

**Vicarage Road Cemetery,  
Watford, Hertfordshire, England**

**War Grave**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**151 GUNNER**

**S. J. CHIPPERFIELD**

**AUST. HEAVY ARTILLERY**

**24TH DECEMBER, 1917 Age 29**

*Sacred To The Memory*

*Of My Dear Husband*

*Who Gave His Life*

*For King And Country*

## Sydney James CHIPPERFIELD

Sydney James Chipperfield was born at Clontarf, (Rathgar was also listed on Attestation Papers as the place of birth) Dublin, Ireland to parents George and Annie Chipperfield. The Civil Registration Birth Index for Ireland recorded a birth for Sidney James Chipperfield, mother's surname - Dorrell, registered in the September quarter, 1883 in the district of Dublin North, Ireland. The date of birth of "26th September, 1884" was listed on one of the Attestation Papers that Sydney Chipperfield completed when joining the Australian Imperial Force.

(Note – Kathleen Chipperfield had recorded for the Roll of Honour that her husband was born at Watford, Herts, England).

Sydney James Chipperfield attended Watford Wesleyan School, England (according to information supplied for the Roll of Honour by his wife).

Sidney Chipperfield, Apprenticed Ironmonger, aged 18, (born Ireland) was listed on the 1901 England Census with his parents George T. Chipperfield (Clerk, (Commercial), aged 44, born Essex) & Annie Chipperfield (aged 49, born Watford, Herts). The family of three were living at 60 Gowrie Rd, Southwest Battersea, London, England.

[A "Sidney James Chipperfield", aged 28 was recorded on the 1911 England Census as a Butler for Richard Vaughan Hart Davis (a 32 year old, Member of London Stock Exchange), of 3 Stanhope Street, Paddington South, London, which was a 15 roomed dwelling. The Hart Davis family consisted of Richard Hart Davis, his wife Sybil (age 24) & their 2 children Rupert (aged 3) & Deidre (aged 1). Sidney James Chipperfield was one of seven servants listed in the household.]

A "Sydney Chipperfield", Butler, was listed as a passenger on *Orama* which had departed from the port of London, England on 10th November, 1911 bound for Melbourne, Australia.

A "Mr S. Chipperfield" was a passenger on *Miltiades* which was travelling from Melbourne to Sydney on 22nd June, 1912.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Middle Harbour, Mosman East Polling Place, listed Sydney James Chipperfield, Soldier of Middle Head.

Sidney James Chipperfield married Catherine Connolly in the district of Mosman, New South Wales in 1915 (Names as per NSW Births, Deaths & Marriages).

Sydney James Chipperfield was a 30 year old, married, Waiter\* (as per Embarkation/Nominal Roll) when he enlisted on 5th June, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 151 & his religion was Church of England. (Note: the Burial Report records his religion as Roman Catholic & one of the Attestation Papers have his religion recorded as Roman Catholic while another has his religion as Church of England). His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs S. J. Chipperfield, of 24 Middle Head Road, Mosman, Sydney, NSW. Sydney Chipperfield stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served in the Cape Mounted Rifles R.A.G.A., having joined on 3rd June, 1913 & was still serving.

[\*Note – Sydney James Chipperfield's Attestation Papers record that he was a Chauffer & had been apprenticed for 3 years in London with Thomas Dixon. Another Attestation Paper records that he was a Waiter. One Attestation Papers record that Sydney Chipperfield signed the Oath on 5th June, 1915 at Middle Head, Sydney, NSW, Australia while another Attestation Paper records that he signed the Oath on 31st December, 1915 at Taunton, Somerset, England.]

Gunner Sydney James Chipperfield was posted to Siege Brigade, A.I.F. on 5th June, 1915 for recruit training.

Gunner Sydney James Chipperfield embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Orsova* (A67) on 17th July, 1915 with the Siege Artillery Brigade.

Gunner Sydney James Chipperfield disembarked at Boulogne, France on 27th February, 1916. (This is the first entry on his Casualty Form – Active Service. There are no entries of where Gunner Chipperfield was between 17th July, 1915 & 27th February, 1916. The journey from Australia took around 2 months if the intended disembarkation was to be in England & less time to Egypt.)

Gunner Sydney James Chipperfield was attached to Headquarters 36th (Aust) H.A.G. (Heavy Artillery Group) from 4th May, 1916. He returned to duty with 54th Battery in France in 25th May, 1916.

Gunner Sydney James Chipperfield was transferred to 55th Battery on 10th August, 1915.

Gunner Sydney James Chipperfield was transferred to 54th Siege Battery on 14th December, 1916.

Gunner Sydney James Chipperfield was detached temporarily to Headquarters 36th (Aust) H.A.G. (Heavy Artillery Group) from 5th March, 1917 & returned to his Unit on 22nd March, 1917.

Gunner Sydney James Chipperfield was transferred to Headquarters 36th (Aust) H.A.G. (Heavy Artillery Group) on 28th August, 1917.

Gunner Sydney James Chipperfield was detached to C. B. Office XV Corps R. A. from attached to Headquarters 36th (Aust) H.A.G. in France – no date recorded. Gunner Chipperfield rejoined his Unit from being attached to C.B. Office on 29th September, 1917.

Gunner Sydney James Chipperfield was on leave to England from 29th September, 1917.

Gunner Sydney James Chipperfield was transferred to 54th Siege Battery on 1st October, 1917 & taken on strength from Headquarters 36th (Aust) H.A.G. on 15th October, 1917.

Gunner Sydney James Chipperfield was wounded in action in France on 4th November, 1917. He was admitted to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance with shrapnel wounds to head on 6th November, 1917. Gunner Chipperfield was transferred & admitted to 3rd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 6th November, 1917 then transferred to Ambulance Train on 12th November, 1917. He was admitted to 4th General Hospital on 12th November, 1917. Gunner Chipperfield embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Pieter de Conick* on 27th November, 1917.

Gunner Sydney James Chipperfield was admitted to 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England on 27th November, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to head – severe.

Gunner Sydney James Chipperfield died on morning of 24th December, 1917 at 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England from wounds received in action, Meningitis following gunshot wounds to head. Gunner Chipperfield's mother was present at the time of death.

A death for Sidney J. Chipperfield, aged 28, was registered in the December quarter, 1917 in the district of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England.

Gunner Sydney James Chipperfield was buried at 12 noon on 28th December, 1917 in Watford Cemetery, Vicarage Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, England – Plot number K. 8. 537 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Gunner Sydney James Chipperfield - *Coffin was good polished Elm with brass fittings. The deceased soldier was buried privately by his Mother. Several beautiful wreaths were placed on the coffin by Mother and friends. An oak cross will be erected on the grave by the A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of relatives & friends present at the funeral – Mother – Mrs Annie Chipperfield, 21 Grove Terrace, Red Lion Yard, Watford. Friends – Mrs J. Additer, 25 Grove Terrace, Watford.

Sidney James Chipperfield requested in his Will that all his real & personal estate be bequeathed to his wife – Mrs S. Chipperfield, of 24 Middle Road, Mosman, Sydney, NSW.

A War Pension was granted to Kathleen Chipperfield, of "Aramachree", Albion Street, Waverley, NSW, widow of the late Gunner Sydney James Chipperfield, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 1st March, 1918.

Base Records contacted Headquarters, 2nd District Base, Victoria Barracks, Sydney in September, 1921 stating that the British War Medal for the late Gunner S. J. Chipperfield had been forwarded for Mrs K. Chipperfield, widow, of "Lambley" Massey Street, Gladesville, NSW but it had been ascertained that Mrs Chipperfield was residing in Ireland & they requested that the medal be returned to Base Records.

Advertisements were placed in Newspapers enquiring for the next-of-kin of listed soldiers, one of the soldiers being the late Gunner S. J. Chipperfield.

Mrs Kathleen Chipperfield, widow, of the late Gunner S. J. Chipperfield, replied in November, 1921 stating that her address was 8 Marlboro Road, Donnybrook, County Dublin, Ireland.

Base Records advised Mrs K. Chipperfield in January, 1922 that the War Medals issued in regards to the service of her late husband were being forwarded to the Military Authorities, Australia House, London for transmission to her.

Mrs Kathleen Chipperfield, widow, of the late Gunner S. J. Chipperfield, replied to Base Records in April, 1922 stating that she was on her way back to Sydney, NSW & hoped to arrive in 2 weeks & asked that the medals be sent to "Cornhill" College St, Gladesville, Sydney, NSW, Australia.

Base Records advised Mrs K. Chipperfield in May, 1922 that the British War Medal had already been forwarded to London & they have now communicated to the authorities there asking for the return of the medal & as soon it was to hand it would be transmitted to her along with the Victory Medal.

Gunner Sydney James Chipperfield was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Chipperfield's widow (transferred through London)- Mrs K. Chipperfield, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner S. J. Chipperfield – service number 151, aged 29, of 36th Heavy Artillery Group, Australian Heavy Artillery. He was the son of George and Anne Chipperfield; husband of Kathleen Chipperfield, of 8 Marlborough Rd., Donnybrook, Co. Dublin.

S. J. Chipperfield is remembered on the Mosman War Memorial which is located at Alan Border Oval, Myahgah Road & The Crescent, Mosman, NSW.



**Mosman War Memorial** (Photo from Register of War Memorials in NSW)

Gunner S. J. Chipperfield is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 19.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

(82 pages of Gunner Sydney James Chipperfield's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **375th CASUALTY LIST NEW SOUTH WALES**

WOUNDED

Gnr. JAS. SYDNEY CHIPPERFIELD, Mosman (dang. ill)

*(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW - 26 December, 1917)*

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### **THE WAR**

#### **LATEST CASUALTIES**

#### **378th And 379th LISTS**

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of Illness

Gnr. Sydney James Chipperfield, Mosman (prev. rptd. sev. wounded)

*(The Land, Sydney, NSW – 18 January, 1918)*

### 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)*

Gunner S. J. Chipperfield does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Sacred To The Memory Of My Dear Husband Who Gave His Life For King And Country*

### **Watford Cemetery, Vicarage Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, England**

Watford Cemetery, Vicarage Road, Watford contains 107 Commonwealth War Graves – 59 from World War 1 & 48 from World War 2.



**Vicarage Road Cemetery Chapel** *(Photo courtesy of julia&keld)*

Photo of Gunner S. J. Chipperfield's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Watford Cemetery, Vicarage Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of julia&keld)*



**Vicarage Road Cemetery & Chapel** *(Photo by Nigel Cox)*