

**Tidworth Military Cemetery,  
Tidworth, Wiltshire, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**31129 GUNNER**

**F. HARRIS**

**AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY**

**31ST MARCH, 1917 Age 24**

*Fond Memory*

*Like The Ivy Clings*

*To Know Him*

*Was To Love Him*

## Frank HARRIS

Frank Harris was born at Palmerston North, New Zealand in 1892 to parents John (Jack) and Alice Harris (nee Osborne).

John (Jack) Harris, father of Frank Harris, died on 30th July, 1910 at Palmerston North, New Zealand.

According to information provided by his wife for the Roll of Honour – Frank came to Australia when he was 20 years old.

Frank Harris married Christina Priscilla Barber in 1915 in the district of St. Leonards, New South Wales.

Alice Harris, mother of Frank Harris, died on 10th August, 1916 at Palmerston North, New Zealand.

Frank Harris was a 23 year old, married, Labourer (as listed on Embarkation Roll, however his widow recorded he was a Deck Hand on Sydney Ferries) from 16 Burton Street, Milson's Point, North Sydney, New South Wales when he enlisted in Sydney, New South Wales on 11th September, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His religion was Church of England & his next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs C. Harris, "Eggdean", Dean Street, Enfield, New South Wales. Frank Harris stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously served for 12 (?) months with Howitzer Battery, New Zealand.

Gunner Frank Harris was posted to 5th D.A.C. (Divisional Ammunition Column), 8th Reinforcements from 11th August, 1916 (date as per Statement of Service form). He was transferred to 7th Reinforcements of 7th F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) from 13th November, 1916.

Gunner Frank Harris, Service number 31129, embarked from Sydney, NSW on RMS *Orontes* on 11th December, 1916 with the 7th Field Artillery Brigade, 7th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 17th February, 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.

Gunner Frank Harris was marched in to A.A.T.D. (Australian Artillery Training Depot) at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 18th February, 1917 from Australia.

Gunner Frank Harris was admitted sick to Tidworth Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 25th March, 1917.

Gunner Frank Harris died at 12.45 pm on 31st March, 1917 at Military Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England from Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for Frank Harris, aged 23, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Andover, Hampshire, England.

Gunner Frank Harris was buried on 3rd April, 1917 (date as recorded on Casualty Form – Active Service, Statement of Service form & "Morning State of Sick" Army Form) in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England – Plot number C. 316 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

From the burial report of Gunner Frank Harris – *Elm Coffin black furniture. Military Funeral by Chaplain F. G. Masters – No.1 Command, Perham Downs. 12 of this man's friends formed the firing party. Unit is erecting a tombstone in his memory.* (Note: Date of burial on Burial Report was 4th April, 1917)

Rand & Drew, Solicitors, Sydney, New South Wales, wrote to Base Records on 21st April, 1920 with the following: "We are acting for the Executor of the Will of Frank Harris late Gunner 7th Reinforcements, 7th F.A.B. A.I.F. who we understand died in the month of March 1917 at Tidworth Military Hospital, Salisbury Plains, we believe his Number was 31129. Will you be good enough to kindly let us have official Certificate of Death for the purpose of the Court.

Base Records replied to Messrs Rand & Drew, Solicitors, on 27th April, 1920, enclosing a certificate of report of death of the late No. 31129, Gunner F. Harris, 7th Field Artillery Brigade.

A War Pension was granted to Christina Priscilla Harris, 21 Rowe St, Woollahra, widow of the late Driver Frank Harris, 31129, 7th F.A. in the sum of £2/3/- per fortnight granted from 8th June, 1917.

Communications addressed to Mrs C. Harris, "Eggdean" Dean St, Enfield, NSW in September, 1920 were returned to Base Records as "Unclaimed".

Gunner Frank Harris 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 Gunner Harris's widow - Mrs C. P. Harris, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll & Plaque sent July, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner Frank Harris – service number 31129, aged 24, of 7th F. A. Bde, Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Jack and Alice Harris; husband of Christina Priscilla Harris, of 21 Rowe St., Woollahra, New South Wales.

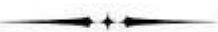
Gunner F. Harris is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 15.



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

(63 pages of Gunner Frank Harris'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

### FALLEN HEROES

#### 287TH LIST

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIED OF ILLNESS

Dvr F. HARRIS, North Sydney, 31/3/17

*(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, New South Wales – 17 April, 1917)*

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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)*

A letter from Base Records, dated 15<sup>th</sup> July, 1921, to Mrs C. P. Harris, 21 Rowe Street, Woollahra, NSW, advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of her husband, the late No. 31129, Gunner F. Harris, 7th Field Artillery Brigade, 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 F. Harris does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Fond Memory Like The Ivy Clings*

*To Know Him Was To Love Him*

## 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)*



*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.*

*Note Gunner McDonald has a large headstone which reads in part 'erected by his sorrowing comrades of the Australian Field Artillery. His duty done.'*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00481

### Tidworth Military Cemetery – 12 June, 1919

*A corner of the Australian cemetery. Front row, left to right: 5840 Private F. W. Heede, 25th Battalion died 3 June 1917; 7350 Private A. E. Campbell, 8th Battalion, died 2 August 1917; 1824 Driver A. C. Jones, 4th Company, Australian Machine Gun Corps, AADC, died 8 August 1917; 8009 Corporal W. J. Giles, Australian Tunnelling Company, died 17 March 1918.*



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



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



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



(Photo courtesy of Portsmouth Remembers – Kevin)

Photo of Gunner F. Harris's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Tidworth Military Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Selena Hardie)*



