

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



Lest We Forget

World War 1



7179 PRIVATE

F. L. GARDNER

17TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

7TH MARCH, 1918 Age 26

*In Memory Of
The Dearly Loved Son
Of Mr & Mrs A. L. Gardner
Of Bondi*

Frank Leslie GARDNER

Frank Leslie Gardner was born at Charles Town, North Queensland on 3rd November, 1890 to parents Arthur Louis Gardner & Mary Gardner (nee Ross).

Frank Leslie Gardner attended Subiaco State School, Perth, Western Australia.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Perth, subdivision of Subiaco listed Frank Leslie Gardner, Factory Hand, of 16 Coolgardie Street, Subiaco, Western Australia. Also listed at the same address were his parents Arthur Lewis Gardner, Cordial Manufacturer & Mary Gardner. Elspeth Maud Gardner, Spinster was also listed at the same address.

The 1917 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Batman, subdivision of Fitzroy North listed Frank Leslie Gardner, Factory Hand, of Aberdeen Hotel, Fitzroy North.

Frank Leslie Gardner was a 26 year old, single, Factory Hand from Bondi, NSW when he enlisted at Bondi Junction, NSW on 10th September, 1917 with the 17th Infantry Battalion, 21st Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 7179 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs M. Gardner, of “Woodford”, Wellington Street, Bondi, NSW.

Private Frank Leslie Gardner was posted to Recruits Show Ground Camp, Sydney, NSW on 11th September, 1917. He was transferred to 1st Infantry Depot Battalion at Liverpool, NSW on 14th September, 1917. Pte Gardner was transferred to 21st Reinforcements of 17th Battalion on 28th September, 1917.

Private Frank Leslie Gardner embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 31st October, 1917 & disembarked at Devonport, England on 26th December, 1917.

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 Frank Leslie Gardner was marched in to 5th Training Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire from Australia on 27th December, 1917.

Private Frank Leslie Gardner was sent sick to Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire on 7th March, 1918. He was placed on the seriously ill list.

Private Frank Leslie Gardner died at 12.30 pm on 7th March, 1918 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire, England from Oedema of Lungs.

A death for Frank L. Gardner, aged 27, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

Private Frank Leslie Gardner was buried on 9th March, 1918 in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England – Plot number II. C. 3. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Gardner - Coffin was good, Ash, polished. Deceased was given a Military Funeral. A photograph of grave was to be sent to relatives in Australia as soon as the cross was erected.

Private Frank Leslie Gardner requested in his Will, dated 19th September, 1917 that in the event of his death the whole of his property & effects be given to his mother & sisters (Mother Mary Gardner) Jessie Doris Gardner, Elsie Maud Gardner Sisters of Wellington St. Bondi, Sydney.

Private Frank Leslie Gardner 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 Pte Gardner's father - Mr A. L. Gardner, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Frank Leslie Gardner – service number 7179, aged 26, of 17th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Arthur Lewis Gardner and Mary Gardner, of “Woodford” Wellington St., Bondi, Sydney. Born at Charles Town, North Queensland.

F. L. Gardner is remembered on the Waverley Park Soldiers’ Memorial located in Waverley Park, Bondi Road, Bondi, NSW.



Waverley Park Soldiers’ Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



Private F. L. 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 82.



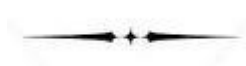
(Photos Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(38 pages of Pte Frank Leslie 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) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

LATEST CASUALTIES

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died of Illness

F. L. Gardner, Bondi

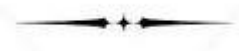
(The Land, Sydney, NSW – 22 March, 1918)



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DA16708

Private Frank Leslie Gardner



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 F. L. Gardner does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

In Memory Of The Dearly Loved Son Of Mr & Mrs A. L. Gardner Of Bondi

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

*Graves of Australian soldiers in the Fovant Churchyard. Identified, left to right, front row: 3662 Private (Pte) Louis Watt, 28th Battalion, killed in action 1 November 1917; 3284 Pte William Coleman, 36th Battalion, died 20 November 1917, aged 34 years; **7179 Pte Frank Leslie Gardner, 17th Battalion, died of sickness 7 March 1918**; 1992 Pte John Wright, 41st Battalion, died of sickness 28 March 1918. (Photo c 1919)*





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



Photo of Private F. L. Gardner's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England.





Cross of Sacrifice (Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)