

## DINSDALE

# Harold Hubert MM

Service No: 5357



**BASIC INFORMATION**

Name: Harold Hubert Dinsdale

Service Number: 5357

Date of Enlistment: 7/2/1916

Age at Enlistment: 19 years 6 months

Civil Occupation: Carpenter

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal,

Height: 5 Ft 7 ½ inches

Weight: 130 Lbs.

Chest Measurement: 32 inches

Complexion: Fair

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Dark Brown

Father: John Dinsdale

Mother: Matilda Mills

Siblings: Arthur Edwin (1875), Caroline Elizabeth (1877), Sophia Maude (1879), Henrietta (1881 d.1882), Evelyn (1883), Horace Henry (1885), Matilda (1887), John William (1890 d.1892), Gordon Leslie (1893).

Married: 1. Edith Hindley (1921)

2. Elaine Ethel Kirkham (1955)

Children: Raymond Frank (born and died 1922 aged 1 month), Douglas Robert (born 1923 died 2012), Clifford (born 1926 died 2016)



PTE. HAROLD H. DINSDALE,  
(Wounded . Mother resides at  
Maylands.)

Courtesy National Archives of Australia

## Family History

William Dinsdale, born in 1816, in Yorkshire, was a semi-literate shoemaker. In 1857, he was sentenced to six years' transportation for stealing post office letters and, in 1858, arrived in the Swan River Colony on the *Edwin Fox*.

William received his Ticket of Leave on April 30<sup>th</sup> 1860, followed by a Conditional Pardon on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 1861. In 1863, his wife Mary, together with their six children, sailed on the *Tartar* to join him in the Colony.

William made a success of his new life. In 1868, he bought forty acres in York and eventually employed about fifty Ticket of Leave men as labourers at "Spring Hill" farm. He also worked as a shoemaker.

William's son John, born in Yorkshire in 1846, travelled to the Swan River Colony with his mother in 1863. He married Matilda Mills at York in 1871, and they went on to have ten children. John farmed at "Cut Hill" before purchasing fifty-one acres on the outskirts of the town and leasing more land closer to the town. Between 1872 and 1875, he employed five Ticket of Leave men at "Needlands Farm"

Between 1893 and 1900, John served on the York Town Council, and he was a Trustee of the Methodist Church, a lay preacher and a Sunday School Superintendent. He died in 1910 at York. Matilda lived on until 1937.

## Life Story

Harold Hubert Dinsdale was born in York in 1896. He enlisted as a Private on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 1916 and embarked from Fremantle for England on the *Aeneas* just over four weeks later.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> July, Harold proceeded to Etaples, in France, to join the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion in the Field, in the Somme. His service was marked by wounds and medical issues.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> August, Harold was Wounded in Action (shell shock) and admitted to the 4<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance before re-joining his unit on the 15<sup>th</sup> August. As a result of his unit being involved in another attack, in appalling conditions, on the German trenches at Mouquet Farm during the night of August 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup>, on the 30<sup>th</sup> August, he was again listed as Wounded in Action, and it was noted that he was suffering from exhaustion.

Harold re-joined his unit six weeks later, only to be diagnosed with mumps on the 19<sup>th</sup> October. He returned to duty on the 7<sup>th</sup> November and served until the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1917, when he was admitted to hospital suffering from influenza. Harold was transferred to hospital in Rouen, and diagnosed with trench foot on the 15<sup>th</sup> April, before returning to his unit on the 17<sup>th</sup> May.

Harold's health appears to have then improved. On the 11<sup>th</sup> August, he was promoted to Lance Corporal, then Corporal on the 18<sup>th</sup> September. In January 1918, Harold was promoted again, this time to Lance Sergeant and, four months later, he was awarded the Military Medal.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1918, Harold was wounded for the third time, suffering a shrapnel wound to the buttocks, when the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion was in the trenches near the town of Corbie, close to Amiens. He was admitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> General Hospital at Etretat and then transferred to Havre, where he remained before re-joining his battalion at the end of August.

In October 1918, Harold was promoted to sergeant. He continued to serve in the A.I.F. until June 1919, when he returned to Australia on the *Bremen*.

After his return to Australia, Harold married Edith Hindley in 1921. The couple resided in Maylands where his mother and some of his siblings had been living after the death of their father in 1910.

A successful builder/contractor by the 1930s, Harold was the contractor who, in 1936, built additions to the Eastern Districts Company's building in York to allow for the establishment of the Ford Service Station on that site.

The following year, he was responsible for the construction of a log chalet for the Young Australia League (Chalet Healy Cafe) at Araluen, at a cost of £1250.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> May 1940, Harold enlisted in the Citizens' Military Forces, (Service Number W235104) and was appointed to 7 Workshop & Park Company, Royal Australian Engineers (R.A.E.). Appointed a Lieutenant (on probation) on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 1941, his promotion to Lieutenant was confirmed on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 1942. His son, Douglas, served as a pilot in the R.A.A.F. during World War Two.

Harold was sent to N.S.W. on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 1943, where he embarked aboard the *Ormiston* on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 1944 before proceeding to Thursday Island, then on to Darwin aboard the *Darvel* on the 18<sup>th</sup> March. Harold remained in Darwin until the 16<sup>th</sup> September before returning to Perth to be Maintenance Officer at the Perth Military Hospital. He remained on active service until the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1947, before being placed on the Retired List the following day.

Harold and Edith were noted as attending the Centenary celebration of the Methodist Church in York over the weekend of the 30-31<sup>st</sup> August 1952.

Edith died in 1954. Harold then remarried in 1955 to Elaine Ethel Kirkham, and they continued to reside at 7 Eleventh Avenue Maylands/Inglewood until his death in 1982. Elaine resided there until her death in 2011.

## Acknowledgements:

Clarke, Cathy

Heather Harvey

## References

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