

Durrington, Wiltshire, England

War Graves

World War 1



Lest We Forget



180 PRIVATE

C. R. G. MEDHURST

42ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

19TH NOVEMBER, 1916 Age 19

God Has Them Safely

In His Keeping

Just On The Other Side

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte C. R. G. Medhurst is located in Grave Plot # 123
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Clarence Roland Gawn MEDHURST

Clarence Roland Gawn Medhurst was born at Mountain View, Queensland on 30th October, 1897. His birth was registered in Queensland in 1898 to parents Rohan Roland Medhurst & Nancy Agnes Medhurst (nee Brown).

Clarence Roland Gawn Medhurst was an 18 year old, single, Sawmiller from South Killarney, Queensland when he enlisted on 24th November, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 180 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Nancy Medhurst of Spring Creek, Killarney, Queensland.

Private Clarence Medhurst, after 14 weeks of service, was absent without leave from Camp from 6 a.m. 4th March – 6 a.m. 7th March, 1916 – a period of 3 days. He was punished with 7 days Confined to Barracks as well as 3 days' pay forfeiture.

Private Clarence Medhurst, after 21 weeks of service, was absent without leave from Camp from 6 a.m. 17th April – 6 a.m. 27th April, 1916 – a period of 10 days. He was punished with 7 days Confined to Barracks as well as 7 days' pay forfeiture.

Private Clarence Medhurst embarked from Sydney, New South Wales on HMAT *Borda* (A30) on 5th June, 1916 with the 42nd Infantry Battalion "A" Company & disembarked at Suez, Egypt.

Private Clarence Medhurst was admitted to Hospital on 10th July, 1916 at Tel el Kebir. He was transferred to Hospital at Abbassia. He was marched in and taken on strength at Moascar on 17th August, 1916.

Private Clarence Medhurst was charged with neglecting to obey an Order on 24th August, 1916. He forfeited 1 days' pay.

Private Medhurst embarked from Alexandria aboard *Megantic* on 27th August, 1916 for England.

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 Medhurst was marched in from Egypt to Larkhill, Wiltshire, England on 9th September, 1916.

Private Clarence Medhurst was sent to 11th Brigade Hospital on 1st November, 1916. He was transferred to Isolation Hospital at Tidworth on 2nd November, 1916 & reported dangerously ill with Meningitis on 3rd November, 1916. Private Medhurst's family were advised of his condition by Base Records, dated 10th November, 1916.

Private Clarence Medhurst died on 19th November, 1916 at O.C. Isolation Hospital, Tidworth, Wiltshire from Cerebral Spinal Meningitis.

A death for Clarence Medhurst, aged 19, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Pewsey, Wiltshire.

Private Clarence Medhurst was buried on 21st November, 1916 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 123 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private Clarence Medhurst 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 Medhurst's father – Mr R. R. Medhurst even though Mrs Nancy Medhurst was noted as next-of-kin. (Both sent April, 1923). Instructions under the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" for the disposal of War Medals etc - the order was fathers received Medals before being given to the mother.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Clarence Roland Gawn Medhurst – service number 180 as being 19 years old & served with 42nd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Roland Medhurst & Nancy Agnes Medhurst of Spring Creek, Killarney, South Queensland.

Private C. R. G. Medhurst is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 135.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

C. Medhurst, along with his brother H. Medhurst, are both remembered on the Killarney War Memorial located at Oleander & Ivy Streets, Killarney, Queensland.



Killarney War Memorial

(Queensland War Memorial Register -Photos by Shirley & Trevor McIvor(left) & Dennis Stocks (right))

Clarence R. Medhurst & his brother Herbert J. Medhurst are remembered on a Marble plaque located in Killarney R.S.L. Club, 8 Acacia Street, Killarney, Queensland.



(Photo from Monument Australia – John Huth)

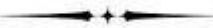
(47 pages of Private Clarence Medhurst's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives



[Connected to Private Clarence Roland Gawn Medhurst:](#)

Older brother – Private Herbert John Medhurst, 3587, 31st Battalion . Killed in Action 26th September, 1917, aged 24. Remembered on Ypres (Menin Gate), Belgium.





Private Clarence Roland Gawn Medhurst



Newspaper Reports

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES – LIST NO. 246

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private C. Medhurst (Killarney)

(*Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton, Queensland – Wednesday 6 December, 1916)

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 C. R. G. Medhurst does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

God Has Them Safely In His Keeping Just On The Other Side

Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire, England

Durrington Cemetery contains burials of both wars. The 204 First World War burials were mostly from nearby Larkhill Camp. Many of the graves are of Australian servicemen and there is a separate Australian memorial in the cemetery. The Second World War burials number 22. In addition to the war graves, there are a number of post-war service graves in the cemetery, mostly of the Royal Air Force.

(Information from CWGC)



Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire *(Photo above by Dave Healing 2013; below CWGC)*

Photo of Private C. R. G. Medhurst's Commonwealth War Graves Headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)

