

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



7939 PRIVATE

G. H. BANTICK

12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

4TH JUNE, 1918 Age 21

In Sad And Loving Memory

Of Our Dear Son George

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte G. H. Bantick is located in
Grave Plot # 354. E. 6. of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

George Henry BANTICK

George Henry Bantick was born on 20th May, 1897 at Four Mile Beach, St. Mary's near Falmouth, Tasmania to parents George Henry & Harriet Bantick. He was a 20 year old, single, Farmer from Four Mile Creek, St. Marys, Tasmania when he enlisted at Hobart, Tasmania on 3rd October, 1917 with the 12th Infantry battalion, 27th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 7939 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr George Bantick of Four Mile Creek, St. Marys, Tasmania. George Henry Bantick stated on his Attestation papers that he had never served in His Majesty's Army, the Marines, Militia –etc 92nd Area Exempt. He had also been rejected twice as being unfit for His Majesty's Service due to a weak Heart. Both George Henry Bantick's parents had to sign to consent to their son enlisting in the Australian Expeditionary Force for service abroad as he was under the age of 21.

Pte George Henry Bantick embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Nestor* (A71) on 28th February, 1918 & disembarked at Liverpool, England on 20th April, 1918.

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 George Henry Bantick was marched in to 1st Training Battalion at Sutton Veny from Australia on 20th April, 1918.

Private George Henry Bantick was admitted to the Military Hospital at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire on 11th May, 1918 with Measles.

Private George Henry Bantick died at 2 a.m. on 4th June, 1918 at the Military Hospital, Sutton Veny of Measles, Bronchitis, Pneumonia.

A death for George H. Bantick, aged 21, was registered in the June quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Private George Henry Bantick was buried on 6th June, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 354. From the burial report of Pte Bantick - *Coffin was good polished Elm with Brass Mountings – Deceased was buried with full Military Honours. The band of the 1st Australian Training Brigade preceded the funeral, which was attended by Firing Party, Pall bearers and a company of N.C.O.'s and men from deceased late Unit. Wreathes from Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of 12th Bn. and Australians in Sutton Veny Hospital were placed on the grave after the "Last Post" had been sounded. Deceased was most popular with both Officers and men of his Unit and his loss is very keenly felt.*

Pte George Henry Bantick requested in his Will, dated 13th February, 1918, that all his property & effects be given to Harriet Bantick, Falmouth, Tasmania,

Private G. H. Bantick is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 64.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte G. H. Bantick is also remembered on the Honour Board at Christ Church, Cullenswood, in the Break O'Day district. There are 24 names listed.



Christ Church, Cullenswood

Pte George Henry Bantick 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 Bantick's father – Mr G. H. Bantick (sent July, 1921 & November, 1922)

The CWGC lists Private George Henry Bantick, 7939, of 12th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of George Henry and Harriet Bantick, of Four Mile Creek, Falmouth, Tasmania.

(60 pages of Pte George Henry Bantick'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

SUPREME COURT

THE CRIMINAL SITTINGS

FORGING AND UTTERING A CHEQUE

At the Criminal Sittings of the "Supreme Court yesterday, in the first Court before Mr. Justice Dobbie George Henry Bantick, a youth, pleaded guilty to having altered and uttered a cheque for the payment of £2 14s. Mr Davenport Hoggins addressed His Honor in mitigation of the sentence, stating that the youth, 17 years of age, had been thrown on his own resources for the last five years, his parents, living at Pelham, being poor. He

altered a cheque from £2 14s to £3 14s., which was, technically, a forgery, but really a petty larceny. Counsel asked that the lad be given another chance.

His Honor said he had very grave difficulty in deciding what was the best thing to do with the accused as to his future, especially as his father seemed to wipe his hands of him altogether and would not become a bondsman for him. He would be sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment, but in the meantime the proper authorities were to try and get the Salvation Army to take care of him, and upon their undertaking to do so he would be released from custody.

(*The Mercury*, Hobart, Tasmania – Wednesday 31 March 1915)

[*OPC Note – although the age & name appear to relate to Pte George Henry Bantick – no actual facts connecting him 100% are given in the report.]

ROLL OF HONOUR

TASMANIAN CASUALTIES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte G. H. Bantick, St. Marys, 4/6/18

(*Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania – Tuesday 25 June, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Died on Active Service

BANTICK.-In sad and loving memory of our dear son and brother, George Henry Bantick, No. 7,939, 12th Battalion, 27th Reinforcements, died 4/6/18, Somewhere in France, aged 21 years.

No mother's care did him attend,

Nor over him did a father bend;

No sister by to shed a tear,

No brother by his words to hear.

Ill and dying in a foreign land,

No father by to take a hand:

No mother near to close his eyes,

Far from his native land he lies.

Had we but seen him yet in life,

 Watched by his dying bed;

Caught the last flickering of his breath,

 And touched his dying head,

We think our hearts would not have felt

 Such bitterness of grief;

But God had willed it otherwise,

 And now he rests in peace.

No matter how we pray, dear George,

 No matter how we call,

There is nothing left to answer

 But your photo on the wall.

We are lonely without you, brother darling,
Grieved to be from you apart;
In tears we look at your photo.,
With sad and broken hearts.

We hear no sound of the much-loved voice,
We hear no footsteps near;
Only the heart's sad longing
For the one we loved so dear.

I can always see his angel face,
Through a mist of sorrowing tears;
But a mother's part is a broken heart,
Through many a lonely year.

We'll meet him again in the morning,
In the dawn of the beautiful day,
When the time of waiting and watching,
And all sadness have passed away.

For his duty is done, his rest is won,
And the horrors of battle for him are o'er;
In the land of rest, in the home of the blest,
He has met with those who have gone before.

A noble ending to a beautiful life.

We did not think your time so short
In this world to remain;
We thought that when you left us, George,
You would return again.

Duty called him, he was there,
To do his bit and take his share;
His heart was good, his spirit brave,
He's resting in a soldier's grave.

God knows how much we miss him,
He counts the tears we shed,
He whispers, Hush! he only sleeps-
Your loved one is not dead,
But sleeping over yonder in a Hero's grave.

-Inserted by his loving and sorrowing father, G. H., and mother, H. Bantick, and brothers and sisters, R. V., R. T., H. N., P. O., F. .K., M. P.

(*Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania – Thursday 8 August, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

Died on Active Service

BANTICK.- In sad and loving memory of our dear brother and son, George, who died in Sutton Veny Hospital, June 4, 1918.

Days of sadness still come to us,
 Silent tears often flow,
Your memory keeps you near us,
 Though your grave is miles away.

Inserted by his loving mother and father G. and H. Bantick, sister and brother-in-law, Ruby and Albert Nickel.

(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – Saturday 4 June, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

Died on Active Service

BANTICK.-In sad and loving memory of our dear son and brother, George Henry Bantick, No. 7,939, 12th Battalion, 27th Reinforcements, died 4/6/18, Somewhere in France, aged 21 years.

No mother care did him attend.
Nor over him a father bend;
No sister by to shed a tear,
No brother by his words to hear;
Ill and dying, in a foreign land.
Far from his native land he lies.

No matter how we pray, dear George,
No matter how we call,
There's nothing left to answer
But your photo on the wall.

We are lonely without you, brother darling,
Grieved to be from you apart,

Some day, some time, our eyes shall see
The dear face we hold in memory;
And Christ shall link the broken chain.
Still closer when we meet again.

Inserted by his loving and sorrowing father and mother, G. and H. Bantick, brothers and sisters, Ruby, Nedelcia, Richmond, Pearson, Flora, Madge, Roy, Sissie, and little Joyce.

(The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania – Monday 5 June, 1922)

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 St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny. 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 George Henry Bantick does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Sad And Loving Memory Of Our Dear Son George

Photo of Pte G. H. Bantick 's Headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)



War Graves at Sutton Veny *(Photos from CWGC)*

