

# Durrington War Graves

## World War 1



*Lest We Forget*



**5837 PRIVATE**

**H. DARCEY**

**28TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**28TH DECEMBER, 1916 Age 43**

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte H. Darcey is located in Grave Plot # 139  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## Henry DARCEY

Henry Darcey was born in 1872 at Pingelly, Western Australia to parents Thomas and Eliza Ann Darcey (nee Brown).

Henry Darcey was a 43 year old, single, Farmer, from Wandering, Western Australia when he enlisted on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 1916 with the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 16<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 5837 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his brother – William Darcey of Wandering, Western Australia.

Pte Henry Darcey embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Suffolk* (A23) on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Henry Darcey was marched in to 7<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion at Rollestone, Wiltshire on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 1916.

Pte Henry Darcey was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 1916. The remarks noted on Pte Darcey's Hospital Admissions form states – *"Bronchitis - Bad weather – severe attack and was beginning to improve when he caught a fresh cold due to his getting out of bed one night and died two days after."*

Pte Henry Darcey died of Bronchitis at 7 a.m. at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1916.

A death for Henry Darcey, aged 44, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Pte Henry Darcey was buried in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire on 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1916 – plot number 139.

Private H. Darcey is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 112.

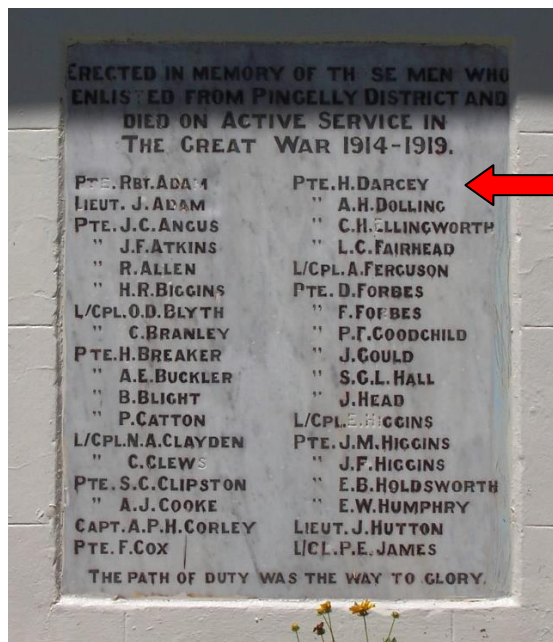


(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



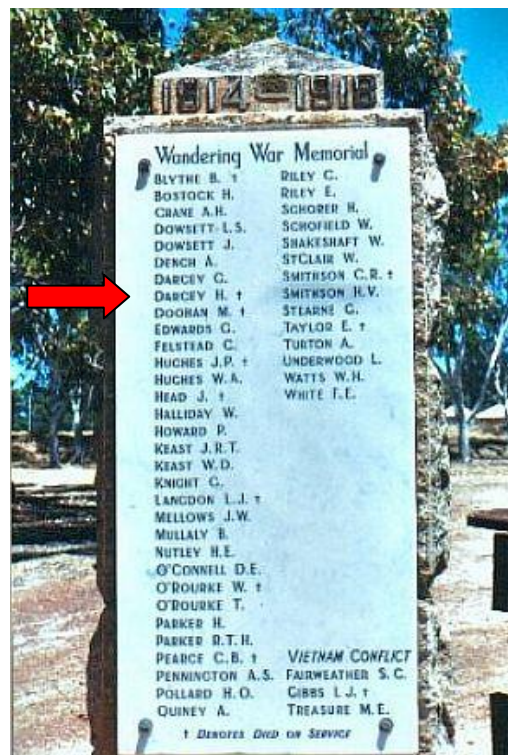
Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte H. Darcey is remembered on the Pingelly Rotunda Memorial located in Pingelly Memorial Park, Parade & Pasture Streets, Pingelly.



**Pingelly Rotunda Memorial** (Photos from War Memorials of Western Australia)

H. Darcey is also remembered on the Wandering Memorial Gates which are situated alongside the Agricultural Hall on Watts Street, Wandering. H. Darcey's name is located on right hand side which represents the names of WW1 & later the Vietnam conflict.



**Wandering Memorial Gates** (Photos from War Memorials of Western Australia)

Pte Henry Darcey was entitled to British War Medal only. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Darcey's eldest brother – Mr Thomas Darcey, c/- Mrs G. Darcey, Cuballing, Western Australia (both received March, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Henry Darcey – service number 5837 as being 43 years old & served with 28th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Thomas and Eliza Ann Darcey. Born at Pingelly, Western Australia.

(47 pages of Pte Henry Darcey'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**

### **OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY**

The following probates and administrations were granted by the Supreme Court during the past week, net value being given:-

#### **PROBATES**

John Charles Pumphrey, late of Hotham Crossing, South Wandering road, famer, to Edgar Sewell and Henry Darcey, £2,319.

*(The Daily News, Perth, Western Australia Friday 4 September, 1908)*

---

### **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

#### **THE ROLL OF HONOUR**

##### **DIED OF ILLNESS**

H. Darcey (Wandering)

*(The West Australian, Perth Friday 12 January, 1917)*

---

### **WILLS**

The list of probates and administrations during the past week was as follows:- Henry Darcey, late of Wandering, to William Darcey, £491'14';

*(Sunday Times, Perth Sunday 8 April, 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 H. Darcey does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.



**Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire** *(Photo by Dave Healing 2013)*

Photo of Pte H. Darcey's Headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



*(Photo © Ian King - with permission)*