

**Brookwood Military Cemetery,
Brookwood, Surrey
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



29283 GUNNER

N. H. HARDAKER

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

11TH JULY, 1917

Age 29

Norman Herbert HARDAKER

Norman Herbert Hardaker was born at Iris Street, Bombala, NSW in 1888 to parents Arthur William and Alice Hardaker (nee Johnson).

Norman Herbert Hardaker attended Public Schools at Delegate & Pambula, NSW.

Norman Herbert Hardaker married Edith May Andrews in the registration district of Burrowa, New South Wales in 1912.

A birth was registered in 1914 in the district of Ryde, Sydney, NSW for Norma May Hardaker, daughter of Norman & Edith Hardaker. She was born on 11th June, 1914 at Flemington, Sydney, NSW.

The Sands Directories for Sydney and New South Wales for 1916 & 1917 listed Norman H. Hardaker of Maxim Street, Ryde.

Norman Herbert Hardaker was a 28 year old, married, Brick machinist (listed as Brick maker on Embarkation Roll) from Maxim Street, Meadow Bank, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Marrickville, Sydney, NSW on 1st June, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 29283 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs E. M. Hardaker, Henley Road, Flemington, Sydney, NSW.

Gunner Norman Herbert Hardaker was posted to 7th Reinforcements of 11th Battalion on 1st June, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 117th Howitzer Battery, Australian Field Artillery on 1st September, 1916.

Gunner Norman Herbert Hardaker embarked from Sydney, NSW (Statement of Service form recorded that he embarked from Melbourne on 2nd October, 1916) on HMAT *Aeneas (A60)* on 30th September, 1916 with the 117th Howitzer Battery, Australian Field Artillery & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 19th November, 1916.

The Hospital Admissions form recorded that Gunner Norman Herbert Hardaker had been admitted to Hospital (name not legible but assuming it was Ship's Hospital on voyage to England) from 23rd October, 1916 until 2nd November, 1916 suffering from Mumps.

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.

Gunner Norman Herbert Hardaker proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on 2nd January, 1917 on Princess Henrietta from R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australia Artillery) at Larkhill, Wiltshire.

The Hospital Admissions form recorded that Gunner Norman Herbert Hardaker had been admitted to Hospital (name not legible) from 23rd October, 1916 until 2nd November, 1916 suffering from Mumps.

Gunner Norman Herbert Hardaker was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Etaples, France (date not clear on Casualty Form – Active Service).

Gunner Norman Herbert Hardaker was transferred to 2nd D.A.C. (Divisional Artillery Column) on 12th January, 1917 & taken on strength of 2nd D.A.C from A.G.B. Depot (ex 117th Howitzer Battery) on the same day.

Gunner Norman Herbert Hardaker was transferred to 5th Field Artillery Brigade on 25th January, 1917. He was taken on strength of 5th F.A.B. on 25th January, 1917 & posted to 14th Battery.

Gunner Norman Herbert Hardaker was sent sick to Hospital on 31st January, 1917. He was admitted to 8th Australian Field Ambulance on 31st January, 1917 with a Hernia then transferred & admitted to 36th Casualty Clearing Station on 1st February, 1917. Gunner Hardaker was discharged to his Unit on 2nd February, 1917 & rejoined his Unit in France on 11th February, 1917.

Gunner Norman Herbert Hardaker was wounded in action in France on 18th April, 1917. He was admitted to 5th Australian Field Ambulance on 18th April, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to Scalp then transferred & admitted to 40th Casualty Clearing Station on 19th April, 1917 with Shrapnel wounds to shoulders, side of left Scalp & a depressed

fractured Skull. Gunner Hardaker was transferred & admitted to 45th Casualty Clearing Station then transferred to Ambulance Train 11 on 22nd April, 1917. He was admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 23rd April, 1917 with shrapnel wounds to head & should (left side). Gunner Hardaker was invalided to England on 25th April, 1917 on Hospital Ship St. Patrick with shrapnel wounds to head, multiple wounds to back, skull & arm.

(According to information supplied by his father for the Roll of Honour – Gunner Hardaker was wounded at Noreuil Gully.)

War Diary – 5th Australian Field Artillery Brigade

Vaulx – 18th April, 1917:

Routine firing on enemy trenches and wirecutting. Strong point blown out by Hows.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

Gunner Norman Herbert Hardaker was admitted to 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell, England on 26th April, 1917 with G.S.W. (gunshot wounds) to head & shoulder.

Gunner Norman Herbert Hardaker died at 11.45 am on 11th July, 1917 at 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to head.

A death for Norman H. Hardaker, aged 29, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Lambeth, Greater London, England.

Gunner Norman Herbert Hardaker was buried at 1.30 pm on 13th July, 1917 in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England – Plot number XI. D. 4. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Gunner Norman Herbert Hardaker - *Coffin was good polished Elm. The deceased soldier was accorded a Military funeral. Firing Party and Bugler attached to the Administrative Headquarters A.I.F. London, took part, the "Last Post" being sounded at the graveside. The remains were borne to the grave by members of the Administrative Headquarters A.I.F. London. A number of sick and wounded soldiers, who were wardmates with the deceased in the hospital were present. Two wreaths were sent – one from the Nursing Staff of the Hospital, and one from the sick and wounded soldiers in the ward. Sister Gibson and Nurses Watson and Harold represented the Hospital staff. No relatives were present at the funeral. Oak cross to temporarily mark the grave will be erected by the A.I.F.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Gunner Norman Herbert Hardaker contains 3 letters regarding his wounding, death & burial.

The first letter was from Informant – Gunner F. Pooley, 7805, 2nd Divisional Artillery, 14th Battery, No. 4 Australian General Hospital, Randwick, Sydney, NSW, which reads: *"I knew Hardaker he was in the 14th Batty, 5th Brigade with me and was not in the Ammunition Column when he was wounded. He was medium height only a youngster dark complexion. He was wounded the same day that 29295 Iredale was killed i.e. 19/4/17 up in Noreuil Gully. A shell came over and killed Sgt Smith and Iredale and wounded Hardaker. Hardaker was wounded in several places the more severe was in the head. I carried Hardaker across to the Dressing station, he was conscious. He walked out of the dug out after being wounded and did not seem to suffer very much and seemed better after getting to the Dressing Station. Smith, Iredale and Hardaker were in a dug out when the shell came over. Whilst in England in August last Gunner Brown came to see me and told me he had gone to see Hardaker in hospital but he did not say when but that he was not allowed to see him. I read of his death in the Anzac Bulletin before leaving England."*

The second letter was written by E. A. Miller for Matron, 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell which reads: *"Matron desire me to say in answer to your letter re Gunner Haraker that she has already written an account of his illness and death to the wife, also saying a sister, nurse and some patients went to the funeral which was to-day. Matron has also taken a photograph of the coffin with the flowers on, which she has promised to send on the the wife later, she is also asking the sister in charge of the Ward Gunner Hardaker was in, to write an account of the funeral to the wife. Should you wish anything else done, or any other particulars we should be please to supply them if you will let us know."*

The third letter was written by the Charge Sister, 1st London General Hospital which reads: *"In answer to your request for news of Gnr. Hardaker, he was in my Ward the whole time after coming to England. He had very severe wounds of the head with fracture of the skull. At first he was subject to fits from pressure, but as soon as possible this was relieved. The wounds were very septic, and as a result of the fracture he had a hernia of the brain, partial but increasing paralysis of his right side – with at intervals – difficulty of speech. Sometimes he suffered a good deal of pain, which we did our best to relieve – and occasionally had to receive surgical attention as further abscess developed. But I regret that nothing promised or gave ultimate success. He was unconscious for nearly twenty four hours before his death and passed away very quietly without any effort. As a patient he was splendid, and a sound principle, patient, cheerful and uncomplaining. Fellow-patients and Staff were devoted to him. We were desirous for his progress and recovery, he was so devoted to his wife and child and so anxious to get back to them, and he made every effort – on more than one occasion recovering when we had nearly given up hope. The patients collected for a chaplet of laurel leaves – at the upper end of which was attached a large bunch of arum lillies and fern, with a large bow and ends of his regimental colours. The Staff – a wreath of red and white carnations, red roses, blue cornflowers on a bed of smilax. Photographs were taken of the coffin with the Union Jack & flowers, which will be sent to his people. Apart from the request for followers, 12 Australians and 2 South Africans asked to attend the funeral – 50 would have come willingly. Two V.A.D's (one an Australian who had fed Hardaker "specialled" him for the whole time) and myself with the 14 men, went to Brookwood and stood at the graveside during the burial ceremony. As, no doubt you know, the situation is beautiful, and we left him there – himself a victor – ourselves the better for having met him. His body rests amongst those of his fellow-countrymen – and around and over the grave the wind blows through the pines with a sound of the sea – the sun shines on the heather and the whole place is alive with God. Out of his earth experience, who can say but they those who still fight and suffer, will without knowing it, be stronger because of him – who can say. In a cablegram sent by you some weeks ago I warned his wife that the result of his injury was uncertain. Shortly after I wrote her, but the mails are uncertain. I am writing to her and his father. I shall not give them the full details of his illness – because he suffered a good deal.*

A War Pension was granted to Mrs E. M. Hardaker, "Bradford", Henley Road, Flemington, NSW, widow of the late Gunner Norman Herbert Hardaker, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 13th September, 1917. A pension was also granted to Norma May Hardaker, daughter of the late Gunner Norman Herbert Hardaker, in the sum of £1 per fortnight from 13th September, 1917.

Mrs E. M. Marks, 3 Verona Street, Auburn, NSW, advised Base Records on 18th October, 1922, having received the Memorial Plaque in respect of her late husband, Gunner N. H. Hardaker, that she wished to advise that she had remarried on 17th December, 1921 to George Moss Marks.

Communications sent from Base Records to Mrs E. M. Marks (remarried widow of the late Gunner N. H. Hardaker) in April & May, 1923 to 3 Verona Street, Auburn, NSW, had been returned Unclaimed.

Base Records wrote to The Deputy Commissioner of Pensions, Department of Repatriation, Sydney, NSW on 24th May, 1923 stating that it was noted from the Pension Statement dated 5th September, 1917 *"that pensions were granted to the widow and daughter of the late No. 29283 Gunner, N. H. Hardaker, 5th Field Artillery Brigade. The last known address held by in this office for the widow, who has since remarried and whose name is now Mrs E. M. Marks is :- 3 Verona Street, Auburn, NSW, but communications so addressed have been returned unclaimed. It is presumed in view of her re-marriage the widow's pension has been cancelled, but it would be appreciated if you would kindly advise whether Mrs Marks is still drawing a pension on behalf of the child (Norma May Hardaker), and if so whether you have any later address that that quoted above...."* A reply was received on 31st May, 1923 from Department of Repatriation stating that the address of Mrs E. M. Marks was "Bradford", Henly Road, Flemington & that a pension was still being paid.

Base Records wrote to Mrs E. M. Marks (remarried widow), "Bradford", Henly Road Flemington, New South Wales, on 9th June, 1923 asking if communications sent to the address would reach her as they wished to be able to send through the Victory Medal issued on account of her late husband, Gunner N. H. Hardaker.

Base Records wrote to Mrs Marks (remarried widow of the late Gunner N. H. Hardaker) again on 29th September, 1923 stating they had not received a reply from their previous letter of 9th June not had the letter been returned unclaimed. The letter stated that *"in the circumstances it would appear that you do not desire to have the Medal in question, in which case, unless you care to authorise me to hand it over to some other member of the late soldier's*

family, the only course open to me is to place the memento amongst the “Untraceables”, to be, in all probability, eventually destroyed. This, I consider, a most regrettable step to have to take when there are near relatives living who would prize a memorial of the service of one who has made the supreme sacrifice for its sentimental value.”

Mrs E. M. Marks, nee Hardaker, of Hillcrest Street, Homebush, NSW replied to Base Record son 9th October, 1923 stating that owing to ill health the communication of the 9th had been “quite overlooked and would very much like the Victory Medal.....I may also mention that I never received your communication for some considerable time after June having removed from that address nearly 2 years ago....”

Gunner Norman Herbert Hardaker was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Hardaker’s widow – Mrs E. M. Hardaker, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent August, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner Norman Herbert Hardaker – service number 29283, aged 29, of 5th Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Arthur William and Alice Hardaker. Native of Bombala, New South Wales.

Norman Hardaker is remembered on the St. Anne’s Anglican Church Roll of Honour, located corner Homebush & Beresford Roads, Strathfield, Sydney, NSW.



St. Anne's Anglican Church Roll of Honour (Photos from War Memorials Register, NSW)

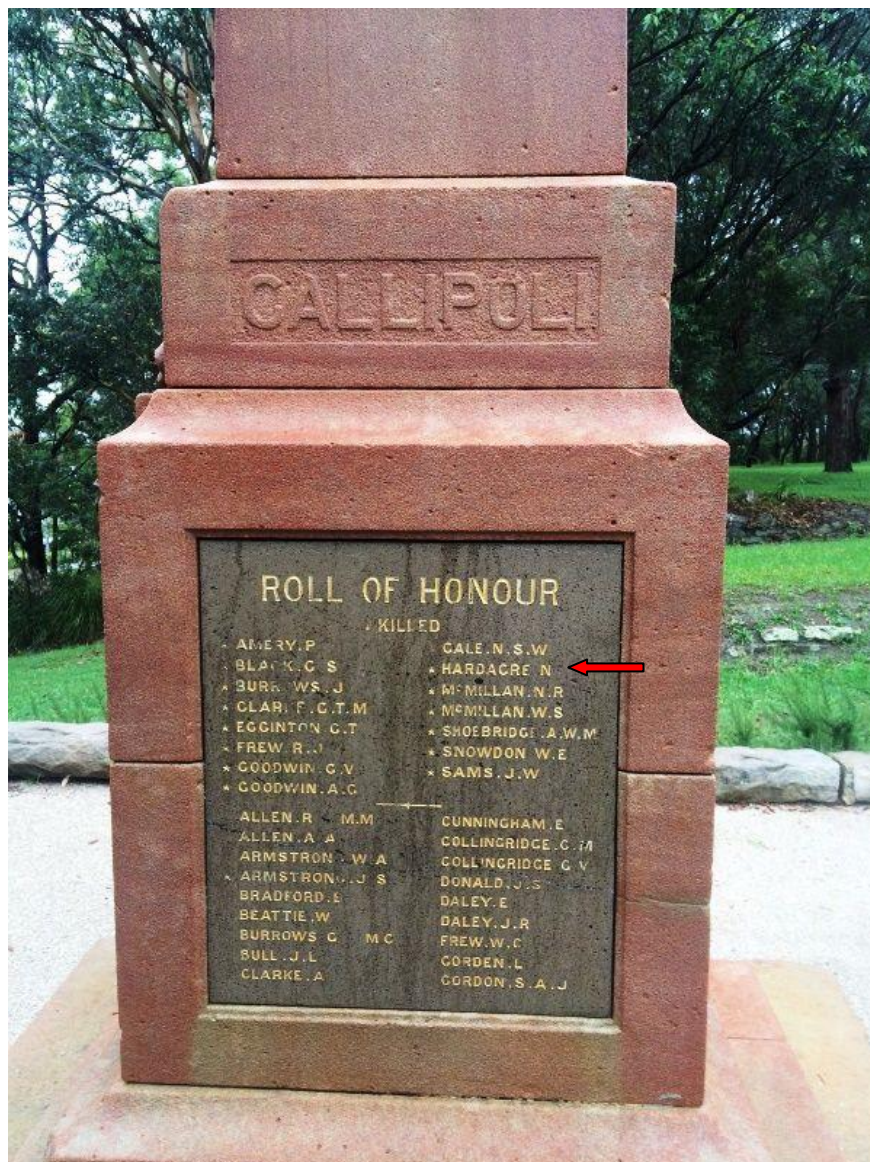


St. Anne's Anglican Church Roll of Honour

N. Hardacre is remembered on the Meadowbank World War One Memorial, located in Memorial Park, Meadow Crescent, Meadowbank, NSW.



Meadowbank World War One Memorial (Photos from Monument Australia)



Gunner N. H. Hardaker is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 14.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(65 pages of Gunner Norman Herbert Hardaker'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



Newspaper Notices

Latest Casualties

325th List

NEW SOUTH WALES

Died (Other Causes)

Gnr. Norman Herbert Hardaker, Flemington (cause not stated, previously reported wounded).

(The Land, Sydney, NSW – 27 July, 1917)

On Active Service

HARDAKER – In loving memory of my dear husband and my daddy, Gunner Norman H. Hardaker, who died of wounds received in France July 11, 1917. He lived as he died, nobly. Inserted by his loving wife and daughter, Norma.

HARDAKER – In loving memory of my dear son-in-law and our bother-in-law, Gunner Norman H. Hardaker, who died of wounds received in France, July 11, 1917. Inserted by his loving mother-in-law, sisters and brothers-in-law, Lily and Jim, Elsie and Earnie.

HARDAKER – In loving memory of Gunner Norman Hardaker, died of wounds received in France, July 11, 1917. Inserted by his comrade, L. Stanton, R. and A. Orchard, and all at Milton, Flemington.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 11 July, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

HARDAKER – In loving memory of my dear husband and my daddy, Gunner N. H. Hardaker, who died of wounds received in France, July 11, 1917. A young life noble ended. Inserted by his loving wife and little Norma.

HARDAKER – In loving memory of my dear son-in-law and out brother-in-law, Gunner N. H. Hardaker, who died of wounds received in France, July 11, 1917.

A brave young life that promised well

By the will of God a hero fell.

'Tis sad but true, we wonder why

The good are always first to die.

Inserted by his loving mother-in-law, sisters and brothers-in-law, Lily and Jim, Elsie and Earnie.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 11 July, 1919)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

HARDAKER – In loving memory of my dear husband and my daddy, Gunner N. H. Hardaker, who died of wounds received in France, July 11, 1917.

Sadly missed

Inserted by his loving wife and little daughter, Norma.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 10 July, 1920)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

HARDAKER – In loving memory of my dear brother, N. H. Hardaker, died of wounds in England, July 11, 1917. Inserted by his sister, Myrtle.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 11 July, 1922)

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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 14th July, 1921, to Mrs E. M. Hardaker, "Bradford", Henley Road, Flemington, NSW advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her husband, the late Gunner N. H. Hardaker, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

Gunner N. H. Hardaker does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England

Located 30 miles from London in Surrey, Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in the United Kingdom. The cemetery contains the graves of more than 1,600 servicemen of the British Empire in the First World War and over 3,470 from the Second World War.

Brookwood Military Cemetery lies adjacent to Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis), a vast space which covers 500 acres. In 1917, an area to the north of the cemetery was set aside as Brookwood Military Cemetery for men and women of Commonwealth forces who died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War. *(Information from CWGC)*

There are 446 Australian War Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery – 351 from World War 1 & 95 from World War 2.



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photo from CWGC)



Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)



Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photos by Magicfingers)





Australian Graves in Brookwood Military Cemetery (Photo above by Magicfingers; below by Ian Fletcher)



Photo of Gunner N. H. Hardaker's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England.



(Photo courtesy of Neil Bright)

