEAL

Twenty-four members of the Australian nursing service either died or were killed on active service during the war. Their names are included in a list of Dominion nurses who made the supreme sacrifice, forwarded by the Committee of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital Extension Fund in London to the Premier. The extension is to be a memorial to those women of the Dominions.

The committee suggests that if 10,000 hostesses in the Empire give a gift tea party—a dance, bridge, whist, or competition tea—to a few friends, asking them to do the same, a large proportion of the sum required to complete the extension of the hospital would be found.

The Australian nurses whose names are on the list are:- Matron J. M. Walker, R.R.C; Sisters H. M. Knox, E. A. Moorhouse, N.V. Mowbray, G. E. Munro, K. L. Porter, F. I. C. Tyson, B. Williams; Staff Nurses L. A. Bicknell, E. Clare,

R. Dickinson, M. Hennesey, L. G. Moreton, A. V. O'Grady, R. O'Kane, K. Power, D. A. Ridgway, E. Rothery, A. M. Thompson, M. F. Stafford, B. M. Watson; and Voluntary Workers A. Brennan, Rignall, L.B., and L. Grant.

On the same list are the names of 60 Canadian women, 15 New Zealanders, four South Africans, one woman from India and three members of the overseas nursing association.

(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Qld – Saturday 9 May, 1925)

MEMORIAL SERVICE

EMPIRE ARMY SISTERS

The women of Melbourne yesterday paid a tribute to the memory of the women of the Empire who laid down their lives in the great war at a service held in St. Paul's Cathedral yesterday. This service was arranged to coincide with the service at which the Duchess of York would unveil after restoration the Five Sisters Window in York Minster.

A roll of honor tablet has been placed beside the window bearing the names of representatives of many associations, services and corps, including Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, Women's Royal Air Force, Women's Land Army, and the Canadian, Newfoundland, Australian, New Zealand and Union of South Africa Army Nursing Services. A panel of the tablet contains the following names of the Australian Army Nursing Service, Australian Imperial Forces: — Matron Jean Walker, R.R.C.; Sister Hilda Knox, Sister Edith Moorhouse, Sister Norma Mowbray, Sister Gertrude Munro, Sister Kathleen Porter, R.R.C; Sister Fanny Tyson, Sister Blodwyn Williams, Staff Nurse Louisa N. Bicknell, Staff Nurse Emily Clare, **Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson**, Staff Nurse May Hennessey, Staff Nurse Letitia Moreton, Staff Nurse Amy O'Grady, Staff Nurse Rosa O'Kane. Staff Nurse Kathleen Power, Staff Nurse Doris Ridgway, Staff Nurse Elizabeth Rothery, Staff Nurse Mary Stafford, Staff Nurse Ada Thompson, Staff Nurse Beatrice Watson; Miss Adele Brennan, Miss Lydia Grant, Miss L. B. Riggall, V.A.D.'s.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – Thursday 25 June, 1925)

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. 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)

Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Peace Perfect Peace

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England

St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield contains 126 Commonwealth War Graves.

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

Harefield (St. Mary) Churchyard contains war graves from both world wars. There are 120 First World War graves, mostly those of Australians who died in No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park. Uniquely, their graves are marked by scroll shaped headstones, chosen by the staff and patients at the hospital. In the centre of the Australian plot stands a memorial obelisk which was erected by Sir Francis Newdegate, late Governor of Tasmania and of Western Australia, and Mr. C.A.M. Billyard-Leake, of Harefield Park. The churchyard also contains six graves of the Second World War.

(Information & photos from CWGC)





St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield



Photo of Staff Nurse R. Dickinson's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield, Middlesex, England.



(Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



Anzac Day 2013 at Harefield (Photo by Mosman Library)



St Mary the Virgin Church, Harefield (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photo courtesy of Peter Bennett)



St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Harefield (Photos courtesy of Peter Bennett)

