

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



2323 PRIVATE

T. DUNN

44TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

7TH FEBRUARY, 1917 Age 44

Parted Yes

But Not For Ever

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte T. Dunn is located in Grave Plot # 186
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Thomas DUNN

Thomas Dunn was born at Ballymena, Co. Antrim, Ireland on 4th November, 1871 to parents Charles & Margaret Dunn (nee Harber).

According to information supplied by his brother – Charles Dunn for the Roll of Honour, Thomas Dunn came to Australia at the age of 24 years – around 1895. He was also a French Polisher & had served with Militia in Belfast, Ireland for 3 months.

Thomas Dunn was a 44 year old, single, Bushworker from East Narrogin, Western Australia when he enlisted on 9th May, 1916 with the 44th Infantry Battalion, 4th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2323 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his brother – Mr Charles Dunn of Toolibin, East Narrogin, Western Australia.

Pte Thomas Dunn embarked from Fremantle on HMAT *Port Macquarie (A39)* on 13th October, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 12th 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.

Pte Thomas Dunn was marched in to 11th Training Battalion in England. He was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 30th December, 1916 with influenza. He was reported seriously ill with pneumonia on 11th January, 1917. On 16th January, Pte Dunn was reported to be improving.

Pte Thomas Dunn died of broncho pneumonia at 4 p.m. on 7th February, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital. Pte Dunn had spent 40 days in Fargo Military Hospital. Pte Thomas Dunn was the first of six soldiers to die in the period of 24 hours all related to pneumonia, influenza & bronchitis. (William Razey Robinson 2388; died 4.30 p.m. 7th February, 1917 / Charles Young 6842; died 6.50 p.m. 7th February, 1917 / Thomas Joseph Desmond 2300; died 7 p.m. 7th February, 1917 / Henry Walter Sharp 6180; died 4.20 a.m. 8th February, 1917 & Herbert Hector Seefeldt 6215; died 11 a.m. 8th February, 1917)

A death for Thomas Dunn, aged 34, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire. (According to details supplied by his brother for the Roll of Honour – Thomas Dunn was aged 46 at the time of his death).

Pte Thomas Dunn was buried at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – plot number 186 on 13th February, 1917.

Pte Thomas Dunn was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Dunn's next-of-kin, his brother – Mr Charles Dunn as both parents were deceased & the eldest brother had not be heard of for many years & was presumed to be dead. (September, 1921 & August, 1922)

Private T. Dunn 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

T. Dunn is also remembered on the Narrogin War Memorial (Eastern side – Column 2, last name) which is a Memorial Pavillion located on Williams Road, Narrogin, Western Australia.



(Photo by [Derek Graham](#))



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Thomas Dunn – service number 2323 as being 44 years old & served with 44th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Charles & Margaret Dunn. Born at Ballymena, Ireland.

(58 pages of Pte Thomas Dunn'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

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Newspaper Reports

W. A. CASUALTIES

Roll of Honour 274th Casualty List

DEATHS

T. Dunn, East Narrogin, died of illness, previously reported dangerously ill.

(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia Tuesday 27 February, 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 T. Dunn does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Parted Yes But Not For Ever

Photo of Pte T. Dunn's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)