

**Highgate Cemetery,
Highgate, Greater London, England**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



852 SERJEANT

R. O. FORD

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

4TH FEBRUARY, 1919 Age 27

Have Mercy Upon Him Lord

And Let Perpetual Light

Shine Upon Him

Richard Oscar FORD

Richard Oscar Ford was born at Gellibrand Fort, Williamstown, Victoria in 1891 to parents Anthony Richard Oscar & Mary Jane Ford (nee Neville).

Richard Oscar Ford attended Catholic School.

From *The Victorian Police Gazette* 1908:

Prisoners Reported as Discharged from the Penal Establishments during the Week Ending 12th December, 1908:

MELBOURNE

Ford, Richard Oscar; tried at Melbourne G.S., 1st December, 1908, for wounding; 5 months; suspended, &c., on surety to be of good behaviour for 12 months; native of Victoria, messenger, born 1891, 5ft. 2 ¼ in., fresh complexion, fair hair, blue eyes. Liberated at court, recognisance entered into. No previous conviction.

Mary Jane Ford, mother of Richard Oscar Ford, died in August, 1909 at Queenscliff, Victoria.

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Corio, subdivision of Queenscliff, Victoria recorded Richard Oscar Fors, Labourer from Hobson St., Queenscliff.

Richard Oscar Ford was a 23 year old, single, Bushman from Hobson Street, Queenscliff, Victoria when he enlisted on 9th November, 1914 (date as per Embarkation/Nominal Roll, however his Attestation Papers have been dated 14th January, 1915 at Liverpool, Sydney, New South Wales) with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr R. O. Ford, Hobson Street, Queenscliff, Victoria. Description: 5 feet 7 inches, fair complexion, blue eyes, auburn hair.

Richard Oscar Ford was posted to Light Horse Depot. A.I.F. on 9th November, 1914 as Trooper. He was posted to 4th Reinforcements of 1st Light Horse on 16th February, 1915 (as stated on one Statement of Service Form while another Statement of Service form recorded the date as 13th March, 1915). Trooper Ford was appointed Corporal on 17th March, 1915.

Corporal Richard Oscar Ford, Service number 852, embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Shropshire* (A9) on 17th March, 1915 with the 1st Light Horse Brigade, 1st Light Horse Regiment, 4th Reinforcements.

Corporal Richard Oscar Ford reverted to permanent rank on 7th June, 1915 & forfeited 2 days pay on 8th June, 1915. (no other information listed)

Trooper Richard Oscar Ford joined 1st Light Horse Regiment at Gallipoli Peninsula on 15th July, 1915.

Trooper Richard Oscar Ford was transferred to Mudros on 10th November, 1915. He was admitted to 1st Field Ambulance at Mudros on 9th December, 1915 with Influenza. Trooper Ford disembarked at Alexandria on 26th December, 1915 from H. T. *Caledonia*.

Trooper Richard Oscar Ford proceeded to join Western F. Force at Egypt on 14th January, 1916.

Trooper Richard Oscar Ford was admitted to Hospital at Wardan on 25th January, 1916. He was transferred to Beni Salaama on the same day with Gonorrhoea. Trooper Ford was discharged to duty on 1st February, 1916. (VD Period 8 days). He rejoined his Unit from Hospital on 2nd February, 1916.

Trooper Richard Oscar Ford was transferred to Artillery Details at Tuh el Kheil on 5th May, 1916 as Private. He embarked with Artillery Details for Marseilles, France from Alexandria on 29th May, 1916 on H.T. *Tunisian*. Private Ford disembarked at Marseilles on 5th June, 1916. He joined 1st Australian Divisional Base Depot at Etaples, France on 9th June, 1916 & was taken on strength of D.A.C. (Divisional Ammunition Column) in France on 20th August, 1916.

Private Richard Oscar Ford was mustered as Driver on 9th October, 1916 while posted with 1st D.A.C..

Driver Richard Oscar Ford was detached on duty to Signalling School on 17th November, 1916.

Driver Richard Oscar Ford reported sick on 13th January, 1917. He was admitted to New Zealand Stationary Hospital at Amiens, France on 13th January, 1917. Driver Ford was transferred to Ambulance Train on 16th January, 1917 & admitted to No. 1 Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 17th January, 1917 with V.D.G. He was transferred on 19th January, 1917 & admitted to 51st General Hospital at Etaples, France on 20th January, 1917. Driver Ford was discharged to duty on 10th March, 1917* (Total VD period = 57 days). He was posted to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) in France on 10th March, 1917 & was transferred from A.G.B.D. on 14th March, 1917. Driver Ford re-joined 3rd Australian Field Artillery Brigade in France on 16th March, 1917 from Hospital.

Driver Richard Oscar Ford was transferred to Army Field Artillery Brigade Ammunition Column on 24th January, 1917* from No. 3 Section, 1st D.A.C.& was taken on strength of 3rd Australian Field Artillery Brigade the same day.

(*Dates as listed on Casualty Form – Active Service).

Driver Richard Oscar Ford was on Leave to England from Belgium from 4th October, 1917 & rejoined his Unit from Leave on 20th October, 1917.

Driver Richard Oscar Ford reported sick in France on 2nd February, 1918 & was admitted to 15th Australian Field Ambulance with Laryngitis. He was discharged to duty on 7th February, 1918 & rejoined his Unit on the same day.

Driver Richard Oscar Ford was detached to 4th Army Corp School on 20th July, 1918 & rejoined his Unit from Detachment on 23rd August, 1918.

Driver Richard Oscar Ford was promoted to Bombardier while in France on 28th August, 1918 with 3rd Field Artillery Brigade vice Bombardier Taylor promoted.

Bombardier Richard Oscar Ford was promoted to Temporary Sergeant on 23rd September, 1918.

Temporary Sergeant Richard Oscar Ford was on Leave to UK from 8th November, 1918 & rejoined his Unit from Leave on 26th November, 1918.

Temporary Sergeant Richard Oscar Ford was promoted to Sergeant on 23rd December, 1918 vice Hunter evacuated from France.

Sergeant Richard Oscar Ford was marched out from A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) in France on 23rd January, 1918 to England for R.T.A. (Return to Australia).

Bombardier Richard Oscar Ford, 852, 3rd Brigade Ammunition Column, was recommended for a Meritorious Service Medal on 16th January, 1919 by Commanding Officer 3rd Army Brigade, Australia Field Artillery: *“France – During the period 25-2-1918 to 16-9-1918. For marked ability and devotion to duty. The N.C.O. has shown exceptional initiative and resources in supplying ammunition to Batteries under difficult and trying conditions. His work during the whole period has been worthy of the highest praise.”*

Bombardier Richard Oscar Ford, 852, 3rd Brigade Ammunition Column, was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal. (*London Gazette* – 18 January, 1919 & *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* – 3 June, 1919)



Meritorious Service Medal

Sergeant Richard Oscar Ford reported sick on 25th January, 1919 – P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin) while posted at No. 4 Command Depot in England. He was admitted to No. 2 Group Hospital at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 25th January, 1919 & discharged on 26th January, 1919 to Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire on 27th January, 1919 with Influenza. Sergeant Ford was reported to be seriously ill on 29th January, 1919.

Sergeant Richard Oscar Ford died at 12.30 on 4th February, 1919 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire, England from Influenza & Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Richard O. Ford, aged 27, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

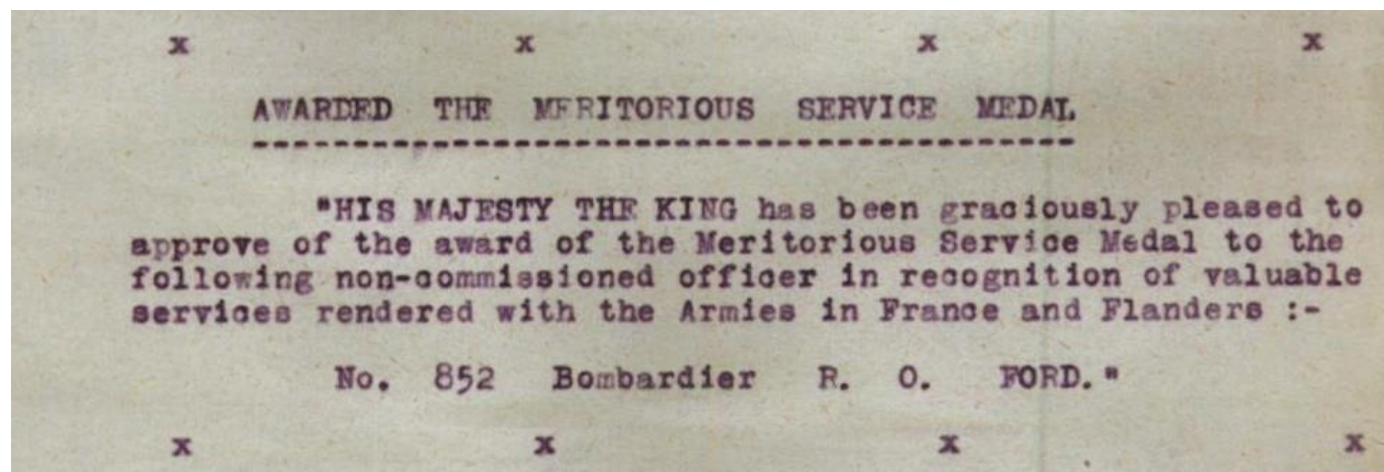
Sergeant Richard Oscar Ford was buried on 10th February, 1919 in Highgate Cemetery, Greater London, England – Grave No. 41344; Square 147.

From the burial report of Sergeant Richard Oscar Ford - *Coffin was Oak. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Australian Flag, and surmounted by wreaths sent from Mrs Garlick (Aunt of deceased). The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the last rites of the Roman Catholic Church were performed by the Rev: Father Murphy of the A.I.F. London. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

Names of Relatives present at the Funeral – Mrs Garlick & Daughters.

Sergeant Richard Oscar Ford's burial place is now recorded by CWGC as Plot number 147.41344 and he now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Base Records wrote to Mr R. O. Ford, Hobson Street, Queenscliff, Victoria, on 9th July, 1919, including a copy of extract from Supplement No. 31132 to the London Gazette, dated 18th January, 1919 relating to the conspicuous services rendered by his son, the late No. 852 Sergeant R. O. Ford, 3rd Field Artillery Brigade, Ammunition Column.



Richard Oscar Ford requested in his Will, dated 31st July, 1917 that his personal estate be bequeathed "half to my Father Richard Oscar Ford, Hobson St. Queenscliff, the remaining to be divided equally among my three sisters. Eldest sisters address Mrs Berth Bartrop, Mercer St. Queenscliff, Victoria."

Sergeant Richard Oscar Ford was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Sergeant Ford's father – Mr R. O. Ford, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Sergeant Richard Oscar Ford – service number 852, aged 27, of 3rd A.F.A. Bde, Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Richard Oscar & Mary Jane Ford, of Hobson St., Queenscliff, Victoria. Awarded Meritorious Service Medal.

Sergeant R. O. Ford is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 12.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

O. Ford is remembered on the Borough of Queenscliffe Roll of Honour, located in Point Lonsdale RSL, 9 King Street, Queenscliffe, Victoria.



Borough of Queenscliffe Roll of Honour

(Photo from AWM Places of Pride – Western Front Association Central Victoria Branch)

(57 pages of Sergeant Richard Oscar Ford'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



Newspaper Notices

VICTORIA

Melbourne, Dec. 3

Richard Oscar Ford, the youth charged with shooting with intent to do grievous bodily harm, to Arthur Hunt, householder at Richmond, who rushed out to stop stone throwing on his roof, was to-day found guilty of unlawful wounding and remanded for sentence.

(Kalgoorlie Miner, Western Australia – 4 December, 1908)

RICHMOND SHOOTING CASE

A LAD SENTENCED

Richard Oscar Ford, 17 years of age, who, last week, was found guilty in the Court of General Sessions on a charge of unlawfully wounding Arthur Hunt, was brought before Judge Cbomley in the same court to receive sentence.

The facts of the case are that on the evening of October 28 three lads, one of whom was the accused, threw stones on Mr Hunt's residence in Lord street, Richmond. Mr Hunt followed the lads, and as he was approaching Ford the lad fired a revolver at him. The bullet took effect in Mr Hunt's shoulder and, according to the medical evidence, the effect of the wound will cause a permanent deformity of the shoulder.

His Honor passed a sentence of six months' imprisonment on Ford, but suspended the sentence on Ford and his father entering into recognisances of L50 each for the lad's good behavior for twelve months.

(Weekly Times, Melbourne, Victoria – 12 December, 1908)

DEATHS

On Active Service

FORD – On the 3rd February, at Fovent Camp Military Hospital, of broncho-pneumonia, No. 852, Sergt Richard Oscar Ford, only beloved son of A.R.O. Ford, and loving stepson of H. B. Ford, of Hobson-street, Queenscliff, and loved brother of Bertha (Mrs Bartrop), Queenscliff; Kate (Mrs Gartland, Melbourne) and Annie (Queenscliff), aged 27 years, after four years' active service. (Ballarat papers please copy).

Loved by all who knew him,
May his soul rest in peace.

(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 15 February, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

FORD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Sergeant R. O. Ford, who died at Fovant Camp Hospital, England, on the 4th February, 1919, after 4 years' active service.

Ever remembered

-Inserted by his loving father, step-mother and sisters, Queenscliff

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 5 February, 1921)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

FORD – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Sergt. R. O. Ford (Oscar), died February 4, 1919.

Though death divides, fond memory clings,

-(Inserted by his loving father and stepmother)

(*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 5 February, 1921)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J00782

Original Cross Marker for Sergeant R. O Ford

Two Australian graves at Highgate Cemetery. The grave on the left is 852 Sergeant (Sgt) Richard Oscar Ford, 3rd Australian Field Artillery Brigade, of Williamstown, Vic who died of sickness on 4 February 1919 aged 27 years. From the collection of Mr Alfred Thomas Sharp. Mr Sharp was the Commonwealth Immigration Officer of Victoria and was based in the London Office during the First World War. He and his wife hosted and visited many soldiers, particularly those from Victoria, who were recuperating in London. He also photographed many Australian graves in English cemeteries. His photograph collection relating to this period in London was bequeathed to the Memorial in 1922 after his death. During his time in London he was a member of the British Volunteer Regiment, serving with the Willesden Battalion, Middlesex Volunteer Regiment.

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)

Serjeant R. O. Ford has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone with the following inscription:

Have Mercy Upon Him Lord And Let

Perpetual Light Shine Upon Him

Highgate Cemetery, Greater London, England

The cemetery is between Highgate Hill and Highgate West Hill and is divided by Swains Road. The older part being on the Western side and the newer part on the Eastern side. The entrance gates to both sides are opposite one another and there are war burials in both portions.

The cemetery was opened in 1839. There are 259 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war and a further 59 from the 1939-45 war here. Those whose graves could not be marked by headstone are named upon a Screen Wall memorial erected near the Cross of Sacrifice inside the entrance to the older (Western) part of the cemetery.

(Information from CWGC)



Highgate Cemetery with sign showing East (to right) & West (to left) *(Streetview)*



(Photo from CWGC)



Sergeant Ford's Headstone (front left) (Photo above from CWGC; below courtesy of Stuart Orr)



Photo of Serjeant R. O. Ford's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Highgate Cemetery, Greater London, England.



(Photo from Find a Grave – Julia&keld)