

**St. George's Churchyard,
Fovant, Wiltshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



7427 PRIVATE

R. C. DARBY

28TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

13TH AUGUST, 1918 Age 19

Bless Are The Dead

Which Die In The Lord

Rupert Clarence DARBY

Rupert Clarence Darby was born at Lake Karnak, near Horsham, Victoria in July, 1899 to parents Thomas William and Theresa Darby (nee Shepperd).

Rupert Clarence Darby was an 18 year old, single, Farm Hand from Cunderdin, Western Australia when he enlisted in Perth, Western Australia on 7th August, 1917 with the 28th Infantry Battalion, 22nd Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 7427 & his religion was Baptist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Thomas William Darby, of East Broomehill, G.S. Railway, Western Australia. As Rupert Clarence Darby was under the age of 21 years, he needed his parents' permission to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force for active service abroad. T. W. Darby & T. Darby signed their consent at East Broomehill, Western Australia on 7th August, 1917.

Private Rupert Clarence Darby was posted to 22nd Depot on 10th August, 1917. He was transferred to D 3 Depot on 30th January, 1918 & then transferred to 22nd Reinforcements of 28th Infantry Battalion on 13th March, 1918.

Private Rupert Clarence Darby embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on SS *Ormonde* on 13th March, 1918 & disembarked at Suez on 4th April, 1918.

Private Rupert Clarence Darby was taken on strength at Australian Camp at Suez on 4th April, 1918.

Private Rupert Clarence Darby was evacuated to Hospital at Suez on 29th April, 1918 & admitted to Government Hospital with Influenza on 29th April, 1918. Pte Darby was left in Hospital at Suez on 30th April, 1918. He was discharged to duty at Australian Camp Suez on 14th May, 1918 & taken on strength the same day.

Private Rupert Clarence Darby was transferred to Alexandria on 22nd May, 1918 for embarkation overseas. He re-embarked from Alexandria on *Indarra* on 24th May, 1918 & disembarked at Southampton, England on 5th June, 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 Rupert Clarence Darby was marched in from Australia to 5th Training Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire, England on 5th June, 1918.

Private Rupert Clarence Darby was sent sick to Hurdcott Hospital, Wiltshire on 9th June, 1918 & marched in to 5th Training Battalion from Hospital on 20th June, 1918.

Private Rupert Clarence Darby was sent sick to Hurdcott Hospital, Wiltshire on 28th July, 1918.

Private Rupert Clarence Darby was admitted to Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire on 3rd August, 1918 seriously ill with Pneumonia.

Private Rupert Clarence Darby died at 3.30 am on 13th August, 1918 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire, England from Purulent Bronchitis. According to information provided by Thomas William Darby, father of the late Private Rupert Clarence Darby, for the Roll of Honour – his brother Lieut. A. H. Darby was with his brother "to the last."

A death for Rupert C. Darby, aged 19, was registered in the September quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

Private Rupert Clarence Darby was buried on 16th August, 1918 in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England – Plot number II. B. 4. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Darby - *Coffin was good, polished Elm with brass mountings. Deceased was buried with full Military Honours the body being conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing and Band. Six of deceased's comrades acted as Pallbearers. Cadet A. H. Darby, A.F.C. (Brother) was Chief Mourner. The funeral was attended by about 50 N.C.O.'s and men of deceased's late Company and Nurses from Fovant Hospital. Floral*

tributes from the Nurses of "A" Ward were placed on the grave after the "Last Post" had been sounded. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.

Names of relatives present at the funeral – Brother – Cadet A. H. Darby, A.F.C., Leighterton, Glos.

According to information provided by Thomas William Darby, father of the late Private Rupert Clarence Darby, for the Roll of Honour – Private Darby was picked as a Guard of Honour to the King when Australia House was opened in London.



Australia House – Home of the Australian High Commission was officially opened by King George V in a ceremony on 3rd August, 1918. (Photo by Martin Addison)

Private Rupert Clarence Darby requested in his Will, dated 7th March, 1918, that in the event of his death he appointed Annie Victoria Darby, his sister, as Executrix of his Will & all his property & personal effects be given to his sister - Annie Victoria Darby.

Private Rupert Clarence Darby 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 Private Darby's father – Mr T. W. Darby, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922). Thomas William Darby, father of the late Private Rupert Clarence Darby, died on 2nd August, 1922.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Rupert Clarence Darby – service number 7427, aged 19, of 28th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Thomas William and Theresa Darby of Broomehill, Western Australia. Born at Lake Karnak, Victoria.

R. C Darby is remembered on the Katanning War Memorial which is located at Prosser Park, Carew & Cliff Streets, Katanning, Western Australia.



Katanning War Memorial (Photo from AWM Places of Pride – James Wills)



(Photo courtesy of Stephen Bowes)

R. C Darby is remembered on the Broomehill War Memorial which is located on the Great Southern Highway, Broomehill, Western Australia.



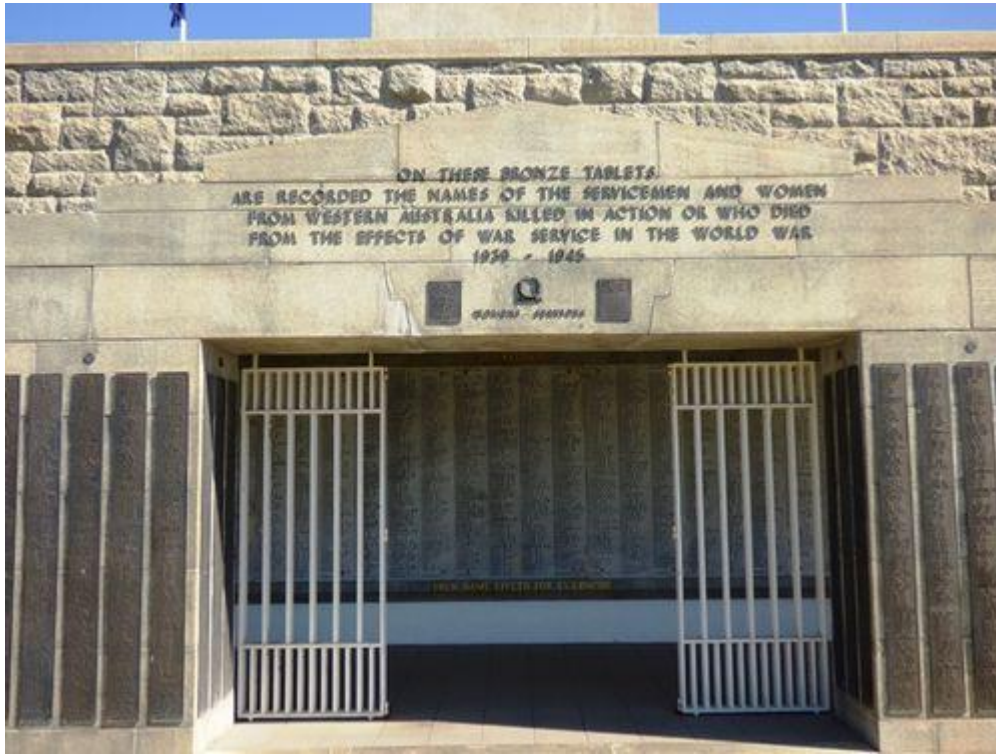
Broomehill War Memorial (Photo by GasGas LEX)

R. C. Darby is remembered on the Western Australia State War Memorial which is located at the top of Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, ANZAC Bluff, Fraser Avenue, Perth, Western Australia. The memorial was developed around an 18 metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, which is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The heavy concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner chamber or crypt. The walls surrounding the crypt are covered with The Roll of Honour; marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.



Western Australia State War Memorial Cenotaph, Kings Park



The Crypt with the Roll of Honour names

(Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson/Sandra Tattersall/Graeme Saunders)



28th Battalion Panel (Photo courtesy of Gordon Stuart)

Private R. C. Darby is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 112.



(Photos Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(55 pages of Private Rupert Clarence Darby'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) & National Archives





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H1 3782

Private Rupert Clarence Darby





Photo Postcard of Private Rupert Clarence Darby

The Photo Postcard of Private Rupert Clarence Darby reads:

Addressed to Rev. Thomas Darby

Scarsdale via Ballarat

Victoria

Dear Tom

I hope you will recognise enclosed photo of Ru taken while here last Christmas. I suppose you have some of him but anyhow here is this.

Kind regards, your loving _____

W. H. C. _____



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION

W.A. ROLL OF HONOUR

DIED OTHER CAUSES

Rupert Clarence Darby

(*Kalgoorlie Miner*, Western Australia – 31 August, 1918)

War Casualties – The following names appear in the latest casualty list released by the censor :- Died of illness, Rupert Clarence Darby, East Broomehill.....

(*Tambellup Times*, Western Australia – 4 September, 1918)

BEREAVEMENT NOTICE

DARBY – Mr and Mrs T. Darby and family of Broomehill East, desire to thank all kind friends and relatives for telegrams, letters, cards and personal expressions of sympathy in recent sad loss of their youngest son, Private Rupert Clarence Darby, who died of illness in England.

(*Tambellup Times*, Western Australia – 11 September, 1918) & (*Great Southern Herald*, Katanning, W.A. – 11 September, 1918)

FOR KING AND COUNTRY

DARBY – Died of bronchitis at Fovant Hospital, England, No. 7427, Private Rupert Clarence Darby (28th Batt., W.A.), youngest dearly loved brother of Miss E. T. Darby, Public School, Talia, and Mrs W. Woods, the Manse, Mannum. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.

(*The Journal*, Adelaide, South Australia – 18 September, 1918) & (*Observer*, Adelaide, South Australia – 21 September, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

DARBY – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private R. C. Darby, who gave his life for his country on August 13, 1918.

In the dawn of his splendid manhood,
When the tide of life ran high,
With courage in his bearing
He waved us a last good-bye.

“Until the day break and the shadows flee away.”

Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters.

(*Tambellup Times*, Western Australia – 13 August, 1919) & (*Great Southern Herald*, Katanning, W.A. – 13 August, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

DARBY – In sad and loving memory of our dear son and brother Pte Rupert Clarence Darby, who died at Fovant Military Hospital on August 13th, 1918 Aged 19 years.

Though far away in another land

He is still in our hearts at home

Inserted by his sorrowing parents, sisters and brothers.

(Tambellup Times, Western Australia – 14 August, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

DARBY – In sad and loving memory of Thomas William Darby, who passed away at Katanning on 2nd August 1922; aged 72. Also Pte Rupert C. Darby, who died at Fovant Military Hospital on 13th August, 1918; aged 19 years.

Some day, some time, my eyes will see

Those dear faces held in memory

And Christ will link the broken chain

Still closer, when we meet again.

Inserted by their sorrowing wife and mother, sisters and brothers.

(Tambellup Times, Western Australia – 21 July, 1923) & (Great Southern Herald, Katanning, W.A. – 21 July, 1923)

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)

Private R. C. Darby does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Blessed Are The Dead Which Die In The Lord

St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England

There was a 600 bed hutted military hospital at Fovant during the First World War, and the concentration of Australian depots and training camps in the area is reflected in the 63 First World War burials in this churchyard. The war graves form two groups, one west of the church and the other at the east end. There is also one burial of the Second World War. There are 44 War Graves belonging to those who served with the Australian Imperial Force in World War 1.

(Information from CWGC)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00299

(Photo c 1919)





St George's Churchyard, Fovant – War Graves at front & rear (*Churchyard photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey*)



Photo of Private R. C. Darby's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England.





Cross of Sacrifice (Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)