

Durrington War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



6763 PRIVATE

P. E. JORGENSEN

5TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

16TH JANUARY, 1917 Age 25

Blessed Are

The Pure In Heart

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte P. E. Jorgensen is located in Grave Plot # 155
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Percy Edwin JORGENSEN

Percy Edwin Jorgensen was born around 1892 near Fernbank, Victoria to parents Hans C. & Kathleen Hannah Jorgensen.

Percy Edwin Jorgensen was a 25 year old, single, Farmer from Fernbank, Victoria when he enlisted on 8th September, 1916 with the 5th Battalion, 22nd Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6763 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr Hans C. Jorgensen of Fernbank Post Office, Victoria.

Pte Percy Edwin Jorgensen embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Ulysses* (A36) on 25th October, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 28th December, 1916.

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 Percy Edwin Jorgensen was sent sick to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 16th January, 1917 from 2nd Training Battalion, No. 5 & 6 Camps at Durrington.

Private Percy Edwin Jorgensen died at 11.45 p.m. on 16th January, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Pneumonia.

A death for Percy Jorgenson, aged 25, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Percy Edwin Jorgensen was buried on 19th January, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 155 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Pte Jorgensen contains a request by the Red Cross, on behalf of the family, to obtain full details of Pte Jorgensen's illness and death. A reply from the Officer in Charge, Fargo Military Hospital, dated 16th April, 1917, reads:

"Died of Pneumonia". – He was admitted to this hospital on the 16th Jan. with pneumonia and died 11-45 p.m. the same day. During his stay in hospital he received every attention from the doctors and nurses. He was attended by the Rev. Skipper, Chaplain to the hospital. The funeral took place on the 19th Jan. at Durrington close to Larkhill camp. The number of grave is 155.

Private P. E. Jorgensen is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 44.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

P. Jorgensen, along with his brother H. Jorgensen, were both remembered on the Bairnsdale Honour Roll for World War 1 – location to be determined.



Bairnsdale Council with Honour Roll, 1929

(Photo from [Museum Victoria](#))

Pte Percy Edwin Jorgensen 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 Jorgensen's father – Mr H. C. Jorgensen (both sent December, 1921).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Percy Edwin Jorgensen – service number 6763 as being 25 years old & served with 5th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of H. C. and Kathleen Hannah Jorgensen of Fernbank, Bairnsdale, Victoria.

(39 pages of Pte Percy Edwin Jorgensen'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 Pte Percy Edwin Jorgensen:**

Pte Horace Hans Jorgensen, 3823, 6th Battalion A.I.F., younger brother of Pte Percy Jorgensen was killed in action on 23rd August, 1918, aged 24. He is remembered on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, France.



Pte Percy Edwin Jorgensen



Newspaper Reports

DEATH – ON ACTIVE SERVICE

JORGENSEN -On January 16, 1917, at Fargo Military Hospital, England (from pneumonia). Percy E. the dearly loved eldest son of H. C. and K. Jorgensen, of Fernbank, and much, loved nephew of Louis and Annie Jorgensen." Skastholm." Sale, aged 23 years. So dearly loved, so deeply mourned.

(Gippsland Mercury, Victoria – Friday 26 January, 1917)

CASUALTIES – LIST NO. 269

VICTORIA - DIED, OTHER CAUSES

Pte P. E. Jorgensen

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Tuesday 30 January, 1917)

BAIRNSDALE HONOR ROLL

820 NAMES

Following is a complete list of the names to be inscribed on the Bairnsdale shire honor roll, as revised and corrected to date:-

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Jorgensen, H.

Jorgensen, P.

(Bairnsdale Advertiser and Tambo and Omeo Chronicle, Victoria – Wednesday 21 November, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

JORGENSEN – In loving memory of our dear nephew and cousin, Private Percy Jorgensen, who died of illness at Fargo Military Hospital, England, on the 16th January, 1917.

Though lost to sight, to memory ever dear.

-(Inserted by aunt, uncle, and cousins, Bairnsdale)

(The Argus, Melbourne – Wednesday 16 January, 1918)

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 at Durrington War Graves Cemetery. 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)

Pte P. E. Jorgensen does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Blessed Are The Pure In Heart

Photo of Pte P. E. Jorgensen's Headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)



Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire *(Photo by Dave Healing 2013)*