

**Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire,
England - War Graves**

World War 1



Lest We Forget



20003 GUNNER

H. R. MILLER

8TH BDE. AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY.

24TH DECEMBER, 1916 Age 22

O Sacred Heart Of Jesus

Have Mercy On His Soul

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Gunner H. R. Miller is located in Grave Plot # 134
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Herbert Robert MILLER

Herbert Robert Miller was born at Hansonville, Greta, Victoria around 1895 to parents Alexander James and Mary Ann Miller (nee Swain).

Herbert Robert Miller attended Brigidine Convent, Wangaratta, Victoria.

Herbert Robert Miller was a 21 year old, single Telephonist from 20 The Avenue, Windsor, Victoria when he enlisted on 3rd March, 1916 with the 8th Field Artillery Brigade, 20th Battery of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His religion was Roman Catholic & his next of kin was listed as his father – Mr A. J. Miller of Gray Street, Traralgon, Victoria. A letter from Deputy Postmaster General, Postmaster-General's Department to Assistant Adjutant General, Headquarters Camp Staff stated there was no objection to Mr H. R. Miller, Telephonist, Malvern being enrolled for Active Service. Herbert Robert Miller stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served for 4 years with Senior Cadets & 3 years with 20th Battalion Artillery.

Gunner Herbert Robert Miller was posted to Field Artillery Brigade on 6th March, 1916. He was transferred to 8th F.A.B. 31st Battery on 1st April, 1916. Gunner Miller was Fined 10/- for being A.W.L. (Absent without Leave) & Fined 5/- for being A.W.L. in May, 1916.

Gunner Herbert Robert Miller, Service number 20003, embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Medic* (A7) on 20th May, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 18th July, 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.

Gunner Herbert Robert Miller was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital on 11th December, 1916 from 8th Field Artillery Brigade, Larkhill, Wiltshire with Bronchitis.

Gunner Herbert Robert Miller was admitted to No. 1 A.D. (Australian Dermatological) Hospital, Bulford with Bronchitis on 23rd December, 1916.

Gunner Herbert Robert Miller died at 7 p.m. on 24th December, 1916 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Capillary Bronchitis.

A death for Herbert R. Miller, aged 21, was registered in the December quarter, 1916 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Gunner Herbert Robert Miller was buried on 27th December, 1916 in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 134 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

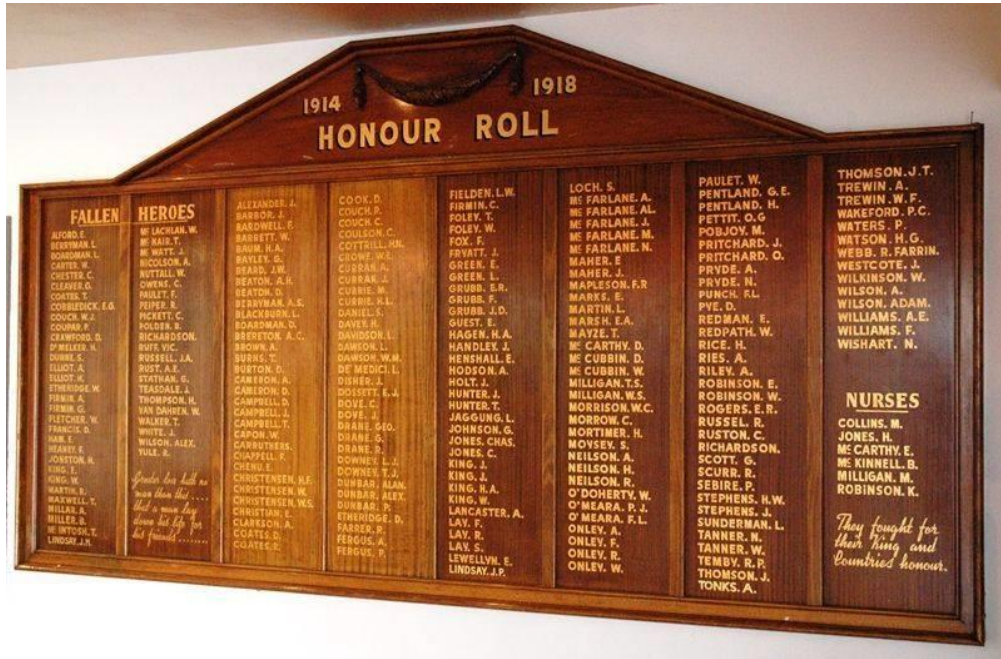
Gunner Herbert Robert Miller requested in his Will, dated 8th October, 1916, that all his property & effects be given to Mrs M. Miller of Grey Street, Traralgon, Victoria.

Gunner Herbert Robert Miller 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 Miller's father – Mr A. J. Miller (sent August, 1922 & February, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner Herbert Robert Miller – service number 20003, aged 22 years, of 8th Bde. Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Alexander James and Mary Ann Miller of Grey Street, Traralgon, Victoria. Born at Hansonville.

A War Pension was granted to Mary A. Miller, mother of late Pte Herbert Robert Miller, in the sum of 20/- per fortnight from 3rd March, 1917.

B. Miller is remembered on the Traralgon Honour Roll, located in Traralgon RSL Club, 109 – 115 Grey Street, Traralgon, Victoria.



Traralgon Honour Roll (Photos from Monument Australia – Arthur Garland)

B. Millar is remembered on the Traralgon War Memorial, located at Kay & Franklin Streets, Traralgon, Victoria.



Traralgon War Memorial (Photos from AWM Places of Pride – Henry Moulds)



H. R. Miller is remembered on the Postmaster General's Department Roll of Honour, located in former G.P.O. Building, Bourke & Elizabeth Streets, Melbourne, Victoria.

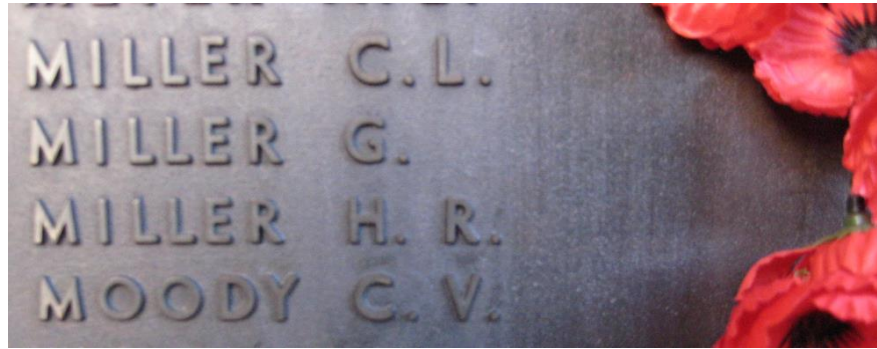


Postmaster General's Department Roll of Honour

(Photo above from Monument Australia; below courtesy of Murray Rasmussen, Telstra Museum, Melbourne)



Gunner H. R. Miller is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 15.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

(53 pages of Gunner Herbert Robert Miller'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 Reports

DEATHS

On Active Service

MILLER – On the 24th December, died of pneumonia at military hospital, Fargo, Signaller H. R. Miller (Bert). Beloved son of Mr and Mrs A. J. Miller, “The Rest,” Gray street, Traralgon, aged 21 years.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 6 January, 1917) & (*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria – 6 January, 1917)

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES – 262nd LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte H. R. Miller, Traralgon

(*Gippsland Mercury*, Sale, Victoria – Tuesday 16 January, 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

MILLER – In loving remembrance of Bert Miller, who died on active service 24th December, 1916.

-Inserted by C.F., Kew.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 24 December, 1917)

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*)

Gunner Herbert Robert Miller does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

O Sacred Heart Of Jesus Have Mercy On His Soul

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 Gunner Herbert Robert Miller's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire, England.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)