

**Tidworth Military Cemetery,
Tidworth, Wiltshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



229 PRIVATE

S. GARDINER

17TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

27TH DECEMBER, 1916 Age 26

He Died An Australian Hero

One Of God's Bravest And Best

Sidney GARDINER

Sidney Francis Gardiner was born in 1890 in Sydney, New South Wales to parents Thomas and Alice Gardiner (nee Hopkins).

Sidney Gardiner attended Enmore Public School, Sydney, New South Wales.

Thomas Gardiner, father of Sidney Gardiner, died on 14th August, 1901, aged 42 years.

Sidney Gardiner was a 24 year old, single, Labourer from Northcote Street, Sans Souci, North Sydney, NSW when he enlisted on 7th March, 1915 at Liverpool, Sydney, NSW with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 229 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Alice Gardiner, Northcote Street, Sans Souci, North Sydney, NSW. (Note: Address as listed on Embarkation Roll. Sans Souci is a suburb in southern Sydney not North Sydney).

Private Sidney Gardiner was posted to 17th Battalion. (no date recorded).

Private Sydney Gardiner (spelling as per Embarkation Roll) embarked from Sydney, NSW on HMAT *Themistocles* (A32) on 12th May, 1915 with the 5th Infantry Brigade, 17th Infantry Battalion "A" Company.

Private Sidney Gardiner proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli on 16th August, 1915.

Private Sidney Gardiner was transferred to Hospital on 5th November, 1915 from Gallipoli Peninsula. He was returned to duty at Gallipoli Peninsula on 8th November, 1915.

Private Sidney Gardiner disembarked at Alexandria ex Mudros on 9th January, 1916 (after the evacuation of Gallipoli).

Private Sidney Gardiner returned to duty at Canterra ? on 3rd February, 1916.

Private Sidney Gardiner was awarded 168 hours Field Punishment No. 2 on 9th February, 1916 for Absence without Leave from 7 am on 18th January, 1916 to 9 am on 23rd January, 1916.

Private Sidney Gardiner was sent sick to Hospital at Alexandria on 15th March, 1916. He was admitted to No. 3 Australian General Hospital at Abbassia (some forms have Heliopolis) on 16th March, 1916 then transferred & admitted to Military Infect. Hospital at Choubra on 6th April, 1916 with Enteric. Private Gardiner was transferred & admitted to No. 4 Auxiliary Hospital on 18th May, 1916. He was transferred & admitted to Ras-el-Tin Convalescent Depot on 27th May, 1916. Private Gardiner was discharged to Tel-el-Kebir on 31st May, 1916.

Mrs A. Gardiner, Northcote Street, Sans Souci, N. Sydney, NSW, was advised by Base Records on 24th March, 1916 that No. 229 Private S. Gardiner, 17th Battalion had been reported admitted to 3rd General Hospital on 16th March, 1916 – illness mild.

Private Sidney Gardiner was transferred to 14th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir from Details on 1st June, 1916.

Mrs A. Gardiner, Northcote Street, Sans Souci, N. Sydney, NSW, was advised by Base Records on 2nd June, 1916 that No. 229 Private S. Gardiner had been admitted to 4th Auxiliary Hospital, Cairo, on 18th May, 1916 suffering from Enteric & was convalescent.

Private Sidney Gardiner was written up for a Crime at Tel-el-Kebir – Absenting himself without Leave (3 days) from 1st July, 1916 to 3rd July, 1916. He was awarded 7 days Confined to Camp & forfeited 3 days' Pay.

Private Sidney Gardiner was taken on strength of 2nd Divisional Details at Tel-el-Kebir on 3rd July, 1916.

Private Sidney Gardiner was admitted to 2nd Australian Stationary Hospital at Tel-el-Kebir on 20th July, 1916 with VDG Balanitis. He was transferred & admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Abbassia on 22nd July, 1916. Private Gardiner was discharged to D. Q. Details on 3rd August, 1916.

Private Sidney Gardiner was marched in to Details Camp at Moascar on 4th August, 1916 from Hospital. He was transferred to Tel-el-Kebir on 5th August, 1916 from D.Q. Details.

Miss M. Gardiner, "Gowrie" Salisbury Rd, Stanmore, wrote to Base Records on 20th August, 1916 with the following *"Owing to having no news from my Brother No. 229 Private Sydney Gardiner 17th Batt since 6th April & being very anxious at home knowing he has been very ill in Hospital twice, I appeal to you to try & give me some information concerning him. Seeing in the Sydney Sun 21st April he was in the list to return, but I'm very sorry to say he never landed with the rest of the Soldiers. Can you kindly tell me if he is to be invalided home ..."*

Base Records replied to Miss M. Gardiner on 25th August, 1916 with the following *".... Since the advice that your brother, No. 229 Private S. Gardiner, 17th Battalion, was admitted to 4th Auxiliary Hospital, Cairo, on 18/5/16, suffering from Enteric, (then convalescent), no further news has been received, but as it is the practice of the overseas authorities to notify the Department of any serious change in condition, it is to be assumed he has made satisfactory progress towards recovery. I would suggest that for the present the following address be used, and should he return to duty in the meantime, his mails will be forwarded on to him [address given]. Any later news received will be promptly communicated to next-of kin. P.S. No advice has been received here that he is returning to Australia."*

Private Sidney Gardiner embarked from Alexandria on 14th September, 1916 for overseas on HMT *Kingstonian*. He was marched in to No. 7 Details Company, No. 3 Camp, Parkhouse, Wiltshire, England on 26th September, 1916 from overseas.

17th Battalion

The 17th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. It left Australia in early May, trained in Egypt from mid-June until mid-August, and on 20 August landed at ANZAC Cove.

At Gallipoli the Battalion participated in the last action of the August Offensive ' the attack on Hill 60 ' before settling into defensive routine in the trenches. For a short period part of the 17th garrisoned Pope's Hill, but for most of its time on the peninsular the Battalion was responsible for the defence of Quinn's Post, one of the most contested positions along the entire ANZAC front. The Battalion was evacuated from Gallipoli in December 1915.

After further training in Egypt, the 17th Battalion proceeded to France. Landing there on 22 March 1916, it took part in its first major battle at Pozieres between 25 July and 5 August.....

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Sidney Gardiner was marched in to 5th Training Battalion at Rolleston. Wiltshire, England on 2nd October, 1916 from Parkhouse.

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. Later Training & Convalescing Units were combined under the one Command Depot.

Private Sidney Gardiner was written up for a Crime while posted at Rolleston – A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) from 8 am on 5th November, 1916 till 8pm on 24th November, 1916. He was awarded a total forfeiture of 40 days pay on 28th November, 1916.

Private Sidney Gardiner was admitted to Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England on 18th December, 1916. Captain Harper, of 5th Training Battalion, wrote a memo on 18th December, 1916 – *"Suspected case of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis – Pte Sidney Gardiner, 229, original unit 17th Battalion (present unit A. Company 5th Training Battalion Rolleston), age 26, occupied Hut 22, Camp No. 7."*

Private Sidney Gardiner died at 1 pm on 27th December, 1916 at Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

A death for Sydney Gardener, aged 26, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Pewsey, Wiltshire, England.

Private Sidney Gardiner was buried on 30th December, 1916 in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 232 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Mrs A. Gardiner, Bindon” Gordon Crescent, Stanmore, NSW, was advised by Base Records on 5th June, 1917 “*with reference to the report of the regrettable loss of the late No. 229, Private S. Gardiner, 17th Battalion, I am now in receipt of advice which shows that he died at Military Hospital, Tidworth, England on 27th December, 1916 of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis & was buried at Military Cemetery, Tidworth, Grave No. 232 Plot “C”, on the 30th December, 1916..”*

Miss M. Gardiner, “Bindon” Gordon Crescent, Stanmore, wrote to Base Records on 31st January, 1917 with the following “*I’m speaking on behalf of my mother Mrs A. Gardiner, late Northcote St Sans Souci now of above address. I want to know if you could lighten me with any news of my late Brother Private Sydney Gardiner 17 Batt A Coy No 229 who died Tidworth Hospital Salisbury Plains 27 Dec. My mother wants to know if you could forward any more news of my brother, she would be so pleased to hear again & would also like any belonging of his sent back. We haven’t any thing at all in remembrance of him not even a photo, so you can see why I am writing. Dear Sir if I cam not asking to much of you could you kindly advise me where I would be likely to get a photo if I could find a photo of 17th Batt. I may possibally be able to pick him out & as I don’t know where I could get one I am asking you advice. He was on leave in England when he died, & as he has been away close on two years it comes very hard on us to lose him. Will we get full particulars of his Burial etc etc when we hear again? Hoping to hear shortly from your depot, I will draw to a close.”*

Base Records replied to Miss M. Gardiner on 5th February, 1917 stating “...the only information at present available regarding your brother, No. 229, Private S. Gardiner, 17th Battalion, is that contained in the brief cable message already communicated to next-of-kin. Later official advice will, on receipt, be promptly transmitted to next-of-kin. There is no advice re personal effects to hand to-date, but on receipt of same the addressee will be promptly notified.”

A War Pension was granted to Alice Gardiner, “Bindon” Gordon Crescent, Stanmore, mother of the late Private Sidney Gardiner, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 2nd March, 1917. This was amended (on a separate form) to £1 per fortnight from 2nd March, 1917.

On 25th June, 1917 Mrs Alice Gardiner signed, as receipt for, the personal effects of her son, the late No 229 Private S. Gardiner, 17th Battalion, ex *Beltana*.

Base Records wrote to Mrs A. Gardiner, 66 Douglas Street, Stanmore, NSW on 28th September, 1920 stating it was noted that she was registered as the next of kin on the records of the late No. 229 Private S. Gardiner, 17th Battalion, but requested to know if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically asked if his father was still alive due to the “Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918” which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Alice Gardiner replied to Base Records on 8th October, 1920 stating “... *that his father is dead these last 18 years, his oldest brother and 2 oldest sisters is married. I have one son & one daughter at home now. There is no half or step children and I will prize any thing belonging to my poor boy.”*

Private Sidney Gardiner was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Gardiner’s widowed mother – Mrs A. Gardiner, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent April, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Sidney Gardiner – service number 229, aged 26, of 17th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Thomas and Alice Gardiner, of 66 Douglas St., Stanmore, Sydney.

Private S. F. Gardiner is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 82.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(63 pages of Private Sidney Gardiner'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

Australian Casualties

Lists Nos. 158 to 160

New South Wales

Ill in Hospital

At 3rd G.H., EGYPT

Pte S. GARDINER, 17th (Sans Souci)

(Australian Town and Country Journal, Sydney, NSW – 5 April, 1916)

LATEST CASUALTY LIST

The 176th casualty list of the A.I.F. issued last night....

NEW SOUTH WALES

ILL

Pte S. GARDINER, Sans Souci

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 15 June, 1916)

ROLL OF HONOUR

GARDINER – Died December 27, at Tidbury Hospital, Salisbury Plains, from meningitis. Private Sydney Gardiner (Syd), late of Newtown and Sans Souci.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Alice and Victor Holmes.

GARDINER –Died December 27, Private Sidney Gardiner. He died a hero. Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Alice and Victor Holmes.

GARDINER – Died December 27, Private Sydney Gardiner. Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Lily and William McCool.

GARDINER – Private Sydney Gardiner, died December 27, in England, of illness, late of Newtown and Sans Souci. Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Ernest and Annie Gardiner. Died for King and country.

GARDINER – Private Sydney Gardiner, died December 27, in England, of illness, late of Newtown and Sans Souci. Sadly missed. Inserted by his loving friend, William Swadling.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 6 January, 1917)

OUR SOLDIERS AT THE FRONT

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte S. Gardiner, Sans Souci.

(The Propeller, Hurstville, NSW – 12 January, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

GARDINER – Died in England, December 27, 1916, Private Sidney Gardiner, after two years' active service.

Only a bundle of letters,

 All that is left for us;

But our son and brother died for his country,

 Ever lives in our memory,

Only some lines from the trenches,

 With the hand of the writer grown cold;

But the name on the paper is graven

In letters of shining gold.

Inserted by his sorrowing mother, sisters, and brother, Florrie, Myrtle, and Rupert.

GARDINER – Died in England, December 27, 1916, Private Sidney Gardiner, late 17th Batt. Inserted by his ever loving brother and sister-in-law, Ern and Annie Gardiner, Kogarah.

GARDINER – Died in England, December 27, 1916, Private Sidney (Jim) Gardiner.

No one he loved was by his side

To hear his last faint sigh;

Or whisper just one loving word

Before he closed his eyes.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Alice and Victor Holmes.

GARDINER – Died in England, after two years' active service, December 27, 1916, Private Sidney Gardiner. He died a hero. Inserted by his loving auntie, uncle and cousins, William Tot, Paddie, Alice, Daisy, and Myree Jackson, Balmain.

GARDINER – Died in England, of illness, December 27, 1916, after two years' active service, Private Sidney Gardiner, beloved friend of William Swadling. Faithful unto death.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 27 December, 1917)

On Active Service

GARDINER – In ever loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Sydney Gardiner, died of illness in England, December 27, 1916, after two years on active service, aged 26. An Anzac.

A lonely grave in England where a brave young soldier sleeps,

There a cottage home in Stanmore where his mother sits and weeps;

Sleep on, beloved brother, in a grave we may never see,

But as long as life and memory last we will always remember thee.

Inserted by his sorrowing mother, sisters, and brother, Florrie, Myrtle, and Rupert.

GARDINER – In loving memory of our dear brother, Private Sid Gardiner, died December 27, 1916, of illness, in England, aged 26.

Died of illness the cable told us,

That is all they had to say;

We only know he did his duty,

And 'neath the Red, White, and Blue he fell.

Inserted by his loving brother and sister-in-law, Ern and Annie Gardiner

GARDINER – Private Sydney Gardiner, who died in England whilst serving his country, on December 27, 1916. Inserted by his sister and brother-in-law, Alice and Victor Holmes, Fairfield.

GARDINER – In loving memory of our dear brother, Private Sydney Gardiner (Tim), died of illness in England, December 27, 1916, aged 26 years.

Days of sadness still come o'er me,
 Secret tears do often flow;
Memory keeps my brother near me,
 Although he died two years ago.
From memory's page we'll never blot
Three little words, "Forget him not."

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, Lily and William McCool.

GARDINER – In ever loving memory of our dear nephew and cousin, Private Sydney Gardiner, who died in England, December 27, 1916, after serving his country for two years.

Far away in England he is lying,
 Far away from the land of his birth;
He fought and died for his country,
 Man's noblest deed on earth.

Inserted by his auntie, uncle, and cousins, William and Lizzie Jackson, Rozelle.

GARDINER – In fond memory of my dear friend, Private Sydney Gardiner (Tim), died of illness in England, December 27, 1916.

Too far away for sight or speech,
But not too far for my thoughts to reach.

Inserted by his friend, Will Swadling.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 27 December, 1918)

**Newspaper notices were also placed in 1919, 1920, 1922, 1923

Sidney Gardiner is remembered on his parents' headstone in Rookwood Cemetery, Lidcombe, Sydney, NSW.
(Zone C Anglican T Allotment 07884)



In Loving Memory Of

Our Dear Father

THOMAS GARDINER

Died 14th Aug 1901. Aged 42 Years

Also Our Dear Mother

ALICE GARDINER

Died 6th June 1940. Aged 77 Years

Also SIDNEY GARDINER

Son Of The Above

Late 17th Batt. A.I.F.

Died Abroad 27th Dec. 1916. Aged 26 Years.



(Photo from Rookwood Cemetery)



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 S. Gardiner does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*He Died An Australian Hero
One Of God's Bravest And Best*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00327

The AIF Tidworth cemetery under snow. – March 1919.

Identified graves marked by a cross and headstone in the foreground

Front row: 50727 Private Rowland James Dickson, Australian Machine Gun Corps, died 14 October 1918.

Second row, left to right: 18282 Driver John Thalma Jackson, Details Australian Engineers, died 30 October 1917; 17445 Pte Roland Travers Woodville, Australian Army Medical Corps, died 13 September 1917; 31712 Gunner John Alexander McDonald, 15th Field Artillery Brigade, Australian Field Artillery, died 30 July 1917, aged 37, at Tidworth Military Hospital; 3062 Pte Even Thomas Kennedy, 3rd Australian Pioneers, died 7 August 1917.

Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Tidworth Military Cemetery, which contains burials of both wars, was directly connected with training grounds on, or near, Salisbury Plain.

During the First World War, the cemetery was used for burials from Tidworth and Fargo Military Hospitals and the 417 graves, many of them of Australian or New Zealand servicemen, are scattered throughout the cemetery.

There are 106 Second World War graves in the cemetery, two substantial groups of which can be found in sections F and D. The rest are scattered.

The cemetery also contains 40 war graves of other nationalities, many of them Polish.

(Information from CWGC)



Tidworth Military Cemetery *(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)*



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers – Kevin)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo courtesy of John Prestidge)



Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire (Photo by Chris Talbot 2009)

Photo of Private S. Gardiner's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Selena Hardie)

