

**Christchurch Cemetery,  
Christchurch, Dorset  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**5339 PRIVATE**

**A. GARDNER**

**25TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**29TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 25**

*Father In Thy Gracious*

*Keeping*

*Leave We Now Our Loved One*

*Sleeping*

## Alfred GARDNER

Alfred Gardner was born at Glasgow, Scotland around 1893 to parents Alfred and Margaret Gardner.

Alfred Gardner attended Alexandra Parade School, Glasgow, Scotland.

The 1901 Scotland Census recorded Alfred Gardner as an 8 year old, Scholar, living with his parents at 119 Slatefield Street, Dennistoun, Glasgow, Scotland. His parents were listed as Alfred Gardner (Patternmaker, aged 38, born Glasgow, Scotland) & Margaret Gardner (aged 39, born Glasgow, Scotland). Alfred (jnr) was one of three children listed on this Census – Robert Gardner (Scholar, aged 11, born Glasgow, Scotland) then Alfred (jnr) & William Gardner (aged 3, born Glasgow, Scotland).

According to information supplied for the Roll of Honour, Alfred Gardner came to Australia when he was 20 years old. Alfred Gardner, Motor Mechanic, aged 20 & his older brother Robert Gardner, Surveyor, aged 23, were passengers on *Themistocles* which had departed from London on 19th June, 1913 bound for Brisbane, Queensland.

Alfred Gardner was a 23 year old, single, Barman from Brisbane, Queensland when he enlisted on 16th February, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 5339 & his religion was Presbyterian (Religion listed on Attestation Papers as Free Church). His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Margaret Gardner, of Beatrice Street, Paddington, Queensland. Alfred's older brother – Robert Gardner enlisted on 9th February, 1916.

Private Alfred Gardner was posted to No. 11 Depot Battalion on 29th February, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 14th Reinforcements of 25th Battalion on 6th April, 1916.

Private Alfred Gardner embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Itonus (A50)* on 8th August, 1916 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 25th Infantry Battalion, 14th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 18th October, 1916. His brother Private Robert Gardner embarked on the same day.

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 Alfred Gardner proceeded overseas to France per S.S. *Victoria*, via Folkestone, on 13th December, 1916 from 7th Training Battalion in England. He was marched in to 2nd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 14th December, 1916. Private Gardner proceeded from 2nd A.D.B.D. on 16th December, 1916 to join his Unit & was taken on strength of 25th Battalion in France on 18th December, 1916.

Private Alfred Gardner was reported Missing in Action 3/4th May, 1917. He was reported with his Unit the same day.

Private Alfred Gardner was sent sick to Hospital on 14th July, 1917. He was admitted to 5th Field Ambulance on 14th July, 1917 then transferred to 7th Field Ambulance the same day with P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin). Private Gardner was discharged to duty on 26th July, 1917.

Private Alfred Gardner was sent sick to Hospital on 27th July, 1917. He was admitted to 5th Field Ambulance on 27th July, 1917 then transferred & admitted to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station the same day with P.U.O. Private Gardner was transferred to Ambulance Train on 1st August, 1917. He was admitted to 1st General Hospital with Trench Fever on 2nd August, 1917. Private Gardner embarked for England on Hospital Ship *Essequibo* on 5th August, 1917.

Private Alfred Gardner was admitted to Richmond Military Hospital, England on 6th August, 1917 with Trench Fever. He was transferred to 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, Kent, England on 31st August, 1917 then discharged to Depot at Weymouth on 3rd September, 1917.

Private Alfred Gardner was marched in to No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, Dorset on 3rd September, 1917. He was marched in to No. 4 Command Depot at Codford, Wiltshire on 6th October, 1917.

Private Alfred Gardner was marched in to Overseas Training Brigade at Longbridge Deverill, Wiltshire on 12th January, 1918 from No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Private Alfred Gardner proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 7th February, 1918 from Sandhill Camp. He was marched in to Australian Infantry Base Depot at Havre, France on 8th February, 1918 then marched out to his Unit on 10th February, 1918. Private Gardner rejoined his Battalion in the Field on 13th February, 1918.

Private Alfred Gardner was posted as A.W.L. (Absent without leave) from 16th July, 1918. He rejoined from A.W.L. on 31st July, 1918. Private Gardner was written up for an Offence – AWL from 10.15 pm on 16th July, 1918 until surrendering to Military Police at 12.30 pm on 29th July, 1918. He was awarded 28 days F. P. No. 2 (Field Punishment) on 1st August, 1918 & a total forfeiture of 42 days' pay.

Private Alfred Gardner was wounded in action on 2nd October, 1918. He was admitted to 7th Australian Field Ambulance then transferred to 12th Casualty Clearing Station on 3rd October, 1918. Private Gardner was transferred to Ambulance Train on 3rd October, 1918 & admitted to 12th General Hospital in France on 4th October, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to legs & buttock. He embarked for England on 7th October, 1918.

## **25th Battalion**

The 25th Battalion was raised at Enoggera in Queensland in March 1915 as part of the 7th Brigade. Although predominantly composed of men recruited in Queensland, the battalion also included a small contingent of men from Darwin.

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Although it acted in a supporting role at the second battle of Bullecourt, the 25th Battalion did not carry out a major offensive role again until 20 September 1917, when it was part of the 2nd Division's first wave at the battle of Menin Road in Belgium. Victory here was followed up with the capture of Broodseinde Ridge on 4 October. The 25th reprised its role from Menin Road, in what was its last large-scale offensive action for the year.

1918 was an exhausting year for the 25th Battalion. It fought to turn back the German spring offensive in April, and then participated in battles at Morlancourt, Hamel, Amiens and along the Somme Valley as the German Army was pushed ever closer to defeat. These actions sapped the strength of the AIF, already terribly weak due to earlier casualties and lack of reinforcements. In September, the 25th was one of several battalions ordered to disband to reinforce others. Its troops mutinied, winning the Battalion a temporary reprieve.

The battalion went into the line one last time on 3 October 1918 and took part in a successful attack to break through the German defences around Beaufort. It was disbanded nine days later.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Alfred Gardner was admitted to Red Cross Hospital, Christchurch, England on 8th October, 1918 with shrapnel wounds to buttock & both legs & was listed as dangerously ill.

Private Alfred Gardner died at 22.15 pm on 29th October, 1918 at Red Cross Hospital, Christchurch, Dorset, England from Septicaemia (following wounds received in action).

A death for Alfred Gardner, aged 25, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Christchurch, Hampshire, England.

Private Alfred Gardner was buried on 1st November, 1918 in Christchurch Cemetery, Christchurch, Dorset, England – Plot number S. 63. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Alfred Gardner - *Coffin was Elm with brass fittings. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and surmounted by beautiful wreaths sent by: Patients of Jellico Ward, Commandant & Nurses of Jellico Ward. The Last Post was sounded at the graveside, and the Rev. M. Gilchrist officiated. A large number of deceased's comrades were in attendance. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented.*

Names of relatives & friends present at the Funeral – Brother – Pte Gardner, Sister Cunningham, Commandant Lowden, 4 Sisters and 40 comrades.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private Alfred Gardner contains a letter from Mary London, Commandant, Red Cross Hospital, Christchurch, Hants which reads: *“Full particulars regarding illness, death and burial of NO. 5339 Pte A. Gardner, 25th A.I.F., were sent to his relatives in Australia, also a photograph of his grave. His brother was here for about a fortnight and was with him when he died and attended the funeral.”*

Base Records had contacted Mrs Margaret Gardner, of Mt. Bruce, Coorparoo, Brisbane, Queensland, mother of the late Private Alfred Gardner, in April, 1922 regarding the disposal of War Medals under the Deceased Soldiers Estates. ( The “Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918” 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.). She replied in April, 1922 stating that the father of the late No. 5339 Private Alfred Gardner was alive & he could be contacted - Alfred Gardner, Holland Terrace, Mt. Bruce, Coorparoo, Brisbane, Queensland.

Private Alfred Gardner was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Gardner’s father - Mr A. Gardner, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Alfred Gardner – service number 5339, aged 25, of 25th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Alfred and Margaret Gardner, of Coorparoo, Brisbane, Queensland.

Private A. Gardner is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 104.



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

A. Gardner is remembered on the Coorparoo Roll of Honour, located in the School of Arts building, Cavendish Road & Halstead Street, Coorparoo, Queensland.

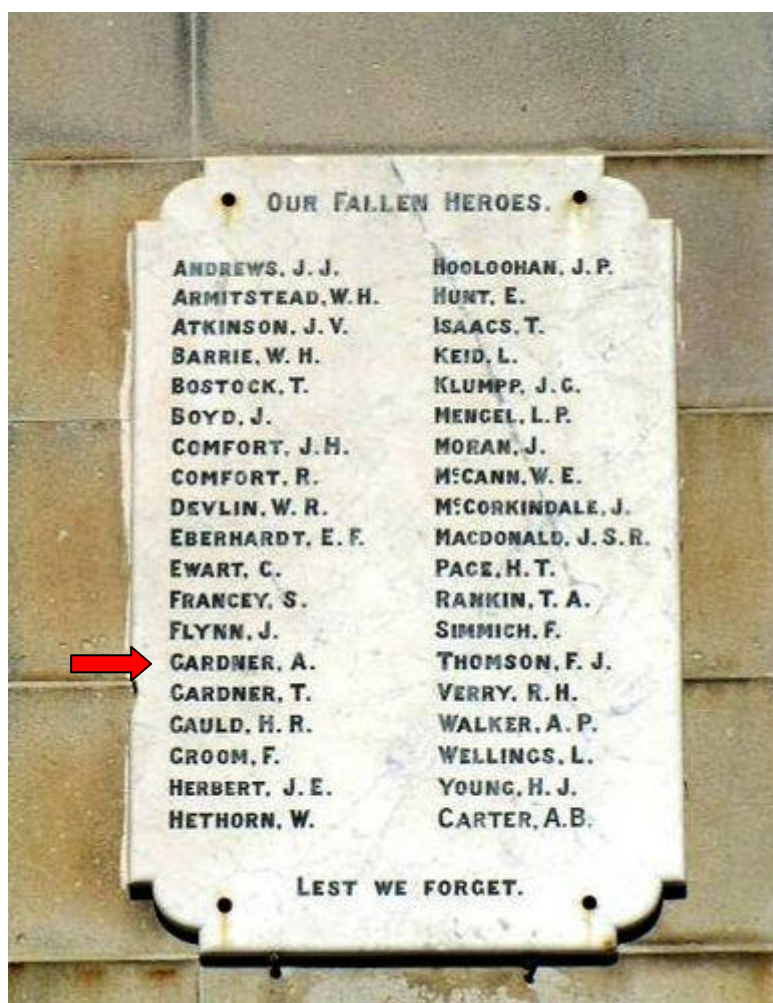


Coorparoo Roll of Honour (Photo from Queensland War Memorials – Lesley McBurney)

A. Gardner is remembered on the Langlands Park Memorial Gates, located at Langlands Park, Panitya Street, Greenslopes, Queensland.



Langlands Park Memorial Gates (Photos from Monument Australia)



A. Gardner is remembered on the Windsor War Memorial, located at Memorial Park, Lutwyche Road & Roblane Street, Windsor, Queensland.



**Windsor War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia)



A. Gardner is remembered in the Roll of Honour books held in the Hall of Honour inside The Scottish National War Memorial. The north side of the Hall of Honour is divided by columns into bays, each dedicated to a different regiment and enhanced with battle honours and consecrated colours. On the broad shelf in front of each of the bays, the names of the dead are listed in leather-bound books.



**The Scottish National War Memorial & the Hall of Honour & the Roll of Honour books.**

*(Photos from The Scottish National War Memorial)*



(46 pages of Pte Alfred Gardner'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*





### Connected to Private Alfred Gardner:

Older brother – Robert Gardner – Private, 5340, 25th Battalion. Enlisted 9th February, 1916, aged 26. Embarked from Brisbane on 8th August, 1916 on HMAT *Itonus (A50)*. Wounded in action in France on 2nd September, 1918. Returned to Australia & embarked from England on *Orontes* on 20th December, 1918 with GSW to left elbow. Entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal.



### **Newspaper Notices**

#### **CASUALTIES**

##### **317th LIST**

##### **QUEENSLAND**

##### **MISSING**

Alfred Gardner, Coorparoo

(*Daily Standard*, Brisbane, Queensland – 2 July, 1917)

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#### **Roll of Honour**

##### **373rd Casualty List**

##### **117 Queenslanders**

##### **PRISONERS OF WAR**

Alfred Gardner, no record, p.r.m.

(*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Queensland – 20 December, 1917)

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#### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

##### **LIST NO. 446**

##### **DIED OTHER CAUSES**

Alfred Gardner, Coorparoo, 29/10/18, p.r.i.

(*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Queensland – 25 November, 1918)

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#### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

GARDNER – In loving memory of our dearly loved son and brother, Pte Alfred Gardner, died in Christchurch Military Hospital, England, 29th October, 1918, from wounds received in France, age 25 years and 8 months.

Inserted by his loving mother, father and brothers.

When the time came he answered his country's call.

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He gave his life, his best, his all;  
He died, the weak to defend,  
An Australian soldier's noble end.

Home papers please copy

(*The Telegraph*, Brisbane, Queensland – 10 January, 1919) & (*The Week*, Brisbane, Queensland – 17 January, 1919)

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### 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 A. Gardner does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Father In Thy Gracious Keeping  
Leave We Now Our Loved One Sleeping*

### **Christchurch Cemetery, Christchurch, Dorset, England**

Christchurch Cemetery, Christchurch, Dorset has 53 Commonwealth War Graves – 24 from World War 1 & 29 from World War 2.



**Christchurch Cemetery** (Photo by James – Find a Grave)



**Some War Graves in Christchurch Cemetery** *(Photo from CWGC)*

Photo of Private A. Gardner's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Christchurch Cemetery, Christchurch, Dorset, England.



*(Photo by James – Find a Grave)*



**2 Australian War Graves in Christchurch Cemetery** (Photo by Jim Scott 2004)

*Both died 29th October, 1918 – Private A. Gardner (front - arrow); Gunner H. M. Scott (back)*