

Kilbirnie Burial Ground, Ayrshire, Scotland War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



29329 GUNNER

L. A. ORCHARD

AUST. FIELD ARTILLERY

12TH DECEMBER, 1918 Age 27

The Dearly Loved Husband

Of E. Orchard

& Daddy Of Maisie

Of Sydney

Leslie Alfred ORCHARD

Leslie Alfred Orchard was born at Balmain, Sydney, NSW in mid-1891 to parents George David & Elizabeth Sarah Orchard (nee Reed).

Leslie Alfred Orchard attended Nicolson St. School, Balmain East.

George David Orchard, father of Leslie Alfred Orchard, died on 6th July, 1908.

Leslie Alfred Orchard married Elizabeth Gervin Marshall Atkins in 1915 in the district of Balmain South.

Mary Elizabeth (Maisie) Orchard, daughter of Leslie & Elizabeth Orchard was born in 1916.

Leslie Alfred Orchard was a 25 year old, married, Ferry Master (Information provided by his wife for the Roll of Honour lists the occupation as Master Mariner) from 103 Evans Street, Rozelle, Sydney, NSW when he enlisted at Marrickville, NSW on 8th May, 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 E. G. Orchard of 103 Evans Street, Rozelle, Sydney, NSW.

Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard was attached to 7th Field Artillery Brigade, 3rd Reinforcements from 8th May, 1916. He was transferred as Driver to 4th Divisional Artillery Column from 1st June, 1916. Driver Orchard was promoted to Acting Bombardier on 29th August, 1916. He was transferred to 117th Howitzer Battery, Field Artillery on 1st September, 1916 & returned to the rank of Gunner.

Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard, Service number 29329, embarked from Sydney on HMAT *Aeneas (A60)* on 30th September, 1916 with the 117th Howitzer Battery, Field Artillery & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 19th November, 1916.

Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard proceeded from R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) for overseas – France via Folkstone on 8th January, 1917 on board SS "*Princess Henrietta*".

Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard was marched in to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 9th January, 1917.

Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard was transferred to 2nd Divisional Artillery on 7th February, 1917 & taken on strength in the field with 2nd D.A.C. (Divisional Artillery Column) on 8th February, 1917.

Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard was transferred to 4th F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) on 18th April, 1917. He was taken on strength with 104th Battery on 18th April, 1917.

Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard was wounded in action (Gassed) on 16th October, 1917. He was taken to 3rd Field Ambulance then transferred to 17th Casualty Clearing Station suffering the effects of being gassed while in Belgium. Gunner Orchard was admitted to 35th General Hospital at Calais, France on 19th October, 1917 suffering from Mustard gas shell. He embarked for England on 19th October, 1917 from Calais on Hospital Ship *Stad Antwerpen*.

Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard was admitted to County of Middlesex War Hospital, Napsbury on 20th October, 1917.

Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital on 19th December, 1917. He was discharged from 3rd Auxiliary Hospital on 27th December, 1917 & on furlough to 10th January, 1918 when he was to report to No. 4 Command Depot, Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard was marched out from No. 4 Command Depot on 19th February, 1918 & marched in to Overseas Training Brigade the same day.

Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard was marched in to R.B.A.A. (Reserve Brigade Australian Artillery) at Heytesbury, Wiltshire on 8th March, 1918.

Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard proceeded overseas to France from Heytesbury via Southampton on 27th March, 1918.

Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard was marched in from England to A.G.B.D. (Australian General Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 28th March, 1918.

Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard was marched out from A.G.B.D. to 2nd Div. Artillery on 30th March, 1918. He was taken on strength with 2nd D.A.C. (Divisional Artillery Column) in the field on 2nd April, 1918.

Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard was transferred to 4th F.A.B. (Field Artillery Brigade) on 10th April, 1918.

Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard was detached to 2nd Div. Signalling Company on 9th September, 1918.

Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard was on leave from France from 2nd October to 16th October, 1918.

Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard was admitted to 3rd Scottish General Hospital, Glasgow, Scotland on 6th December, 1918 while on leave from France – seriously ill.

Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard died at 9.50 am on 12th December, 1918 at 3rd Scottish General Hospital, Glasgow, Scotland from Broncho Pneumonia following Influenza.

The Hospital Report from the 3rd Scottish General Hospital, Glasgow reads: *“This man was admitted to 3rd Scottish General Hospital on 6/12/18 with history of illness of 7 days’ duration, chief symptom diarrhoea. There was congestion at right base, definitely broncho-pneumonia on 8/12/18. Thereafter he was very ill with severe headache. He became very restless and excited on 11/12/18, lividity became marked, and in spite of stimulation and oxygen, he sank steadily and died at 0950 o’clock on 12/12/18.*

Cause of death was broncho-pneumonia following influenza, the incidence of which was predisposed to by conditions of active service.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard contains a request by relatives in Australia to obtain the fullest details possible of the death and burial of Gunner Orchard. A reply from the Matron of 3rd Scottish General Hospital, Stobhill, Glasgow reads: *“Regarding Gunner Orchard 29329. He was admitted to this Hospital on 6-12-18. He felt very ill when he came in and his temperature was 103. For the first two days his condition remained much the same, but on the 4th day he became much worse and developed signs of Bronchial Pneumonia. He became quite delirious on the evening of the 4th day and gradually became weaker and never regained consciousness. He passed away on December 12th, at 10 a.m.*

In his delirium he called repeatedly for his wife and child, but although we tried hard to understand and get a message from him, it was not possible to do so.

His Uncle, Mr John Marshall, 9 Dean Road, Kilbirnie, came and took away the body and he was buried at Kilbirnie, Ayrshire. His grave number is 279. Will you please convey our sincere sympathy to his relatives.

Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard was buried on 18th December, 1918 in Kilbirnie Burial Ground, Ayrshire, Scotland – Plot number E. 280 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Gunner Orchard - *Coffin was Elm. The deceased soldier was interred privately by Uncle Mr John Marshall, residing in Kilbirnie, Ayrshire, Scotland. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral. In attendance at the funeral were – Uncle – Mr J. Marshall; Uncle – Mr Marshall; Hugh Houston; Mr Old & A.I.F. Representative.*

Leslie Alfred Orchard requested in his Will, dated 8th June, 1917 that all his real & personal estate be bequeathed to his wife – Elizabeth Gervin Marshall Orchard.

Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Gunner Orchard’s widow - Mrs E. Orchard, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard – service number 29329, aged 27, of 4th Field Artillery Bde., Australian Field Artillery. He was the son of Elizabeth Sarah and the late George David Orchard; husband of E. G. Orchard, of 103 Evans St., Rozelle, New South Wales.

Gunner L. A. Orchard is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 13.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

L. A. Orchard is remembered on the Breakfast Point War Memorial, located on the Village Green, Village Drive, near corner of Juniper Street, Breakfast Point, NSW. All three plaques were on the original memorial which was located at the Tennyson Road entrance to the former AGL Mortlake Gasworks. The largest and original plaque was in memory of the 45 employees who lost their lives in the Great War.



Breakfast Point War Memorial – former Australia Gas Light Mortlake Gasworks

(Photos from Register of War Memorials in NSW – David Roden)

(65 pages of Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard'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



Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard

Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

ORCHARD – Died December 12, 1918 at 1st General Scottish Hospital, of bronco-pneumonia, Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard, 104th Howitzer Battery, 4th F. A. Brigade, dearly loved husband and daddie of Mrs L. A. Orchard and little daughter, Maisie, 103 Evans-street, Rozelle. Loved by all who knew him.

ORCHARD – Died December 12, 1918 at 1st General Scottish Hospital, of bronco-pneumonia, Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard, dearly loved son of Mrs E. Orchard.

ORCHARD – Died December 12, 1918 at 1st General Scottish Hospital, of bronco-pneumonia, Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard, dearly beloved son-in-law and brother-in-law of Mrs M. Atkins, Barbara, 103 Evans-street, Rozelle, Thomas, Lance-corporal John, and Corporal James Atkins (O.A.S.).

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 25 December, 1918)

Australia's War Losses

THE 455th CASUALTY LIST

DEAD, OTHER CAUSES

New South Wales

Gnr. L. A. Orchard (Rozelle)

(The Farmer and Settler, Sydney, NSW – 29 January, 1919)

RETURN THANKS

Mrs L. A. Orchard, 103 Evans-street, Rozelle, desires to THANK all kind friends for letters, cards and kind expressions of sympathy in the loss of her dear husband, Gunner Leslie Alfred Orchard.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 18 January, 1919)

On Active Service

ORCHARD – In loving memory of my dearly loved husband and daddy, Gunner Leslie A. Orchard, 104th Howitzer Battery, died of illness, Glasgow, Scotland, December 12, 1918. Loved by all who knew him. Inserted by his loving wife, E. Orchard, and Maisie.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 12 December, 1919)

On Active Service

ORCHARD – In loving memory of my dear husband and my daddie, Gunner Leslie A. Orchard, who died December 12, 1918, of illness, in Scotland. Inserted by his loving wife, E. Orchard, and little daughter, Maisie.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 11 December, 1920)

On Active Service

ORCHARD – In loving memory of my dear husband and my daddie, Gunner Leslie A. Orchard, who died December 12, 1918, of illness, at Glasgow, Scotland. To memory ever dear. Inserted by his loving wife, L. Orchard, and daughter, Maisie.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 12 December, 1921)

On Active Service

ORCHARD – In loving memory of my dear husband and my daddie, Gunner Leslie A. Orchard, 104 Howitzer Battery, died December 12, 1918, in Scotland. Inserted by his loving wife, L. Orchard, and Maisie.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 12 December, 1922)

On Active Service

ORCHARD – In loving memory of my dearly beloved husband and my daddy, Gunner Leslie A. Orchard, 104 Howitzer Battery, died December 12, 1918, in Glasgow, Scotland. Inserted by his loving wife and daughter.

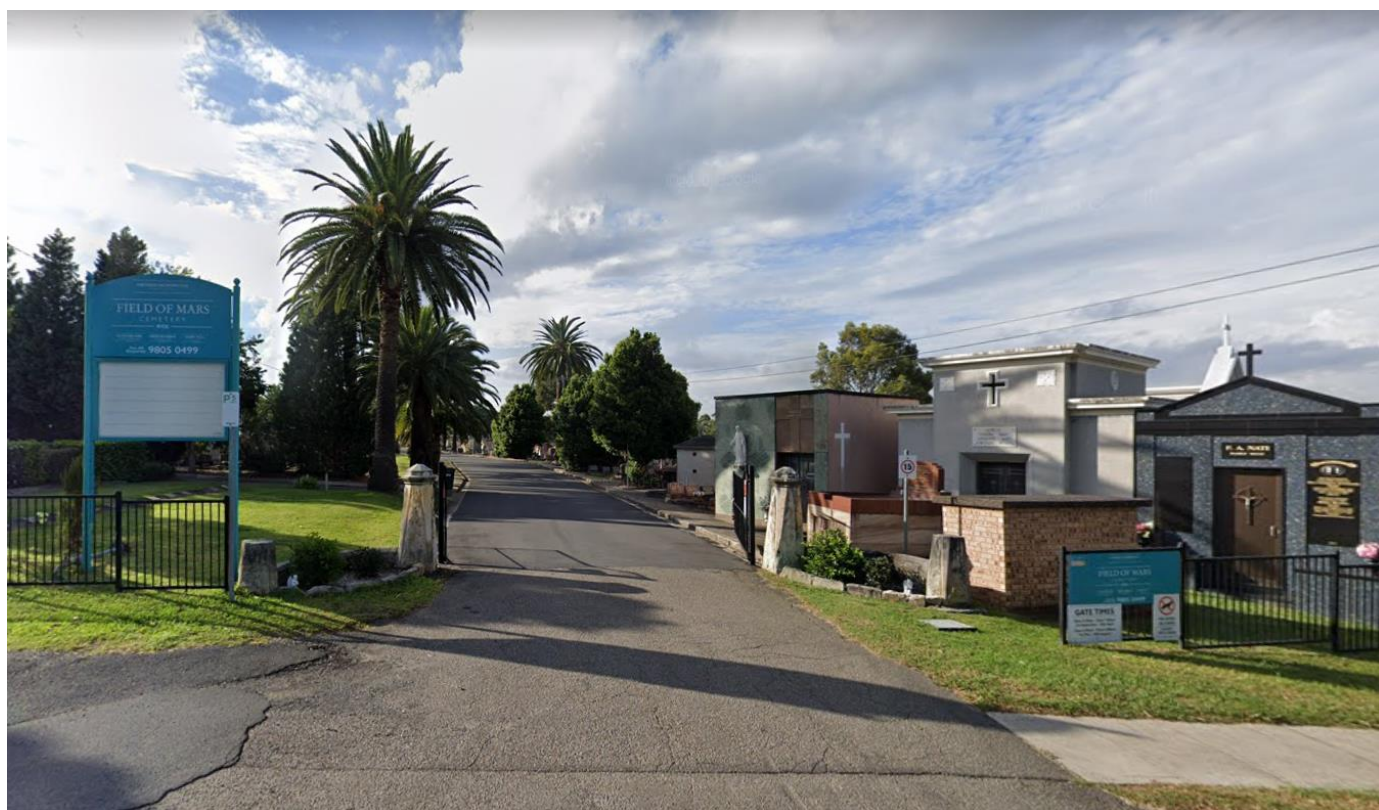
(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 12 December, 1923)

On Active Service

ORCHARD – In loving memory of my dear husband and my father, Gunner Leslie A. Orchard, 104 Howitzer Battery, died December 12, 1918, in Scotland. Inserted by his loving wife and daughter Maisy.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 12 December, 1928)

Leslie Orchard is remembered on his father's headstone (along with his brother) in Field of Mars Cemetery, East Ryde, Sydney, New South Wales.



Field of Mars Cemetery, East Ryde



(Photo from Find a Grave – Kim)



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)

Gunner L. A. Orchard does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

The Dearly Loved Husband Of E. Orchard & Daddy Of Maisie Of Sydney

Kilbirnie Burial Ground, Ayrshire, Scotland

Kilbirnie Burial Ground, Ayrshire, Scotland contains 18 Commonwealth War Graves – 10 from World War 1 & 8 from World War 2. There is only 1 Australian War Grave here.





(Photo from Find a Grave – James)



Kilbirnie Cemetery *(Photo by wfmillar)*

Photo of Gunner L. A. Orchard's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Kilbirnie Burial Ground, Ayrshire, Scotland.



(Photo by Kevin Endon – The Scottish War Graves Project)



Kilbirnie Cemetery *(Photo by wfmillar)*